



pentland hills
regional park



PENTLAND HILLS REGIONAL PARK



Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan (2007-2017)

Final Plan - September 2007



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1. Introduction

1.1 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Structure

The Pentland Hills Regional Park concept flowed from the Countryside Commission for Scotland's review, "A Parks System for Scotland" (1974). This asserted that while traditional land use should be maintained, its contribution to recreational provision would be supplemented by the development of country parks and picnic facilities, networks of country footpaths, wider areas of public access, and the establishment of a management infrastructure to manage recreational pressure on an area. The aim of Regional Park designation is to cover extensive areas of land, in diverse ownership, where provision for public recreation is given a higher profile by establishing a co-ordinated framework for the integrated management of recreation with traditional land use in close collaboration with local interests. National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) 14 (s.21) states that Regional Parks play a valuable role in providing opportunities for urban populations to gain access to attractive areas of countryside for recreation and enjoyment of the natural heritage.

The designation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park was initially made in October 1984, but was not confirmed until September 1986, following the outcome of a public inquiry. The designation was made under section 48(A) of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 as supported by the Pentland Hills Regional Parks (Scotland) Regulations 1981. Initially the Pentland Hills Regional Park was operated by Lothian Regional Council who prepared a Subject Local Plan to guide the Pentland Hills Regional Park policies and management. Following local government re-organisation in 1997, Lothian Regional Council was disbanded and its functions superseded by the three unitary local authorities comprising the City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and West Lothian Council. The policies relevant to the Pentland Hills Regional Park contained within the former Lothian Regional Council's Subject Local Plan were then incorporated into the local plans of the respective three new unitary authorities. This remains the position with the Pentland Hills Regional Park currently covered by the City of Edinburgh Council's Finalised Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan (2003); Midlothian Council's Adopted Local Plan (2003) and the West Lothian Local Plan Finalised (2005).

1.2 The Pentland Hills Regional Park

The Pentland Hills Regional Park covers some 10,000 hectares of land, and although located to the immediate west of Edinburgh, straddles the local authority boundaries of the City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and West Lothian Council. A map of the Pentland Hills Regional Park is provided in **Figure 1.1**.



The City of Edinburgh Council is currently the managing authority of the Pentland Hills Regional Park under the terms of a Minute of Agreement between the three local authorities.

The aims of the Pentland Hills Regional Park as set out in its designation order are:

- To retain the essential character of the hills as a place for the peaceful enjoyment of the countryside;
- Caring for the hills so that the landscape and the habitat is protected and enhanced;
- Within this caring framework to encourage responsible public enjoyment of the hills;
- Co-ordination of these aims so that the co-exist with farming and other land uses within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

The Pentland Hills Regional Park is a living, changing environment and has evolved as a mixed land use resource which is an important leisure, economic, community and heritage asset within the Lothians.

With this evolution comes increasing and changing pressures and demands with the Pentland Hills Regional Park management and the other key stakeholders seeking to balance recreation and enjoyment with economic demands and the conservation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's natural and built heritage assets.

From 2000-2005, the Pentland Hills Regional Park had in place an Integrated Management Strategy (IMS) setting out policies for the Pentland Hills Regional Park and which provides the current framework for the Pentland Hills Regional Park's management. Proposed management plans for specific areas within the Pentland Hills Regional Park boundaries exist, and are

contained in the Hillend Country Park Management Plan (2004-2009) and the Bonaly Country Park Management Plan (2006-2026) documents.

Following a review in 2005 of the IMS it was determined that a Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan should be formulated setting out the strategy, objectives and actions for a further initial 6 year period (equating to two complete local authority budget cycles) but also extending the vision forward to a 10 year time-frame in order to highlight longer term relevant aims and objectives.

1.3 The Purpose of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

The overall purpose of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan is to provide the relevant contemporary strategic framework guiding the Pentland Hills Regional Park management in the preparation of detailed action plans which will translate the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan into deliverable tasks.

The Plan sets out an over-arching vision for the sustainable integrated management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park and identifies the underlying principles and themes which provide the framework within which aims, objectives and actions have been formulated.

The Plan also seeks to highlight potential benefits which could accrue from the delivery of the recommended proposals and identifies their relevance in the context of relevant strategies, policies and plans in the wider sphere eg at the local, regional, national and international levels.

The Plan identifies a prioritised programme for investment – both of personnel and financial resources together with monitoring recommendations.



1.4 Development of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Development of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan has included background research of both historic and current Pentland Hills Regional Park documentation; local, national and international agency strategies, policies and plans.

A consultation programme has also helped in developing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan. The consultation programme has included a workshop with the Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum, meetings with the Pentland Hills Regional Park land managers and the Pentland Hills Ranger service, an initial presentation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan process to the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee - with opportunities to provide inputs. In addition, an invitation to provide comments, opinions and suggestions for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan was posted on the PHRP website with a dedicated link provided for inputs to be made to Scott Wilson Scotland.

1.5 Strategic Environmental Assessment

To ensure best planning practice and compliance with statutory obligations, the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan has been subjected to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This has involved a systematic identification and evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposed Plan actions. The SEA follows the requirements under the EC Directive 2001/42/EC, the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 which legislates for a wider remit of SEA in Scotland to cover

plans, programmes and strategies.

Given that central components of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan are to conserve and enhance the environmental features and qualities of the PHRP, the SEA process is therefore central to the development of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan. Accordingly, all strategic objectives have been assessed during the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan's preparation to provide a transparent framework which appraises the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan recommendations on the future environmental well-being of the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

The SEA of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan has been prepared as a separate report.





pentland hills regional park

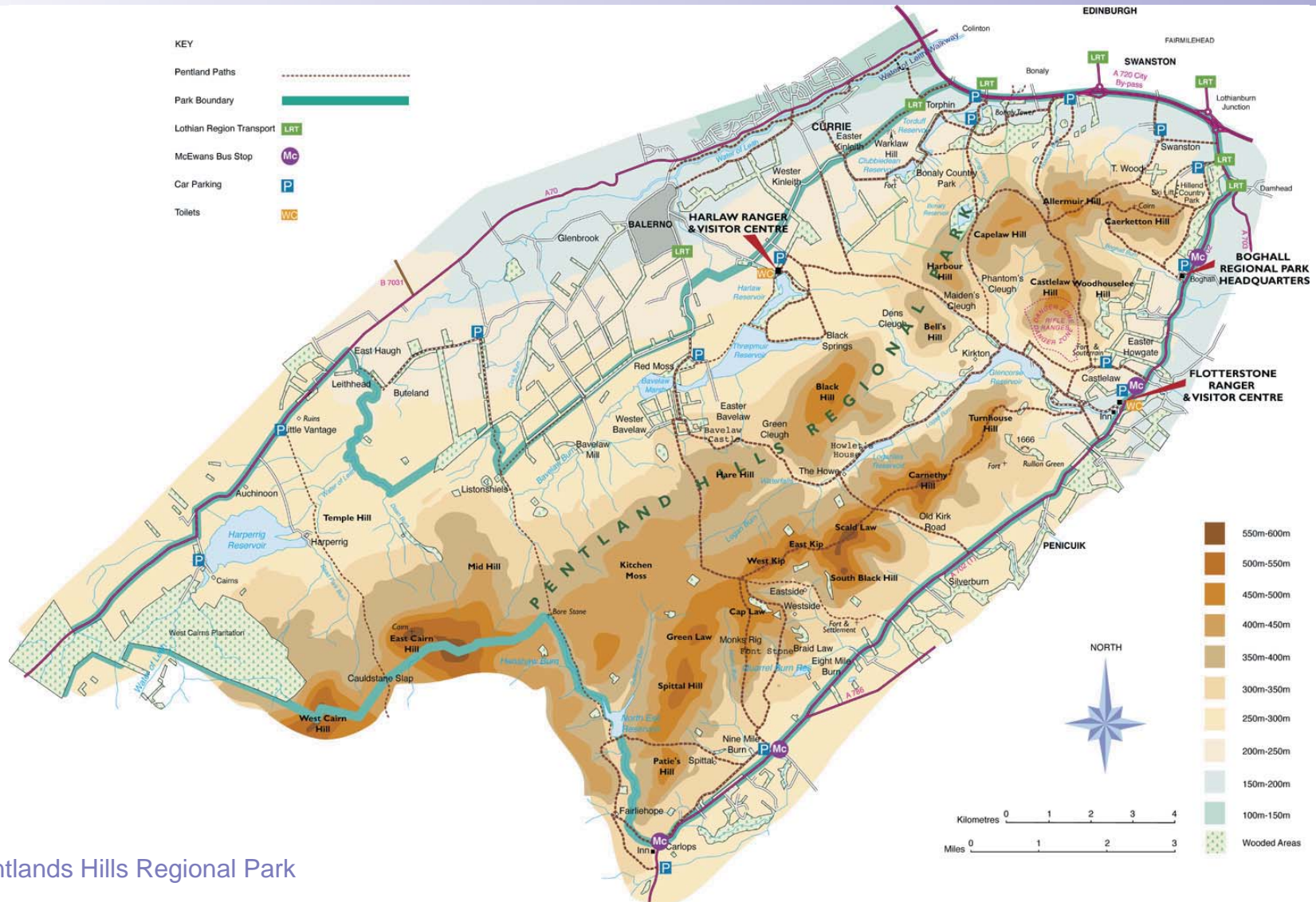


Figure 1.1 - Pentlands Hills Regional Park



2. The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Vision

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of setting-out a vision for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan is to bring together the aims and objectives into an overall goal which provides the central focus for the Plan. The vision is encapsulated in a single statement. The vision also contains a number of elements, which are detailed in section 2.2, and which represent the essential qualities of the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

The long-term vision for the Pentland Hills Regional Park needs to recognise a number of key factors which provide the context for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan:-

- The three local authority stakeholders have statutory powers and duties in relation to their constituent parts of the Pentland Hills Regional Park and therefore they exercise significant control over activities in the Pentland Hills Regional Park. All three authorities are members of the Sustainable Scotland Network which brings together practitioners from

local authorities throughout Scotland to share experiences and take action on sustainable development;

- The parameters of the existing Pentland Hills Regional Park management roles which are facilitative, advisory and consultative;
- Current regional and local policies and proposals which are directly relevant to the Pentland Hills Regional Park and which are a fundamental aspect of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's legal framework eg:-

➤ The Edinburgh and Lothians Structure Plan 2015:-

- i. ENV 1 D: Regional and Local Natural and Built Environmental Interests.

➤ Edinburgh City Local Plan Finalised (2007):-

- i. Policy Os 4 : Pentland Hills Regional Park.

➤ Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan (2003):-

- i. Policy E9 : Pentland Hills Regional Park – Grouse Moor
- ii. Policy E10 : Pentland Hills Regional Park – Car Parks
- iii. Policy E11 : Pentland Hills Regional Park – Picnic Sites
- iv. Policy M2 : Environmental Constraints on Mineral Extraction
- v. Policy M7 : Renewable Energy.

➤ Midlothian Local Plan (2003):-

- i. RP 15 : Regional and Country Parks
- ii. RP 17(C) : Protecting Areas from Surface Mineral Extraction



- iii. DP5 : Advertisements
 - iv. DP8: Pentland Hills Regional Park (PHP 1 to PHP 9 inclusive).
- West Lothian Local Plan (2005):-
- i. Policy ENV29
 - ii. Policy NWR23
 - iii. Policy NWR24.
- Current National strategies with key messages relevant to the future operation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park eg:
 - *National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) 14* - which provides relevant guidance on how the Government’s policies for the conservation and enhancement of Scotland’s natural heritage should be reflected in land use planning. NPPG 14 acknowledges that the natural heritage is enjoyed both for its intrinsic value and as a setting for open-air recreational and educational activities which depend on its qualities. NPPG 14 states that Planning authorities should seek to identify opportunities for promoting the enjoyment and understanding of the natural heritage which are compatible with its conservation.
 - *The National Planning Framework for Scotland (2004)* – which provides the context for all plans and strategies with a spatial dimension. The Framework recognises sustainable development and the importance of place as key drivers of change and also supports economic diversification and environmental stewardship.
 - *“Choosing Our Future : Scotland’s Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)”* – which supports sustainable development incorporated into the processes of all levels of government.
 - *“A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture : Next Steps (2006)”* – whose goals include sharing resources and experiences, sustainable diversification, stewardship of the land and the broader landscape, continued engagement with local communities, and increased emphasis on climate change.
 - *Scottish Forestry Strategy (2006)* which shares many of the above aims and includes as a key principle “Integration with other land uses and businesses” with desired outcomes including a “high quality, robust and adaptable environment”.
 - *Reaching Higher : Building on the Success of Sport 21 (2007)* – sets out the Scottish Executive’s long-term aims and objectives for sport in Scotland until 2020. The strategy identifies the provision of quality facilities as fundamental to its delivery. Specifically, the strategy states that “Scotland’s natural environment provides new and exciting outdoor sporting opportunities” – within the parameters recommended by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. However, the strategy also acknowledges the need for care in ensuring that the integrity of the natural environment and its enjoyment by other users is not compromised by those participating in outdoor sporting pursuits.
- Changes in subsidy schemes resulting from external policies and national strategies eg CAP Reform, Rural Stewardship Scheme, Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme;
 - Climate change effects on the natural environment, land use, public attitudes, travel modes etc. The Stern Review *“The Economics of Climate Change (2006)”* supports:-
 - The removal of barriers to behavioural change as a policy to reduce emissions.



- Fostering a shared understanding of the nature of climate change.
- Educating school children about climate change.
- Encouraging both public and private investment in buildings and other infrastructure to take account of climate change.
- Policies for climate-sensitive public goods - including natural resources protection.

[The City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils have all formally signed up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration which was launched in January 2007. The Declaration acknowledges the reality and importance of climate change and is a means of demonstrating local leadership and commitment to action. The Declaration includes commitments both to mitigate human impact on climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to predicted climate change impacts.]

- The responsible exercising of statutory access rights for all introduced by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (Part 1) and maintaining a sustainable balance between the different land use pressures caused by those visiting the Pentland Hills Regional Park as well as those who work and live within the Pentland Hills Regional Park;

2.2 The Vision Statement

The recommended vision for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan can be summarised as follows:

“To guide and assist all stakeholders in the sustainable management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's changing environment in a way which supports

communities living and working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, promotes responsible access for all, develops public understanding of the mixed land use resource and conserves and enhances the Pentland Hills Regional Park's landscape, cultural and natural heritage features”.

The vision comprises a number of elements:-

2.2.1 Conservation and Enhancement of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's Heritage and Environment

The varied landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage character of the Pentland Hills Regional Park significantly contribute to the environment of the Lothians and is the fundamental strength of the resource. Conserving and enhancing the Regional Park's natural and cultural heritage against a backdrop of mixed human activities and demands, as well as other changing circumstances such as climate change, is therefore a central management challenge of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan. The majority of the land holding within the Pentland Hills Regional Park is in private ownership, therefore aims can only be achieved with the ongoing support of these land managers on the basis of demonstrable mutual benefits. Visitors also have an important role to play in the future conservation and enhancement of the Pentland Hills Regional Park through the implementation of responsible behaviours, attitudes, awareness and understanding as well as active participation.



