

Roslin Glen Country Park



Management Plan 2016–2021



Overview of the Management Plan

The purpose of the Roslin Glen Country Park Management Plan is to identify issues relating to the management, maintenance and development of the Park and to set out the management vision, aims and action plan to enable improvement of the site over the next five years.

The vision is to:

To manage and improve Roslin Glen Country Park as a key site within the Esk Valley for the benefit of people and wildlife in such a way as to ensure it is one of the most attractive sites for Midlothian residents and visitors to the area.

The Plan draws on previous plans and policy documents used to direct activities within the Park to create a holistic plan that integrates all the activities undertaken by the Council and other organisations such as the Friends Group and volunteers. The Action Plan and Marketing Plan together cover maintenance activities, improvements, promotion and community involvement over the next five years.

The Plan will be available to all interested parties including the local community, elected members and Council staff to explain the rationale behind management policies, decisions and actions. The Plan will also assist in applying Green Flag criteria as part of the Green Flag Award Scheme to enable better understanding of the quality of management at the site.

This management plan was produced in January 2016 to cover a 5 year period by Midlothian Council's Land and Countryside Service in association with Midlothian Ranger Service and The Friends of Roslin Glen.

The Plan will be reviewed annually and the Action Plan in Section 5 will be updated as required.

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CONTENTS		Page no.
Section 1	Introduction	
1.0	Location and Outline Description	1
1.01	Ownership	3
1.02	Contact	3
1.1	Scope and Purpose of Management Plan	3
Section 2	Vision and Aims	
2.0	Vision	5
2.1	Aims	5
	Table 1. Plan Aims and Green Flag Criteria	6
Section 3	Context of the Park	8
3.0	Policies and Designations	
3.0.1	Midlothian Council Policies	8
3.0.2	Core Paths Plan for Midlothian	8
3.0.3	Historic Buildings	8
3.0.4	Woodland Classification	9
3.1	Strategic Significance of Park	
3.1.1	Edinburgh and the Lothian's Forestry Habitat Network	9
3.1.2	Midlothian Green Network Plan	9
3.1.3	Biodiversity Action Plan	9
3.1.4	Path Routes	10
3.1.5	The Midlothian Open Space Audit	10
3.2	Historic Background of the Park	10
3.3	Management Rules	11
3.4	Community Involvement	12
3.5	Surveys and Assessments	13
3.5.1	Woodland Management	13
3.5.2	Biodiversity	13
3.5.3	Archaeology	14
3.5.4	Open Space Audit	14
Section 4	Analysis	
4.0	Context for Improvement	15
4.1	A Welcoming Place	15
4.1.1	General	15
4.1.2	Finding the Park – External Access	16
4.1.3	Finding the Park - Internal Access	16
4.1.4	Information on Access	16
4.1.5	Social Access	17
4.1.6	Aspect of Design	17

CONTENTS		Page No.
4.2	Healthy, Safe and Secure	
4.2.1	Health and Well Being	18
4.2.2	Equipment and Facilities	18
4.2.3	Safer Parks Emergency Procedure	18
4.2.4	Security	18
4.2.5	Staff and Volunteers	19
4.2.6	Physical Security	19
4.2.7	Health and Safety Policies	19
4.2.8	Control of Dogs	20
4.3	Well Maintained and Clean	
4.3.1	Litter and Waste Management	20
4.3.2	Ground Maintenance	20
4.3.3	Buildings Maintenance	21
4.3.3.1	Habitable Buildings	21
4.3.3.2	Unoccupied Buildings and Structures	21
4.3.4	Equipment Maintenance	21
4.3.5	Cleanliness	22
4.4	Sustainability	
4.4.1	Introduction	22
4.4.2	Environmental Management	22
4.4.3	Pesticides	22
4.4.4	Use of Materials	23
4.4.5	Resource Conservation and Waste Management	23
4.4.6	Recycling	24
4.4.7	Horticultural and Arboriculture Management	24
4.4.8	Pollution Reduction	24
4.4.9	Water Efficiency	24
4.4.10	Energy Efficiency	25
4.4.11	Air Quality	25
4.5	Conservation and Heritage	
4.5.1	Woodland Ecology	25
4.5.2	Grasslands	26
4.5.3	Other Habitats	26
4.5.4	Fauna	27
4.5.5	Cultural Landscape	27
4.5.6	Water Management	28
4.5.7	Geological and Physiographic Features	28
4.5.8	Conservation of Landscape	28
4.5.9	Conservation of Historic Artefacts	28
4.6	Community Involvement	
4.6.1	Patterns of Use	29
4.6.2	Community Involvement in Management and Development	29
4.6.3	Children's Play	30
4.6.4	Education Facilities	30
4.6.4.1	Formal Environmental Education	30
4.6.5.2	Informal Education	30
4.6.5	Accessibility for all	30

CONTENTS		Page No.
4.7	Marketing	
	4.7.1	Introduction 31
	4.7.2	Information Provision and Interpretation 31
	4.7.2.1	Leaflet 31
	4.7.2.2	World Wide Web 31
	4.7.3	Events 32
	4.7.4	Marketing plan and Park Promotion 32
4.8	Management	
	4.8.1	Land Services 32
	4.8.2	Management of the Country Park 33
	4.8.3	Management Plan 33
5.0	Action Plan/Work Plan Appendix 1	34
Appendix 2	Assets and Maintenance Schedule	41
Appendix 3	Map 2 Access and Site Features	44
Appendix 4	Map 3 Management Proposals	45
Appendix 5	Land and Countryside Service Structure	46
Appendix 6	Example of Ranger Service Risk Assessment	47

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

1.0 LOCATION AND OUTLINE DESCRIPTION

Roslin Glen Country Park lies 500m south of the village of Roslin in Midlothian. Penicuik is situated 4km to the southwest, while the city centre of Edinburgh is 11km to the north.

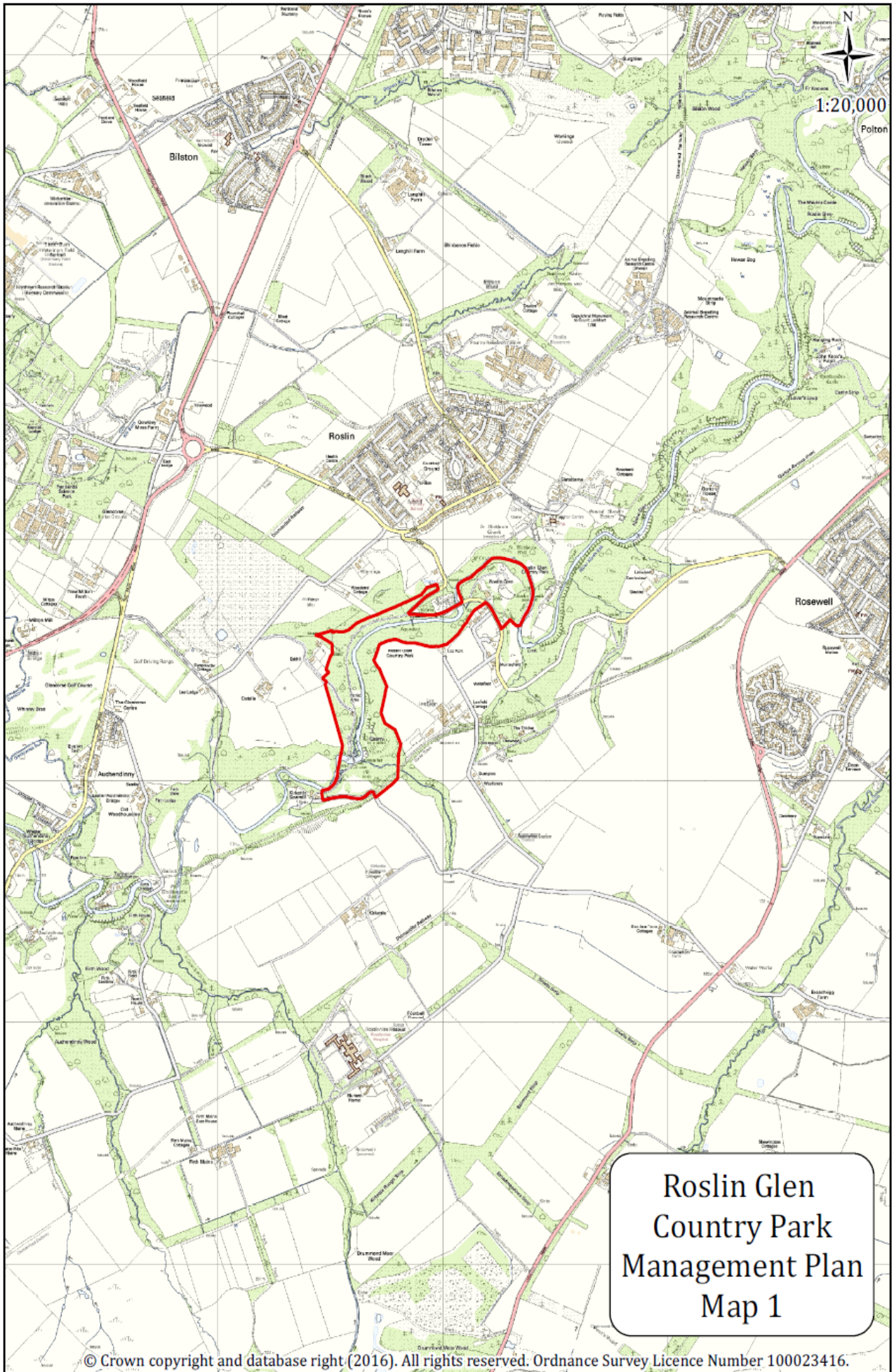
The Country Park occupies both banks of the River North Esk from Kirkettle Mill (Ordnance Survey grid reference NT 265619) to the footbridge over the river below Rosslyn Castle (grid reference NT 274628), covering a distance of over 1.5km. The Country Park is linear in shape, with a maximum width of 250m. The car park for the site is located at grid reference point NT 272628.

The Park covers an area of 24.ha and comprises principally of a steep sided glen clad by woodland on both sides of the River North Esk. Among the attractions of the Park are woodland and riverside walks with links to a wider path network including the North Esk Way and the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway. The site has a car park, picnic areas and a rich industrial history relating to the production of gunpowder between 1804 and 1954. The carpet factories date from 1868. The popular tourist site of Rosslyn Chapel is located to the north east of the Park and the spectacular Rosslyn Castle which is a private residence is also located on this side of the Park. Both are linked to the site by a public foot path.

Refer to Map 1 for Location of the Park



Entrance to Roslin Glen Country Park Photo: Midlothian Ranger Service



1.0.1 Ownership

Roslin Glen Country Park has been owned by Midlothian Council since the 1970's and is managed and maintained by Land and Countryside Service via Midlothian Ranger Service.

