

Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2021- 2031



View of Edinburgh looking North from Easter Craiglockhart Hill Viewpoint ©Andrew Law

To secure the long-term future of Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve (ECHLNR) by conserving and enhancing both the natural and the designed landscapes and promoting its continued enjoyment by the public.

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1. Introduction by Friends of ECH

Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve covers the northern side of the hill. The diverse habitats include mature and plantation woodland, scrubland, upland meadows, rocky outcrops, a marsh and a pond. Easter Craiglockhart Hill is one of the 'Seven Hills' of Edinburgh.

In May 2018, as a condition of the granting of planning permission for the Craighouse development on the east side of the Hill, three areas of woodland were transferred by the developers into Council ownership. This transfer means that the area of the Local Nature Reserve has increased by approximately 50% and now extends to more than 35 acres. This new Management Plan includes many proposed improvements and developments for these transferred areas.

The Plan covers a period of ten years but will be reviewed after five years. A rolling 'Community Plan' put together by the Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill complements this Management Plan. The Community Plan covers a three-year time period, is updated annually and addresses many micro-management issues. It can be accessed on www.eastercraiglockharthill.org. The specific plans of the Council for each calendar year will be summarised annually on the Community Plan.

Both the established and the newly inherited woodlands are in reasonably good order. Good practice in woodland management is set out in Section 6.1.1 and in the Workplan. The Craighouse woodlands will be improved by planting more native species such as oak and Scots pine and by creating spaces for recreational use. The upland meadows will continue to be mowed and raked and wildflower meadows will be maintained and improved.

The bird and plant life on and around Craiglockhart Pond will be protected and nesting habitats improved. There is an impressive diversity of animals, birds and plants in the Local Nature Reserve. Over the duration of the Plan, all species will continue to be protected with special attention to those, like badgers, that require statutory protection.

Monitoring of littering, dog waste and anti-social usage will continue.

Routine monitoring and maintenance responsibilities will continue to be shared between the Council and the Friends Group with an important contribution from volunteers. Over the past decade, there has been a gradual informal devolution of land management tasks and responsibilities from the Council to the Friends Group. The potential for further devolution and for a more formal management agreement will be explored.

Most of the main paths are in reasonably good condition but a comprehensive programme of path improvements is planned, especially to the paths leading to the hill-top from the north side of the Hill and to the inherited paths in Craighouse Woods. Details are set out in the Workplan.

The Local Nature Reserve is extensively used by local schools, nurseries and youth groups and Craiglockhart Primary School runs a weekly Forest School.

The Friends Group has organised a program of 'Walks and Talks' on varied historical and environmental topics.

A Community Engagement Worker, funded through the Big Lottery, was appointed by the Friends Group in the autumn of 2018. This has made it possible to recruit more volunteers, to organise more events and activities, to design educational materials for young people and to work towards better inclusion of people with special needs and from areas of social deprivation.

The Local Nature Reserve will continue to be managed through a working partnership between the Natural Heritage Service of the City of Edinburgh Council and the Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill. It will be important to seek input into this Plan and into significant future developments from

community members and from all stakeholders in the future management of the hill – schools, churches, Community Councils, elected members and many others.

The Local Nature Reserve is extensively used for access and recreation by all sorts of different groups – walkers, dog walkers, runners, cyclists, ‘birders’, photographers and simply those who love nature. Recreational use that does not damage the environment will be encouraged. Plans for waymarked paths will improve navigation. The Local Nature Reserve will be promoted as a ‘Green Gym’ offering opportunities for varied sporting and recreational activities.

Directional signage and threshold signage at entrances are poor and need to be improved. Interpretation signage is limited. Proposals to improve signage and interpretation are set out in Section 6 and in the Workplan.

Disability access is limited by the topography of the hill, but path and signage improvements will be designed to promote better access.

Easter Craiglockhart Hill was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 2005. It is also protected through Fields in Trust Status. The legal framework is summarised in Section 6.2.

Provisional and indicative costs for improvements and developments are set out in the Workplan. Funding may come from mainstream Council Budgets, from external grant funding accessed by the Council or by the Friends Group or from the S75 grant made to the Council as a condition of planning consent for the Craighouse development. This S75 fund of £150,000 is to be used for “maintenance of the woodland areas for the benefit of the community and the development”. Spending decisions based on consultation and partnership working will make it possible to achieve the goals set out in this Plan.

No radical or controversial changes to Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve are presented in this Management Plan. The feedback from the people who spend time there is that no such changes are needed. At the end of the 10-year period, it is hoped that the woodlands will have been improved, the paths will be in better repair and access and navigation will have been made easier. The Local Nature Reserve will continue to be a haven of peace and serenity in the heart of the city.

2. Management/ Information

2.1 Site information

Site name	Easter Craiglockhart Hill
Grid reference	NT 232 706 (Centre): 1:50,000 OS66
Area	23.1 Ha
Height	158m

Various site maps can be found within Section 5.2, Appendix B.

2.1.1 Location and Access

Nestled between the peaceful residential areas of Morningside and Craiglockhart within South West Edinburgh, Easter Craiglockhart Hill rises dramatically through cliff-faces and steeply wooded slopes to a plateau of foot-worn short grass, featuring views out over the Forth, the Trossachs, the Pentlands and East Lothian, as well as the fascinating city-scape all around.

There are five main access points for the site. Glenlockhart Road in the South, Craighouse Road and Craiglea Place in the East, Lockharton Crescent and Craiglockhart Sports Centre in the north, and Craiglockhart Terrace in the West. There are two access points specifically designed for wheelchair

access (see Appendix A). Efforts have been made to improve all the entrances and to ensure that they are welcoming and accessible.

Major path works took place in 2008 which included the construction of a ramp, new wooden steps and path upgrades within the site. The section of path that runs from Craiglockhart Pond, behind Craiglockhart Sports Centre and private gardens to the junction at golf course wall was carried out later in 2011, with major drainage also being installed.

2.1.2 Ownership/ tenure

The Local Nature Reserve (LNR) as shown on the boundary map, Appendix A, is owned and managed by the City of Edinburgh Council, Place Directorate, Forestry and Natural Heritage (CECFNH) with active input from the Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (FECH). It was previously managed by a management group which included the two landowners: the City of Edinburgh Council Forestry and Natural Heritage (CECFNH) (formerly the City of Edinburgh Council Countryside Ranger Service and separate Forestry Service); and Edinburgh Napier University plus representatives from the local community Friends of Craiglockhart Woods and Nature Trail, (now FECH). This includes an area of land previously owned by Edinburgh Napier University, which will increase the previous area of land managed by approximately 50%. The Local Nature Reserve can therefore be extended and managed with the continued support of the local community. With the transfer of this land from the Craighouse Development, the Council also received £150,000 of Section 75 funds to keep and maintain the woodland in perpetuity and is to be and be controlled by the Council as per transfer agreement within the Section 75 document. The funds will be used in conjunction with plans and projects from both the Council and users of the park through FECH.

The importance of so much greenspace around the LNR, providing both a buffer zone to urban sprawl and additional foraging for wildlife, cannot be underestimated. Consequently, maintaining good relations with adjacent landowners is critical. Green Belt policy designation of the surrounding fields will likewise assist in safeguarding the adjacent landscape.