2.2.2 Developed Public Understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Successful future sustainable management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park will require shared awareness and understanding amongst land managers, stakeholders, organisations and visitors. The Pentland Hills Regional Park is a living, changing environment and there is an ongoing need to identify, promote and disseminate information that facilitates this enhanced understanding.

2.2.3 Responsible Access for All

The Pentland Hills Regional Park is an established resource for recreational activities. With the advent of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and many national agendas promoting more healthy life-styles and increased levels of exercise activity there is potential for increased access demands and activities participation on both land and water in the Pentland Hills Regional Park. The importance of promoting, and managing responsible visitor access that is compatible with the mixed land use of the Pentland Hills Regional Park and balancing recreation and visitor enjoyment with the long-term sustainability of the natural and built heritage of the Pentland Hills Regional Park is integral to the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.

2.2.4 Support for Communities Living and Working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park

The Pentland Hills Regional Park hosts communities who live and/or work in the Pentland Hills Regional Park and it therefore has an important supporting social and economic role. The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan recognises that development of initiatives and activities within the Pentland Hills Regional Park should seek to achieve compatibility and co-existence with

all land uses as this is fundamental if the long-term sustainability of these communities is to be facilitated. Inclusion is fundamental to ensure that the living and working communities can be encouraged to play active roles in shaping the Pentland Hills Regional Park's future.

Having established a new strategic vision, the next step is to set out the generic themes covered by the Plan and the guiding principles which will be applied in the implementation of the aims, objectives and strategic actions. These themes and principles are set out in the next chapter.





3. The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Themes

3.1 Background

The formulation of the 2000-2005 IMS involved a comprehensive consultation process which included participatory community events as well as formal consultations with residents, landowners, farmers and interest groups. Arising from this broad consultation programme a number of topics for desired change emerged which were grouped into four key Themes:

- The Enjoyment of the Hills;
- The Economy of the Hills;
- Landscape, Natural and Cultural Heritage;
- Future Public Involvement and Partnership.

The study consultations and desk-top research undertaken in preparing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan indicated:

- No expressed desire (or reason) to change the existing Pentland Hills Regional Park themes as these are still perceived as being very relevant going into the period of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan;
- Other Pentland Hills Regional Park Plans (National and Regional) have adopted similar themes to encapsulate the mixed land use roles that these Pentland Hills Regional Park resources have come to play in contemporary society and their associated management implications.

Taking into account the statements above, as well as the future issues likely to face the Regional Park operation, it is proposed that the broad themes to be contained in the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan should in fact be adjusted to more accurately reflect the contemporary situation. The proposed theme headings for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan are therefore:-

- Responsible Enjoyment and Understanding of the Hills;
- The Local Economy of the Hills;
- Conservation and Enhancement of the Landscape, Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Hills;
- Partnership & Participation;
- Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.

Each of these Themes will continue to represent a main heading under which any topic relevant to the future operation and management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park can be allocated.



3.2 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Principles

3.2.1 The Guiding Principles Context

The Regional Park Plan should have guiding principles which can be applied to support and justify the implementation of the Plan aims, objectives and actions. At least one of these principles should be capable of being directly linked to each Plan proposal and they also provide a useful cross-check reference for the various Regional Park stakeholders and other interests to relate to in respect of their own particular aims and objectives.

The following sections summarise the recommended guiding principles for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan. In formulating these guiding principles, appropriate account has been taken of the IUCN Category V Guidelines for protected areas managed mainly for landscape conservation and recreation.

3.2.2 The Guiding Principles

The scope of the recommended guiding principles embrace the breadth of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan themes detailed in the previous section. Accordingly these principles are:

- The conservation and enhancement of the condition and diversity of the Pentland Hills Regional Park landscape, natural and cultural heritage;
- The provision and management of opportunities for the widest public enjoyment of the Pentland Hills Regional Park through recreational activities - appropriate in type and scale to the essential qualities of the Pentland Hills Regional Park;

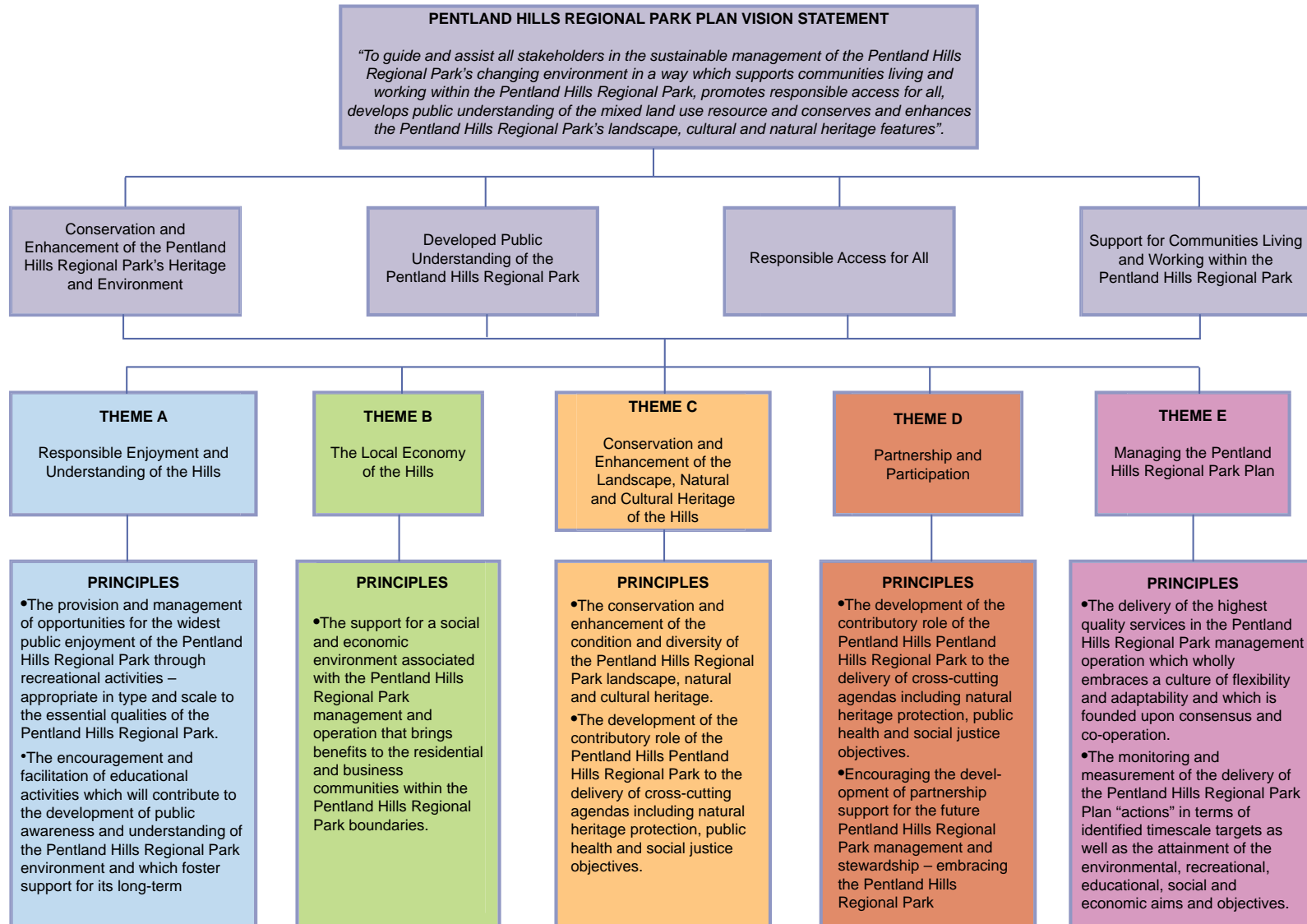
- The encouragement and facilitation of educational activities which will contribute to the development of public awareness and understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park environment and to foster support for its long-term protection and sustainability;
- The support for a social and economic environment associated with the Pentland Hills Regional Park management and operation that brings benefits to the residential and business communities within the Pentland Hills Regional Park boundaries;
- The development of the contributory role of the Pentland Hills Regional Park to the delivery of cross-cutting agendas including natural heritage protection, public health and social justice objectives;
- Encouraging the development of partnership support for the future Pentland Hills Regional Park management and stewardship – embracing the Pentland Hills Regional Park stakeholders, land managers, residents and the general public;
- The delivery of the highest quality services in the Pentland Hills Regional Park management operation which wholly embraces a culture of flexibility and adaptability and which is founded upon consensus and co-operation;
- The monitoring and measurement of the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan actions - in terms of identified timescale targets as well as the attainment of the environmental, recreational, educational, social and economic aims and objectives.

3.3 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Vision, Themes and Principles Flowchart

A flowchart illustrating the inter-relationship between the overall Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan vision and its constituent themes and principles is shown in **Figure 3.1**



Figure 3.1





4. The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Strategic Framework

4.1 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Framework

For ease of reference, the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan proposals have been compiled in a tabular format for each of the five Regional Park themes:

- **Theme A** - Responsible Enjoyment and Understanding of the Hills;
- **Theme B** - The Local Economy of the Hills;
- **Theme C** - Conservation and Enhancement of the Landscape, Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Hills;
- **Theme D** – Partnership & Participation;
- **Theme E** - Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

For each of these Themes, a strategic framework has been prepared containing:

- Aims;
- Objectives;
- Key Operational Programme Actions;
- Potential Outputs & Outcomes;

These have been detailed in a tabular format and are preceded by a flowchart (see **Figure 4.1**) illustrating the inter-relationship between the overall Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan vision and the strategic Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan framework.

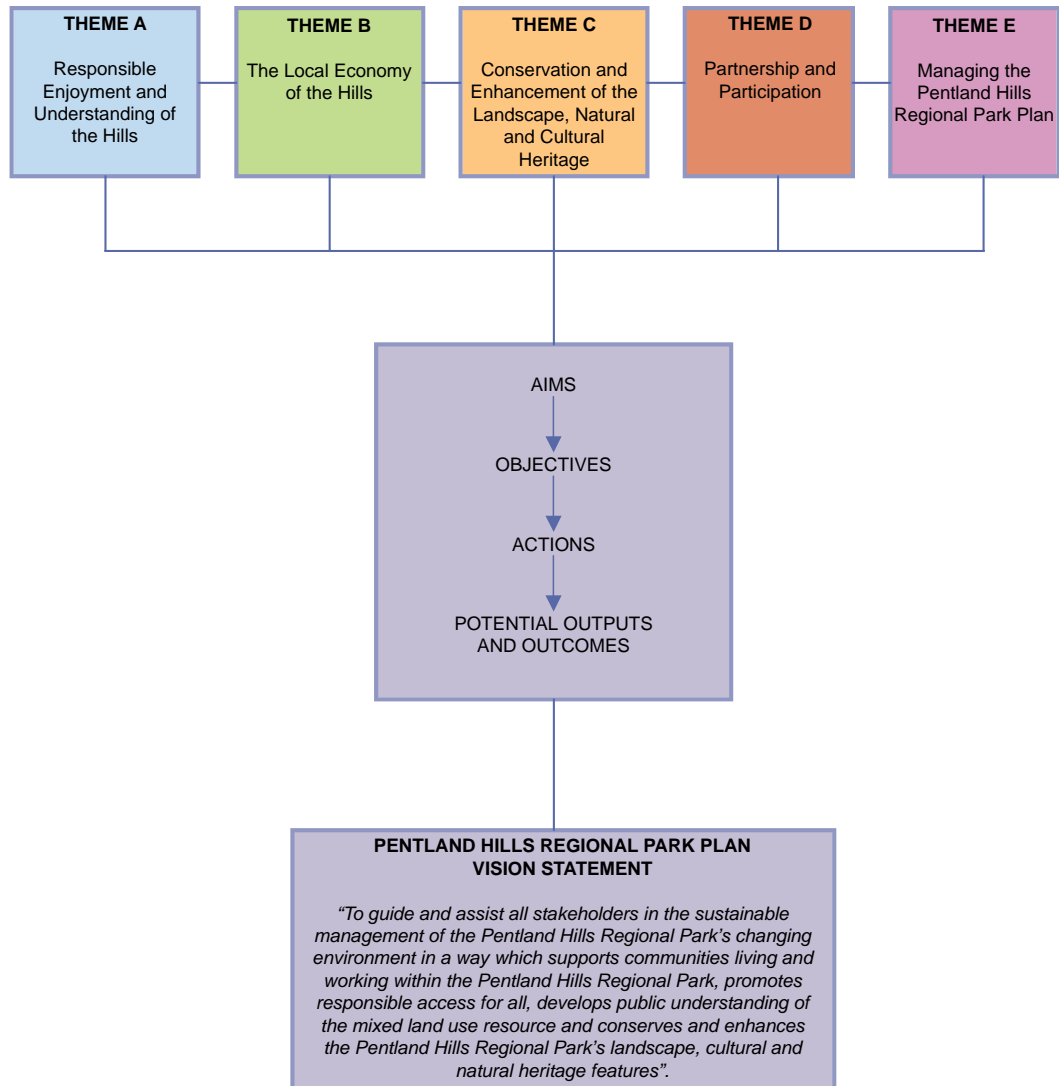
For ease of reference, a number of acronyms have been adopted in the tables and a glossary of these terms is summarised in the next table (**Table 4.1**).