1.0.2 Contact

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1.1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Woodland Management Plan was produced for Roslin Glen Country Park in early 1999 which covered both the woodlands within the Country Park (within the ownership of Midlothian Council) and those around Roslin Castle (within the ownership of the Earl of Rosslyn). This plan covered a five year period, and the works recommended for the Country Park were by and large implemented. The Woodland Management Plan for the Country Park was updated for the period 2006-2011, and again most of the recommended works were implemented.

Funding for the implementation of the woodland management works was provided by The Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland, and Midlothian Council. Roslin Glen Country Park was included along with ten other sites within the scope of the River North Esk Woodland Management Plan in 2010. A woodland plan was produced covering the period from 2010-2015 and the works identified have been implemented. This plan has been extended and elements of the plan are being used for the continuing management of the site.

In addition the following reports are relevant to the management of Roslin Glen:

- Roslin Glen Baseline Survey Report – Gunpowder Mills Heritage Assets 2006.
- Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019.
- Midlothian Local Development Plan 2017.
- Core Paths Plan for Midlothian 2009.
- Midlothian Parks and Open Spaces Audit 2009.
- Friends of Roslin Glen Visitor Survey 2011
- Midlothian Green Networks Plan 2013.
- Roslin Glen Country Park Green Flag Plan 2010-2015
- River North Esk Woodland Plan 2010-2015

This Management Plan draws on the previous plans and policy documents listed above. The purpose of the plan is to identify issues relating to the management, maintenance and development of the Park and to set out the management vision, aims and objectives.

This Plan will be available to all interested parties including elected members, the local community and council staff and will explain the rationale behind management policies, decisions and actions.

The Plan covers a 5 year period between 2016 and 2021 and includes detailed management proposals.

The Plan is also intended to assist in gaining continuing Green Flag accreditation for the Country Park. The Green Flag Award Scheme is a national quality standard for parks and other open spaces. The Green Flag Scheme criteria provide a quality standard against which Roslin Glen Country Park can be assessed.

SECTION 2 – VISION AND AIMS

2.0 Vision

Midlothian Council's Corporate Plan sets out key areas for improving the local environment and under Objectives 1 and 2 there is a requirement to:

- *Improve people's health and well-being*
- *Conserve and improve Midlothian's natural environment*

Roslin Glen Country Park is one of Midlothian's key sites for outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the countryside and contributes strongly to these objectives.

In developing this management plan the Friends of Roslin Glen were consulted on the vision for the park which is:

To manage and improve Roslin Glen Country Park as a key site within the Esk Valley for the benefit of people and wildlife in such a way as to ensure it is one of the most attractive sites for Midlothian residents and visitors to the area.

2.1 Aims

The management of Roslin Glen Country Park requires a balance between a variety of interlinked and sometimes conflicting interests. Ten management aims have been derived as steps towards achieving the overall vision for the Park.

a) Conservation

To increase the biodiversity value of the site.

b) Landscape

To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value.

c) Recreation

To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.

d) Community Involvement

To engage with the local community and user groups, and to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the Park and to use the Glen as an environmental educational resource.

e) Cultural

To protect and conserve all features of cultural significance and industrial heritage value.

f) Sustainability

To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.

g) Legal

To ensure that the site management works complies with all legal obligations.

h) Maintenance

To ensure that a maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the Park and meet visitor expectations.

i) Safety

To ensure the safety of visitors to the site and staff working on the site.

j) Marketing

To positively promote Roslin Glen Country Park to Midlothian residents and potential visitors to the area.

Table 1 below shows how the aims have been linked to the eight criteria of the Green Flag Award Scheme.

Table 1 Aims and Green Flag Criteria

No	Green Flag Criteria	Aim
1	A Welcoming Place	b) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value. c) To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.
2	Healthy, Safe and Secure	i) To ensure the safety of visitors to the site and staff working on the site. g) To ensure that the site management works complies with all legal obligations. c) To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment. c) To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.
3	Well Maintained and Clean	h) To ensure that a maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet visitor expectations.
4	Environmental Management	f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.

No	Green Flag Criteria	Aim
5	Conservation and Heritage	a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site. e) To protect and conserve all features of cultural significance and heritage value.
6	Community Involvement	d) To engage with the local community and user groups, and to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the Park and to use the Glen as an environmental educational resource.
7	Marketing	j) To positively promote Roslin Glen Country Park to Midlothian residents and potential visitors to the area.
8	Management	f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles. d) To engage with the local community and user groups, and to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the Park and to use the Glen as an environmental educational resource.



Science In The Glen Event October Photo: Midlothian Ranger Service

SECTION 3 – CONTEXT OF THE PARK

3.0 POLICY AND DESIGNATIONS

3.0.1 Midlothian Council Policies

The Midlothian Local Development Plan 2017 identifies the following planning policies which relate to Roslin Glen Country Park.

Rural Development

RD1 Development in the Countryside

RD4 Country Parks

Safeguarding and Managing our Natural Environment

ENV6 Special Landscape Areas

ENV8 Protection of River Valleys

ENV 14 Regionally and Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites

Preserving our Historic Environment

ENV 19 Conservation Areas

3.0.2 Core Paths Plan for Midlothian 2009

The Core Paths Plan for Midlothian identifies key routes for the Midlothian area. The Park includes two core paths:

- **Core Path No 32** - 1,000m section of the path that connects the Park and the Roslin area to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway.
- **Core Path No 33** - 1,300m section of the path network within the Park itself.

Further information on core paths can be viewed on Midlothian Councils website at www.midlothian.gov.uk under Core Paths Plan.

3.0.3 Historic Buildings

Roslin Glen Country Park contains a gunpowder mill complex with a collection of associated structures. This is recognised in the Midlothian Council Local Plan 2008 as being regionally and locally important and has played a key role in the industrial heritage of the Esk Valley. Two of the former carpet factory buildings can be found within the car park area of the site and are currently used as workshops and business premises.



Hendry, Widnell & Stewart Carpet Factory date from 1910 Photo: Roslin Heritage Society

3.0.4 Woodland Classification

Roughly 13Ha of the Park's woodland is classified as 'Ancient Semi-natural Woodland' with a further 4.1Ha classified as 'Other Woodland'. This classification recognises the importance of the woodland and indicates that extensive woodland cover has been present on the site since at least 1750.

3.1 STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

Roslin Glen Country Park has a strong strategic significance within the region and forms part of the River North Esk Valley corridor and lies within an area of Great Landscape Value. The site has a high conservation value and is an important wildlife corridor, path link and a public open space within easy reach of population centres.

3.1.1 Edinburgh and the Lothian's Forestry Habitat Network Plan

The Edinburgh and the Lothian's Forestry Habitat Network plan 2006 has mapped the Roslin Glen area as a Core Woodland Area, containing very high quality woodland. The woodland within the Park combined with woodlands to the north and south to provide a valuable and extensive area of gorge woodland.

3.1.2 Midlothian Green Network Plan

Roslin Glen Country Park has a strategic significance within Midlothian's green space resource, linking with Midlothian's system of Core Paths. The park provides an open public space for biodiversity and for recreational use to improve people's health and well being. The Midlothian Green Network is currently being developed by the Council's Planning Policy Unit to cover the next twenty years. The park will form part of this localised green network that will in turn link to a wider network of green infrastructure through off-road paths.

3.1.3 Biodiversity Action Plan

The [Local Biodiversity Action Plan \(LBAP\)](#) was adopted in 2019, which contains habitat actions for management of the site in particular as part of the river valley network. In addition, to the north of the Park a 44 ha area of the River North Esk valley is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

3.1.4 Path Routes

The paths within the Park provide an important link to other more extensive walking routes including the North Esk Way and Tyne Esk Horse Trail. The formal paths are designated as Core Path routes and they link directly to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway and to National Cycle Route 196 (1). The paths are also linked to a signed local path network directing visitors to local amenities and attractions such as Rosslyn Chapel and Roslin Village.

3.1.5 The Midlothian Open Space Audit 2010

The [Midlothian Open Spaces Audit](#) records key public open spaces within Midlothian. Each site has a PAN 65 Typology and is quality assessed in terms of access, attractiveness, biodiversity, functionality and community benefits.

Roslin Glen was audited as one site together with areas in private ownership beyond the Park boundaries. The area received an overall score of 74% which is above average and received favourable comments.

3.2 HISTORIC BACKGROUND OF THE PARK

The Roslin area is steeped in history with key locations being the famous 15th century Rosslyn Chapel and the neighbouring 14th century Rosslyn Castle. These sites are adjacent to the Country Park and the Chapel is a popular tourist attraction. The Castle is a striking building but it is not open to the public. Information on the Chapel and Castle can be found by visiting the Rosslyn Chapel website at www.rosslynchapel.com

The site of the car park at Roslin Glen was previously a carpet factory, and some buildings and structures, such as the bleach fields, are still in existence. The Roslin Heritage Society has detailed information on the history of the site and can be contacted via their website at www.roslinheritagesociety.org

Within the Park the most significant features of cultural and industrial heritage are the remains of the extensive Gunpowder Mills which occupy the north side of the valley. The Gunpowder Mills were established in 1804 by Messrs Hay and Merricks. The mills at Roslin produced high grade gunpowder and was used in the Napoleonic, Crimean and Boer wars, among others.



Mill Lade and remains of the Water Wheel Buildings date from 2013 Photo: Roslin Heritage Society

The mills closed in 1954 and the Forestry Commission acquired the site. The Forestry Commission do not appear to have undertaken much in the way of woodland management during their ownership, although two small sycamore plantations were established during this period.

Midlothian Council acquired the site in the 1970's. At this time the majority being demolished. Over forty buildings and three bridges were still standing, but safety fears led to demolition of most of them. Today the remnants of mill walls, lades, chimneys and magazines are visible throughout the north side of the Park.

In 2006, a baseline survey was carried out on the surviving historic features by a consultant archaeologist in partnership with the Council and the Roslin Heritage Society. A prioritised action plan was prepared which informs the recommendations for this element within the management plan. (*Ref: Roslin Glen Baseline Survey Report, Gunpowder Mills Heritage Assets. 2006*). It is intended to seek means of implementing some of the key recommendations of the Report, although it is appreciated that significant resources would be required to achieve full implementation.



Central Gunpowder Mill Complex circa 1890 Photo: Roslin Heritage Society

The Roslin Heritage Society has prepared various materials relating to the Park's history and carries out talks on the history of the gunpowder mill complex. Further information and can be found on their website at www.roslinheritagesociety.org.

The Ranger Service also leads guided walks through the Gunpowder Mills for visitors and school groups.

3.3 MANAGEMENT RULES

Management Rules are in place for all key countryside sites in Midlothian. The rules are posted at each countryside site including Roslin Glen County Park to enable enforcement by Authorised Officers; in the case of Roslin Glen this is the Midlothian Ranger Service.

3.4 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Roslin Glen Country Park has benefited from the sustained interest of the local community. In the past the Roslin Heritage Society was the main contributing local organisation to the management of the Park. Recently the work of the Friends of Roslin Glen, formed in 2007 has contributed greatly to the Parks ongoing success.