2.1.3 Recreation

The area is much appreciated and well used by local people as a place to take children, to walk dogs, to appreciate nature or to exercise. One of the entrances, that from Craiglockhart Terrace, was used for boules or petanque as well as the Happy Valley Trail starting from there and carrying on along the pond, designed as an easy trail for people with limited mobility. Birdwatchers particularly enjoy the area around the pond as well as families with young children who make regular trips to watch and feed the ducks.

All the paths are well used by walkers enjoying the opportunity to experience the countryside within the city. The nature trail can provide a focus for a structured walk. Regular use is made of the site by dog walkers. It is also a popular route for runners and cyclists, with cycle racks at the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance and outside the sports centre. Due to its elevation, the LNR can be seen from all over the city.

The CECFNH and volunteers monitor access and recreation through regular patrolling which is logged at the Natural Heritage headquarters at the Hermitage of Braid. This information is used to prioritise works requiring to be carried out by FNH and the various groups that they work with. Any work that cannot be carried out by the Natural Heritage department of CECFNH, such as tree work (e.g. involving climbing), will be passed to the Forestry section. In addition, funding will be sought to bring in contractors for larger projects e.g. extensive wall repairs or the upgrading of paths.

2.2 Partnerships

Stakeholders: Easter Craiglockhart LNR is open to all members of the public who wish to use the site in a responsible manner, particularly the local community in the form of the FECH who take a very active role in managing the reserve.

Main users: The site is used by many different user groups including walkers, schools for educational activities, dog walkers, cyclists, runners, horse riding and as a location for events such as weddings, theatre productions, orienteering competitions, and geocaching.

Adjacent Landowners: to the south, the site is bordered by the Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Course. The north, east, north-west, and south-west of the LNR is fringed by private properties, with sizeable gardens containing a variety of ornamental and indigenous flora. The last portion of the west boundary is taken up by Craiglockhart Sports Centre.

2.2.1 Outdoor Education

The local nursery school makes very good educational use of the LNR. The children are regularly taken on walks so that they can appreciate nature throughout the year. Local schools make field visits to the site to support their class work. The CECFNH work to facilitate schools and community groups on site.

A forest school programme has run on the site since 2010 With local schools and nurseries visiting every week of the year and other groups running forest school programmes during the holidays.

2.3 Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve

2.3.1 Designations

Craiglockhart Hills were first designated a Conservation Area in March of 1977 and updated in 1993 to include the area north-east of the pond. The current LNR was identified as an Area of Great Landscape value, and of specific nature conservation interest in 1992. These designations were then effectively superseded by the site's identification as an Urban Wildlife Site, in the City of Edinburgh Council's Urban Conservation Strategy for Edinburgh, (1992). This was updated when the area was awarded Local Nature Reserve Status in 2005, under the terms of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. As such, the park now enjoys statutory protection as a nature reserve. It was listed as a Local Biodiversity Site, Designated Conservation Area, and Area of Great Landscape value in the Edinburgh City Local Plan which was adopted in 2016. It is also a Geodiversity site.

Within the LNR there are additional designations, including the Ancient Woodland of Plantation origin covering more than 3.5 Hectares, Semi-natural Park, and Semi natural greenspace.

The area of Local Nature reserve currently extends from the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance, south to Glenlockhart Road and then up the hill to the upper grassland which encompasses the hilltop. The boundary of the LNR has been extended to include all transferred land from the Craighouse Development. This includes Craighouse Woodland and the locally called "Meadowspot Woodland".

This wildlife site has been evaluated against, and passed, the Council Local Biodiversity Sites (2006+) assessment system for identifying sites of local importance for nature conservation and is recognised and protected as a Local Biodiversity Site (Local Nature Conservation Sites) in the Planning Authority's Development Plan.

Assessment description:

A diverse area of woodland, wetland, unimproved grassland and scrub all of which are uncommon in the area. The plant species diversity is average but there are several local

grassland and freshwater rarities. The site is a large, partly natural area of mixed habitat which is important for walking, dog walking and boating and provides a significant viewpoint over the city. The area is used for some interpretive and educational purposes.

The CECFNH uses spreadsheets, which enables them to record flora and fauna on the sites they manage. The information about individual sites is then used to monitor species and manage the habitats on these sites. Occasional specialist wildlife surveys of the site take place including a fungal survey in 2017, fungi, butterfly and other records from visits of groups such as the Edinburgh Natural History Society, and The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) the local biological records centre.

Assessed habitats (see Habitat Type and Phase 1 Habitat map in Appendix C):

• Broadleaved semi-natural woodland	4.7 Ha
• Broadleaved plantation woodland	10 Ha
• Dense continuous scrub	1.2 Ha
• Unimproved neutral grassland	0.8 Ha
• Semi-improved neutral grassland	3.6 Ha
• Semi-improved acid grassland	0.1 Ha
• Coniferous plantation woodland	0.4 Ha
• Mixed plantation woodland	0.3 Ha
• Marsh/Marshy grassland	0.3 Ha
• Tall ruderal	0.1 Ha
• Amenity grassland	0.1 Ha
• Ephemeral grassland/short perennial	0.1 Ha
• Mesotrophic standing water	1.4 Ha

It is a Local Biodiversity Site notable for the following characteristics:

- Diversity of habitats
- Diversity of species
- Rarity of habitats
- Rarity of species
- Naturalness of site
- Extent of site

The site also contains fragile habitats, has educational potential and amenity value.

3. Management Delivery

3.1 Overall Management Aims

In depth prescriptions can be found in 6.1 – Management Aim Prescriptions

1. To maintain and enhance the nature conservation interest of the different semi-natural habitats which occur within the site.
2. To safeguard and where necessary enhance the populations of any threatened, endangered or typical species.
3. To maintain the aesthetic value of the site.
4. To provide educational opportunities for the local community, schools and visitors through interpretation.
5. Continue and increase community involvement.
6. To encourage responsible access and manage conflict.

7. To meet all legal obligations regarding the site.

the Council carries out quality assessments of its parks and gardens annually. The results are recorded as a Park Quality Assessment (PQA) score. The scoring system and criteria used is based on the Green Flag Award. Easter Craiglockhart Hill LNR consistently scores very highly, scoring 86% in 2021, the highest attaining park in Edinburgh. The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces. The Green Flag scheme in Scotland is currently administered by Keep Scotland Beautiful (see <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org>) and the Council holds 26 Green Flag Awards.

3.2 A welcoming place

3.2.1 How to get there

ECHLNR is well served by the local bus routes on nearby Glenlockhart Rd, Craighouse Rd and Colinton Rd, see <https://lothianbuses.co.uk> for up to date details. There is a small amount of car parking on the street at Lockharton Crescent, Craighouse Rd and Craiglockhart Terrace with good links to the nearby canal for walkers and cyclists. Visitors are encouraged to walk or cycle to the area if they live locally and to make use of the cycle racks or use the bus.

3.2.2 Equal Access for all

There are five main access points for the site. Glenlockhart Road in the South, Craighouse Road and Craiglea Place in the East, Lockharton Crescent and Craiglockhart Sports Centre in the north, and Craiglockhart Terrace in the West. There are two access points specifically designed for wheelchair access at Craiglockhart Terrace and the Sports Centre (see Appendix A). Efforts have been made to improve all the entrances and to ensure that they are welcoming and as accessible as possible.

The nature trail provides a focus for structured walks. Regular use is made of the site by dog walkers. It is also a popular route for runners and cyclists, with cycle racks at the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance and outside the sports centre.