Table 4.1

Name	Adopted Acronym
Pentland Hills Regional Park	PHRP
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	LRSA (2003)
Land Management Contract	LMC
Disability Discrimination Act	DDA
City of Edinburgh Council	CEC
Scottish Executive Environment & Rural Affairs Department	SEERAD
National Farmers Union of Scotland	NFU Scotland
Environmental Management Strategy	EMS
Areas of Great Landscape Value	AGLV
Regionally Important Geological & Geomorphological Sites	RIGS
Environmental Impact Assessment	EIA
National Scenic Area	NSA
Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH
Scottish Forestry Strategy	SFS
Biodiversity Action Reporting System	BARS
Site of Special Scientific Interest	SSSI
Non-Governmental Organisations	NGOs
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	SEPA



Figure 4.1





Theme A – Responsible Enjoyment and Understanding of the Hills

Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p><i>To promote and manage compatible forms of responsible recreational activity in the Pentland Hills Regional Park</i></p>	<p>To support and manage responsible outdoor (land and inland water) recreational activities;</p> <p>To support responsible outdoor access activity within the Pentland Hills Regional Park (PHRP) which relates to, and supports, the objectives of the local access forums and the respective outdoor access strategies of the City of Edinburgh (CEC), Midlothian and West Lothian Councils;</p> <p>To balance the visitor recreational and leisure enjoyment with other PHRP land use activity.</p>	<p>Continue to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and promote greater awareness and understanding of the legislative rights and responsibilities for both the visitor and the PHRP land managers – in the context of recreational activity in a mixed land use environment.</p> <p>Continue to liaise with the CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils access officers to co-ordinate the promotion and management of responsible access.</p> <p>Develop and extend the 2006 Pentland Hills Regional Park Path and Facility Inspection audit in order to establish a detailed baseline which can be used as a reference in determining required actions in light of potential (and actual) future visitor requirements in exercising their rights of responsible recreational activities participation.</p> <p>Initiate discussions with all stakeholders in formulating an agreement for responsible water based recreation in the PHRP directly</p>	<p>Promote greater public and land manager awareness and understanding of exercising and managing access rights responsibly to assist in reducing/minimising the potential for access conflicts within the PHRP.</p> <p>Promote enhanced partnership communication with management benefit returns in facilitating responsible recreational activity in the PHRP.</p> <p>Provides a key iterative reference (including targets) for future Pentland Hills Ranger service work plans. Also provides justification of maintenance funding requirements and funding allocation priorities.</p> <p>Continues dialogue already initiated by the PHRP to identify potential shared recreational</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		<p>associated with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code rights of non-motorised water based recreation and the imminent transfer of some of the PHRP reservoirs from Scottish Water to the CEC.</p> <p>Discuss with stakeholders and associated interests whether countryside sports and recreation activities which generate noise as a by-product of their participation are compatible with the mixed land use environment of the PHRP – recognising that access rights established by the LRSA (2003) do not extend to shooting or “any form of motorised recreation”</p>	<p>activity use issues and to consider potential solutions to ensuring that shared use of the Park’s water bodies for recreational pursuits is achieved compatibly and not to the detriment of existing recreational use/rights. By being pro-active this increases the prospect of addressing any adverse scenarios before they arise and demonstrates responsible and responsive management.</p> <p>Dialogue would identify potential shared recreational activity use issues that noisy sports would raise and would allow for the consideration of whether such activities are acceptable within the PHRP and whether (or not) they can be achieved without detriment to the mixed land use profile of the PHRP. By being pro-active this increases the prospect of addressing any adverse scenarios before they arise and demonstrates pro-active and responsible management.</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p><i>To sustain and enhance a high quality visitor experience</i></p>	<p>To ensure that the PHRP resource meets needs and expectations of visitors (existing and new)</p>	<p>Utilise 2005/06 PHRP Survey to guide development of visitor facilities, amenities and services and encourage greater use by under-represented groups eg women ethnic minorities and people with disabilities etc.</p> <p>Repeat Visitor Survey exercise at appropriate future dates (subject to availability of funding) - to monitor changing visitor trends and needs.</p>	<p>Matches provision to expressed public opinions and views.</p> <p>The specified survey review could identify any changes in the visitor profiles and their requirements allowing required actions to be built into future stages of the PHRP Plan delivery.</p>	
	<p>To provide a contemporary visitor and education facility that adds to the appeal of the PHRP as a visitor destination and which appeals to a broad range of market sectors</p>	<p>Deliver new Pentland Hills Regional Park Visitor Centre/PHRP H.Q. ("the Flotterstone Gateway Project") as the PHRP flagship attraction.</p>	<p>In addition to providing permanent base for the PHRP management and the Pentland Hills Ranger service, the project would also provide a contemporary all-weather visitor attraction with the potential to become a focal/gateway point for visitor information, interpretation and education – appealing to both existing PHRP visitors and new markets.</p> <p>Provides additional opportunities for the PHRP to engage with visitors in improving responsible PHRP use and visitor management.</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
	To maintain and enhance a comprehensive public access network of paths within the boundaries of the PHRP	Integrate findings/proposed remedial actions of 2006 PHRP Path and Facility Inspection report into immediate Pentland Hills Ranger service 3 year projected work plans.	Contributes towards maintenance of both existing and enhanced PHRP path networks providing safer environment for mixed recreational use and additional route opportunities.	
	To continue monitoring of path conditions and deliver structured programme of maintenance and upgrades – particularly in areas of proven popularity such as Harlaw/Bonaly/Flotterstone.	Use 2006 PHRP Path and Facility Inspection report as a baseline template to be updated by Countryside and Volunteer Rangers on an ongoing basis	Provides a key iterative reference (including targets) for future Pentland Hills Ranger service work plans. Also provides justification of maintenance funding requirements and funding allocation priorities.	
	In partnership with the Scottish Executive Environment & Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD), the National Farmers Union of Scotland (NFU Scotland) and PHRP farmers, capitalise upon the Land Management Contract (LMC) - Option 15 as a possible mechanism to sustain and enhance the visitor experience in the PHRP eg maintaining/developing path surfaces and associated infrastructure.	<p>Initially explore opportunities under the LMC programme to establish options and determine the PHRP position - prior to dialogue with land managers. Possible issues to initially explore include eg:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How best to integrate access rights with PHRP land management; • Elements of LMC most appropriate to the PHRP management activities; • Additional support for land managers committing to a LMC eg PHRP top-up funding support for land managers to maintain sections of path in their land ownership <i>and/or</i> provide additional path section links which would provide an extended path option opportunity – but which could not 	<p>Provides mutual opportunities for the PHRP and land managers to secure funding support directly related to managing public access; deliver enhanced quality of path surfacing and associated landscape furniture; as well as expanding the current path networks by filling missing links - which also enhances the visitor experience potential of the PHRP as a significant outdoor recreational resource.</p> <p>Improves understanding of the respective roles and opportunities of the PHRP management, SEERAD, NFU Scotland, and the PHRP farmers in potentially enhancing the visitor experience in the PHRP.</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		opportunity – but which could not be delivered under the LMC contract agreement.		
	To continue provision of socially inclusive facilities and infrastructure in the PHRP that facilitates access and enjoyment for all – particularly in compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995.	Ensure finalised design of new PHRP Visitor centre building provides a best practice example of an attraction with optimum disabled access and facility provision. Continue programmed review of PHRP services, facility access and infrastructure improvements eg path surfaces, gates etc to comply with the DDA and implement as required.	Not only assists in fulfilling the PHRP legal obligations in complying with the DDA but also meets wider social objectives eg promoting healthy lifestyles for all and developing the potential for broader public engagement in the PHRP environmental education process.	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p><i>To raise awareness and increase visitor understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park</i></p>	<p>To continue promotion of the PHRP as a free outdoor recreational resource offering healthy lifestyle opportunities for all</p>	<p>Continue liaison with the CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Council Access Officers to maintain and develop the opportunities that the PHRP has to offer as a resource accommodating both informal and formal leisure pursuits.</p> <p>Continue structured programme of pro-active Pentland Hills Ranger service community group contacts, consultation and presentations to encourage additional visits by community education, social work and targeted minority groups etc.</p>	<p>Contributes to delivery of local and national cross-cutting policy agendas.</p> <p>Pro-active demonstration of relevance and role of the PHRP as a recreational and educational outdoor resource for all.</p>	
	<p>To continue and enhance the Environmental Education programme</p>	<p>Further expand the Pentland Hills Ranger service links with the respective three Council education authorities to achieve integrated delivery of environmental education programme activity (in the PHRP and outreach initiatives).</p> <p>Utilise existing PHRP Education Plan (2005-08) in the immediate environmental education programme delivery.</p> <p>Provide necessary information identification and dissemination</p>	<p>Maintains and develops an existing key component of the work of the PHRP in encouraging public enjoyment and understanding of the PHRP – and reinforces responsible usage message.</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		<p>support to both permanent and voluntary Ranger staff in developing environmental education knowledge, countryside management and wider issues eg climate change etc.</p> <p>In conjunction with the Scottish Agricultural College, the Royal Highland Education Trust and PHRP land managers, explore future opportunities for voluntary engagement of land managers in educational activity eg hosting farm visits to educate/inform on the PHRP agricultural land use practices</p>	<p>Meets expressed recognition by some of the land managers of the importance of environmental education and revitalises previous partnership engagement of land manager community in delivery of the PHRP educational programme of activity.</p>	
	<p>To establish co-ordinated (and consistent) signposting provision <u>to</u> the PHRP</p>	<p>Liase with CEC, and Midlothian and Councils and the Scottish Executive to achieve advance directional signposting of the PHRP from the trunk road network (eg A720, A702).</p>	<p>Addresses current lack of advance directional signing to the PHRP (particularly from the A720 Edinburgh city by-pass) and would contribute to improved visitor awareness of, and access to, the PHRP.</p>	<p>(Under the current Transport Scotland “Trunk Road and Motorway – Tourist Signposting Policy and Guidance” it would appear that the PHRP fits several of the Tourist Destination definition as detailed in “The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002”).</p>
	<p>To establish co-ordinated (and consistent) signposting and interpretation provision <u>within</u> the PHRP</p>	<p>Continue utilisation of existing PHRP Interpretation guidelines in replacing and developing interpretation provision within the PHRP eg information board and panels to promote a consistency of</p>	<p>Enhances the quality of interpretation presentation to the public. Also, assists in strengthening public identification of the PHRP interpretation</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		<p>PHRP generated public information.</p> <p>Expand the scope of interpretation provision to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code responsible access message.</p> <p>Progress consultations with the PHRP land managers to seek voluntary agreement in adopting a consistency in landscape furniture provision throughout the PHRP eg path access signposting content and design (linked to the LMC Option 15 opportunity). Also, ensure that signage content is in compliance with the Outdoor Access Code requirements.</p>	<p>message at a number of locations throughout the PHRP.</p> <p>Assists in delivering and promoting the message of encouraging responsible public access – and the benefits that this has for achieving compatible mixed land-use activity in the PHRP.</p> <p>Agreement for consistency provides the basis for a structured delivery of information provision thereby avoiding a piece-meal approach.</p> <p>A consistency of path signposting also provides potential mutual benefits eg improved visitor understanding, comfort and association with a uniformity of directional signposting; improved visitor management for the PHRP and land managers by directing PHRP visitors to use established (and preferred) path networks.</p>	<p>A local authority requirement under Section 10(7a) of the LRSA 2003 (Part 1).</p>
	<p>To develop public access to PHRP literature – in advance of visiting the PHRP</p>	<p>Prioritise the PHRP website as the most accessible mass market source of information provision</p>	<p>The PHRP already produces a breadth of public information in relation to the PHRP, it's land uses, recreational opportunities, transport links etc. Focussing on the web site as the most effective media in reaching both the PHRP</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		Monitor and review the current distribution of PHRP literature (<i>by Edinburgh Arts & Entertainment</i>) to maximise effectiveness of the distribution and market take-up.	<p>current visitors and new visitor markets provides the best opportunity in communicating information before visitors come to the PHRP. By offering website user feed-back this would also allow the content of the web site to be amended to enhance the level of customer information service – based upon expressed need.</p> <p>Monitoring of the printed literature distribution will allow the PHRP to judge the effectiveness of the public take-up. Appropriate adjustments should be made to maintain the cost effectiveness of this marketing strand – taking into account that much of the PHRP print media can be downloaded from the PHRP web site.</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p><i>To promote and provide more sustainable visitor transport opportunities</i></p>	<p>To improve sustainable access to, and within, the PHRP providing opportunities to reduce visitor dependency upon private cars.</p>	<p>Continue promotion of existing public scheduled bus service providers eg on the PHRP website and ongoing distribution of the PHRP “How to get to the Pentland Hills by Bus” leaflet.</p> <p>Continue discussions with bus service providers to enhance the current provision to the PHRP.</p> <p>Encourage the CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Council Access Officers to identify core path link opportunities from settlements surrounding the PHRP into the PHRP itself (eg walking and cycling routes) as part of the formulation of the respective local authorities Core Path Plans.</p> <p>Continue the general policy of not developing additional PHRP car parking provision other than that which may be permitted under Policy E10 of the current Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan (2003). The focus should be upon remodelling existing PHRP vehicle</p>	<p>A successful modal shift by PHRP visitors from private to public transport would not only assist in alleviating associated peak period pressures of vehicle movements along PHRP entry point access routes and at PHRP car parks but would also be a positive step in contributing towards national and international policies in targeting reduced levels of CO2 emissions and climate change.</p> <p>Inclusion of strategic path networks linking surrounding settlements to the PHRP within the Core Path Plans would create dedicated non-vehicular alternative route access links into the PHRP – reducing the need/dependency for Park visitors to drive to /into the PHRP.</p> <p>This action would be an additional demonstration of the PHRP support for sustainable transport activity but also an acceptance that even a reasonable increase in the level of PHRP car parking provision would be</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		parking provision eg at Flotterstone.	unlikely to accommodate all peak visit demand and would therefore not resolve the current peak period problem to any real extent.	
	To reduce safety hazards created by irresponsible access/visitor parking during peak visit times	Utilise volunteers to monitor peak-time PHRP vehicle parking on approaches to, and in, PHRP car parks at key sites whilst carrying out current public information/advice communication duties. Role should be advisory <u>not</u> enforcement – with the objective of offsetting/ reducing issues of potential restricted/blocked access conflicts with land managers.	This action simply extends the remit of voluntary staff whom currently operate in car park locations within the PHRP. It provides management assistance in seeking to control the problem – but recognises the reality that peak visit period vehicle access/PHRP parking issues will not be completely removed.	



Theme B – The Local Economy of the Hills

Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<i>To sustain a healthy, diverse range of agricultural, forestry, sporting and recreational businesses within the Pentland Hills Regional Park</i>	To support the sustainable economic opportunities through appropriate diversification to supplement incomes from activities such as agriculture, forestry, sporting management and recreational businesses.	Promote effective consultation between PHRP and businesses within the PHRP in respect of opportunities/plans for diversification – in the context of contributing to the PHRP Plan vision and any PHRP management implications.	PHRP able to develop a more proactive relationship with land managers in the PHRP.	
	To generate a growing customer base for sustainably produced PHRP local produce.	Support the promotion of the 'Pentland Produce' brand through publications and visitor centre Develop a marketing strategy for the "Pentland Produce" Work with farmers in the PHRP to explore ways of increasing visibility of local produce in farmers' markets in nearby towns.	Develops an existing agricultural economic activity – which is already a success story Updates public awareness of the association between the Pentlands name and quality Contributes to enhancing the identity of the Pentlands as a location of local economic activity.	
	To maintain, and where appropriate expand, extensive areas of moorland which provides a valuable resource for sport, nature conservation, agriculture, landscape and recreation.	Support the production and implementation of Moorland Management Plans for core areas of heather cover to ensure that the resource is maintained and enhanced. Identify suitable areas for moorland rehabilitation (primary aim) and moorland recreation (secondary aim)	Robust evidence base for securing resources to better manage moorland habitat within the PHRP. Halting the loss of moorland habitat within the PHRP and securing of better management	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		<p>Work with sporting bodies (British Association for Shooting and Conservation or the Game Conservancy) and PHRP land managers to draw up a Code for Sporting Shooting within the PHRP taking account of advice in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code in relation to responsible land manager and public behaviour.</p>	<p>for the remaining moorland resource.</p> <p>Reduction of potential conflict between sporting and other recreational interests.</p>	
<p><i>To develop the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a Green Tourism destination</i></p>	<p>To widely promote the green and sustainable credentials of the PHRP</p>	<p>Work with the PHRP stakeholders to seek appropriate VisitScotland accreditation for the PHRP and existing tourism businesses within the PHRP.</p> <p>Utilise accreditation award in all PHRP marketing material</p>	<p>Demonstrable activities developing and enhancing the sustainability of the PHRP as a visitor destination and contributing to Best Practice management and operation of the PHRP.</p>	
<p><i>To achieve integrated land and water management</i></p>	<p>To deliver potential benefits from current and future changes in land management support schemes maximised to maintain and enhance the special qualities of the PHRP.</p>	<p>Regularly consult with local SEERAD officers to ensure that LMC prescriptions are achieving the maximum benefit for the PHRP eg help improve the biodiversity within the PHRP and enhance the existing landscape, habitats and species etc.</p>	<p>Resources through LMCs for better management of biodiversity occurring within the PHRP.</p> <p>LMC prescriptions do not adversely affect biodiversity within the PHRP.</p>	
	<p>To widely promote Best Practice in land management within the PHRP.</p>	<p>Identify areas of Best Practice management in the PHRP and develop a programme of events to publicise this.</p> <p>Assist in providing additional best</p>	<p>Best Practice in land management is adopted by land managers across the PHRP.</p> <p>Positive land management</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		practice management advice based on information and knowledge resourced from other Regional Park and National Park environments	practices adopted in other Regional and National Parks are reviewed and adapted for local circumstances.	
<i>To achieve enhanced environmental sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park economy</i>	To promote increase in the use of energy from renewable resources by communities and businesses in a manner which is compatible with the special qualities of the PHRP and which contributes living and/or business operational cost savings for those living and working within the PHRP.	Consult with PHRP land managers and residents to develop a view on what forms of renewable energy would be appropriate for the PHRP and its environs and to discuss these with the three Planning authorities how to take these forward.	Ensure that appropriate renewable energy projects are encouraged within the PHRP and that resources are not wasted in developing inappropriate projects.	
	To maximise energy efficiency of existing infrastructure and new development	Influence design of proposed new PHRP Visitor Centre/PHRP H.Q. (at Flotterstone) to ensure that it incorporates energy efficiency measures which can be used to showcase best practice in sustainable construction and building operation.	<p>Encouragement of other public and private bodies to incorporate energy efficiency measures into building design at the construction stage.</p> <p>Encouragement of other public and private bodies to incorporate energy efficiency measures into existing buildings.</p> <p>Both measures will contribute towards Government objectives in combating climate change.</p>	Changing our Ways: Scotland's Climate Change Programme).
	To reduce the carbon footprint of the PHRP.	Develop and implement an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) – initially for the PHRP H.Q. and service delivery. This would be derived from the three local authorities EMS.statements.	Reduction of the carbon footprint arising from the PHRP and staff activities.	Changing our Ways: Scotland's Climate Change Programme).