The 'Friends' group was formally constituted in 2009 and its members include local Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, and Boys Brigade groups. The groups operate in partnership with Midlothian Ranger Service, local residents and local land owners including Rosslyn Chapel Trust, the Earl of Rosslyn and Scottish Wildlife Trust to enhance both the Country Park and the wider area of Roslin Glen.

The aims of the Friends of Roslin Glen include the promotion of the Glen for:

- Recreation
- Nature conservation and Biodiversity
- Cultural and industrial heritage
- Landscape

The successful partnership with the Friends Group and Midlothian Ranger Service has delivered a number of improvements for the Park over the last 10 years, including planting hedgerows, trees and wildflower meadows and promoting public events. The Friends have also funded biodiversity projects through community grants and fund raising events such as the annual 'Teas in the Park' event and the Roslin Glen Duck Race.

Established volunteer groups also play a key role in managing the site in partnership with the Ranger Service and the Friends of Roslin Glen. These include the Edinburgh University conservation group 'The Dirty Weekenders' and Lothian Conservation Volunteers. The volunteers have undertaken a wide range of practical conservation tasks from tree planting to path maintenance.

A number of schools and colleges are actively involved in working with the Ranger Service and are encouraged to participate in the management of the site and to use it is an educational resource.



Lothian Conservation Volunteers Tree Planting
Photo: Midlothian Ranger Service



Dirty Weekenders Path Works
Photo: Midlothian Ranger Service

3.5 SURVEYS AND ASSESSMENTS

There are a number of plans and reports which are relevant to the past and ongoing development of the Country Park as described below.

3.5.1 Woodland Management

The initial Woodland Management Plan was produced in 1999, and a revised Woodland Plan was produced to cover the period until 2011. The original Plan included description, survey and assessment of the woodlands in the Country Park together with proposals for improvement.

In 2010 a further 5 year plan was produced as part of the wider North Esk Valley-River Corridor Management Planning process using green corridors and habitat networks to connect people and wildlife. A key objective of The North Esk Woodland Management Plan was to record and assess the current condition of the sites woodland and recreational infrastructure through sound management.

To date the proposals and objectives of the above Woodland Management Plan have been implemented as per the schedule within the plan. The plan will continue to be used as reference for future and ongoing management of the site. This work will include:

- Small scale thinning
- Selective felling of small sycamore
- Felling of sycamore plantation and replacement with alder and other native trees and shrubs
- Removal of sycamore and beech seedlings
- Removal of dangerous trees
- Small scale tree planting by community groups and volunteers
- Litter removal across the site
- Small scale path improvements
- Removal of scrub from grasslands
- Continue maintenance of newly planted tree stock
- Removal of exotic tree and shrub regeneration across the site
- Removal of seedlings from structures within the Gunpowder Mills

The maintenance of the Park is undertaken and facilitated by the Midlothian Ranger Service. Seasonal maintenance tasks include:

- Path strimming
- Strimming around bench seats, bollards and other furniture
- Clearance of overhanging branches encroaching onto the path network
- Litter removal
- Remedial works to paths including step replacement and drainage
- Treatment of and removal of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam and other invasive weed species

3.5.2 Biodiversity

Roslin Glen was designated as a Local Biodiversity Site in 2008 within the Local Plan. All biodiversity actions are linked to the Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan covering areas of habitat enhancement, creation and ongoing management.

The site includes a large area of deciduous woodland, some scrub vegetation, open grassland, and running water. For further information on the site assessments for Roslin Glen Country Park, contact The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) at info@wildlifeinformation.co.uk

3.5.3 Archaeology

The 'Roslin Glen Baseline Survey Report – Gunpowder Mills Heritage Assets' referred to in sections 1.1 and 3.2 provides a series of recommendations for the conservation of the remaining gunpowder mill buildings. Key recommendations are set out in the site work plan. These proposals aim to protect the existing archaeological features and prevent any further deterioration of the structures due to the action of encroaching vegetation.

3.5.4 Open Space Audit

This audit was carried out by an independent consultant to inform the progression of an Open Space Strategy for Midlothian. The audit found that Roslin Glen is a high quality site which provides an attractive and accessible location providing benefits for people and wildlife.

The Audit found that *'All the settlements of Midlothian are located within 10km of a Country Park'* and specific comment was *the success of the introduction of horse access.*

SECTION 4 – ANALYSIS

An analysis of the site is given below with recommendations contained within the Action Plan in Section 5- Appendix 1

4.0 CONTEXT FOR IMPROVEMENT

A series of Woodland Management Plans for Roslin Glen Country Park have to date been used to manage improvements at Roslin Glen. The Open Space Audit also provides an assessment of the quality of the park and the Council's Parks Quality Assessment programme seeks to build on the audit to ensure the quality of the site improves.

The previous Green Flag Plan produced in February 2010 has delivered continuous improvements and met the strategic aims within the Green Flag framework. The function of this plan is to build on the success of achieving six Green Flag Awards since 2010.

4.1 A WELCOMING PLACE

4.1.1 General

An important feature of any park is to ensure visitors feel comfortable using the site. The Country Park is well designed and attractive with features of interest both within the Park and nearby including Rosslyn Chapel and the River North Esk.

4.1.2 Finding the Park - External Physical Access

The Park lies 500m to the south of the village of Roslin in Midlothian with easy access by public road. It is 1.5km from the A701 and 4km from the A720 Edinburgh By-Pass and by an extensive road network of A and B class roads. *See Map1*

VisitScotland brown road signage announces the Park from Roslin village and from the A6094 at Rosewell.

Roslin Glen Country Park can be accessed on foot and by bicycle via the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway and National Cycle Route 196. The local path network is well signed and directs visitors not only to the Country Park, but to local attractions and amenities. Horse riders use the Tyne Esk Trail to access the park and wider equestrian trails and paths.

The Park is also easily accessible by public transport with Lothian Buses Numbers 37 and 40 providing two regular bus services from Edinburgh. Services connect with the surrounding towns and villages of Penicuik, Bonnyrigg, Dalkeith and Roslin.

For further information contact: lothianbuses.com

Traveline: www.travelinescotland.com 0871 200 22 33

4.1.3 Finding the Park - Internal Physical Access

The Park has a well surfaced, level car parking area with good lines of site. There is parking for roughly 70 cars which is suitable for disabled visitors. A height barrier of 2.2m prevents access to the main car park by large vehicles such as buses and caravans. These larger vehicles are able to use a hardstanding area located adjacent to the main car park.

Car parking is free of charge with the following opening times:

Summer: 8am - 8pm

Winter: 8am - 5pm

The park is open 365 days of the year.

The site has a large picnic area set within amenity grassland and wildflower meadows located close to the car park.

There is a good footpath system which is well signposted and although not all routes are suited to all abilities there are opportunities for disabled users and equestrian users. The main path through the site links to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway and National Cycle Route 196 providing opportunities for longer distance walks including the North Esk Way. This involves crossing a footbridge onto the southern side of the river just below the weir. This bridge is suitable for equestrian use. Access downstream along the south side of the river is difficult, and as there is no means of easily crossing the river at the eastern end of the Park, public use of this part of the site is limited. The lack of public use is most likely beneficial in terms of wildlife.

A second pedestrian bridge (unsuitable for equestrian use) just to the north of the car park facilitates access between the Park and Roslin Village, the Chapel and Castle, and an informal route along the north side of the river towards the village of Polton.

4.1.4 Information on Access

An information leaflet about the Park, including an illustrative map, is available from a dispenser located at the information shelter in the site car park. The leaflet is widely available from Midlothian libraries, leisure centres and Council Offices.

There are 4 interpretation panels across the site, which are situated at key points including the main car park and picnic area.

A large orientation board located within the car park shows the location of the site in relation to surrounding landmarks and features.

The Park is featured on the Midlothian Council website with directions, site details and a seasonal update of activities.

Roslin Heritage Society has produced a *Roslin Rambles* leaflet which includes information on Roslin Glen Country Park and surrounding areas of the Glen.

4.1.5 Social Access

The Friends of Roslin Glen and the Roslin Heritage Society provide a consultative forum upon whereby the Council receives feedback on ideas for improving the Park.

The Friends Group in partnership with the Ranger Service organise a series of events to promote the park including the annual '*Teas in the Park*' event. This fund raiser is very popular attracting up to 700 visitors on the day.

One of the keys aims of the Friends group within this plan is to widen the Friends membership and to increase involvement from the wider community in and around Roslin.

The Park includes the following access related facets:

- An on-site information shelter which is regularly updated with information of events, legislation (SOAC) and details of the Friends Group.
- A site leaflet dispenser.
- A local Gate Keeper who provides a level of onsite security and a means of reporting incidents.
- Weekly patrols by Midlothian Ranger Service, providing face to face contact with visitors to resolve any issues and respond to any potential conflicts.
- All Ranger staff including the Gate Keeper have undertaken Council Equality and Diversity Training as well as Customer Care. The Ranger Service Handbook details how to deal with aggression and violence at and lone working, which are all supported by Council Policies.
- All staff receives a Code of Conduct information booklet detailing good practice.
- All Council ground maintenance and Ranger staff can be identified with the Council uniform.
- Community Police Officers who patrol the site.
- A number of local residents including the Friends of Roslin Glen who use the site on a regular basis and are in contact with the Ranger Service.
- Picnic benches and are installed across the site, with many placed in areas for the elderly to have a rest and in quieter parts of the Park with views.

4.1.6 Aspects of Design

The Park has been designed to be welcoming to the public and to provide an attractive amenity space for informal recreation and education. Improvements to the site will be carried out in consultation with Midlothian Council's Land and Countryside Service and the Friends of Roslin Glen to ensure the support of the local community.

For actions relating to Health, Safe and Secure see Appendix 1: Roslin Glen Country Park Action Plan 2016-2021

4.2 HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

4.2.1 Health and Well Being

The Park offers a range of opportunities for recreation, health and well being.

- A good, well sign-posted path network which provides opportunities for a variety of walking routes suited to a range of fitness levels.
- Opportunities for cycling and horse riding.
- Clear lines of sight along major walking routes.
- Links to long distance routes out with the park.
- Attractive areas suitable for quiet relaxation.
- Opportunities for conservation volunteer work.

4.2.2 Equipment and Facilities

The principle facilities are the car park, picnic areas, 2 litter bins, information hub and 4 interpretation panels across the site. *See Map 2: Appendix 3.* These are inspected once each week by the Ranger Service and daily by the Gate Keeper who undertakes opening and closing duties at the car park.

The design of the car park has been improved over the years to create a sense of being introduced to a countryside setting yet to also provide a feeling of security. This has involved ongoing thinning of woodlands and improvements to paths to ensure people feel safe and that all users are welcome.

The picnic areas have picnic benches; some are suitable for visitors with disabilities and are situated within open space on level ground with views in mind. The information hub comprises of a large double sided notice board and shelter with a range of information on activity within the Park and in the surrounding area. The board has contact details for the Ranger Service and for the Friends group.