3.2.3 Interpretation. Marketing and Communication

The main audience to this area is people who live in the local area and visit the area regularly. There are occasionally visitors and tourists from further afield, and even local people do not always know much about the area's history. The message conveyed by any interpretation should reflect the park's fascinating history and importance in the past to people and today as home to a surprisingly wide range of animals and plants.

The CECFNH manages 13 sites throughout the city and wishes to keep interpretation on these sites within recognisable style guidelines. They are also to be brought in line with the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries branding guidance. With this in mind:

- The interpretation should match the style and colouring of interpretation produced on other parks
- Made from sustainable hard-wearing material, vandal proof, can either be easily replaced or cleaned
- Must include the Council logo and the logo of any grant providers
- Fonts must be easy to read and distinguish letters in good contrasting colours
- Must be physically accessible and comply with government legislation

The content and final media which would be used will, within the guidelines, be decided in conjunction with the Friends' group. This may include a variety of media or keep to only one; the decision will be made once the local community have been consulted. The content will include

information about the history of the area as well as the wildlife that uses it today; the past and present will be explained through interpretation – either by an interactive trail, art or other media. For more detailed plans there is the Friends’ Community plan.

There is also the Friends of Craiglockhart Nature Trail leaflet which is undergoing an update and is available at www.eastercraiglockharthill.org. The website describes the flora and fauna, geology and history of the site. There is also a feedback page asking for feedback.

To ensure the involvement of members, the FECH produces and circulates a newsletter to all members and to the local community. They issue all newsletters by email to reduce paper usage. current work is going into the upgrading of the Nature Trail Leaflet, which is available via the website, which shows more clearly the access points and locations of bus stops.

Marketing and events are currently taken on by the Community Engagement Officer, employed by the Friends’ Group. It is hoped this position will continue to be funded as this provides significant exposure for the site and associated friends group. Running events such as history walks, foraging workshops and educational engagement. Marketing of the site is carried out through the Friends website and social media streams as well as the My Parks Scotland and Edinburgh Outdoors information webpages. Interpretation on site will be done through a mixture of official Council means and the friends’ group.

3.3 Healthy, safe and secure

3.3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is a common occurrence across Natural Heritage sites. There are small fire sites dotted around ECH as well as some drinking dens. When in use, these are reported to and interfaced with by the community officers and the natural heritage officers as often and wherever possible to attempt to reduce the misuse of the site. One of the aims of the management of the site is to increase usage so spots like this are used less for activities of a disruptive nature.

3.3.2 Fire

The lighting of fires seems to be a regular activity even though it is advised against doing so by the City of Edinburgh Council’s Park Management Rules. Liaison is undertaken with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as required enabling access for fire appliances, 4x4 vehicles and fire-fighters on foot, where sources of water can be found on the Hill and the logging of incidents attended by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Any woodland work or conservation activities where arisings are generated are kept from path edges/accessible areas at the request of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

3.3.3 Enforcement

The Environmental Wardens who are based within Localities through the Community Safety teams assist CECFNH by providing a visible presence, if required, with the aim of reducing dog fouling and littering offences. They will take enforcement against anyone found to be contravening the Dog fouling (Scotland) Act 2003. Any person found failing to pick up immediately after their dog is issued a Fixed Penalty Notice of £60, reduced to £40 if paid within 28 days. They also take the issue of littering very seriously, leaving or depositing litter is a criminal offence, therefore anyone seen to be contravening the Environmental Protection Act 1990, will be issued a Fixed Penalty Notice of £50.

3.4 Well maintained and clean

3.4.1 Grounds and structures maintenance

This aspect is managed by CECFNH but carried out more and more through organisation by the friends' group. Work is identified and if it cannot be remedied immediately while on site it is then reported and prioritised. Alternatively, volunteers may be brought in to assist or a contractor used, depending on the requirements. Areas and Responsibilities include:

- Cut grass and strimming – CECFNH/ Estates team/ FECH
- Entrances and around furniture – CECFNH/ Estates team/ FECH
- Informal Hedge – FECH
- Curling rink – CECFNH/ Estates team
- EC pond – Edinburgh Leisure (South Bank), CECFNH/ FECH North and East
- Biodiversity/ Meadow - Cut and raked by SWT/FECH
- Woodland – CECFNH Forestry service
- Path/hard Standing – CECFNH/ FECH/ Volunteers
- Pond/wetland – FECH/ Volunteers

Play Equipment or structures of a similar nature are inspected semi-regularly. Those designated officially are inspected by official Council play inspectors to maintain safety standards. Other areas of less formal play are inspected by both Natural Heritage Officers and Volunteers to inform on safety decisions of any structures and are fixed accordingly.

Paths

Paths are maintained and upgraded by a combination of work from volunteers, FECH and NH (using contractors when necessary). Specifications for paths are more and more coming under the outlines guided by Paths for All as a single, understandable way of both creating and informing users about paths and what kind of terrain they cover.

Within the transferred sections of land, there are works and upgrades to be carried out. S75 Funds transferred along with the land will be used for these upgrades. See Appendix D for a full breakdown.

Play structures

Designated play structures are overseen by NH but tested for compliance by the wider Council Play section. There are several of these natural play structures around the park and the FECH are keen on increasing this quota to improve play facilities for children within the park. These will mostly be targeted at casual walkers with areas of play next to benches for sitting at strategic locations around the park.

Meadows

There are currently 3 meadows on ECH. One small meadow by the main entrance from Craiglockhart Terrace and two located further into the park at an area called the meadow path. These meadows are ideally cut and lifted 3 times per year following SNH guidelines for unimproved meadow cultures. These cuts should be around March/April, August/September and October/November, giving time either side to allow flowers to bloom and drop seed before cutting. The task of cutting is carried out by NH estate team with raking often being taken on by volunteers from organisations such as SNH, SWT or FECH. If that is not possible, it is passed back to NH estate team.

3.4.2 Litter Maintenance/Confirm

There are litter bins available for visitors at main entrance points. They are emptied on a regular basis by Waste and Cleansing. Litter is picked by CECFNH staff while carrying out site inspections and any fly-tipping is removed as soon as possible. The Friends of Easter Craiglockhart and other local

organisations such as Brownie/Guide and Cub/Scout groups also undertake litter sweep of the site. This ensures that the site is kept to a high standard of cleanliness. There is an expectation that all users are responsible and take their rubbish home with them or use the bins provided.

3.4.3 Ezytreev

Ezytreev is a data management tool used by CECFNH Trees and Woodlands Officers for onsite tree data collection, surveying and reinspection. Tree works can be ordered and budgeted. Enquiries can be logged on a complaints management system. Ezytreev has digital mapping and GIS capabilities and it provides a complete tree risk management strategy. Trees may need to be felled for public safety due to several factors including storm damage, age or disease. Wherever possible these are monolithed to maintain as much biodiversity value as possible. In addition, any felled wood is retained on site unless diseased.

3.5 Environmental Management

As Easter Craiglockhart Hill LNR is a Natural Heritage Park, it does not use plantings that require peat.

Leaf litter, tree branches and fallen wood are left in situ if this is safe, or moved to areas away from paths if necessary, but are not taken away as waste. Any large items of rubbish removed from the park, particularly any fly-tipping, are taken to the local recycling centre where it can be separated rather than deposited in landfill.