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		practice management advice based on information and knowledge resourced from other Regional Park and National Park environments	practices adopted in other Regional and National Parks are reviewed and adapted for local circumstances.	
<i>To achieve enhanced environmental sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park economy</i>	To promote increase in the use of energy from renewable resources by communities and businesses in a manner which is compatible with the special qualities of the PHRP and which contributes living and/or business operational cost savings for those living and working within the PHRP.	Consult with PHRP land managers and residents to develop a view on what forms of renewable energy would be appropriate for the PHRP and its environs and to discuss these with the three Planning authorities how to take these forward.	Ensure that appropriate renewable energy projects are encouraged within the PHRP and that resources are not wasted in developing inappropriate projects.	
	To maximise energy efficiency of existing infrastructure and new development	Influence design of proposed new PHRP Visitor Centre/PHRP H.Q. (at Flotterstone) to ensure that it incorporates energy efficiency measures which can be used to showcase best practice in sustainable construction and building operation.	<p>Encouragement of other public and private bodies to incorporate energy efficiency measures into building design at the construction stage.</p> <p>Encouragement of other public and private bodies to incorporate energy efficiency measures into existing buildings.</p> <p>Both measures will contribute towards Government objectives in combating climate change.</p>	Changing our Ways: Scotland's Climate Change Programme).
	To reduce the carbon footprint of the PHRP.	Develop and implement an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) – initially for the PHRP H.Q. and service delivery. This would be derived from the three local authorities EMS.statements. Ensure that the EMS relates to current relevant strategies.	Reduction of the carbon footprint arising from the PHRP and staff activities.	Changing our Ways: Scotland's Climate Change Programme).



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		<p>Work with partners to take forward the Woodland Strategy for the PHRP by reviewing the implementation and progress to date and agreeing future actions to be implemented. [detailed in Theme C :(1) Landscape - “Promote Enhancement of the Landscape Quality within the Pentland Hills Regional Park” aim]</p> <p>Provide input to all planning consultations and strategic land use documents.</p> <p>Work with partners (individuals, businesses and organisations) to establish carbon offsetting projects eg carbon emission reductions from vehicle and machinery use in the PHRP, forestry projects which would enhance the levels of CO2 absorption already in the PHRP atmosphere, implementation of energy efficiency schemes such as the use of energy efficient light bulbs in the PHRP office H.Q. etc.</p> <p>Target corporate and business sectors to identify investment benefit opportunities in the PHRP from carbon offsetting commitments from these private sector business operations.</p>		



Theme C – Conservation and Enhancement of the Landscape, Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Hills

Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p>(1) LANDSCAPE</p> <p><i>To conserve the distinctive landscape character of the Pentlands Hills</i></p>	<p>To protect and maintain the distinctive landscape quality of the hills and their setting in a changing environment.</p> <p>To ensure that development is appropriate and complements the landscape character of the Pentland Hills</p>	<p>Monitor changes in land use and land management systems which could affect the landscape in order to promote positive outcomes for the landscape. Potential changes may include changes in the agri-environment grant systems, agricultural practices and climate change.</p> <p>Continue to foster contact with landowners and land managers through regular meetings to exchange information.</p> <p>Support Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV), Green Belt and Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) designations in Local Plans etc through liaison with constituent and surrounding Planning Authorities in the following ways: - Request that the PHRP is consulted regarding changes in planning policy</p>	<p>To ensure that the PHRP influences and maintains input into landscape changes which will be implemented by the PHRP community.</p> <p>These designations underline the importance of the PHRP landscape, give it status in the decision making process and give the PHRP an important consultation role to influence development.</p> <p>Ensures that the PHRP (as a relevant consultee) has the</p>	<p>Much of the land is privately owned. The agricultural economy is changing rapidly e.g. CAP reform, changes to government subsidy and grants. This is likely to accelerate during plan period and could result in major land use changes in the hills e.g. forestry replacing grazing land.</p> <p>Development carried out by others is controlled by Planning Authorities through Local Plans, the development control process, and through Environmental Impact Assessment</p>



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
(1) LANDSCAPE				
		<p>and planning applications which may affect the PHRP. Agree a protocol (following discussions with the three planning authorities concerned and the consequential resource implications).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comment on development proposals both within and <u>outside</u> the PHRP which would affect the setting from important viewpoints. - Request that the Planning Authorities ensure that any development proposals of concern are subject to adequate landscape and visual appraisal and that an appropriate quality of design is implemented. <p>[<u>Note:</u> Support for the potential designation of the PHRP as a candidate NSA is not considered appropriate as a PHRP Plan action – see “NSA Note” in end column.]</p>	<p>opportunity to influence any decisions that could create landscape changes affecting the Pentland Hills Regional Park setting.</p>	<p>(EIA) regulations. The PHRP has a duty to respond to Planning applications within the PHRP (as a relevant consultee).</p> <p>It is unlikely that new candidate areas for National Scenic Area (NSA) status will be considered within the PHRP Plan time-scale. NSAs are landscapes of national importance which are considered by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to be “the very best” of Scotland’s natural beauty and amenity and are conserved as part of our natural heritage.</p> <p>SNH takes the view that the existing 40 x NSAs (designated in 1980) still represent the best of Scotland’s scenery and that the priority should be to put in measures to safeguard and</p>



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p>(1) LANDSCAPE</p>		<p>Encourage strict control over the design of new development, including tourist development, in the PHRP. This would be implemented through the PHRP consultation role in relation to development carried out by others and directly for development within PHRP control. Development should be in keeping with the local vernacular and landscape e.g. appropriate design of Flotterstone new HQ and Visitor Centre, infrastructure, PHRP car parks etc. Encourage landscape mitigation to set structures into the landscape.</p> <p>[See Actions discussed under “<i>Promote Enhancement of the Landscape Quality Within the Pentland Hills Regional Park</i>” aim below for Landscape Strategy, Forestry and Dry Stane Dykes]</p>	<p>Ensures that landscape conservation and enhancement takes priority in development decisions and that the landscape and visual effects of development are adequately assessed.</p> <p>Protection from inappropriate development and promotion of high quality design in new development.</p>	<p>enhance existing NSAs before designating new ones. This view was published as SNH advice to Government in 1999 after wide consultation.</p> <p>There is pressure for development within and outside the PHRP which may have an impact on the landscape e.g. housing and renewable energy developments. Local plan policies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development, redevelopment and conversion of existing buildings only permitted if complies with strict criteria; - New forestry design to complement hill environment; - Conservation of hill environment sought in installation of public utilities. - PHRP car parks to integrate with landscape etc.



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p>(1) LANDSCAPE</p> <p><i>To promote enhancement of the landscape quality within the Pentland Hills Regional Park</i></p>	<p>To ensure that Landscape enhancement reflects the distinctive character of the hill environment which is a product of the natural environment and successive land management practices.</p> <p>To understand the contribution of existing landscape components e.g. forestry and how they will be maintained and developed.</p> <p>[This links directly to the Natural Heritage aim – “Realising the full ecological potential of the Pentland Hills Regional Park by protecting, maintaining and enhancing the present ranges of species and habitats” – see Theme C (2) Natural Heritage section below].</p>	<p>Promote landscape enhancement as an important priority in consultation with landowners and land managers. Respond positively to initiatives designed to protect and enhance the landscape.</p> <p>Support the exploration of landscape enhancement opportunities associated with new developments e.g. the Flotterstone HQ, any future development at Midlothian Ski Centre etc.</p> <p>Undertake a landscape character analysis leading to the development of a landscape strategy for the Pentland Hills. The landscape character analysis would assess the value and condition of each of the landscape elements. The strategy would provide a basis for reviewing landscape management and proposals for new development e.g. ongoing repair and maintenance of drystone dykes.</p>	<p>A greater understanding of the contribution of landscape and the balance between economic, landscape and cultural heritage and habitat interests.</p> <p>More focussed influence of the PHRP on the other bodies and individuals effecting changes to the landscape i.e. the landscape planning would address the PHRP as an entity rather than as separate components within each Local Plan area.</p> <p>Cognisance of changes in policy and practice in relation to forestry and stewardship of the land. Improvement in the level of tree planting and woodland management within the PHRP. Drystone dykes contribute to the landscape character and their repair encourages the retention of traditional skills.</p>	<p>The landscape reflects the 18th and 19th Centuries view of agricultural improvement and much of it does not have a natural appearance. Although this is part of the cultural heritage of the PHRP, the focus of policy and practice has now changed to promote a more sustainable approach particularly in relation to forestry.</p>



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
(1) LANDSCAPE		<p>The main focus of the strategy should be forestry and woodland. There is a need, for example, to review the balance between coniferous forest and native species which would be influenced by the Scottish Forestry Strategy and changes in subsidies. The strategy would indicate where further tree planting and management of woodland would be appropriate including assessing the effects of forestry and tree planting on views out of the PHRP. PHRP should encourage sympathetic integration of private forestry and woodland planting.</p>		<p>Forestry is an important land use in the PHRP. Under the Scottish Executive Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS), landowners will be eligible to apply for grants under environmental stewardship schemes. A new version of the Scottish Forestry Grants scheme will be introduced in 2007.</p> <p>The SFS is a framework setting strategic priorities for Scottish forestry for the first half of the Century and beyond. It promotes sustainable forestry management and aims for well managed forests and woodlands that integrate effectively with other land uses and businesses. It includes management,</p>



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
(1) LANDSCAPE				
				planting and environmental stewardship and has a number of themes including forestry contributing to and improving scenery.
<i>To promote partnership with the local community to foster stewardship of the landscape</i>	<p>To encourage participation in landscape enhancement schemes such as Rural Stewardship.</p> <p>To foster partnership and consultation with the PHRP and interested parties and agencies e.g. SNH, Scottish Executive and Local Authorities.</p>	<p>Discuss landscape issues with farmers and landowners through existing consultation and liaison mechanisms. <i>(see also Theme D)</i></p> <p>Consult and liaise with agencies regarding changes affecting the PHRP and specific proposals e.g. Land Management Contracts.</p>	Maintains influence of PHRP in landscape changes. Promotes shared landscape stewardship vision with PHRP land managers.	LMCs were introduced in 2005. They currently contain a menu of 17 options including: Access Hedgerow Management, Moorland Management, Woodland Management.
<i>To promote appreciation and understanding of the landscape including the interaction between the physical form, natural processes, land management and cultural heritage.</i>	<p>To promote the landscape objectives through information, interpretation, advice and education.</p> <p>To develop interpretative material to include the understanding of the landscape and processes influencing its appearance and management.</p>	Include landscape issues in any future improved interpretation in association with the new Flotterstone HQ and environmental education programme activity <i>(see also Theme A)</i>	<p>General education of the public in the landscape of the PHRP and in issues affecting it including the contribution the public can make.</p> <p>Greater understanding that the PHRP is not a planning authority like the National Park bodies. Education would give a clear (and unambiguous) statement of what the PHRP can/cannot do – in respect of planning issues relevant to the PHRP.</p>	There is some confusion/uncertainty amongst the general public, landowners/land managers as to the role of the PHRP management in the Planning process. PHRP staff should not get drawn into policing issues which should be the responsibility of others e.g. enforcement of H&S, trading licences etc.



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
(1) LANDSCAPE				
	Promote understanding of the underlying geology of the Pentland Hills and how it gives rise to the landform.	Support and encourage participation in local RIGS groups and include information about RIGS in interpretive material. Discuss with local RIGS groups the potential to assess all geological expanses in the PHRP as possible RIGS	There are designated RIGS at Torphin Quarry and the Howe. RIGS have no statutory protection other than protection through Local Plans. RIGS groups offer the best chance of conserving, enhancing and interpreting regionally important sites.	
<i>To promote the management of access to the Pentland Hills Regional Park without adversely affecting the landscape.</i>	To prevent damage to the landscape by improved access.	Monitor the effects of increased public access on the landscape in relation to the LRSA 2003. Address adverse physical impacts eg path erosion etc. through consultation with landowners and ongoing PHRP annual maintenance work plans etc. <i>(See also Theme A)</i>	Maintaining quality of the PHRP environment.	The LRSA 2003 obliges landowners to manage land in a way that takes proper account of the right of responsible access. The PHRP undertakes limited footpath maintenance.