Members of the Friends Group regularly visit the site and report any problems. Required works will be undertaken by the Ranger service and/or Land and Countryside Service staff to resolve issues promptly where this is feasible. There are a range of proposed improvements in this plan for the car park, main entrance and the frontage to some of the buildings to make the car park more attractive. These are detailed in the *Action Plan-Section 5: Appendix 1*

4.2.3 Safer Parks Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency the contact details of the Ranger Service, Midlothian Council and the local Community Police Officer are available at the information board in the site car park. This includes an emergency 24 hour council contact. A key advantage of the site is the resident Gate Keeper (living adjacent to the main entrance) who is on duty twice a day to open and close the gate to the car park.

4.2.4 Security

A sense of security is provided by the presence of the Ranger staff, the Gate Keeper, and others. The Ranger Service patrols the site at least weekly, and is often on site at other times when undertaking management tasks. The local community police patrol the site occasionally and are informed of any incidents relating to site security.

4.2.5 Staff and Volunteers

The Ranger Service patrol the site on a weekly basis and are trained to enforce the management rules, resolve conflict and ensure accordance with the Nature Conservation and Land Reform Acts as well as meeting and greeting the public. Lone Working procedures are in place, which were updated in January 2016.

A key part of the Ranger patrol is to complete the health and safety checklist which is recorded on a quarterly basis with any problems arising dealt with promptly. If any hazards are identified, the public are made aware through signs and warning barriers, in accordance with risk assessment procedures.

The Friends Group members are regular site users (several members will visit on a daily basis for dog walking) and inform the site Ranger of any problems or concerns.

A good working relationship exists between the Community Police Officer, based in Loanhead and the site Ranger. The Community Police Officer regularly undertakes independent site visits and the resident Gate Keeper will contact the officer if there is a problem.

Ranger Service contact numbers are displayed at all main entrances to the Park and the Gate Keeper can be in immediate contact with other services should problems arise.

Local school groups attend environmental education and other sessions within the Park. The content of these sessions encourages good citizenship, which engenders a sense of respect for the outdoor environment in general and for the Park specifically.

There is a wide range of volunteer groups which assist in the management of the Park. This has been noted in *Section 3.4*

4.2.6 Physical Security

There are a range of paths for users which include wide open paths with good views and options to take informal woodland paths off the main route. Paths have also been constructed around the main car park to enable views of the river and woodlands for the benefit of users of all abilities.

The site is well maintained and inspections are undertaken to ensure that trees near to paths are not a danger to the public, and that site structures and facilities are in sound condition. Site structures such as walls and bridges are inspected and surveyed every 2 years by the Structures Section within the Council.

4.2.7 Health and Safety Policies

The Ranger Service has robust safety systems in place that are audited every three years. Risk assessments for all Service activities are reviewed annually. Site Inspection sheets identify health and safety issues for reporting as they arise and these are all dealt with appropriately in accordance with Council policies. For example of Risk Assessment, *See Appendix 6*

4.2.8 Control of Dogs

Roslin Glen is well used by dog walkers, some of whom are in the Friends Group and many who are regular users of the Park. Regular users report on any problems that arise to the Ranger Service.

The Council has a zero-tolerance policy on dog fouling which is enforced by the Dog Warden in Environmental Health. The Dog Warden can enforce the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003, which states that dog foul must be uplifted.

All Council litter bins can be used for bagged dog waste. There are currently 2 large all purpose bins within the car park area of the site.

For actions relating to Well Maintained and Clean see Appendix 1: Roslin Glen Country Park Action Plan 2016-2021

4.3 WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN

4.3.1 Litter and Waste Management

A number of measures are in place to counteract issues relating to litter and fly tipping.

There are 2 all purpose bins located by the main car park entrance, which are emptied twice per week in summer and once per week in winter. The litter is deposited at the Council Amenity Site. The Ranger liaises with Midlothian Council's Waste Service and reports any problems such as fly-tipping to the Environmental Warden.

The Gate Keeper is employed to collect rubbish in the lower glen around the picnic site and car park, on a daily basis.

Members of the Friends Group and other regular visitors often pick up litter on an informal basis.

The thinking behind the litter management is that a clean site is more likely to stay clean and that the presence of litter is likely to attract more litter. Those involved in the management of the site aim to remove litter or fly-tipping as quickly as possible. Rangers report that the time required for litter collection at this site is decreasing.

4.3.2 Grounds Maintenance

The Country Park is maintained to the standards set out in the Council's Grounds Maintenance specification. Maintenance works include:-

- Weekly litter collection
- Seasonal mowing of amenity grassland
- Seasonal mowing of rough grassland
- Strim footpaths twice per year
- Wildflower Meadows are managed by the Ranger Service, the Friends of Roslin Glen and volunteers

Trees are checked by the Ranger Service broadly in accordance, with the National Tree Safety Groups guidance. In addition the Ranger Service attended LANTRA Award Basic Tree Survey and Inspection training in 2019 and as a result now carries out a full recorded tree inspection every two years.

Paths, steps and other structures such as handrails and seating are inspected by the Ranger Service and remedial work is programmed and prioritised either through Land Services Grounds Maintenance or the volunteer programme as appropriate. Works are prioritised according to risk and/or impact on the public's use of the amenity. See Appendix 2 for details of works schedule.

4.3.3 Building Maintenance

4.3.3.1 Habitable Buildings

The 2 occupied buildings within the Park are situated adjacent to the main car park and are leased by Midlothian Council Property Services. The smaller building is a workshop and is occupied by the Esk Valley Model Engineering Society (EVMES) who operate the miniature railway at Vogrie Country Park.

The larger building has been occupied since 2013 by Renewable Devices and Marine. This Consultancy Company specialises in a broad range of renewable technologies.

The present tenants have improved the fabric and appearance of the buildings and ultimately saved them from potential demolition. The occupants are now an integral part of the Park and are consulted in management decisions where appropriate. The EVMES are now group members of the Friends and both occupants participate in Ranger Service events.

4.3.3.2 Unoccupied Buildings and Structures

Remnant buildings associated with the former Gunpowder Mills have been audited and a list of priority works drawn up that deals with the structures in which the public might be most interested and where public safety is most important. The former mill wheel and lade within the gunpowder mill are the key priority along with the remains of a factory chimney.

Countryside bridges, fencing, railings and steps are inspected by the Ranger Service and larger structures such as the bridges across the River North Esk are inspected by the Council's Structures Section on a 2 yearly cycle.

Small bridges and the remaining relic structures are monitored by the Ranger Service and serious problems which cannot be undertaken by Land and Countryside Service are reported to the Structures Section as necessary.

4.3.4 Equipment Maintenance

All Council staff are trained to operate maintenance equipment and provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment required.

Risk Assessments are in place for all maintenance activities and updated annually. Vehicles and machinery are maintained to a high standard by the Council's Fleet Services at their Stobhill Depot.

Fuel and chemicals are stored off site and in accordance with COSHH. All staff including the Ranger Service are trained in the use of relevant chemicals.

4.3.5 Cleanliness

The Ranger Service patrols the site each week and volunteers from the Friends Group are on site most days. The Gate Keeper will contact the Ranger Service if there are undue problems on site.

Urgent issues such as used syringes and needles are addressed immediately. Land and Countryside Service staff are trained to deal with safely with needles and syringes.

Land and Countryside Service Grounds Maintenance respond to complaints with cleanliness timeously. All staff are trained to deal with a range of cleanliness issues including, litter, vandalism, dog mess and chewing gum.

For actions relating to Sustainability see Appendix 1: Roslin Glen Country Park Action Plan 2016-2021

4.4 SUSTAINABILITY

4.4.1 Introduction

Midlothian Council's Single Midlothian Community Plan under its Sustainability theme states:

"The Council is required to contribute to sustainable development under the Local Government Scotland Act 2003 and Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009"

While the Council is working on many fronts to improve sustainability, it is recognised that the management of the Parks requires various inputs yet provides clear social and environmental benefits.

4.4.2 Environmental Management

Midlothian Council is working on a number of initiatives towards sustainable management practices including those outlined in the *Council's Sustainable Development Scheme and Action Plan 2009/10* which is available on the Midlothian Council website.

4.4.3 Pesticides

At countryside sites such as Roslin Glen pesticide use is restricted to key operations which form part of a larger plan or strategy such as the Local Biodiversity Action Plan or the Woodland Management Plan and therefore such interventions are minimal.

Application of chemicals is always carried out by staff trained and volunteers with the relevant certification. Two members of the Friends of Roslin Glen have been trained by Forth Fisheries and certified to control invasive species. Rangers advise the public and sign areas where spraying work is being carried out which will always be undertaken at non-peak times of public use.

At Roslin Glen, the use of chemicals is restricted to glyphosate and is used to control invasive species, in particular Japanese Knotweed. The location of these sites is usually well away from public access routes and is restricted to less than 0.12 ha in total. This work is undertaken as one of the key priorities within the Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

The following measures help to reduce the use of chemicals:

- Occasionally tree stumps are treated with herbicides to deter re-growth
- Newly planted trees are weeded by hand, this is undertaken by volunteers
- Seedlings and scrub on structures are removed by hand and are occasionally treated with herbicides to deter re-growth.

4.4.4 Use of Materials

The Council's Sustainability Action Plan targets procurement policies as a key means of delivering sustainable services stating that:

"We will adopt a strategic approach to procurement which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development".

The procurement of goods and services takes into account not only value for money but other factors such as environmental performance by encouraging suppliers, manufacturers and other parts of the supply chain to promote responsible use of resources including human resources. This is further developed through the statement in the sustainability plan that:

"We will adopt a strategic approach to procurement which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development".

Returned quotes and tenders have an environmental score which affects the overall performance of the submission.

Land and Countryside Service has converted its greenhouses at its plant production nursery to biomass fuel harvested from Council owned sites and in doing so has reduced costs by 75%.

Land and Countryside Service aims to minimise the use of peat. We now use a peat/compost based product as fully non-peat products have been trialled at the plant production nursery, but this has met with very limited success and in some instances complete failure. In the meantime the Council uses carefully managed peat reserves which are not of scientific or scenic interest and which are locally based in order to minimise carbon miles and reduce impacts on sensitive habitats.

The use of peat-based products however is not a particular issue at Roslin Glen Country Park as planting is limited to a small number of native trees and shrubs. The Council nursery uses reusable cells for raising bedding plants and shrubs thus reducing use of materials and vermiculite and perlite are used for growing on from cuttings.

4.4.5 Resource Conservation and Waste Management

The purchase of materials is guided by the Council's Sustainability Plan which aims to reduce the impact on resources. The Sustainability Plan states

'We will ensure we are on-track with our involvement in the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme.'

Appropriate materials are used on site and increasingly products such as reclaimed aggregates and recycled plastic instead of quarried stone and milled timber are being used. There is virtually no peat use on site except from very limited numbers of cell grown trees. A key driver for using recycled products is grant aid for new projects which often requires that the design and implementation of projects use sustainable and recycled products.