This site is fortunate in having limited invasive species present which are managed in many ways. When present, these techniques include:

Reed mace – hand pulled

Giant hogweed- not present

Japanese knotweed- stem injection

Himalayan balsam- pulled by hand

Yellow Archangel – dug out

Most can be carried out by volunteers; however Giant Hogweed is recommended to be done by certified professionals due to its caustic hazardous nature.

Chemical herbicides are not used on site, volunteers and cutting attempt to sustain path edges and weed control. Herbicide application is only used when cultural practises will not provide adequate control. Only affected areas are treated and only then using strategies that are sensitive to the needs of the public and the environment. All operatives are trained to the approved certification level for the application of chemicals. Arisings of regular management (grass cutting, etc) are disposed of discreetly on site and not disposed of off-site. Arisings from INNS are disposed of in a way that they have a lowered chance of recurrence. E.g. Himalayan balsam is stacked in piles to decompose; yellow archangel is composted discreetly on site.

3.6 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

3.6.1 Woodlands

The mixed deciduous woodland on the site is of several distinct types. The majority is dominated by Sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Elm, *Ulmus sp.* and Beech, *Fagus sylvatica*. The shrub layer within the wood is patchy with a predominance of Elder, *Sambucus nigra*. The ground flora is well developed and has been undisturbed in some areas for many years so includes woodland maturity indicators such as Wood Sanicle; Dog's Mercury, *Mercurialis perennis*, Dog Violet, *Erythronium Pagoda*, Bluebells, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, and Primrose, *Primula vulgaris*. Part of the woodland grows on very steep slopes, indeed cliffs, which have undoubtedly kept parts safe from human

interference. However, the nature of the terrain prevents the growth of very mature trees which might otherwise be expected.

There are good specimens of Horse Chestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, over 200 years old, along the east edge of Craiglockhart Wood and the north edge of Craighouse Wood. There are also many mature Beech trees along the base of the hill, several of which have recently been removed. Other species of trees present include Sessile Oak, *Quercus petraea*, Scots Pine, *Pinus sylvestris*, Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*, Yew, *Taxus baccata*, and Holly, *Ilex aquifolium*.

Regeneration is occurring abundantly throughout the woodland. The main canopy species are all regenerating successfully, creating woodland with mixed ages of trees, indicating a lack of disturbance for some time. Sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, and Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*, are regenerating most successfully throughout the wood, with Elm, *Ulmus sp.*, being the most dominant species, particularly at the lower, northern edge of the woodland.

Another section of mixed woodland, to the north of the marshy area is quite different in character, it graduates from a wet Willow, *Salix sp.* dominated habitat, nearest the marsh, to an area of drier woodland dominated by Silver Birch, *Betula pendula*, and Sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, to the North. Despite the dense canopy there is a ground flora of tall herbs in many parts of this woodland. The trees are all young, growing close together with apparently successful regeneration of all species. Regeneration of Hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*, and Yew, *Taxus baccata*, from outside this area, is also occurring. And this woodland has been extended in recent years through the planting up with native species of the former derelict hotel building site by the local woodland group.

3.6.2 Plantations

There are three areas of plantation within the site. The largest plantation is coniferous, predominantly of Scots Pine, *Pinus sylvestris* with a few European Larch, *Larix decidua*, and an extremely poor and sparse ground flora. The small area of plantation where the old curling pond used to be is dominated by Yew, *Taxus baccata*. The deciduous plantation below Craighouse is of Beech, *Fagus sylvatica*.

3.6.3 Scrub

There are patches of the scrub species including Gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, and Bramble, *Rubus fruticosus*, in some areas of the grassland. This is a valid habitat and should be regarded as a positive asset to the site. Scrub is particularly beneficial for bird species providing food and shelter for nesting and roosting. However, control of gorse is carried out due to the safety implications from fire as well as its tendency to create monocultures if allowed to dominate. Loss of habitat will be offset by introduction of other native species including Blackthorn, *Prunus spinosa*, Hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*, Juniper, *Juniperus communis*, and Holly, *Ilex aquifolium*. Juniper was previously planted but not successful, however, further attempts are being made.

3.6.4 Grassland

The large area of neutral unimproved grassland, central to the site, is being invaded by tree species from the woodland which surrounds it on three sides and by Gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, which already dominates quite large areas. The main area of grassland is dominated by tall False Oat Grass, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, with other species including Cocksfoot, *Dactylis glomerata*, Yorkshire Fog, *Holcus lanatus*, Yellow Oat Grass, *Trisetum flavescens* and Timothy Grass, *Phleum pratense*.

In two or three areas, the vegetation is indicative of a more acidic substrate with Sheep's Fescue, *Festuca ovina*, Sheep's Sorrel, *Rumex tenuifolius*, Tormentil, *Potentilla erecta*, Heath Bedstraw, *Galium saxatile*, and Heath Woodrush, *Luzula multiflora*. Other smaller patches of vegetation which include Harebell, *Campanula rotundifolia*, Wild Thyme, *Thymus polytrichus*; Purple Milk Vetch, *Astragalus danicus*, and Crested Hair Grass, *Koeleria macrantha*, are indicative of strongly calcareous conditions. Thus, a wide variety of grassland species are found within a very small area.

Other parts of the grassland are dominated by stands of tall herbs such as Rose-bay Willow Herb, *Epilobium angustifolium*; Nettles, *Urtica dioica*, and Creeping Thistle, *Cirsium arvense*. Close to the woodland, particularly on the north, north east and North-West boundaries of the grassland, regeneration of species from the woodland is quite rampant. There is also some tree planting in the north-west corner. The species regenerating are mainly Sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, and Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*, with some European Larch, *Larix deciduas*, Wild Cherry/Gean, *Prunus avium*, and Rowan, *Sorbus aucuparia*.

3.6.5 Marsh

The marsh area between the boating pond and the wet willow woodland is dominated by two species, Hairy Willow-herb, *Epilobium parviflorum*, and Common Spike-rush, *Eleocharis palustris*, with Branched Bur Reed, *Sparganium erectum*, common throughout. Around the edge of the marsh are several young trees – Elder, Ash, Elm and Whitebeam, which do not appear to be encroaching.

This area has two native orchid species present, the Northern Marsh Orchid, *Dactylorhiza prupurella*, and the Common Spotted Orchid, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. The first has the Status of “local” and second the Status of “quite widespread” throughout Edinburgh, as listed in The Plant Life of Edinburgh and the Lothians (2002). Also present are two less common species - Reed Sweet Grass, *Glyceria maxima*, and Lesser Spearwort, *Ranunculus flammula*. Along the stream side nearest Lockharton Crescent, are many garden escapes, including Buddleia, *Buddleja davidii*, and Monkshood, *Aconitum sp.* The marsh and stream provide very successful breeding sites for the frogs, *Rana temporaria*, and toads, *Bufo bufo*. Also present are Sticklebacks, *Gasterosteus sp.* and large leeches.

3.6.6 Open water

The open water of the Craiglockhart Boating pond provides a breeding ground for Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*, Coots, *Fulica atra*, Goosander, *Mergus merganser*, and Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*, and is regularly visited by Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula*, Moorhens, *Fulica atra* and Heron, *Ardea cinerea*. The north end has been planted with two areas of vegetation that provides shelter for young birds and increases the biodiversity of the pond.