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
(2) NATURAL HERITAGE				
<p><i>To realise the full ecological potential of the Pentland Hills Regional Park by protecting, maintaining and enhancing the present ranges of species and habitats.</i></p>	<p>To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats and species present in the PHRP.</p>	<p>Investigate remote sensing/aerial photography resources to enable an update of the 1993 Heather Moorland Survey and 1976 Vegetation Survey.</p> <p>Secure funding to re-survey heather cover in the PHRP to allow comparison to be made with 1993 Heather Moorland Survey and 1976 Vegetation Survey.</p> <p>Ensure that the key habitats and species identified within the three Local Biodiversity Action Plans covering the Pentland Hills are addressed through projects within the PHRP Annual Work and 3 year Plans. <i>[Specific key habitats and species are listed in the “Notes” column opposite].</i></p> <p>Continue liaison with, and be part of, the three local authority Biodiversity Partnerships in terms of the natural heritage project actions and targets identified in the PHRP Plan and</p>	<p>This will inform the current distribution of habitats and allow an analysis of the key drivers of habitat change.</p> <p>Limited resources can be targeted to those habitats and species most under threat.</p> <p>Local Biodiversity Action Plans are ‘live’ documents with targets kept under constant review.</p> <p>Maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity across the PHRP.</p> <p>Decline in species and habitats of conservation value arrested with recovery of populations/habitat area of key species underway.</p> <p>This will inform the appropriate biodiversity interests of the biodiversity conservation and enhancement activity being delivered within the PHRP.</p>	<p>Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan. 2004</p> <p>City of Edinburgh Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2004-09</p> <p>Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2006)</p> <p>West Lothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2005-09</p> <p>Key habitats and species include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland heaths • Blanket bog • Cleugh woodland • Farmland • Rivers and Streams • Juniper • Globeflower • Hairy stonecrop • Marsh saxifrage



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p>(2) NATURAL HERITAGE</p>	<p>To contribute to the positive management of all Local Biodiversity Sites within the PHRP</p>	<p>continue to report on actions completed to contribute to the monitoring system of the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).</p> <p>To report progress for each Local Biodiversity Site.</p>	<p>Provides relevant management action plan references geared specifically towards the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity sites within the PHRP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waxcap fungi • Northern brown argus butterfly • Large heath butterfly • Green hairstreak butterfly • Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly • Black grouse • Adder • Otter • Water vole
	<p>To identify and enhance habitat networks.</p>	<p>Work with partners to produce a strategic action plan to identify key habitat corridors and actions to link and enhance these.</p>	<p>Limited resources available for creation of wildlife corridors is targeted to those areas where benefits will be greatest.</p>	<p>Lothians Forest Habitat Network Report - Edinburgh & the Lothians (Forest Research 2006)</p>
	<p>To encourage relevant initiatives designed to keep all designated conservation sites in good condition.</p>	<p>Implement management prescriptions contained in Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Site Management Statements for those SSSIs in local authority ownership.</p>	<p>Contribution to Scottish Executive target of bringing 80% Scotland's nationally important nature sites into favourable condition by March 2008</p>	<p>Building a Better Scotland: Spending Proposals 2005 - 2008).</p>
	<p>To support relevant initiatives designed to stabilise, or where appropriate, increase populations of protected species.</p>	<p>Consult with SNH and environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to consider the introduction of a monitoring programme for protected species of flora and fauna occurring within the PHRP.</p>	<p>More robust assessment of the likely environmental impact of development proposals.</p> <p>Habitat enhancement measures can be better targeted at protected species in decline.</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
(2) NATURAL HERITAGE				
	<p>To encourage actions to address identified invasive species within the PHRP.</p> <p>To increase awareness of the special wildlife in the PHRP through engagement and active participation of the wider community.</p> <p>To consider Biodiversity issues at all levels of decision making in the PHRP from individual site management to strategic landscape-scale initiatives.</p> <p>To bring existing native woodland cover under positive management and expanded, where appropriate.</p> <p><i>(This links directly to the woodland actions proposed under the Landscape Aim – “Promote Enhancement of Landscape Quality Within the Pentland Hills Regional Park”)</i></p>	<p>Support surveys of identified invasive species occurring within the PHRP.</p> <p>Increase engagement via environmental education programme activity (see <i>Theme A - actions under “Raising awareness and increasing visitor understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park” aim</i>)</p> <p>Encourage ongoing biological recording within the PHRP through forging of relationships with local recording groups and individuals.</p> <p>Ensure that an assessment of biodiversity impacts is always included in consultation responses.</p> <p>Work with Forestry Commission and the PHRP land managers to develop a strategy to ensure that forestry grants are being used to improve management of existing woodland and targeting new planting into the most appropriate areas where it contributes to habitat networks or to expansion of existing woodland.</p>	<p>Invasive species populations can be effectively targeted at an early stage before they threaten native species.</p> <p>More robust assessment of the likely environmental impact of development proposals.</p> <p>Habitat enhancement measures can be better targeted at protected species in decline.</p> <p>Provides robust appraisal of potential effects on PHRP biodiversity and guides identification of appropriate mitigation measures to protect and sustain the biodiversity mix.</p> <p>Woodland planting does not adversely affect other biodiversity of conservation importance within the PHRP.</p> <p>Woodland expansion is prioritised to those areas of maximum nature conservation benefit (i.e. expansion of areas of existing woodland and the creation of woodland habitat networks)</p>	<p>Scottish Forestry Strategy – 2006</p> <p>Land Management Contract includes Woodland Management opportunities.</p>



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
(2) NATURAL HERITAGE				
		Support land managers to bring all native woodland in the PHRP under positive management Restoration of native woodland on Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites.	Local contribution to achieving the vision of Scotland's woodlands increasing from 17.1% of our land area to about 25% by 2050.	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p>(3) CULTURAL HERITAGE</p> <p><i>To conserve and enhance the character of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's cultural heritage features by integrated management and raised public awareness of the cultural heritage.</i></p>	<p>To conserve and enhance the cultural heritage resource within the PHRP.</p>	<p>Use the PHRP Ancient Monuments inventory data/photograph records (<i>actioned under the Pentland Hills Regional Park 2000-2005 IMS</i>) to work with Historic Scotland and the three local authority archaeology services as appropriate (<i>see "Notes" column opposite</i>) who can advise, or confirm to, land owners the extent of cultural heritage resources within their land holding. Also, liase with Historic Scotland and the three local authority archaeological services as appropriate on any recommendations produced to establish a prioritised care and maintenance programme to conserve the condition of the PHRP cultural heritage features.</p>	<p>Utilises existing baseline data/information recording to monitor and guide appropriate cultural heritage resource conservation programme activity.</p>	<p>City of Edinburgh Council - Archaeological Services;</p> <p>Midlothian Council – Archaeological advice provided by East Lothian Council Archaeology Services (<i>in relation to planning applications only</i>);</p> <p>West Lothian Council – Archaeological advice provided by West of Scotland Archaeology Services (<i>in relation to planning applications only</i>).</p>
	<p>To work in partnership with Historic Scotland and the three local authority archaeological services as appropriate (<i>see "Notes" column opposite</i>), to maintain and enhance public awareness and understanding</p>	<p>Actions should link into <i>Theme A ("Raising awareness and increasing visitor understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park" aim)</i>.</p>	<p>Increases public education of the PHRP cultural heritage resources and their place in the historic evolution of the PHRP as well as promoting the climate for increased responsible visitor</p>	<p>City of Edinburgh Council - Archaeological Services;</p> <p>Midlothian</p>



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
(3) CULTURAL HERITAGE				
	of the significance of the archaeological, historic and built environment resource in the PHRP.	Support the Interpretation of key cultural heritage sites in the PHRP and ensure that a proportion of the Pentland Hills Ranger service led education programmes include ranger led walks focussing on cultural heritage features in the PHRP.	attitudes to cultural resources and locations whilst in the PHRP.	Council – Archaeological advice provided by East Lothian Council Archaeology Services (<i>in relation to planning applications only</i>); West Lothian Council – Archaeological advice provided by West of Scotland Archaeology Services (<i>in relation to planning applications only</i>).
	To protect the character and pattern of the built and historic environment from future development activity in the PHRP.	Encourage Planning Authority policies to continue to safeguard the character and pattern of the built and historic environment in the PHRP.	Protection of cultural heritage resources (and their settings) from direct/indirect adverse impacts created by new development proposals and projects.	

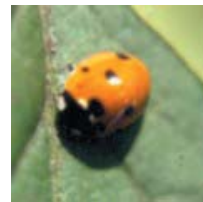


Theme D – Partnership and Participation

Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p><i>To maintain and develop partnership support for securing the long-term sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a living and changing mixed land use environment</i></p>	<p>To secure the necessary long-term commitment to the sustainable management and operation of the PHRP.</p>	<p>Encourage the long-term commitment of stakeholders support in delivering the existing Hillend Country Park Management Plan (2004-2009) and the Bonaly Country Park Management Plan (2006-2026) prepared by the PHRP management – as integral components complementing and supporting the delivery of the overall PHRP Plan vision.</p> <p>Continue to develop close working relationships with all the key stakeholders and those living and working in the PHRP.</p>	<p>Delivers an integrated management approach to the delivery of defined strategic and specific management objectives for the PHRP embracing its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor services; • Natural Heritage; • Cultural Heritage; • Landscape; • Community and Economy. <p>Action is central to the long-term sustainability of compatible mixed use and management of the PHRP environment. Also builds communication, co-operation and trust amongst different interests as well as increasing the potential for the more effective sharing of information and knowledge.</p>	<p>Can only be achieved by a partnership approach based upon shared understanding of issues and interests, recognition of mutual benefits and opportunities leading to the attainment of common goals, aims and objectives.</p>



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		<p>Initiate inquiries into new communication formats (media and technology) to enhance consultation opportunities and contact with the PHRP management by stakeholders such as the PHRP Consultative Forum members and the general public</p> <p>Continue the PHRP Consultative Forum as a key mechanism providing both pro-active inputs (advisory) and re-active (sounding board) feed-back to the PHRP in guiding the interpretation and delivery of the PHRP Plan.</p>	<p>Promotes ease of access for stakeholders in communicating with the PHRP management on matters relevant to the long-term sustainability of the PHRP mixed land use environment.</p> <p>Maintains the mechanism which represents a wide cross-section of PHRP land use interests – and which also recognises the need to be flexible in membership make-up to ensure that the Forum remains fully representative of any changing needs and trends that impact upon the PHRP environment.</p>	
<p><i>To develop public participation and support for securing the long-term sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a living and changing mixed land use environment</i></p>	<p>To further develop existing public participation and partnership initiatives in the PHRP management and operation.</p>	<p>Support expansion of the public membership of the “Friends of the Pentlands” society (by the Society) and to discuss with the Friends their prospective role(s) in assisting in the delivery of those elements of the PHRP Plan that are commensurate with the society’s defined objectives.</p> <p>Encourage development of the membership of the Pentland Hills Voluntary Ranger service.</p>	<p>Maintains and develops existing association with “The Friends” creating mutual benefits in achieving shared objectives. Provides the PHRP with access to members with particular interests and knowledge and provides potential funding assistance to the delivery of PHRP projects.</p> <p>Maintains and develops the level of voluntary trained personnel support to the full-time Pentland Hills Ranger service staff enhancing the capacity for the</p>	<p>Identified target in the Voluntary Ranger Draft Management Plan 2006-2011 is 40</p>



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
			PHRP to deliver the PHRP Plan recommendations – whilst continuing to respect the agreed general roles and remit of the voluntary PHRP Ranger service.	fully trained voluntary Rangers.
	To continue and develop the existing contribution of the PHRP to cross-cutting agendas and community focussed initiatives.	<p>Support national, regional and local health awareness/improvement campaigns eg recreation participation programmes, healthy life-style initiatives, healthy eating promotions etc – where the PHRP has a contributory role to play eg as an accessible outdoor recreation resource, as a producer of quality natural food produce etc</p> <p>Support increased recreational participation in the Pentland Hills by under-represented groups such as women, children ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities.</p> <p>Continue support for the existing local Management Groups in the PHRP (Bavelaw, Harlaw/Threipmuir, Harperigg)</p> <p>Be positive in considering advising or facilitating the establishment of further local Management Groups within the PHRP boundaries (based upon expressed interest or need).</p> <p>Use the Pentland Hills Ranger service-led community and environmental education action initiatives identified in <i>Theme A</i> (“Raising awareness and increasing visitor</p>	<p>Enhances market awareness, and potential utilisation of, the PHRP and contributes to the development of the PHRP economy eg the “Pentland Produce” brand.</p> <p>Broadens market sector awareness and potential utilisation of, the PHRP and contributes to cross-cutting national policy agendas of social inclusion.</p> <p>Recognises the role of the local Management Group fora and their future expansion potential (if required).</p> <p>Provides ongoing opportunities to increase volunteer activity in the PHRP in delivering the PHRP Plan aims and objectives eg</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park” objective) as mechanisms to encourage increased public engagement in the work of the PHRP.	volunteer assistance in specific facility/infrastructure maintenance works, conservation programmes etc.	
<i>To maintain access to appropriate technical and specialist knowledge necessary to support any future changing development impacts upon the Pentland Hills Regional Park operation and management</i>	To ensure relevant technical and specialist knowledge support is available to the PHRP – in the context of any key changes in mixed land use activity in the PHRP over the period of the PHRP Plan eg as a consequence of increased public activity in exercising land and water based access rights, changing recreational activity and participation trends, changing agricultural practices, increasing forestry plantation etc.	Advise the PHRP Joint Committee of any key trend changes in land use demands on the PHRP that necessitate technical advice and specialist knowledge not currently available from within the PHRP Consultative Forum membership – with the Joint Committee exercising its right [under Section 17(i) of the Minute of Agreement] to add such additional expertise to the current Consultative Forum membership.	Recognises that the PHRP is a living, changing environment where future trends in the mixed land use of the PHRP may lead to new issues and circumstances emerging that would benefit from specialist input in preparing appropriate PHRP management responses.	
<i>To maintain and enhance the role/ remit of the Pentland Hills Ranger service as the core delivery mechanism of the day-to-day Pentland Hills Regional Park management</i>	To build upon the existing involvement of the Pentland Hills Ranger service across all of the recommended PHRP Plan themes in contributing to the delivery of the PHRP Plan - ensuring that compliance with applicable SNH funding requirements is maintained.	PHRP Manager to incorporate appropriate PHRP Plan Actions in future Ranger service annual work plans which will contribute towards achieving the Plan’s stated aims and objectives. Review (on an ongoing basis) the current Pentland Hills Ranger service staffing levels and resource allocations eg availability of time for specific project formulation and delivery. Consider submission of the case for additional staff if current staffing levels prove inadequate to deliver the PHRP Plan.	Continues the existing PHRP management mechanism, and capitalises upon existing PHRP management experiences, in contributing to the delivery of the PHRP Plan. Monitors the effectiveness of the current Pentland Hills Ranger service levels in assisting in the PHRP Plan delivery and providing supporting justification (if required) for additional Ranger service staff resources.	
<i>To secure commercial sponsorship support for the</i>	To expand partnership based funding opportunities to include	The PHRP or appointed fund raising specialists to prepare a fund raising	Extends the partnership funding potential for delivery of capital	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p><i>delivery of Pentland Hills Regional Park project initiatives</i></p>	<p>commercial business sector sponsorship support as a mechanism to enhance/ fast-track PHRP Plan project or programme implementation, PHRP resources etc.</p>	<p>prospectus targeted at the commercial business sector selling the PR benefits of sponsorship association with the PHRP eg:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Green” connection (<i>see also Theme B; “To achieve enhanced environmental sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park economy” Aim - carbon offsetting projects objective</i>). • Environmental sustainability; • Supporting rural communities; • Outdoor activity/health promotion, image etc. 	<p>and revenue projects – provided that any such commercial sponsorship support is <u>not</u> to the detriment of existing levels of grant funding support received by the PHRP for its management operation.</p>	