As part of the National Curriculum the Ranger Service provides information to schools and others on sustainability issues.

4.4.6 Recycling

In Midlothian Council green waste which is collected from both households and public areas is sent for composting by Forth Resource Management. This waste is windrow composted to create PAS100 screened compost, for use as a soil improver and substitute for chemical fertilisers. Any contamination removed before the composting process begins is disposed of responsibly to a licensed non-hazardous landfill site.

To support this activity Land Services recycles all its green waste and now uses a 10" bore chipper to enable arisings from its arboriculture activities to be reused or recycled.

4.4.7 Horticultural and Arboriculture Management

There is little horticultural activity within the Country Park with the exception of mowing in the high amenity grass areas by the car park and more occasionally in areas of rough grassland. Continuing tree management is based on elements of previous woodland management plans that aim to improve the biodiversity, landscape and amenity of the site.

All newly planted trees are sourced from local provenance in accordance with the recommendations of the Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Logs and woodchips arising from tree works are either used on site or given away to local community groups or recycled at the Council's green waste amenity site.

The Council's Arboriculture team undertakes tree works such as the felling and removal of dangerous trees and pruning of dead wood.

4.4.8 Pollution Reduction

Fuel and chemicals are not stored on site. Their use is only used by properly trained staff. The limited on site usage is audited through the Health and Safety Plan for Ranger Service/Land and Countryside Service. Any pollution incidents are reported using the Council's incident report forms and SEPA contacted if there are any spillages affecting water courses.

4.4.9 Water Efficiency

There is virtually no use of water within the Park due to the lack of horticultural features. There is also no pond or other feature that requires to be improved to conserve water.

4.4.10 Energy Efficiency

The Council's Transport Service which is responsible for fleet also commits to reducing fuel usage through its fleet procurement programme. This includes a gradual roll-out of electric vehicles with electric fuel points at council buildings and premises of other partners in the private and third sector.

There is no electricity use on site linked to the management of the Park. The two habitable buildings available for lease are not controlled by Land and Countryside Service.

4.4.11 Air Quality

The improvement in air quality is measured by the Council as part of its Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government. The Council's Fleet Service contributes to this measure by compliance to EC 91/542 emissions directive, the latest standard on air quality which applies to all Land and Countryside Service/ Ranger Service plant and machinery.

For actions relating to Conservation and Heritage see Appendix 1: Roslin Glen Country Park Action Plan 2016-2021

4.5 CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

Conservation is an important area of work within Roslin Glen Country Park. The Council has improved the woodlands and other features through the Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust project and a series of Woodland Management Plans since 1999.

This updated plan includes key objectives to improve the amenity, biodiversity, landscape as well as conserving the existing buildings from encroachment by vegetation. The Conservation Area status covers part of the site and means that interventions by the Council need to accord with this status in respect of the built and natural heritage.

4.5.1 Woodland Ecology

Much of the site is an example of gorge woodland habitat and includes 13.1ha of 'Ancient Semi-natural Woodland.' The mixed deciduous woodland shows a variation in ecological value throughout the glen. The variation is a result of human disturbance, topography, geology, drainage and the spread of exotic species. One of the key reasons for the number of tree species present across the site is thought to be experimentation with different timbers for use in gunpowder making.

The woodland includes a small coniferous element and small patches of hawthorn and blackthorn scrub. The spread of exotic regeneration in the form of sycamore and beech seedlings has been a threat to the balance of tree species and ongoing management has been very successful to date to promote the existing native species.

4.5.2 Grasslands

Roslin Glen Country Park has a diverse range of grassland habitats which are haven for wildlife. Across the UK grasslands are declining, but here within the Park the Ranger Service with the help of the Friends and other volunteer groups, actively manage grassland and wildflower meadow areas. The current management regimes include:

- Amenity grassland areas have been converted into wildflower meadows over the last 10 years and these are cut by hand using scythes once a year.
- The rough grassland areas are cut by hand and machinery on a 2 yearly cycle. For work schedule *see Appendix 2*



Lothian Conservation Volunteers Meadow Management Photo: Midlothian Ranger Service

4.5.3 Other Habitats

Other habitats include the River North Esk as an open water habitat, areas of scrub vegetation, open grassland and wildflower meadows. The Park is adjacent to areas of open farmland and the woodland edge and open ground combine to provide excellent feeding ground for a number of bird species.

The ground flora beneath the woodland canopy contains a number of species which indicate that the site has a long history of woodland cover, including bluebells, dog's mercury, woodrush, wild garlic and wood sorrel.



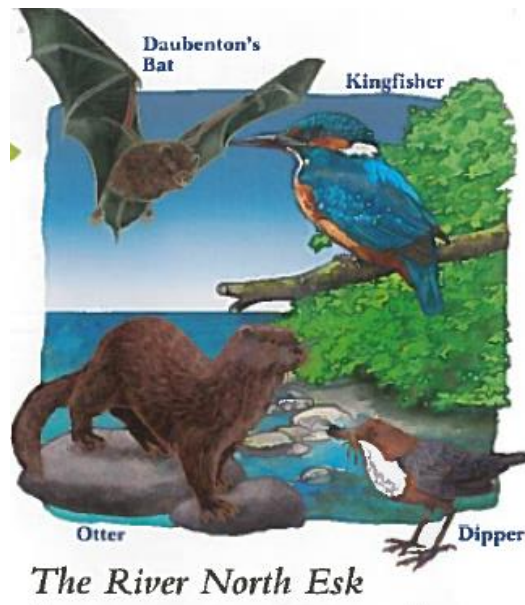
Biodiversity projects within the Park have included:

- Grassland management for increased diversity.
- The creation of green woodpecker feeding grounds.
- The creation of wildflower meadows near the car park.
- Extensive native tree planting across the site.
- Planting of hedgerows.
- Installation of bird boxes and insect/bug boxes.
- Biological surveys.

4.5.4 Fauna

The site provides a home for a range of wildlife including roe deer, badger, otter, pipistrelle bat, daubenton's bat. Bird species include green woodpecker, kingfisher, barn owl, buzzard and dippers. Bird and bat boxes are installed within the woodland area.

The Park also provides conditions suited to a host of fresh water, grassland and woodland invertebrate species. Many of the small-scale biodiversity activities undertaken in the past have helped to further improve conditions for invertebrates, through for example the provision of deadwood habitat piles.



4.5.5 Cultural Landscape

The Roslin Glen Baseline Survey Report – Gunpowder Mills Heritage Assets 2006 provides details of the historic interest of the Park.

The role of the Roslin Heritage Society has been vital in making the connections between the local people and their landscape. The Society gives talks on the history of the Glen and in partnership with the Ranger Service provides guided walks that focus on the history of the landscape.

In 2018 the Roslin Heritage Society produced an interpretation panel that was installed within the Gunpowder Mills on the history and industrial heritage of this part of the Park.

4.5.6 Water Management

The River North Esk forms a riparian corridor running the length of the Park. Much of the riparian zones comprises of gorge woodland, a priority habitat in the Midlothian LBAP.

Members of the Friends have been trained by River Forth Fisheries Trust to assist and work in partnership with the Ranger Service, to manage and control the invasive species Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. River clean ups are also held annually as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful campaign.

River Forth Fisheries Trust is currently undertaking ecological surveys of the North and South Esk in Midlothian with a view to allow species such as Atlantic salmon to ascend the rivers again after almost a century. This will involve the full or partial removal of the weirs along the Esk's. The weir at Roslin Glen will play a vital role in this project.

4.5.7 Geological and Physiographic Features

The Park occupies the steep sided valley of the River North Esk. The river has cut through the superficial glacial deposits and the underlying carboniferous sediments which form part of the Upper Carboniferous millstone grits. Exposures of sandstones, siltstones, shale and ironstone occur in a number of locations, with a particularly spectacular rock face visible just below the weir.

The site is recognised as a Regionally important Geological Site. This designation promoted through information from the [Edinburgh Geological Society](#) which is displayed at the information shelter.

4.5.8 Conservation of Landscape

Roslin Glen Country Park is a key location within the Esk Valley and this is supported by its partial inclusion within a Conservation Area. In recognition of its significance, Land and Countryside Service have undertaken a range of improvements to the Country Park over the years that have conserved and improved both the natural and built landscape.

4.5.9 Conservation of Historic Artefacts

As referred to in Section 3.2, remnant buildings associated with the former Gunpowder Mills have been audited and a list of priority works drawn up that deals with the structures in which the public might be most interested and where public safety is most important. The former mill wheel and lade within the gunpowder mill is the key priority along with a chimney that was central to the operation of the complex.

The structure of the chimney has become unstable and has partially collapsed. The structure has been fenced off to the public and appropriate warning signage erected. The next stage is to work towards obtaining funding to reinstate, or at least make the chimney stable and safe.

For actions relating to Community Involvement see Appendix 1: Roslin Glen Country Park Action Plan 2016-2021

4.6 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Midlothian Ranger Service work with Roslin Heritage Society, Friends of Roslin Glen, Rosslyn Chapel Trust, local schools and colleges and a range of other organisation to foster a sense of community involvement in the site.

4.6.1 Patterns of Use

The Park is used on a daily basis primarily by local people and becomes much busier at weekends and during holidays when visitors are more likely to come from out with the immediate area. The busiest time of day at the Park is usually around midday and early afternoon. The car park has seasonal opening hours as listed in *Section 4.1.2*.

4.6.2 Community Involvement in Management and Development

The Ranger Service and the Friends of Roslin Glen work in partnership with a number of community groups and volunteers to improve access and enhance the natural environment of the site, through a range of practical conservation tasks and biodiversity projects.

Community and volunteer groups including schools and colleges that have worked across Roslin Glen Country Park include:

- Roslin Primary School. Local children 5-12 years old and their teachers.
- Roslin Rainbows, Brownies and Girl Guides. Local children 5-12 years old.
- Boys Brigade and Scouts. Local children 5-12 years old.
- Green Team. Children 15-18 years old, undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh and John Muir Award Schemes.
- Lothian Conservation Volunteers (LCV). Adults of all ages undertaking targeted skilled tasks. (6 activities per year)
- Dirty Weekenders an Edinburgh University conservation group made up of students of all ages. Although numbers vary this is a large well establish group capable of skilled tasks. (3 activities per year).
- Edinburgh College Midlothian Campus. Students undertaking their John Muir Award.
- Beeslack High School. Third Year pupils undertaking their John Muir Award.
- Orchard Centre (Rowan Project). A centre supporting adults with mental health issues.
- Rosslyn Chapel Trust. Staff members.
- Midlothian Paths Team. Group of mainly active retirees.
- The Midlothian Council Unpaid Work Team.
Supervised teams of offenders carrying out community service orders.



Friends of Roslin Glen Hedge Planting Photo: Midlothian Ranger Service

4.6.3 Children's Play

It is not intended at this stage to introduce children's play equipment to the site.