3.6.7 Fungi

Species of fungi are abundant in the LNR. All our records come from recorders and the general public and are passed on to The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) where we have a list of species found. Some such as Dead Man's Fingers, *Xylaria polymorpha*, Oyster Mushroom, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, and Tar Spot Fungi, *Rhytisma sp.*, and *Trabutia sp.*, are common, and often reflect the healthy nature of the woodland.

3.6.8 Soil

The area consists predominantly of Brown forest soils with gleying, non-calcareous gleys (poorly drained and leached grey soils).

3.6.9 Mammals, invertebrates and species of note

The LNR is host to a wide range of mammals and invertebrates including, but not limited to, Bats, Birds, Badgers, and Butterfly. The pond hosts a healthy variety of both transient and resident populations of birds. This includes the many of the common gulls, *Laridae*, ducks, geese, and swans *Anatidae*, to the less common Goosander. The woodland regularly supports large populations of finches, *Fringillidae*, and often green and spotted woodpeckers, *Picidae*. The woodland also supports populations of Badger, *Meles meles*. Several species of bat can be found on site, with the pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, being the most common. Butterflies can also be found around the hill, especially during warm summers around the wildflower meadow. You can find species such as the Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*, and Peacock Butterfly, *Aglais io*, as well as any others. You can find a full species list by request from CECFNH or TWIC.

3.6.10 Geology

Easter Craiglockhart, alongside Wester Craiglockhart, forms half of a designated Local Geodiversity Site. The landscape is formed mostly of volcanic rock modified by glacial moulding during the last 30,000 years to form a crag and tail landform. There are also areas of Old Red Sandstone which formed 400 million years ago under a shallow sea. Around 325 million years ago, volcanoes erupted, which cooled to form the hard, igneous rock which makes up most of the hill. This can be seen in the lava outcrops. The softer green coloured rock on the edge of the hill is Volcanic Tuff, which is volcanic ash, expelled when the volcano erupted. Later, earthquakes caused the rock to split leaving steep sided cliffs. Approximately 17,000 years ago a sheet of ice covered the area. When it melted the valleys were scoured out by meltwater, leaving the hills that are now present. A geological overview of the seven hills of Edinburgh can be found here:

http://edinburghgeolsoc.org/downloads/rigsleaflet_craiglockhart4.pdf

3.6.11 Historical context

A brief history of the area is provided in the Friends' Community Plan. Council Archaeologists have confirmed that the area of the LNR contains no known archaeological remains. Given the very common occurrence of prehistoric sites on almost every other similar hill (e.g. the Late Iron Age Hill Fort atop the adjacent Wester Craiglockhart Hill) within Edinburgh we could expect to discover some trace of prehistoric occupation on this site. Accordingly, any future proposal which would require ground-breaking works (e.g. new paths, drainage, extensive new tree planting), especially on or around the hilltop, should be discussed with the Council's Archaeological Service in order to assess what if any archaeological impact it may have.

It is thought that the name Craiglockhart may come from either the Lockhart Family, who owned the land in the 14th century or it is a description of the area i.e. A rocky hill by a loch: Craig- Loch- Ard (Gaelic).

In 1773 the estate was sold to the Munro family (a famous medical family). Alex Munro planted trees on Easter Craiglockhart and allowed local residents to walk there.

In 1917, the war poets, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen were treated in hospital at the Craiglockhart Hydropath, built in 1880. It was during this time they wrote their most moving poems. Above Easter Craiglockhart LNR, the magnificent 1894 neo gothic building of Craighouse Hospital still stands. These buildings were then the site of Edinburgh Napier University's Craighouse campus from the mid 1990's until 2011 when the property was sold to Craighouse Development for residential housing. While the residential estate will be sold separately, the mature woodland surrounding was transferred to Council in perpetuity in early 2018.

The area to the west of the site around Colinton Road is known locally as "Happy Valley", which comes from the many historical connections the area has with recreational pursuits. A Victorian curling pond was built at the end of Craiglockhart Terrace and in 1875 Craiglockhart Pond was built

for ice-skating. By the early 20th century there was also boating here and by the 1920's there was a dancehall and amusement centre on the site. Tennis has a long association with the area and the adjacent Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club dates to 1907. The present LNR and Craiglockhart Sports and Tennis Centre continue this long association with social and recreational activities.

3.7 Community involvement (Contributed by Friends of ECH)

3.7.1 Stakeholders

For nearly 250 years, Easter Craiglockhart Hill has been a destination where the people of Edinburgh could relax, exercise, have fun and enjoy the natural world.

The Friends Group exists to represent the views of the community. Well-attended AGMs and community consultations have provided structured opportunities for community feedback. Informal views are gathered when friends and neighbours meet when walking the dog or feeding the ducks on the pond.

In April 2018, the Friends Group was awarded a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to cover the costs of employing a part-time Community Engagement Worker for three years. The worker came into post in January 2019 and has already made a huge contribution towards achieving the goals set out in this plan.

The Community Engagement Worker has:

- Increased volunteer activity and land management skills through a Hill Work Squad and other volunteer initiatives
- Developed information and learning materials for young people and for people with additional needs
- Planned and delivered a range of events and activities aiming to be as inclusive as possible
- Boosted the social media profile and promoted Easter Craiglockhart Hill as a location for sport, exercise and family outings
- Increased active membership to more than 500 individuals
- Liaised with the Forestry and Natural Heritage section of the Council and with a wide range of community and environmental organisations
- Gathered feedback and consulted on activities and forward plans
- Been instrumental in creating waymarked trails through the Nature Reserve

These initiatives will be consolidated and extended during the remainder of the worker's employment.

3.7.2 Play and learning for young people.

An important objective of this Management Plan is to encourage children and young people to spend time in the Local Nature Reserve. To this end, play areas have been created with more on the way to encourage play and exploration on the site.

Craiglockhart Primary School started their Forest School Initiative in 2014 and meet in the woods every Wednesday. Every class in the school spends four sessions following the Forest School curriculum which combines play and exercise with learning about the natural world. The Forest School 'hub' is at the north-east corner of the Local Nature Reserve.

Local nurseries, holiday schemes and youth groups are all also regular visitors. Many of the children who spend structured time in the Local Nature Reserve with their school, nursery or youth group return to play informally at weekends and during holidays or visit with other family members. In 2019 and 2020, 'Family Fun Days' were piloted. Children enjoyed a variety of different activities including leaf painting, orienteering and raised rope courses.

The Friends Group will continue to work with local schools and youth groups (including those in areas less advantaged than Craiglockhart) to encourage them to spend time on the hill and learn

about their local environment. Learning material will be generated that will be consolidated into a Learning Pack and made available to schools, nurseries and youth groups.

3.7.3 Volunteers

Voluntary work on the Local Nature Reserve has taken many shapes and forms.

Workdays have involved local members of the community in a huge variety of tasks. Other volunteer contributions have come from 'The Dirty Weekend' (Edinburgh Universities Conservation group), from the Community Payback team, from the Green Team, from corporate groups, from local Scouts and from Duke of Edinburgh Award students.

The volume of voluntary work has increased as the area of the Local Nature Reserve has expanded and as more land management tasks have been devolved to the Friends Group from the Council. The 'Hill Work Squad' of the Friends Group had more than 50 members by the summer of 2019. The squad members are invited to monthly sessions over the course of the year with tasks varying according to the season – planting and pruning in the spring, strimming and meadow management in the summer, leaf clearing and path improvements in the autumn. A continued phased devolution of maintenance responsibilities is planned with advice and training from Natural Heritage staff.