Theme E – Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p><i>To provide a Pentland Hills Regional Park management structure which is best placed to fully deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan</i></p>	<p>To ensure that the PHRP management organisation has sufficient authority to be able to deliver the scope of agreed actions over the life-cycle of the PHRP Plan.</p>	<p>Facilitate the PHRP Joint Committee in reviewing the terms and conditions of the existing Minute of Agreement and consider any appropriate and beneficial adjustments, changes etc in light of the PHRP Plan action requirements.</p> <p>PHRP Joint Committee to consider alternative PHRP management structures to inform decision of best placed management structure for the PHRP</p>	<p>Provides appropriate opportunity to review the scope of the existing Minute of Agreement – in the context of providing the most appropriate management structure with the necessary powers to deliver the PHRP Plan over the next 6+ year time-frame.</p> <p>Provides a comparative context opportunity based on actual experiences of alternative PHRP management structures. Their potential suitability, benefits etc – <i>or otherwise</i> - for the future PHRP management can be considered, and determined.</p>	
<p><i>To provide effective and efficient management direction to achieve the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan</i></p>	<p>To ensure appropriate management systems are in place, or developed, to meet the PHRP Plan delivery requirements</p>	<p>PHRP Manager to utilise the PHRP Plan to prepare an initial draft 3 Year operational plan that provides an extended period management plan of action - for Joint Committee consideration and approval.</p> <p>PHRP Manager to continue production of the annual Pentland Hills Ranger service work plans taking into account the prioritised implementation of the PHRP</p>	<p>Moves from annual forward planning basis to an extended time-scale which is more appropriate to the 3 Year cycle of local authority forward budget planning.</p> <p>Maintains existing format which retains continuity and proven success.</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
	<p>To ensure that external communication and dialogue is developed to secure partnership participation support necessary to deliver a number of the Plan actions contained in Themes A-D.</p> <p>To involve Pentland Hills Ranger service staff as fully as is practicable in the PHRP Plan delivery process to strengthen sense of ownership and transparency thereby creating the potential for a stronger identity with, and understanding of, the PHRP Plan</p>	<p>Plan actions (<i>see Chapter 5</i>)</p> <p>PHRP Manager to initiate recommended specific theme strategies, plans, and surveys contained in Themes A-D and project manage the processes.</p> <p>PHRP Manager to implement and oversee the PHRP Plan monitoring regime to provide required management information on progress of Plan delivery.</p> <p>PHRP Manager to lead and direct the Pentland Hills Ranger service staff in existing and potential partner dialogue to enhance participation commitment geared towards securing the implementation of the recommended Plan actions.</p> <p>PHRP Manager to ensure that staff understand the rationale behind the Plan actions and have the fullest opportunity to contribute in formulating the detailed activities required in delivering the specific Plan actions.</p>	<p>Establishes central point of action responsibility in directing the processes from beginning to end; maintains existing management activity eg commissioning of the PHRP Visitor Survey, Flotterstone Centre Business Plan etc; whilst retaining flexibility for delegation of management actions by the PHRP Manager if required.</p> <p>Maintains and enhances an existing key PHRP management function and promotes direct contact with existing and potential stakeholders. This provides a sound foundation for achieving shared objectives and commitments in delivering the Plan.</p> <p>Maximises involvement of the key delivery staff from the outset of the Plan period, promotes identity with the Plan and creates a potential basis for encouraging staff continuity and stability.</p>	
	<p>To ensure appropriate PHRP personnel are in place to meet the</p>	<p>Maintain and recruit staff (subject to funding availability) of appropriate</p>	<p>Provides the appropriate range of management experience and</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p><i>To secure the personnel resources necessary to make the full delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan a realistic and achievable goal</i></p>	<p>scope of the PHRP Plan delivery requirements</p> <p>To ensure that appropriate staff training and professional development programmes are set in place, funded, actioned and monitored so that the PHRP management resources are suitably trained and supported in developing the skills necessary to deliver the PHRP Plan.</p>	<p>professional and technical experience who can pro-actively contribute towards the Plan actions implementation</p> <p>PHRP Manager to prepare the business case for additional PHRP staff (if required) utilising the PHRP Plan as the basis of justification (see also Theme D – “<i>Maintain and enhance the role/ remit of the Pentland Hills Ranger service as the core delivery mechanism of the day-to-day Pentland Hills Regional Park management</i>” aim).</p> <p>PHRP Manager to consider specific staff training requirements highlighted by scope of the PHRP Plan and to draw up an action programme of training requirements and professional development opportunities for existing staff complement</p> <p>Continue and develop individual staff training logs which set out identified training requirements (including areas identified by the staff members themselves) and identify training support requirements and timescales.</p>	<p>expertise geared towards maximising the delivery of the PHRP Plan scope of actions.</p> <p>Recognises that there will be an ongoing need to monitor capacity of existing staff complement to deliver the PHRP Plan and creates the scope to provide the PHRP Manager with substantiation for any additional personnel resource requests deemed necessary.</p> <p>Provides staff with appropriate breadth of skills to deliver the PHRP Plan</p> <p>Contributes to the professional development of each staff member to their individual benefit</p> <p>Enhances quality of management services in the PHRP to the benefit of staff, stakeholders, PHRP visitors etc.</p>	
<p><i>To secure the necessary funding resources necessary to make the full delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan a realistic and achievable goal</i></p>	<p>To ensure sufficient funding resources are available to assist the delivery of the PHRP Plan</p>	<p>PHRP Manager to utilise the prioritised implementation of the PHRP Plan actions (see Chapter 5) in forward planning of operational management and project budgets.</p> <p>PHRP Manager to initiate actions included</p>	<p>Plan provides composite framework of actions that are central to the PHRP management forward planning process.</p> <p>Provides potential alternative</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		<p>in Theme D – “Secure commercial sponsorship support for the delivery of Pentland Hills Regional Park project initiatives” aim as a specific funding strand in seeking to secure additional financial support for the PHRP Plan delivery.</p>	<p>funding strand to assist the delivery of the PHRP Plan – and enhances/complements the existing PHRP management funding sources</p>	
<p><i>To fully engage Pentland Hills Regional Park Management stakeholder groups in the processes required to deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan</i></p>	<p>To secure the necessary ongoing commitment throughout the Plan life-cycle to achieve the delivery of the Plan action proposals</p>	<p>PHRP Manager to continue the production of management information keeping the stakeholder groups informed of the ongoing implementation progress of the PHRP Plan eg Joint Committee, Management Group and Consultative Forum through established procedures.</p> <p>PHRP Manager also to consider adjustments to existing management communication fora, or other communication options if deemed appropriate.</p>	<p>Good practice management in maintaining consistency and transparency of <u>internal</u> communication of key information and current position understanding of the Plan implementation progress.</p> <p>Allows for potential flexibility in management information dissemination techniques as deemed required.</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
<p><i>To promote awareness and understanding of the rationale, aims and benefits of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan to the general public</i></p>	<p>To facilitate enhanced awareness and understanding of the importance of managing the mixed land use environment of the PHRP – to the greater benefits of all who use, live or work in the PHRP.</p>	<p>PHRP Manager to devise a Plan promotional/information strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authority Access Officers; • Local Access Forums; • Community Councils; • Liaison with the “Friends of the Pentlands” and other groups; • Use of the PHRP website eg posted features on proposed Plan actions, updates on implementation of current actions and completed actions; • Ongoing articles included in the Pentland Beacon newsletter; • News updates posted on noticeboards at the Flotterstone and Harlaw visitor centres. <p>Pentland Hills Ranger service staff to incorporate in educational programme content delivered to community groups, schools etc.</p>	<p>Good practice management in demonstrating transparency in delivering the <u>external</u> communication of key information and current position understanding of the Plan implementation progress.</p> <p>Directly involves the Pentland Hills Ranger service in promoting the Plan to an external audience and complements the Ranger service staff actions contained in the “<i>Provision of effective and efficient management direction to achieve the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan</i>” aim above.</p>	
<p><i>To monitor on an ongoing basis the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan</i></p>	<p>To measure the success of the implementation of the PHRP Plan against targeted timescales.</p>	<p>PHRP Manager to develop and agree a finalised Monitoring Strategy (including a range of measurable indicators – <i>such as those examples highlighted as potential</i></p>	<p>Production of demonstrable evidence supporting the justification for the PHRP Plan measures and allows for</p>	



Aim	Objectives	PHRP Management - Operational Actions	Outputs and Outcomes	Notes
		<p><i>indicators in section 6 of the PHRP Plan) to be used to determine the success of the PHRP Plan delivery. The measurable indicators to embrace all five Themes.</i></p>	<p>appropriate adjustments to the Plan to be made if actions are not being achieved within their targeted timescales over the PHRP Plan duration.</p>	
<p><i>To promote the monitoring of data relevant to the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plans aims</i></p>	<p>To identify whether the delivery of the PHRP Plan will result in trends moving towards or away from recognised targets</p>	<p>Formulate a monitoring strategy with respect to the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (Council Directive (EC/97/11) and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005</p>	<p>Production of a monitoring strategy will provide a framework for assessing the success of the implementation of the PHRP Plan.</p>	



5. The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Prioritised Implementation Programme

5.1 Introduction

This chapter takes the Pentland Hills Regional Park operational management actions set out in Chapter 4 and prioritises their targeted delivery over an assumed maximum 10 Year time-frame. The assumed time-frame targets that have been used are summarised in [Table 5.1](#) below.

Table 5.1 : Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Implementation Life-Cycle

Prioritisation Period Target	Time Scale Targets (Local Authority Financial Years)	Colour Code
Short Term	2007/08 to 2009/10	Red
Medium Term	2010/11 to 2012/13	Orange
Long Term	2013/14 to 2016/17	Green
Ongoing	2007/08 to 2016/17	Pink

For ease of reference, we have summarised the prioritised implementation programme into a tabular format for each of the Themes and colour-coded the short, medium and long-term action implementation targets as well as those actions which would be ongoing over the 10 Year Plan period.

Clearly, the immediate Pentland Hills Regional Park management focus should be on the “Short Term” prioritisation period (2007/08 to 2009/10) and the “Ongoing” targets which would over-lap during this “Short Term” period to ensure that delivery of the indicated high priority actions is achieved, thereby providing a good foundation for rolling-out the delivery of the medium and longer-term operational actions.

In formulating the prioritised implementation programme, the need to be flexible should be recognised. Changing circumstances eg levels of available personnel and funding resources, external influences such as policy and agenda shifts as well as unforeseen emergencies etc may impact upon the ability to deliver specified Plan actions within the allocated timescale targets or provide opportunities to move identified medium and longer term actions forward. This highlights the need for ongoing Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan programme monitoring by the Pentland Hills Regional Park management to identify, and respond accordingly, to such change scenarios.



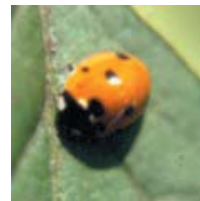
THEME A – RESPONSIBLE ENJOYMENT & UNDERSTANDING OF THE HILLS

AIM : To Promote and Manage Compatible Forms of Responsible Recreational Activity in the Pentland Hills Regional Park

PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Continue to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and promote greater awareness and understanding of the legislative rights and responsibilities for both the visitor and the PHRP land managers – in the context of recreational activity in a mixed land use environment.							
Continue to liaise with the CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils access officers to co-ordinate the promotion and management of responsible access.							
Develop and extend the 2006 Pentland Hills Regional Park Path and Facility Inspection audit in order to establish a detailed baseline which can be used as a reference in determining required actions in light of potential (and actual) future visitor requirements in exercising their rights of responsible recreational activities participation.							



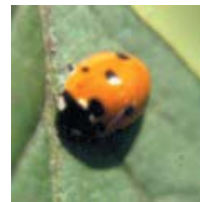
PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Initiate discussions with all stakeholders in formulating an agreement for responsible water based recreation in the PHRP directly associated with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code rights of non-motorised water based recreation and the imminent transfer of some of the PHRP reservoirs from Scottish Water to the CEC.							
Discuss with stakeholders and associated interests whether countryside sports and recreation activities which generate noise as a by-product of their participation are compatible with the mixed land use environment of the PHRP - recognising that access rights established by the LRSA (2003) do <u>not</u> extend to shooting or <i>“any form of motorised recreation”</i>							
AIM : To Sustain and Enhance a High Quality Visitor Experience							
Utilise 2005/06 Pentland Hills Visitor Survey to guide development of visitor facilities, amenities and services.							
Repeat Visitor Survey exercise at future dates (subject to availability of funding) to monitor changing visitor trends and need.							
Deliver new PHRP Visitor Centre/PHRP H.Q. (“the Flotterstone Gateway Project”) as PHRP flagship attraction.							
Integrate findings/proposed remedial actions from 2006 PHRP Path and Facility Inspection report into immediate Pentland Hills Ranger service 3 year projected work plans.							
Utilise 2006 PHRP Path and Facility Inspection report as a baseline template to be updated by the Pentland Hills Ranger service staff and Volunteer Rangers on an ongoing basis							



PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Initially explore opportunities under the LMC programme to establish options and determine the PHRP position - prior to dialogue with land managers. Possible issues to initially explore include eg:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How best to integrate access rights with PHRP land management; • Elements of LMC most appropriate to the PHRP management activities; Additional support for land managers committing to a LMC eg PHRP top-up funding support for land managers to maintain sections of path in their land ownership <i>and/or</i> provide additional path section links which would provide an extended path option opportunity – but which could not be delivered under the LMC contract agreement							
Ensure finalised design of new PHRP Visitor centre building provides a best practice example of an attraction with optimum disabled access and facility provision.							
Continue programmed review of PHRP services, facility access and infrastructure improvements eg path surfaces, gates etc to comply with the DDA and implement as required.							
AIM : To Raise Awareness and Increase Visitor Understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park							
Continue liaison with the CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Council Access Officers to maintain and develop the opportunities that the PHRP has to offer as a resource accommodating both informal and formal leisure pursuits.							
Continue structured programme of pro-active Pentland Hills Ranger service community group contacts, consultation and presentations to encourage additional visits by community education, social work and targeted minority groups etc.							
Further expand the Pentland Hills Ranger service links with the respective education authorities of the three Councils to achieve integrated delivery of environmental education programme activity (in the PHRP and outreach initiatives). Utilise existing PHRP Education Plan (2005-08) in the immediate environmental education programme delivery.							



PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Explore (in conjunction with the Scottish Agricultural College, the Royal Highland Education Trust and PHRP land managers) future opportunities for voluntary engagement of land managers in educational activity eg hosting farm visits to educate/inform on the PHRP agricultural land use practices							
Liase with CEC and Midlothian Councils and the Scottish Executive to achieve advance directional signposting of the PHRP from the trunk road network (eg the A720 and A702).							
Continue utilisation of existing PHRP Interpretation guidelines in replacing and developing interpretation provision within the PHRP eg information board and panels to promote a consistency of PHRP generated public information.							
Expand the scope of interpretation provision to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code responsible access message [<i>a local authority requirement under Section10(7a) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (Part 1)</i>].							
Progress consultations with the PHRP land managers to seek voluntary agreement in adopting a consistency in landscape furniture provision throughout the PHRP eg path access signposting content and design (linked to the LMC Option 15 opportunity). Also, ensure that signage content is in compliance with the Outdoor Access Code requirements.							
Prioritise the PHRP website as the most accessible mass-market source of information provision.							
Monitor and review the current distribution of PHRP literature (by Edinburgh Arts & Entertainment) to maximise effectiveness of the distribution and market take-up.							