4.6.4 Educational Facilities

4.6.4.1 Formal Environmental Education

Midlothian Ranger Service offers free educational sessions based on the Curriculum for Excellence and Tertiary Syllabi. The numbers in each session are limited to a maximum ratio of 1 Ranger to a maximum of 15 pupils to ensure good communication and to allow feedback from the pupils. The Ranger Service has Resource Boxes covering habitats and species of the Glen. These are available as an educational tool to any interested group and are free to borrow. These can be viewed on the [Ranger Service Education Activities](#) page on the Midlothian Council website.

The Ranger Service's events are promoted via press releases, fliers to schools, public leaflets, and Council website and through word of mouth. The Ranger Service can also promote events via the Friends Facebook page and Rosslyn Chapel Trust website. Local schools such as Roslin Primary and Beeslack Secondary School are targeted and specific packages have been developed to suit their needs. The Ranger Service's events are free of charge and they work with over 2,000 pupils in Midlothian annually linking activities to the National Curriculum.

The Rangers have also encouraged the use of safe walking routes to the Glen to promote health and well being.

4.6.4.2 Informal Education

Midlothian Ranger Service promotes informal education to a wide range of groups, including members of the public, walking groups, brownies, guides and archaeological clubs. Regular activities include guided walks and evening presentations.

4.6.5 Accessibility for All

It is a key objective to provide opportunities for access to all users of the site.

Roslin Glen is regularly patrolled by the site Ranger on a weekly basis to ensure all access routes are open and that any problems are quickly resolved.

Access is promoted to the Glen by road signage, signage for pedestrians and cyclists and equestrian users via the Tyne Esk Trail.

The lower Glen and Car park area is partially accessible to wheelchair users via a river looped path. Accessible picnic benches and seating is placed at regular points on this loop to allow less able visitors the opportunity to rest. Due to the topography much of the upper Glen is inaccessible to wheelchair users or those without a reasonable level of fitness. *See Map 2: Appendix 3*

The Glen is connected to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Cycleway (which is managed by the Midlothian Ranger Service). This long distance route (Sustrans National Route 196) is well signposted and the entrances to the Park are marked on the ground and within the site leaflet and interpretation panels.

For actions relating to Marketing see Appendix 1: Roslin Glen Country Park Action Plan 2016-2021

4.7 MARKETING

4.7.1 Introduction

The Ranger Service promotes the Park by a range of means and works closely with Midlothian Councils Communications Section to produce high quality interpretive materials to promote the site to a wide audience.

A range of measures are undertaken to ensure the park is promoted properly through events management, publications and the Midlothian Council web site.

Roslin Glen is also promoted by wide distribution of the site leaflet, which is available on site, on the Council website, in local libraries, leisure centres and Council Offices.

4.7.2 Information Provision and Interpretation

4.7.2.1 Leaflet

A new site leaflet was produced in 2010 as a recommendation within the Green Flag Plan and is widely available as described above. The leaflet details the facilities, path network and industrial heritage within this part of Roslin Glen.

In 2011 high quality interpretation panels were installed at 3 key areas across the Park.

Roslin Heritage Society produce a leaflet called "Roslin Rambles" and a CD-ROM on the history of the Gunpowder Mills which includes information on the flora and fauna in the area. The Esk Valley Trust also produced a DVD on the River North Esk - Source to Sea with archive film footage of the mills before they were closed.

4.7.2.2 World Wide Web

Midlothian Council's web page www.midlothian.gov.uk contains promotional information relating to its countryside sites, including site descriptions, lists of things to see and a [downloadable leaflet and map](#).

In addition, there are various external websites including www.visitscotland.com and www.scotlandstartshere.com with information about the Park.

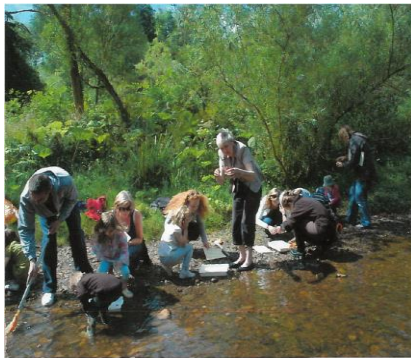
[Roslin Heritage Society](#), the local community of [Roslin](#), [Rosslyn Chapel](#) and the [Esk Valley Trust](#) all have websites with good information on the Roslin area.

4.7.3 Events

The Ranger Service organises a number of events throughout the year on the Council's countryside sites and across Midlothian. These include the Midlothian Walking Festival held each August run mainly by volunteers.

Roslin Glen is a popular location for public events and many are organised in partnership with the local community including: the Friends of Roslin Glen, Rosslyn Chapel and Forth Fisheries. Examples of events held in the Park:

- Teas in the Park is the Friends main fund raiser and is a great day out for the family, with live music, nature activity and home baking.
- Roslin Glen Duck Race with refreshments and crafts to make
- Guided walks on the history of the Glen from the Chapel to the Gunpowder Mills.
- Bat walks, river dipping, minibeat hunts, Geology walk and talks.
- Litter picks as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful Campaign.



River Dipping in the North Esk



Teas in the Park Event

4.7.4 Marketing Plan and Park Promotion

As mentioned above the Park is promoted through the site leaflet and via the Midlothian Council website. Events and activities at the site are promoted on site at the information shelter, locally in libraries and shops, in the local press, and also by word of mouth. In addition, the Roslin Heritage Society promotes Roslin Glen Country Park together with the surrounding historic sites. The Friends of Roslin Glen also promote the Park and events through their Facebook page.

For actions relating to Management see Appendix 1: Roslin Glen Country Park Action Plan 2016-2021

4.8 MANAGEMENT

4.8.1 Land and Countryside Service

The Land and Countryside Service Section within the Commercial Operations of the Resources Directorate of Midlothian Council are responsible for the management and maintenance of green spaces in Midlothian. This remit includes parks, countryside sites such as Roslin Glen, cemeteries, allotments, woodlands, play areas and sports pitches as well as events management including gala days.

The Ranger Service, which is a unit within Land and Countryside Service, is responsible for countryside sites.

With regard to the management of Roslin Glen Country Park this structure provides the clear and coherent approach required for the maintenance and improvement of the site. There are two buildings on the edge of the main car park that are not the responsibility of Land Service and which are available to let to private organisations as mentioned in Section 4.3.3.

For Land and Countryside Service Structure, *See Appendix 5*

4.8.2 Management of the Country Park

- The Ranger Service is responsible for the operation of the Park and their activities are given technical and strategic support by Land and Countryside Service.
- The Land and Countryside Service Operations carry out the maintenance of amenity grass, grasslands and arboriculture works as well as major path repairs.
- Waste Services, which is also part of the Commercial Service Division, is responsible for the collection of litter bins and other waste materials
- Property Assessts and Estates manage the two habitable properties that are leased to private organisations.

4.8.3 Management Plan

This Management Plan seeks to provide an holistic and integrated approach to the management of the Park involving not only Midlothian Council but also key stakeholders and the local community in the decision making process.

The Management Plan includes an Action Plan which details and timetables the various improvements that have been recommended. *See Section 5: Appendix 1*

The Management Plan provides opportunities for both Land and Countryside Service and the various stakeholders including elected members, the Friends of Roslin Glen and Roslin Heritage Society to contribute and understand how the Park is managed. The Ranger Service will oversee the implementation of the Plan.

SECTION 5 – ACTION PLAN

APPENDIX 1

This action plan lists the recommendation for the management of Roslin Glen Country Park over a 5 year period. An indication of the timing of each action is given with annually meaning that the action should be repeated every year.

Key:

	Complete
	Ongoing
	Incomplete

NO	RECOMMENDATION	AGENTS	TIMING	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	A Welcoming Place							
	General							
1	Complete roundel in car park area	Rangers/Criminal Justice Team/Friends	2016					
2	Review all entrances areas with a view to making improvements	Rangers/Friends	2016-17					
3	Prioritise works identified in entrance reviews and plan works schedule	Rangers/Friends	2016					
4	Prepare and install history interpretation panel within Gunpowder Mills	Rangers/Friends	2016					
5	Continue to update information shelter with information on events and meetings	Rangers/Friends	Ongoing					
6	Keep site litter free	Rangers/Friends	Ongoing					
7	Implement Maintenance Schedule (See Appendix 2)	Rangers	2016-21					
8	Install new steps within Gunpowder Mills	Rangers/Duke of Edinburgh Group	2016					
9	Repair post and timber fencing across site	Rangers/Friends/Criminal Justice Team	2016					
10	Hold annual event(s) on site open to the local community and public	Rangers/Friends/Forth Fisheries	Annually					

NO	RECOMMENDATION	AGENTS	TIMING	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
11	Include the Park as part of walking routes in the Midlothian Walking Festival	Rangers	Ongoing					
	Healthy, Safe and Secure							
	Health and Well Being							
1	Continue to provide year round opportunities for voluntary conservation activities to a wide range of groups across the community	Rangers	Ongoing					
2	Continue to work with the Criminal Justice Team to provide opportunities for people to work as part of Community Service Orders	Rangers	Ongoing					
3	Offer guided walks to a range of groups to promote health and well being	Rangers	Ongoing					
4	Encourage school groups to walk to the site where possible	Rangers	Ongoing					
5	Continue to support partners who use the Park to promote events by having a Ranger on site on the day of the event. This includes annual Roslin PS walk in April	Rangers	Ongoing					
6	Quarterly recorded full site inspections	Rangers	Quarterly/ongoing					
7	Ensure Risk Assessments and Safe Working Systems are up to date and cover all activities undertaken on site	Rangers	Ongoing					
8	Complete and record full tree inspections of site every 2 years with findings passed on to Land Resource Manager and any immediate action needed escalated to Midlothian Councils Arboriculture Team for removal.	Rangers	Every second year starting from 2020					
	Equipment and Facilities							
9	Install small BBQ platforms adjacent to picnic benches	Rangers/Criminal Justice Team	2016					

NO	RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENTS	TIMING	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	Staff and volunteers							
10	Explore the possibility of having a tools store/shed within main car park area	Rangers/Land and Countryside/Friends	2016					
11	Purchase tools from partner group SMAG (Springfield Mill Action Group) funding	Rangers/Friends	2016					
12	Train volunteers to use tools	Rangers/Friends	Ongoing					
	Well Maintained and Clean							
	Litter and Waste Management							
1	Re-design and build bin store at entrance in car park	Rangers/Criminal Justice Team	2016					
2	Liaise with Waste Services on options to re introduce recycling facilities in consultation with Friends and occupants of buildings in main car park	Rangers/Friends/Criminal Justice Team/Roslin PS	2016-17	Discussed but not taken forward, Waste Services only recycle residential waste				
3	Request recycling education officers to attend public events	Rangers	2016					
	Cleanliness							
4	Continue to keep the Park litter free	Rangers/Friends	Ongoing					
5	Install dog fouling signs	Rangers/Friends	2020					
6	Hold annual clear up as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful Campaign in April	Rangers/Friends	Annually					
7	Maintain and clean interpretation panels across the site	Rangers/Friends	Ongoing					
8	Maintain all furniture and signage as per schedule in Appendix 2	Rangers	Ongoing					
9	Cut path verges as per schedule in Appendix 2/3	Rangers/Land and Countryside Service	Annually					
10	Prune back overhanging branches across path network Appendix 4	Rangers/Friends/Volunteers	Ongoing					
11	Maintain all vehicles and equipment as per fleet maintenance schedule	Rangers/Fleet Services	Annually					