3.7.4 Events

Various events have been organised over the years. For more than a decade, a popular annual fete was held in the curling rink area.

Programmes of 'Walks and Talks' began in 2017. They have been well attended with more than 200 participants in 2019. This programme included a Woodland Knowledge walk, a Foraging Workshop, a History Cruise along the Union Canal, a Woodland Mythology Walk, a War Poets Remembrance Walk and a Fungi walk.

Family Fun days in the summers of 2019 and 2020 offered a wide range of drop-in craft and exercise activities for primary age children and will be continued in future years.

Events bring the community together and reinforce the value of Easter Craiglockhart Hill to the surrounding community.

3.7.5 Projects

Over the next few years, three specific projects are planned to enhance community involvement across the Local Nature Reserve.

Better accessibility and signage

A high proportion of older people live locally - some in Care Homes or Sheltered Housing. Signage is poor throughout the Local Nature Reserve and seating is limited. This makes it difficult for some people to enjoy spending time on the hill. Activities and events are often not designed with older people or people with disabilities in mind.

Over the course of this plan, it is hoped to:

- Improve signage, especially in accessible areas, so that people can better understand where to go and what to see
- Replace existing notice boards and install new boards at more of the main entrances
- Install handrails and ramps in key locations
- Design part of the curling rink area at the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance specifically for older people: amenities could include specialised fitness equipment for low impact exercise, a small relaxation garden with sensory planting, small raised beds for gardening and plenty of seating

- Create a network of themed trails. Each trail would take a different route around the Hill and walkers would be guided by symbols or coloured way markers. At key points on each trail, there would be some simple information on a snap frame or using QR codes. A route suitable for people with mobility problems would avoid steep paths. The trails could be publicised by maps at entrances, in leaflets, and on websites and social media.

Better play provision for families and young children

With funding from South-West Neighbourhood Partnership, funding was secured in 2016 to build some simple play structures dispersed across five sites in the lower woods. All maintenance (fungicide application, wood preserver application, replacement wood, willow pruning, woodchip renewal etc) is carried out by the Friends Group.

These small play areas have proved to be popular and well used by schools, nurseries and local families. The play structures use natural materials like living willow and recycled timber. Now that woodland areas around Craighouse have been transferred into Council ownership, it is planned to establish play areas in the Craighouse Woods on the upper part of the Hill. This would be of particular benefit to all including families on the eastern side of the Hill who live at some distance from play parks.

Over the course of this plan, it is hoped to:

- Clear undergrowth and, in at least two locations, build play structures designed for pre-school and younger children. Fallen timber could be recycled to create stepping stones, balance beams and other simple play structures
- Chain saw and sculpt felled trunks to create seating and climbing opportunities
- Include benches and picnic tables for parents and families
- Design interpretation signage giving information about nearby plants, trees and wildlife.

Better habitats for water birds

Craiglockhart Pond was built for recreational uses like boating and skating but has evolved into more of a wildlife reserve. The pond is the most visited location in the Local Nature Reserve. Visitors enjoy watching and feeding the water birds and especially the resident swans. The annual hatching of the cygnets attracts hundreds of visitors. Nesting habitats are however limited. Two sides of the pond are eroding, and the rising water table makes paths muddy across the top of the pond. Privet (which is not a native species) grows between the path and the water edge on one side of the pond.

Over the course of this plan, it is planned to:

- Plant willow and other water-loving plant and shrubs along the side of the pond with a view to eventually replacing the privet
- Build a barrier fence along this same side using woven coppiced wood to protect nesting birds and keep dogs out of the water
- Build up the shore at the top of the pond using gabions (wire cages filled with stone) to stop erosion and create new nesting habitats
- Introduce 'floating islands' in suitable areas of the pond to further increase nesting habitats
- Install an Interpretation board at the top of the pond with information about the resident birds

3.7.6 Outdoor Education

The local nursery school makes very good educational use of the LNR. The children are regularly taken on walks so that they can appreciate nature throughout the year. Local schools make field visits to the site to support their class work. The CECFNH work to facilitate schools and community groups on site.

A forest school programme has run on the site since 2010 With local schools and nurseries visiting every week of the year and other groups running forest school programmes during the holidays.

4. Project Delivery and Workplan

Despite the range and number of actions that could be undertaken on ECHLNR, the plan is meant to be implemented in the real world of financial restrictions and limited staff availability. These actions focus on those which are specific, realistic, and achievable.

A yearly report on the actions of the workplan should be undertaken and recorded to ensure knowledge of actions and objectives is kept up to date. The management plan should be reviewed after 5 years to account for any major changes that would affect operations.

4.1 Project priority

Partners

The City of Edinburgh Council Forestry and Natural Heritage
Friends of Easter Craiglockhart

Volunteers

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

Acronyms/Abbreviations.

CECFNH

FECH

Vols.

SEPA

4.2 Workplan – 10 year

Objective	Actions	Actioned By	Year(s) for action										Report/Comments	Cost (£)
Hydrology/Wetlands														
To conserve and enhance the wetland habitats of the LNR.	Leave overhanging trees as areas of protection for smaller aquatic birds/fish/amphibians	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Improve biodiversity and pond cleanliness by introducing fully aquatic plants. Marginals, emergents, and submergents.	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Monthly litter clearance	CECFNH & Vols	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Monitor and remove invasive vegetation within Marshland	CECFNH & FECH		2			5			8				
	Conduct regular monitoring of water quality	SEPA & CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
To improve public safety awareness at water features	Ensure 'thin ice' signs and any other information needed are placed at appropriate watercourses when needed	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Geology and Geomorphology														
To preserve the geological and geomorphological landforms	Monitor site regularly through patrols, ensure no potential damaging operations take place.	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
To enhance public awareness about geology	Conduct geological guided walks across the LNR	FECH& British Geological Survey & CECFNH		2		4		6		8		10		

Soils													
To increase knowledge of soil profiles in LNR	Facilitate research projects and collect information	CECFNH and Tertiary Education Groups		2			5			8			
Woodland													
To ensure the woods have a diversity of age structures and species mix.	Initiate actions proscribed in the Councils "Trees in the City" Trees and Woodland Action Plan	Trees and Woodlands officer, Forestry Team, CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
To retain the landscape design elements of the woodlands	Retain tree avenues, replacing as necessary	CECFNH and Forestry Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
To ensure the woodland is kept in a safe condition	Removal of Elms affected with Dutch Elm Disease, outside the breeding bird season	Forestry Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	Clearance of dangerous limbs and trees	CECFNH and Forestry Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
To conserve the woodlands as a habitat for native flora and fauna	Continue to leave dead wood in situ, where safe	CECFNH and Forestry Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	New tree plantings to be species of native stock & high wildlife value	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	Apply relevant actions to enact Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	"Beat up" areas already planted with trees	CECFNH & Volunteers		2			5			8			

	Thin plantations to form glades/rides	CECFNH & Volunteers				4				8				
	Ensure survival of existing shrub layer species by thinning/pruning as required	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Update species lists for the wood	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Protect shrub layer by removing undesirable regeneration and garden escapes.	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Planting of early flowering natives (snowdrops/bluebells) where appropriate	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Scrubland														
	To contain the spread of gorse on ECH and maintain a sufficient scrub habitat for wildlife	CECFNH & Volunteers		2		4		6		8		10		
	Investigate and potentially replace gorse with plantings of Blackthorn, Hazel and other native shrub species	CECFNH & FECH	1		3						9			1000
Grassland														
	To conserve and enhance existing grassland habitats	CECFNH Estates Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		