AIM : To Promote and Provide More Sustainable Visitor Transport Opportunities

PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Continue promotion of existing public scheduled bus service providers eg on the PHRP website and ongoing distribution of the PHRP "How to get to the Pentland Hills by Bus" leaflet.							
Continue discussions with bus service providers to enhance the current provision to the PHRP.							
Encourage the CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Council Access Officers to identify core path link opportunities from settlements surrounding the PHRP into the PHRP itself (eg walking and cycling routes) as part of the formulation of the respective local authorities Core Path Plans (draft Core Path Plans to be issued to the Scottish Ministers by February 2008).							
Continue the general policy of not developing additional PHRP car parking provision other than that which may be permitted under Policy E10 of the current Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan (2003). The focus should be upon remodelling existing PHRP vehicle parking provision eg at Flotterstone.							
Utilise volunteers to monitor peak-time vehicle parking on approaches to, and in, PHRP car parks at key sites whilst carrying out current public information/advice communication duties. Role should be advisory <u>not</u> enforcement – with the objective of offsetting/ reducing issues of potential restricted/blocked access conflicts with land managers.							



THEME B – THE LOCAL ECONOMY OF THE HILLS							
<i>AIM : To Sustain a Healthy, Diverse Range of Agricultural, Forestry and Sporting Businesses within the Pentland Hills Regional Park</i>							
PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Promote effective consultation between PHRP and businesses within the PHRP in respect of opportunities/plans for diversification – in the context of contributing to the PHRP Plan vision and any PHRP management implications.							
Support the promotion of the ‘Pentland Produce’ brand through publications and visitor centre							
Develop a marketing strategy for the “Pentland Produce” brand.							
Work with farmers in the PHRP to explore ways of increasing visibility of local produce in farmers’ markets in nearby towns.							
Support the production and implementation of Moorland Management Plans for core areas of heather cover to ensure that the resource is maintained and enhanced.							
Identify suitable areas for moorland rehabilitation (primary aim) and moorland recreation (secondary aim)							



PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Work with sporting bodies (British Association for Shooting and Conservation or the Game Conservancy) and land managers to draw up a Code for Sporting Shooting within the PHRP taking account of advice in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code in relation to responsible land manager and public behaviour.							
AIM : To Develop the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a Green Tourism Destination							
Work with the PHRP stakeholders to seek appropriate VisitScotland accreditation for the PHRP and existing tourism businesses within the PHRP.							
Utilise accreditation award in all PHRP marketing material							
AIM : To Achieve Integrated Land and Water Management							
Regularly consult with local SEERAD officers to ensure that LMC prescriptions are achieving the maximum benefit for the PHRP eg help improve the biodiversity within the PHRP and enhance the existing landscape, habitats and species etc.							
Identify areas of Best Practice management in the PHRP and develop a programme of events to publicise this.							
Assist in providing additional best practice management advice based on information and knowledge resourced from other Regional Park and National Park environments							



AIM : To Achieve Enhanced Environmental Sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Economy							
PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
In conjunction with PHRP land managers and residents, develop a view on what forms of renewable energy would be appropriate for the PHRP and its environs and to discuss these with the three Planning authorities how to take these forward.							
Influence design of proposed PHRP Visitor Centre/PHRP H.Q. (at Flotterstone) to ensure that it incorporates energy efficiency measures which can be used to showcase best practice in sustainable construction and building operation.							
Develop and implement an EMS – initially for the PHRP H.Q. and service delivery. This would be derived from the three local authorities EMS statements. Ensure that the EMS relates to current relevant strategies.							
Work with partners to take forward the Woodland Strategy for the PHRP by reviewing the implementation and progress to date and agreeing future actions to be implemented. [<i>detailed in Theme C :(1) Landscape - “Promote Enhancement of the Landscape Quality within the Pentland Hills Regional Park” aim</i>]							
Provide input to all planning consultations and strategic land use documents.							
Work with partners (individuals, businesses and organisations) to establish carbon offsetting projects eg carbon emission reductions from vehicle and machinery use in the PHRP, forestry projects which would enhance the levels of CO2 absorption already in the PHRP atmosphere, implementation of energy efficiency schemes such as the use of energy efficient light bulbs in the PHRP office H.Q. etc.							
Target corporate and business sectors to identify investment benefit opportunities in the PHRP from carbon offsetting commitments from these private sector business operations.							



THEME C – CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE, NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HILLS

AIM : To Conserve the Distinctive Landscape Character of the Pentland Hills

PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Monitor changes in land use and land management systems which could affect the landscape in order to promote positive outcomes for the landscape. Potential changes may include changes in the agri-environment grant systems, agricultural practices and climate change.							
Continue to foster contact with landowners and land managers through regular meetings to exchange information.							
Support AGLV, Green Belt and RIGS designations in Local Plans etc through liaison with constituent and surrounding Planning Authorities.							
Encourage strict control over the design of new development, including tourist development, in the PHRP. Implement through the PHRP consultation role in relation to development carried out by others and directly for development within PHRP control. Development should be in keeping with the local vernacular and landscape e.g. appropriate design of Flotterstone new HQ and Visitor Centre, infrastructure, PHRP car parks etc. Encourage landscape mitigation to set structures into the landscape.							

AIM : To Promote Enhancement of the Landscape Quality within the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Promote landscape enhancement as an important priority in consultation with landowners and land managers. Respond positively to initiatives designed to protect and enhance the landscape.							
Seek to ensure that opportunities to provide landscape enhancement in association with new developments are fully explored e.g. the Flotterstone HQ, any future development at Midlothian Ski Centre etc.							



PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Undertake a landscape character analysis leading to the development of a landscape strategy for the Pentland Hills. The landscape character analysis would assess the value and condition of each of the landscape elements. The strategy would provide a basis for reviewing landscape management and proposals for new development e.g. ongoing repair and maintenance of drystone dykes. The main focus of the strategy should be forestry and woodland.							
AIM : To Promote Partnership with the Local Community to Foster Stewardship of the Landscape							
Discuss landscape issues with farmers and landowners through existing consultation and liaison mechanisms. (<i>see also Theme D</i>)							
Consult and liaise with agencies regarding changes affecting the PHRP and specific proposals e.g. LMCs. (<i>see also Theme A</i>)							
AIM : To Promote Appreciation and Understanding of the Landscape including the Interaction between the Physical Form, Natural Processes, Land Management and Cultural Heritage							
Include landscape issues in any future Improved interpretation in association with the new Flotterstone HQ and environmental education programme activity (<i>see also Theme A</i>)							
Support and encourage participation in local RIGS groups and include information about RIGS in interpretive material.							
Discuss with local RIGS groups the potential to assess all geological expanses in the PHRP as possible RIGS							
AIM : To Promote the Management of Access to the Pentland Hills Regional Park without Adversely Affecting the Landscape							
Monitor the effects of increased public access on the landscape in relation to the LRSA 2003. Address adverse physical impacts eg path erosion etc. through consultation with landowners and ongoing PHRP annual maintenance work plans etc. (<i>See also Theme A</i>)							

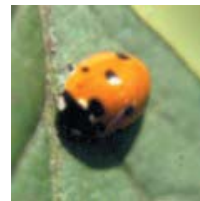


AIM : To Realise the full Ecological Potential of the Pentland Hills Regional Park by Protecting, Maintaining and Enhancing the Present Ranges of Species and Habitats

PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Investigate remote sensing/aerial photography resources to enable an update of the 1993 Heather Moorland Survey and 1976 Vegetation Survey and secure funding to re-survey heather cover in PHRP to allow comparison to be made with 1993 Heather Moorland Survey and 1976 Vegetation Survey.							
Ensure that the key habitats and species identified within the three Local Biodiversity Action Plans covering the Pentland Hills are addressed through projects within the PHRP Annual Work and 3 year Plans.							
Continue liaison with, and be part of, the three local authority Biodiversity Partnerships in terms of the natural heritage project actions and targets identified in the PHRP Plan and continue to report on actions completed to contribute to the monitoring system of the BARS.							
To report on progress for each Local Biodiversity Site.							
Work with partners to produce a strategic action plan to identify key habitat corridors and actions to link and enhance these.							
Implementation of management prescriptions contained in SSSI Site Management Statements for those SSSIs in local authority ownership.							
In consultation with SNH and environmental NGOs, consider the introduction of a monitoring programme for protected species of flora and fauna occurring within the PHRP.							
Support surveys of identified invasive species occurring within the PHRP.							
Increased engagement via environmental education programme activity (see also <i>Theme A - actions under "Raising awareness and increasing visitor understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park" aim</i>)							
Encourage ongoing biological recording within the PHRP through forging of relationships with local recording groups and individuals.							



PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Ensure that an assessment of biodiversity impacts is always included in consultation responses.							
Work with Forestry Commission and the PHRP land managers to develop a strategy to ensure that forestry grants are being used to improve management of existing woodland and targeting new planting into the most appropriate areas where it contributes to habitat networks or to expansion of existing woodland.							
Support land managers to bring all native woodland in the PHRP under positive management and all ancient, semi-natural woodlands back into favourable condition							
AIM : To Conserve and Enhance the Pentland Hills Regional Park's Cultural Heritage Features by Integrated Management and Raised Public Awareness of the Cultural Heritage							
Use PHRP Ancient Monuments inventory data/photograph records (<i>actioned under the Pentland Hills Regional Park 2000-2005 IMS</i>) to work with Historic Scotland and the three local authorities as appropriate who can advise, or confirm to, land owners the extent of cultural heritage resources within their land holding. Also, liase with Historic Scotland and the three local authorities as appropriate on any recommendations produced to establish a prioritised care and maintenance programme to conserve the condition of the PHRP cultural heritage features.							
Include the Interpretation of key cultural heritage sites in the PHRP and ensuring that a proportion of the Pentland Hills Ranger service-led education programmes include ranger led walks focussing on cultural heritage features in the PHRP.							
Ensure that Planning Authority policies continue to safeguard the character and pattern of the built and historic environment in the PHRP.							



THEME D – PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

AIM : To Maintain and Develop Partnership Support for Securing Long Term Sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a Living and Changing Mixed Land Use Environment

PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Ensure the long-term commitment of stakeholders support in delivering the existing Hillend Country Park Management Plan (2004-2009) and the Bonaly Country Park Management Plan (2006-2026) prepared by the PHRP management – as integral components complementing and supporting the delivery of the overall PHRP Plan vision.							
Continue to develop close working relationships with all the key stakeholders and those living and working in the PHRP.							
Initiate inquiries into new communication formats (media and technology) to enhance consultation opportunities and contact with the PHRP management by stakeholders such as the PHRP Consultative Forum members and the general public							
Continue the PHRP Consultative Forum as a key mechanism providing both pro-active inputs (advisory) and re-active (sounding board) feed-back to the PHRP in guiding the interpretation and delivery of the PHRP Plan.							
AIM : To Develop Public Participation and Support for Securing the Long Term Sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a Living and Changing Mixed Land Use Environment							
Support expansion of the public membership of the “Friends of the Pentlands” society (by the Society) and to discuss with the Friends their prospective role(s) in assisting in the delivery of those elements of the PHRP Plan that are commensurate with the society’s defined objectives.							
Encourage development of the membership of the Pentland Hills Voluntary Ranger service.							
Support health awareness/improvement campaigns eg recreation participation programmes, healthy life-style initiatives, healthy eating promotions etc – where the PHRP has a contributory role to play eg as an accessible outdoor recreation resource, as a producer of quality natural food produce etc.							



PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Support increased recreational participation in the Pentland Hills by under-represented groups such as women, children ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities.							
Continue support for the existing local Management Groups in the PHRP (Bavelaw, Harlaw/Threipmuir, Harperigg).							
Be positive in considering advising or facilitating the establishment of further local Management Groups within the PHRP boundaries (based upon expressed interest or need).							
Use the Pentland Hills Ranger service-led community and environmental education action initiatives identified in <i>Theme A</i> (“Raising awareness and increasing visitor understanding of the PHRP” objective) as mechanisms to encourage increased public engagement in the work of the PHRP.							
AIM : To Maintain Access to Appropriate Technical and Specialist Knowledge Necessary to Support any Future Changing Development Impacts upon the Pentland Hills Regional Park Operation and Management							
Advise the PHRP Joint Committee of any key trend changes in land use demands on the PHRP that necessitate technical advice and specialist knowledge not currently available from within the PHRP Consultative Forum membership – with the Joint Committee exercising its right <i>[under Section 17(i) of the Minute of Agreement]</i> to add such additional expertise to the current Consultative Forum membership.							
AIM : To Maintain and Enhance the Role/Remit of the Pentland Hills Ranger Service as the Core delivery Mechanism of the day-to-day Pentland Hills Regional Park Management							
PHRP Manager to incorporate appropriate PHRP Plan Actions in future Ranger service annual work plans which will contribute towards achieving the Plan’s stated aims and objectives.							
Review (on an ongoing basis) the current Pentland Hills Ranger service staffing levels and resource allocations eg availability of time for specific project formulation and delivery. Consider submission of the case for additional staff if current staffing levels prove inadequate to deliver the PHRP Plan.							



AIM : To Secure Commercial Sponsorship Support for the Delivery of Pentland Hills Regional Park Project Initiatives

PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
<p>The PHRP <u>or</u> appointed fund raising specialists to prepare a fund raising prospectus targeted at the commercial business sector selling the PR benefits of sponsorship association with the PHRP eg:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Green” connection (<i>see also Theme B; “To achieve enhanced environmental sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park economy” Aim - carbon offsetting projects objective</i>). • Environmental sustainability; • Supporting rural communities; • Outdoor activity/health promotion, image etc. 							



THEME E – MANAGING THE PENTLAND HILLS REGIONAL PARK PLAN							
<i>AIM : To Provide a Pentland Hills Regional Park Management Structure which is Best Placed to Fully Deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan</i>							
PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Facilitate the PHRP Joint Committee in reviewing terms and conditions of the existing Minute of Agreement and consider any appropriate and beneficial adjustments, changes etc in light of the PHRP Plan action requirements.							
PHRP Joint Committee to consider alternative PHRP management structures to inform decision of best-placed management structure for the PHRP.							
<i>AIM : To Provide Effective and Efficient Management Direction to Achieve the Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan</i>							
PHRP Manager to utilise the PHRP Plan to prepare an initial draft 3 Year operational plan that provides an extended period management plan of action - for the PHRP Joint Committee consideration and approval.							
PHRP Manager to continue production of the annual Pentland Hills Ranger service work plans taking into account the prioritised implementation of the PHRP Plan actions.							
PHRP Manager to initiate recommended specific theme strategies, plans, and surveys contained in Themes A-D and project manage the processes. The PHRP Manager to also implement and oversee the PHRP Plan monitoring regime to provide required management information on progress of Plan delivery.							
PHRP Manager to lead and direct the Pentland Hills Ranger service staff in existing and potential partner dialogue to enhance participation commitment geared towards securing the implementation of the recommended PHRP Plan actions.							
PHRP Manager to ensure that staff understand the rationale behind the PHRP Plan actions and have the fullest opportunity to contribute in formulating the detailed activities required in delivering the specific PHRP Plan actions							



AIM : To Secure the Personnel Resources Necessary to Make the Full Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan a Realistic and Achievable Goal							
PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
Maintain and recruit staff (subject to funding availability) of appropriate professional and technical experience who can pro-actively contribute towards the Plan actions implementation							
PHRP Manager to prepare the business case for additional PHRP staff (if required) utilising the PHRP Plan as the basis of justification (see also Theme D – “Maintain and enhance the role/ remit of the Pentland Hills Ranger service as the core delivery mechanism of the day-to-day Pentland Hills Regional Park management” aim)							
PHRP Manager to consider specific staff training requirements highlighted by scope of the PHRP Plan and to draw up an action programme of training requirements and professional development opportunities for existing staff complement.							
PHRP Manager to continue and develop individual staff training logs which set out identified training requirements (including areas identified by the staff members themselves) and identify training support requirements and timescales.							
AIM : To Secure the Necessary Funding Resources Necessary to Make the Full Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan a Realistic and Achievable Goal							
PHRP Manager to utilise the prioritised implementation of the PHRP Plan actions in forward planning of operational management and project budgets.							
PHRP Manager to initiate actions included in Theme D – “Secure commercial sponsorship support for the delivery of Pentland Hills Regional Park project initiatives” aim as a specific funding strand in seeking to secure additional financial support for the PHRP Plan delivery.							
AIM : To Fully Engage Pentland Hills Regional Park Management Stakeholder Groups in the Processes Required to Deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan							
PHRP Manager to continue the production of management information keeping the stakeholder groups fully informed of the ongoing implementation progress of the PHRP Plan eg Joint Committee, Management Group and Consultative Forum through established procedures eg formal meetings, annual reports, annual business planning processes etc.							