NO	RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENTS	TIMING	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	Sustainability							
	Pesticides							
1	Continue to adopt the policy of limited use pesticides on site as described in section 4.4.3	Rangers/Land and Countryside Service/Friends	Ongoing					
	Use of Materials							
2	Continue to recycle logs from tree felling and thinning where appropriate to the local community	Rangers/Land and Countryside Service	Ongoing					
3	Increase the use of recycled products where possible for furniture and signage	Ranger Service/Land and Countryside Service	Ongoing					
4	Source all plants of local provenance using peat free compost	Ranger Service/Land and Countryside Service	Ongoing					
5	Recycle tree tubes and stakes where possible for replanting new tree stock across the site	Rangers/Volunteers	Ongoing					
	Energy Efficiency							
6	Implement the Council's procurement policy for purchasing more efficient vehicles	Rangers/Land and Countryside Service	Ongoing					
	Conservation and Heritage							
	Woodland and Trees							
1	Maintain all newly planted tree stock until fully established See Appendix 3	Rangers/Volunteers	Annually					
2	Remove tree shelters on established trees	Rangers/Volunteers	Annually					
3	Remove all accessible sycamore and beech below 20cm dbh	Rangers/Volunteers	Annually					
4	Remove sycamore and beech saplings and seedlings	Rangers/Volunteers	Annually					
5	Replant areas of felled trees with native species	Rangers/Volunteers	Ongoing					
6	Continue treatment and control of invasive species	Rangers/Friends/Volunteers	Annually				Low staffing levels	
7	Review areas of invasive species across the site and re-map	Rangers/Friends	2020-2021					
8	Identify areas within site for thinning and enhancement tree planting	Rangers	2017-18					

NO	RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENTS	TIMING	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	Other Habitats See: Appendix 2							
9	Maintain wildflower meadows as per Maintenance Schedule	Rangers/Volunteers	Annually					
10	Maintain grasslands as per Maintenance Schedule	Rangers/Volunteers	Annually					
11	Remove scrub and birch saplings on upper grassland areas	Rangers/Volunteers	Ongoing					
	Fauna							
14	Continue to monitor bird boxes across the Glen	Rangers/Friends	Annually					
15	Continue to monitor bat boxes across the Glen	Rangers/Lothian Bat Group	Annually					
	Conservation of Historic Artefacts							
16	Explore funding streams to maintain and conserve historic buildings in Gunpowder Mills	Rangers/Land and Countryside Service/Friends	2017-21					
17	Source funding and repair collapsed chimney structure	Rangers/Land and Countryside Service/Friends	2020-21					
	Community Involvement							
	Community Involvement in Management and Development							
1	Continue to develop partnerships with adjacent land owners including Rosslyn Chapel Trust through joint educational events and conservation tasks	Rangers	Ongoing					
2	Continue to involve local schools and colleges in the management of the site	Rangers	Ongoing					
3	Continue to work with occupants/tenants who lease the buildings within the car park to improve and develop this area of the park	Rangers/Friends	Ongoing					

NO	RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENTS	TIMING	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
4	Develop a joint programme of events with Rosslyn Chapel	Rangers/Friends/Rosslyn Chapel	Annually			Resignation of Education Officer from Rosslyn Chapel reducing partnership opportunities		
	Informal Education							
5	Continue to respond to requests for guided walks, activities etc on demand from local groups and interested parties	Rangers	Ongoing					
6	Organise joint educational visits across the Glen in partnership with Rosslyn Chapel Trust	Rangers/Rosslyn Chapel	Annually			Resignation of Education Officer from Rosslyn Chapel reducing partnership opportunities		
	Marketing							
	Information Provision and Interpretation							
1	Achieve and promote the Green Flag Award	Rangers/Land and Countryside Service	Annually					
2	Prepare and install history interpretation panel within the Gunpowder Mills	Rangers/Friends/Roslin Heritage Society	2016					
3	Continue to print site leaflet and distribute across the Lothian's	Rangers	Ongoing					
4	Promote site events and activities on Midlothian Council web site	Rangers	Ongoing					
5	Continue to promote volunteer opportunities and activities through posters and press releases	Rangers/Land and Countryside	Ongoing					
6	Attend Training Course on Jada Systems to update site web pages	Rangers/IT Section	Jan 2016					
7	Continue to review and update Roslin Glen web pages as required	Rangers	Ongoing					
8	Display information on events, activities and Friends meetings on information board at shelter	Rangers/Friends	Ongoing					

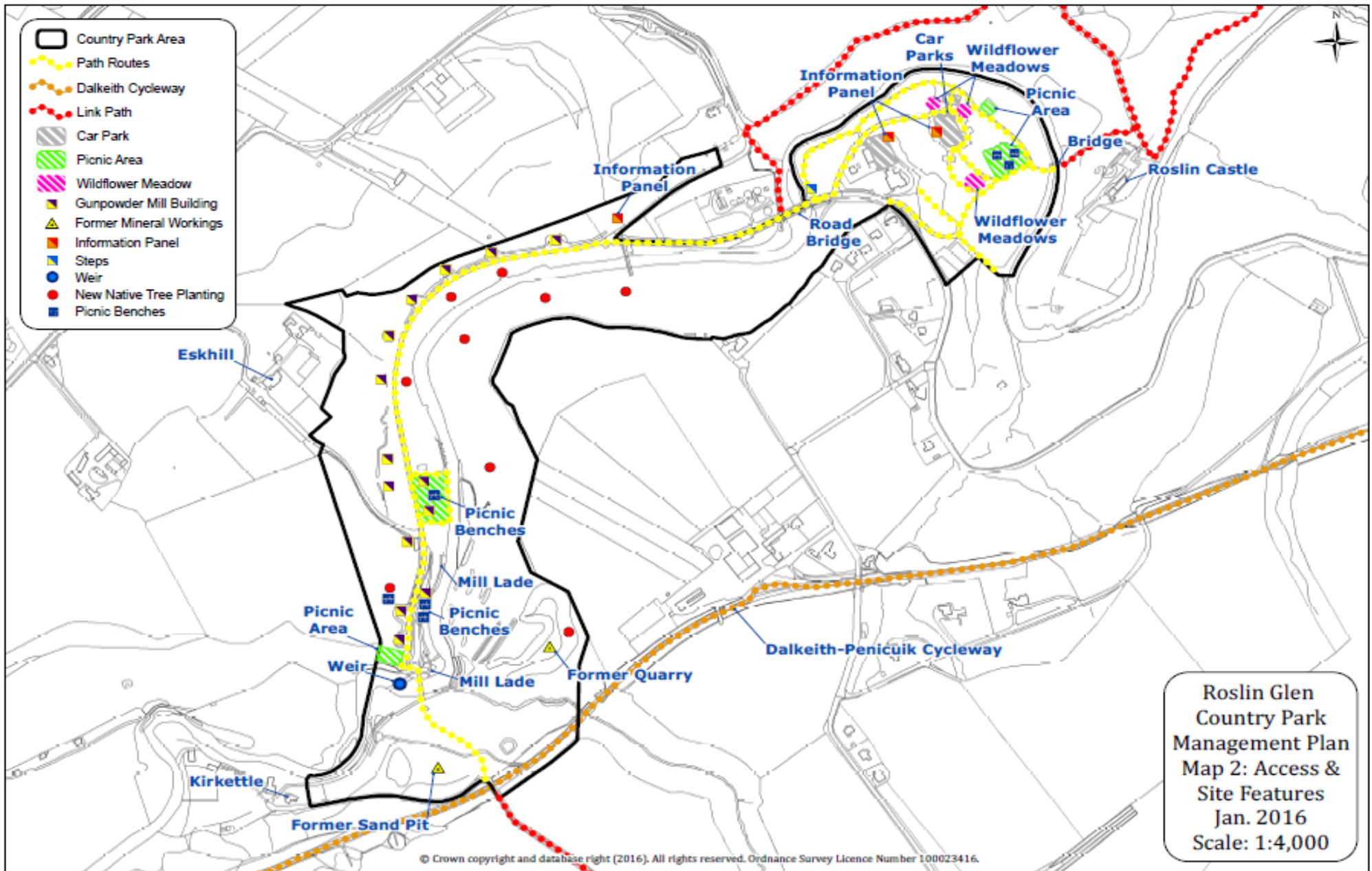
NO	RECOMMENDATIONS	AGENTS	TIMING	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
9	Include site as part of walking routes within the Midlothian Walking Festival	Rangers	Annually					
10	Prepare press releases to promote on site events and activities	Rangers	Annually					
11	Promote all activities and events on Friends Facebook page	Friends	ongoing					
12	Promote Ranger Service and Friends events on Rosslyn Chapel web site	Rosslyn Chapel	Annually			Resignation of Education Officer from Rosslyn Chapel reducing partnership opportunities		
Management								
1	Consult Friends of Roslin Glen on Management Plan and Actions	Rangers	Ongoing					
2	Implement Green Flag Management Plan	Rangers	Ongoing					

	FIELD/TYPE	MAP CODE LOCATION	UNIT	QUANTITY	ACTIVITIES	WHEN	WHO
BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND STRUCTURES	Property/Built Environment						
	Former gunpowder mill structures (Refer to The Roslin Glen Baseline Report) Section 3.5.3 Archaeology	Gunpowder Mills	N/A	N/A	Visual inspection of buildings adjacent to footpaths	Weekly Patrol	Ranger Service
	Bridges & Structures						
	Bridge of the River North Esk	Lower Glen (B7003)	Item	1	Inspection as per Road Structures Survey	2 yearly cycle	Road Structures
	Bridge over the North Esk	Weir in Gunpowder Mills	Item	1	Inspection as per Road Structures Survey	2 yearly cycle	Road Structures
	Bridge over mill lade	Gunpowder Mills	Item	1	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
	Boundary Walls & Fences						
	Post and Timber fence	B7003	Lin m	210	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
	Post and Timber fence	Main entrance to car park	Lin m	84	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
	Post and Timber fence	Gunpowder Mills	Lin m	284	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
Post and Wire fencing	Gunpowder Mills	Lin m	240	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service	