	Monitor ECH and repair damaged areas by reseeding with native grass mix	CECFNH & Volunteers		2			5			8				
	Annual cut and lift of the wildflower meadows to retain diversity	CECFNH, Estates team, Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		100/yr
	Expand and introduce new areas of meadow as appropriate	CECFNH, Estates team, Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
To limit the spread of invasive weed species	Measure status of ruderal communities, and where they are increasing, deploy suitable control techniques, such as strimming.	CECFNH, Estates and Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Monitor and reduce identified invasive plant species, e.g. Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> , reed canary grass <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> , Yellow Archangel <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>Argentatum</i> , etc.	CECFNH, Volunteers, and Estates team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Remove garden escapes, exotic and naturalised regeneration aside from historically planted species.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		

Flora													
To conserve and enhance the population levels of native flora present within the LNR	Identify important plant species currently extinct or receding through surveys and comparison with historical records	CECFNH & Biodiversity Vols			3		5		7		9		
	Where possible, work towards reintroducing important floral species or protecting small populations where they occur, e.g. Crag/Rock Whitebeam	CECFNH & Biodiversity Vols			3		5		7		9		
	Implement, where relevant, recommendations of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Fauna													
To conserve and enhance the LNR for native fauna and increase understanding amongst the public.	Monitor and assess habitat boxes, replace or add new ones as necessary to ensure a diversity of habitats	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	Undertake Breeding Bird Survey in spring and enter records	CECFNH & Biodiversity Vols	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	Undertake counts of waterfowl at ECH Pond	Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

	Conduct Butterfly survey and submit records to Butterfly Monitoring	CECFNH & Biodiversity Vols	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Implement, where relevant, recommendations of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Improve knowledge about less well recorded fauna via survey work	CECFNH & Tertiary Education Groups			3		5		7		9			
	Monitor Bat Boxes		1		3		5		7		9			
	Monitor Bird Boxes			2		4		6		8		10		
	Monitor Badger Setts	CECFNH & Edinburgh Badger Grp	1		3		5		7		9			
The Historic Environment														
To preserve and upgrade the historic features of the LNR	Improve interpretative signage associated with historic features	CECFNH, Edinburgh Archaeology group							7	8	9			
Access														
To maintain access points and path network in good condition	Scrape Happy Valley Way and Meadowspot Path	CECFNH & Volunteers		2		4		6		8		10		
	Cut back or strim vegetation along paths 0.5 metres back along each side wherever possible	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		

	Monitor path drainage systems and repair as necessary	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		£1000/yr
	Monitor all step systems and repair as necessary	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Undertake path and associated infrastructure monitoring and report any defects to appropriate staff	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Upgrade paths within transferred areas (Birdsong Way, Pine Walk, Meadowspot Path and Zig-Zag Path)	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3								See Appendix D	£64,000
To enhance access for Special Needs Groups	Identify requirements and ways to develop access for special needs and disabled groups	CECFNH												
	Maintain 2 path systems for access by special needs groups (Craiglockhart Terrace and Craiglockhart Sports Centre) and seek new ways of providing access.	CECFNH and FECH/Vols												
Monitor, maintain, and upgrade paths	Monitor path network, arrange repairs as required and identify areas requiring major upgrades		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Install benches on site for rest stops		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Upgrade West Hilltop Path		1	2									See Appendix D	

	Upgrade East Hilltop Path		1	2										See Appendix D	
	Upgrade Upper Zig-Zag Path to Hilltop Path		1	2										See Appendix D	
	Block informal paths causing erosion on slopes. Use either fallen timber or plant native shrubs		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Recreation															
To encourage and facilitate responsible access and recreation	Develop closer links to all recreational user groups (i.e.: orienteering, horse riders)	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Reduce incidence of dog fouling through education and interpretation.	CECFNH & Environmental Wardens	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Monitor mountain bike use and remove inappropriate features such as jumps/berms - attempt dialogue with cyclists wherever possible.	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Regular inspection during site inspections of all physical features, and repairs undertaken as necessary	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Litter bin provision & twice within 4-day shift cycle emptying of all litter bins	Council Localities (south west)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Retain open aspect from viewpoints	Monitor and remove vegetation which obscures	CECFNH & Estates team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			

	views from the two look out points.														
To support and develop the 'Friends' group and assist where applicable in project implementation	Attend and support the Friends of ECH meetings and events	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1 per year minimum		
	Provide updates and information regularly to the FECH	CECFNH and other Council depts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Provision of technical and practical assistance to group projects.	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Undertake at least two task days per year	FECH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Fund raise to support maintenance and improvement works	FECH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Interpretation and education	Update and Distribute 2010 Nature Trail Leaflet for 2020, if not sooner.	FECH	1	2	3								Completed		
	Employ Educational and volunteer coordinator to facilitate groups	FECH, CECFNH	1	2									For review in 2022		
	Continue guided walk program	FECH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Continue to update web pages, include a map on the Councils website	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Update FECH website	FECH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			

	Replace wooden maps/notice boards with up to date interp.	CECFNH		2	3														£16,000	
	Review interpretation																		10	
	Replace and upgrade ECH Nature Trail markers	FECH	1	2	3															
Involve local people in management	Visitor Surveys and online consultations to get locals perception of ECH&LNR	FECH, CECFNH	1					5											10	
	Training for Site inspections and maintenance work	CECFNH → FECH	1	2				5											10	
	Survey training	CECFNH → FECH																		Birds, Wildflower meadows, Bats, Butterflies
To continue to facilitate a wide variety of educational and interpretative talks and visits to the public.	Promote and support all age/ability groups to use the site.	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10								
	Creation and facilitation of Tertiary Study Programme	CECFNH & Tertiary Education Groups	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10								
Across all Objectives																				
	Compile an annual work plan with further detail as required (include actions identified during patrols)	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10								
	Creation of up to date species list	CECFNH, TWIC, biodiversity volunteers		2		4		6		8		10								

	To monitor and evaluate success of actions	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Conduct a review of the management plan in 2026	CECFNH					5							
	To produce a revised management plan for 2031	CECFNH										10		
	Regularly update Confirm	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Dependant on Confirm being fully adopted	
	Implement, where relevant, recommendations of the annual Park Quality Assessment	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Work to resecure a Green Flag award for the LNR every year to recognise the high quality of the site as a public park and further site improvements	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Undertake regular site inspections; identify vandalism, graffiti, dog fouling, littering, fly tipping, garden waste dumping etc. and take remedial action as required	CECFNH - Env Wardens	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Extend Boundaries of LNR to include Craighouse woodland	CECFNH	1											