PHRP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 to 2017
PHRP Manager to consider adjustments to existing management communication fora, or other communication options if deemed appropriate.							
<i>AIM : To Promote Awareness and Understanding of the Rationale, Aims and Benefits of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan to the General Public</i>							
PHRP Manager to devise a Plan promotional/information strategy including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authority Access Officers; Local Access Forums; Community Councils; Liaison with the “Friends of the Pentlands” and other groups; Use of the PHRP website eg posted features on proposed Plan actions, updates on implementation of current actions and completed actions; Ongoing articles included in the Pentland Beacon newsletter; News updates posted on noticeboards at the Flotterstone and Harlaw visitor centres. 							
Pentland Hills Ranger service staff to incorporate this “AIM” in educational programme content delivered to community groups, schools etc.							
<i>AIM : To Monitor on an Ongoing Basis the Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan</i>							
PHRP Manager to develop and agree a finalised Monitoring Strategy (including a range of measurable indicators – <i>such as those examples highlighted as potential indicators in section 6 of the PHRP Plan</i>) - to be used to determine the success of the PHRP Plan delivery. The measurable indicators to embrace all five Themes.							
<i>AIM : To Promote the Monitoring of Data Relevant to the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plans Aims</i>							
Formulate a monitoring strategy with respect to the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (Council Directive (EC/97/11) and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005							



6. The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Monitoring and Review

6.1 Monitoring the Implementation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

It will be fundamental that the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis to monitor the success of the Plan delivery in terms of the prioritised timescale targets - as set out in the preceding chapter. The Plan should be viewed as a fluid document in the context of a number of factors:

- Continuation of existing Pentland Hills Regional Park initiatives (relevant actions carried forward from the IMS 2000-2005);
- Implementation of Plan proposals (which may, or may not, be completed during the time-span in which the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan has been set);
- Delay (or cancellation) of identified actions due to changes in circumstances unforeseen at the time of the formulation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan;

- The possible introduction of additional Plan proposals deemed appropriate in addressing changes in the Pentland Hills Regional Park's circumstances unforeseen at the time of the formulation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.

The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan has set out a number of Guiding Principles (*see Chapter 3*) which underpin the Plan aims, objectives and actions. The monitoring process should therefore assess whether, and to what degree, these guiding principles are being met through the delivery of the Plan, as this will impact upon the level of success in delivering the overall vision of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan. In order to achieve this the monitoring process should incorporate a set of indicators which will provide a snapshot at any given time of the rolling-out of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan as well as providing a cumulative picture of the Plan delivery across all of the five Plan Themes.

6.2 Proposed Monitoring Indicator Themes

Table 6.1 summarises proposed Monitoring Indicator Themes and their relevance to each of the defined "Guiding Principles" for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan. Section 6.3 provides details for each of the proposed Monitoring Indicator Themes including examples of specific monitoring indicator measures already incorporated into the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan as delivery actions.

These indicator examples are intended to be illustrative at this point in the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan formulation process as it is a specific short-term management action recommendation (*Theme E – "Monitor on an Ongoing Basis the Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan"*)



aim) that a Monitoring Strategy for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan be developed and agreed – which would include the finalised definition of the measurement indicators to be used where applicable. **Table 6.1 - Summary of Proposed Monitoring Indicator Themes and Relevance to Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Guiding Principles**

MONITORING INDICATOR THEME	SCOPE OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES									
	Enhanced Social & Economic Benefits	Responsible Public Enjoyment Activities	Contribution to relevant cross-cutting Agendas	Increased Public Education	Landscape Conservation & Enhancement	Biodiversity Conservation & Enhancement	Cultural Heritage Conservation	Enhanced Partnership Support	Highest Quality Services Delivery	Monitoring & Measurement of Timescale Targets, Aims and Objectives
User Activity	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
User Experience		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
User Education	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Visitor Transport Profiles		*	*		*					*
Agricultural Activity & Business Sustainability	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Land Management Change	*			*	*	*	*	*		*
Community vibrancy	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*
Landscape Change	*	*		*	*	*		*	*	*
Species and Habitats Change	*	*		*	*	*		*		*
Cultural Heritage Change				*			*			*



6.3 Proposed Plan Monitoring Indicators

A potential checklist of specific monitoring indicators has been derived from the scope of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan action recommendations. These potential indicators – together with their suggested monitoring frequency - are outlined in the following sections.

(1) User Activity

The Pentland Hills Regional Park is a valuable leisure and recreational resource offering a range of passive and active pursuits in an attractive landscape and environment setting. Monitoring of user activity will assist the responsible participation and management objectives and contribute to balancing the user activity with the other Pentland Hills Regional Park land use activity.

Potential Indicators include:-

- Development and extension of existing path and facility audit to enhance baseline information reference of actual and future visitor requirements (*Short Term*);
- Patterns of visitor activity (location and types of activity) within the Pentland Hills Regional Park boundaries (*Medium Term*);
- Visitor numbers to the proposed new Flotterstone Gateway Centre (*Ongoing*).

(2) User Experience

Both existing, and future, Pentland Hills Regional Park visitors will have expectations of a high quality experience from their Pentland Hills Regional

Park visit. Monitoring both the condition of the Pentland Hills Regional Park facilities and infrastructure as well as changing market trends will assist the PHRP to manage the visitor experience and maintain/enhance the quality levels.

Potential Indicators include:-

- Addressing Pentland Hills Regional Park improvement qualitative research findings contained in the 2005/2006 Pentland Hills Regional Park Visitor Survey (*Short Term*);
- Quantitative and qualitative findings emerging from the recommended follow-up Visitor survey – including a comparison with the 2005/2006 Visitor Survey findings eg has the user experience improved or deteriorated during the intervening period?; are their unfulfilled needs requiring Pentland Hills Regional Park management attention etc? (*Medium Term*);
- Update of Paths and Facilities Inspection report (*Ongoing*).

(3) User Education

Visitor education is fundamental to developing responsible usage of the Pentland Hills Regional Park as well as enhancing awareness, understanding and appreciation of the mixed land use environment.

Potential Indicators include:-

- Number of Pentland Hills Regional Park land managers voluntarily engaging in educational programmes (*Short Term*);
- Number of “hits” on the Pentland Hills Regional Park web-site (*Ongoing*);



- Numbers of, and those participating in, Pentland Hills Ranger service led education programmes (*Ongoing*).

(4) Visitor Transport Profiles

Visitor traffic volumes and modes, to, and around, the Pentland Hills Regional Park have a fundamental impact on the Pentland Hills Regional Park's management, its environmental quality and on the communities living and working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park. Monitoring the visitor transport profiles will assist in encouraging more sustainable visitor transport activity in the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

Potential Indicators include:-

- Number of core paths linking settlements surrounding the Pentland Hills Regional Park into the Pentland Hills Regional Park included in the City of Edinburgh and Midlothian Councils finalised Core Paths Plans (*Short Term*);
- Levels of use of public transport eg numbers using bus services to new Flotterstone Gateway Centre (*Medium Term*);
- Levels of use of Pentland Hills Regional Park car parks (*Ongoing*).

(5) Agricultural Activity & Business Sustainability

Agriculture is the predominant business activity and a significant land use within the Pentland Hills Regional Park which has an influence on the landscape of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, the land management, as well as contributing to the Pentland Hills Regional Park employment and economy. Monitoring the extent of the agricultural activity will therefore provide useful information on any changes which have an economic

consequence or potential environmental implications for the Pentland Hills Regional Park management.

Potential Indicators include:-

- Number of renewable energy generation/energy conservation schemes (*Short Term*);
- The change in the number of producers participating in the "Pentland Produce" brand scheme (*Ongoing*);
- Number of farm and/or other business start-up, development, diversification projects (*Ongoing*).

(6) Land Management Change

The Pentland Hills Regional Park is a living, mixed, land use environment where changes in the land management regimes could have a fundamental effect on other land use activities as well as impacting upon the natural environmental qualities of the Pentland Hills Regional Park. Monitoring the land management changes provides important management information on the Pentland Hills Regional Park environment and the potential cumulative effects which are relevant to the overall Pentland Hills Regional Park management and operation.

Potential Indicators include:-

- Establishment of a Code for Sporting Shooting within the Pentland Hills Regional Park (*Short Term*);
- Changes in the levels of heather moorland cover, woodland planting etc (*Medium Term*);
- Changes brought about by farming commitments to Land Management Contract opportunities (*Ongoing*).



(7) Community Vibrancy

There are a number of people residing within the Pentland Hills Regional Park boundaries and who contribute to the life of the Pentland Hills Regional Park through participation in community based initiatives, economic activity eg employment and expenditure in the Pentland Hills Regional Park, and pro-active involvement in the Pentland Hills Regional Park management eg community council representation on the Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum. Sustaining and enhancing socially inclusive communities within the Pentland Hills Regional Park should be a fundamental goal and monitoring the health and pulse of the Pentland Hills Regional Park communities should be an ongoing activity.

Potential Indicators include:-

- Membership of the “Friends of the Pentlands” and their agreed role in assisting the delivery of those elements of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan commensurate with the Friends objectives (**Short Term**);
- Changes in economic benefits for the Park communities brought about by visitor activity in the Park (**Medium Term**);
- Levels of community volunteering eg participation in the voluntary Pentland Hills Regional Park Ranger service (**Ongoing**).

(8) Landscape Change

The distinctive landscape character of the Pentland Hills Regional Park and its contribution to the landscape setting of Edinburgh is the reason why the Pentland Hills Regional Park is a special environment. The landscape is made up of topography and natural processes, historical and current land management activity and the Pentland Hills Regional Park’s biodiversity.

Monitoring change gives an indication of the likely pressures on the landscape and assists in defining management actions required to conserve and enhance it.

Potential Indicators include:-

- Changes in field boundary features eg drystone dykes, hedges and fences (**Short Term**);
- Land use cover change eg forestry and woodland, agricultural practices, built development etc (**Ongoing**);
- Visual changes caused by development proposals outside the Pentland Hills Regional Park boundary – but which impact upon the Pentland Hills Regional Park setting from key viewpoints both within and outside the Pentland Hills Regional Park (**Ongoing**).

(9) Species & Habitat Change

The Pentland Hills Regional Park biodiversity is impacted upon by a range of potential factors such as land and water pollution, climate change, land management practices, built development, recreational activity etc. Monitoring the Pentland Hills Regional Park species and habitat changes therefore provides important management information concerning the potential effects of a number of factors and assists in defining management actions required to conserve and enhance the Pentland Hills Regional Park biodiversity.

Potential Indicators include:-

- Changes in the condition of designated sites within the Pentland Hills Regional Park (**Medium Term**);



- Changes in populations of protected flora and fauna species as well as invasive species (*Medium Term*);
- Progress in delivering the relevant actions already identified in the three Local Biodiversity Action Plans (*Medium Term*).

(10) Cultural Heritage Change

The Pentland Hills Regional Park's cultural heritage includes the built and historic environment, and similar to the Pentland Hills Regional Park's landscape and biodiversity features, will potentially be affected by a range of factors such as land management regimes, visitor activities, built development etc. Monitoring the ongoing condition of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's cultural heritage assets will be central to their long-term conservation, preservation and management. In addition, monitoring of visitor awareness and understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's cultural heritage would assist in the overall Pentland Hills Regional Park management.

Potential Indicators include:-

- Numbers of cultural heritage features at risk and requiring prioritised maintenance/repair works (*Medium Term*);
- Number of Pentland Hills Ranger service-led public education events focussing on cultural heritage features within the Pentland Hills Regional Park (*Ongoing*);
- Numbers attending the Pentland Hills Ranger service-led events focussing on cultural heritage features within the Pentland Hills Regional Park (*Ongoing*).

6.4 Reviewing the Implementation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

The information emerging from the ongoing monitoring of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan (as set out in section 6.1 above), should be used to inform the formal review of the Plan. The focus of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Action Programme is set within an initial short to medium 6 Year period (2007/08 to 2012/13) corresponding to the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils financial year cycles. The Plan also takes into account longer-term requirements beyond this main timescale – up to an overall 10 Year Plan period (as detailed in Table 5.1).

The first formal detailed review of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan should therefore be undertaken in Year 5 – during the financial year prior to completion of the initial short to medium term period - with a second review programmed for Year 10 which would correspond with the completion of the main Plan period. The purpose of both these Plan implementation reviews would be to:

- Identify whether the defined Plan actions have been initiated/delivered against the allocated prioritised timescales;
- Identify delivery progress across all the five Plan Themes – and to highlight areas requiring specific attention eg where there is significant programme slippage of initiated actions or where prioritised actions that should have been initiated have not even commenced;
- Consider whether re-prioritisation of specific Plan actions is required either due to lack of delivery activity or due to changing circumstances unforeseen during the initial formulation of the Plan;



- Identify and confirm action priorities for the following 3 Year periods ie Years 6-9 (*after the first review in Year 5*) and Years 11-13 (*after the second review in Year 10*) and ensure that agreed action priorities are included in the local authority forward budget planning cycles.

In addition, the Plan review process would provide the Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager with the appropriate Plan implementation information to report to the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee and the Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum. Information from the ongoing Plan monitoring activity could obviously be drawn upon by the Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager in preparing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Annual Reports.





PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

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Boats Glencorse - Malcolm Fyfe
Busy Boats Fishing - Donna Partridge
Butterfly - Steve Chambers
Glencorse Reservoir from Castle Hill - Catherine Thomson
Hare - Steve Chambers
Harlaw Reservoir - John McDonald
Harperrig Reservoir - PHRP
Juniper Berries - PHRP
Ladybird - PHRP
Panorama - George Kemp
Snowy Hills - Victor Partridge
Waterfall - Melville Mitchell
Hill Runner - PHRP
Mountain Biker - Specialized Bicycles
Threipmuir Reservoir - Ken Glass
Hill and Plantation View (from Bonaly) - Ken Glass





Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan (2007 - 2017)
Prepared by



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