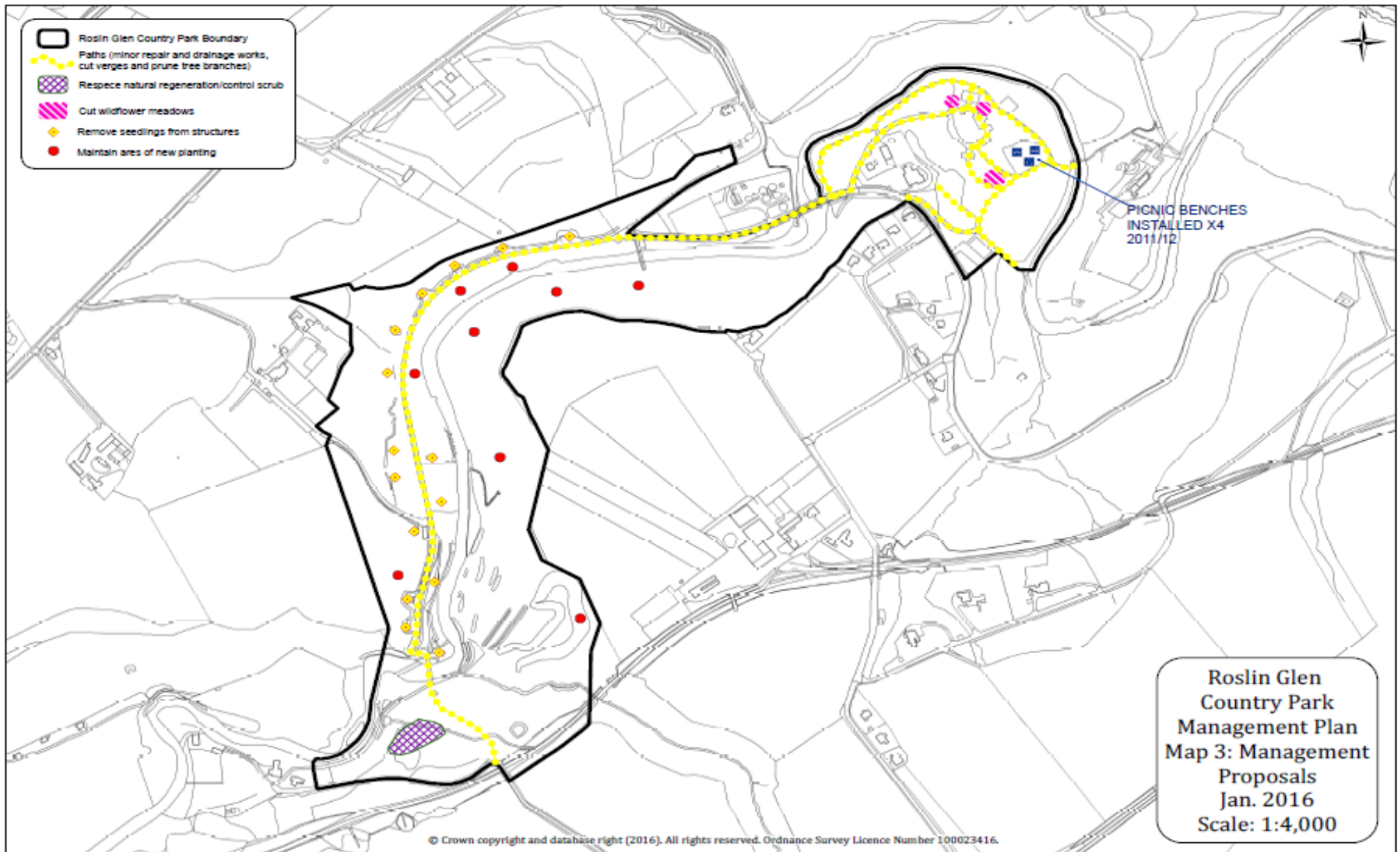
	FIELD/TYPE	MAP CODE LOCATION	UNIT	QUANTITY	ACTIVITIES	WHEN	WHO
	Paths						
	Whin 3.0 m wide path	Gunpowder Mills	Lin m	1500	Drainage and repairs as required	Annual	Ranger Service/Volunteers
					Verges cut 1m either side	3 times per year	Area Foreman
	Whin 3.0 m wide path	River path Lower Glen	Lin m	650	Drainage and repairs as required	Annual	Ranger Service/Volunteers
					Verges cut 1m either side	3 times per year	Area Foreman
	Informal grass paths	Across the site	Lin m	983	Rough cuts 1.5 m either side	2 times per year	Area Foreman
	Asphalt 4.5m wide path	Entrance to main car park	Lin m	113	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
	Car Parks						
	Asphalt surface car park - 20 spaces	Main Entrance	m ²	1022	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
	Whin surface car park-50 spaces	Main car park/picnic areas	m ²	1,863	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
	Interpretation Boards etc						
	Wooden Information Shelter	Main car park/picnic area	Item	1	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
	A0 size metal framed interpretation panel	Main car park/picnic area	Item	1	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
	A1 size metal framed interpretation panel	Entrance to Gunpowder Mills	Item	1	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
	A1 size metal framed heritage interpretation panel	Gunpowder Mills	Item	1			
	Seating and Bins						
	All purpose 240 litre wheelie bin	Main entrance/height barrier	Item	2	Emptied	Weekly	Waste Services
	Recycled plastic picnic tables	Across site	Item	8	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service
	Wooden Benches	Gunpowder Mills	Item	2			
	Gates						
	Wrought Iron Gates	Entrance to Gunpowder Mills	Item	2	Painted on 2 yearly cycle		Ranger Service
	Metal gate	Entrance to car park	Item	2	Painted on 2 yearly cycle		Ranger Service

	FIELD/TYPE	MAP CODE LOCATION	UNIT	QUANTITY	ACTIVITIES	WHEN	WHO
LAND USE	Trees and Woodlands						
	Native Broadleaved Woodland	Across site (See Map3)	Ha	13.1	Remove stakes and shelters once trees are established and replant as required	Annually	Ranger Service/Volunteers
	Sycamore and Beech Trees	Across site (See Map 3)	N/A	N/A	Remove sycamore and beech saplings and seedlings as per woodland plan	Annually	Ranger Service/Volunteers
	Hedges Mixed	Car Park/Picnic areas	Lin m	265	Remove stakes and shelters once trees have established and replant as required	Annually	Ranger Service/Volunteers
	Invasive Broom and Birch saplings	Gunpowder Mills	m ²	108	Remove scrub species to maintain grassland mosaic	Annually	Ranger Service/Volunteers
	Grass Areas						
	Amenity	Car Park/ Picnic areas	m ²	4.928	Cut with ride on mower	Apr-Nov x 12	Area Foreman
	Rough Grasslands	Gunpowder Mills	m ²	2,065	Cut with tractor and scythes	2 yearly cycle	Area Foreman/Ranger Service
	Wildflower Meadows	Car Park/Picnic areas	m ²	1550	Hand cut with scythes and rake off cuttings	Annually on spring/ autumn rotation	Ranger Service/Volunteers
	Grass verges (See Paths)	Across the site	Lin m	1,635	Rough cuts with trimmers and ride on mower	April-November	Area Foreman
Plantings							
Bulb planting	Main Entrance/ car park	m ²	325	Strim die back from bulbs at entrance and fence lines	Late June	Area Foreman	

	FIELD/TYPE	MAP CODE LOCATION	UNIT	QUANTITY	ACTIVITIES	WHEN	WHO
	Other Activities						
	Control of Invasive Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam	Across site	N/A	N/A	Knotweed is stem injected with Glyphosate	Annually	Ranger Service/Volunteers
					Balsam is hand pulled	Annually	Ranger Service/Volunteers
	Litter Picking	Across the site	N/A	N/A	Patrol	Weekly	Ranger Service/Friends of Roslin Glen

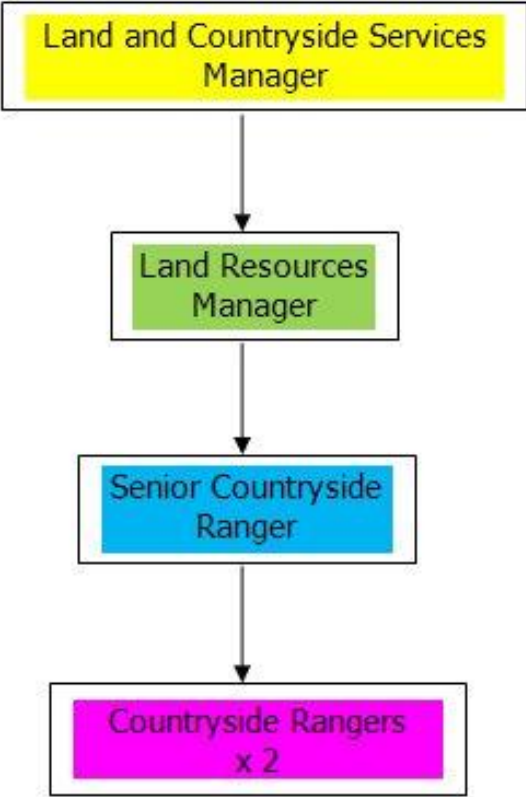


APPENDIX 4



Land and Countryside Planning Structure

APPENDIX 5



APPENDIX 6

DATE OF ASSESSMENT 2015	Midlothian Ranger Service	ACTIVITY: Group Conservation Tasks
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Group Supervision is key to safety when undertaking site tasks. The Ranger Service will work with no more than 15 young people, with at least 2 other responsible adults, supplied by the visiting group. The group leader (teacher, scout leader etc) is responsible for pupil and group behavior. If the Ranger feels that behavior is not appropriate, the activity will not be undertaken or stopped.

Activity/ Situation/ Hazard	L	S	Score	Control Measures	Result
Use of hand tools	2	4	8	Instruction on tool use (tool safety talk) , operational procedures, tool storage & carrying techniques given at start and reinforced throughout task Check that all participants are wearing appropriate clothing Gloves must be worn when using bow saws Be aware and discuss safe working distances within the group and for passersby, especially when hand felling trees Carry a first aid kit	A
Heavy lifting	2	2	4	Share lifting heavy materials i.e. timbers Reduce carry load by using wheel barrows	A
Invasive vegetation removal – ragwort, hogweeds	2	2	4	Dangers of toxins should be discussed Gloves must be worn Long sleeved clothing must be worn	A
Site hazards	4	4	16	Assess and discuss potential site related hazards i.e power cables, steep slopes, poor weather, extreme temperatures, fast moving water, dangerous trees etc. Be prepared to alter or cancel activities.	A

<p><u>L = likelihood of injury</u> 10 Likely or frequent, occurs repeatedly, to be expected 8 Probable, not surprised, will occur several times 6 Possible, could occur sometimes 4 Remote, unlikely, though conceivable 2 Improbable, so unlikely that probability close to zero 0 Zero Probability</p>	<p><u>S = severity of injury</u> 10 Fatalities (more than one) 8 Fatality 6 Major Injury 4 Minor Injury 2 Damage to property/equipment 0 No injury/damage to property</p>	<p><u>Risk Rating</u> L x S</p>	<p><u>Result</u> A = Acceptable C = Controlled adequately N = Not Controlled adequately F = Further Action Required</p>
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0 - 16	17 - 33	34 - 50	51 - 68	69 - 86	87 - 100
Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Significant Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk	Unacceptable Risk