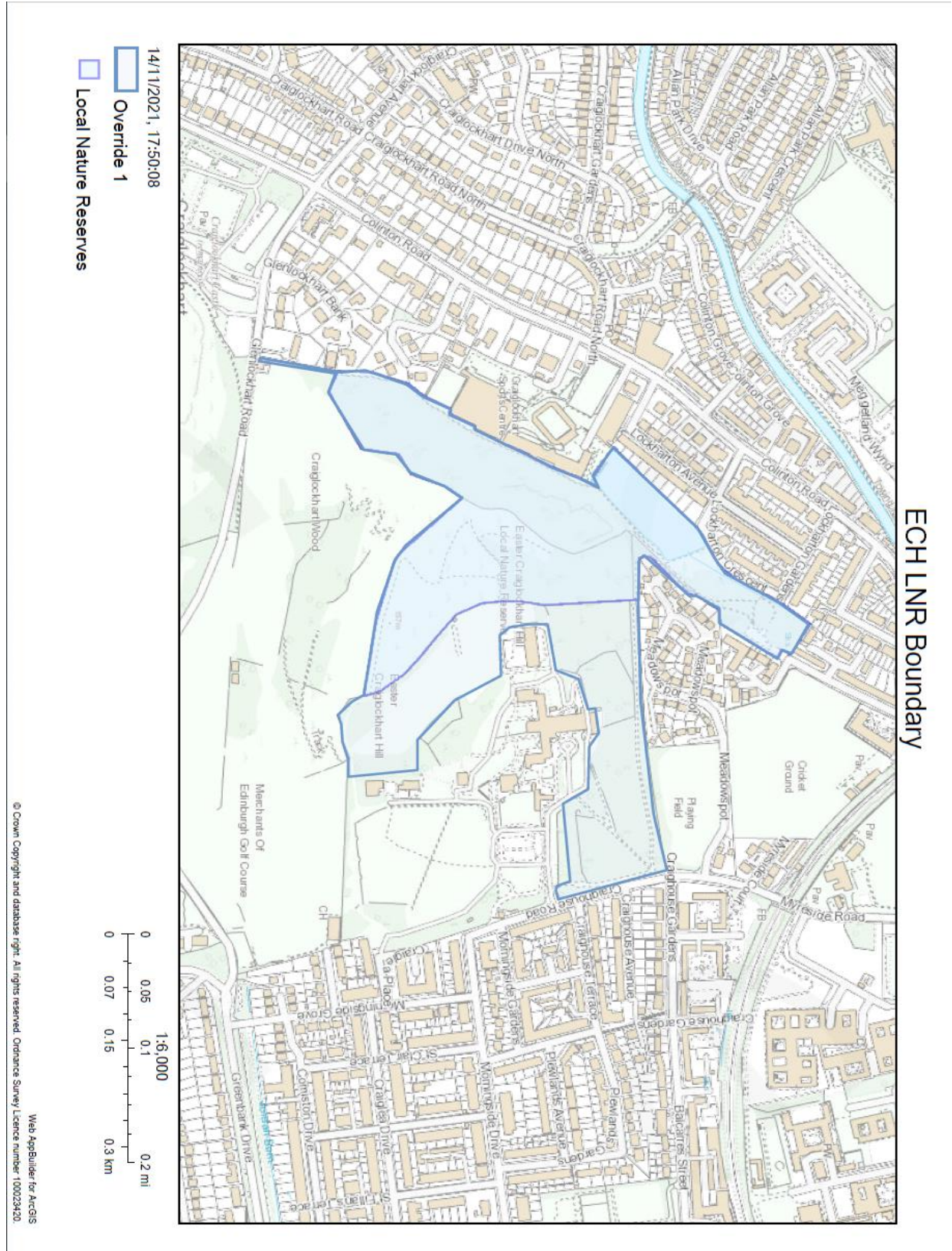
5. Appendices

5.1 Appendix A ECH Map created by FECH

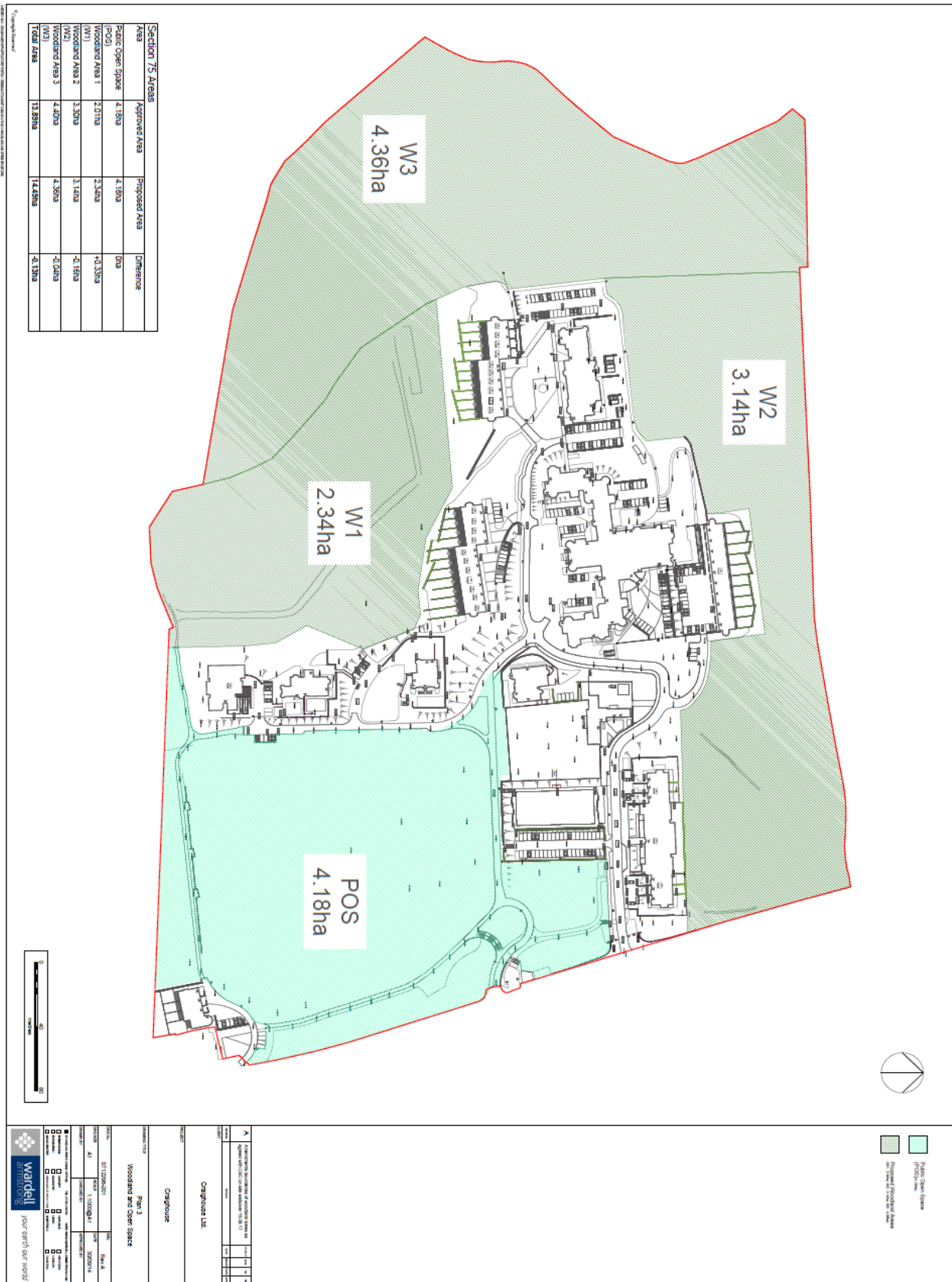


5.2 Appendix B Ownership and boundary Maps

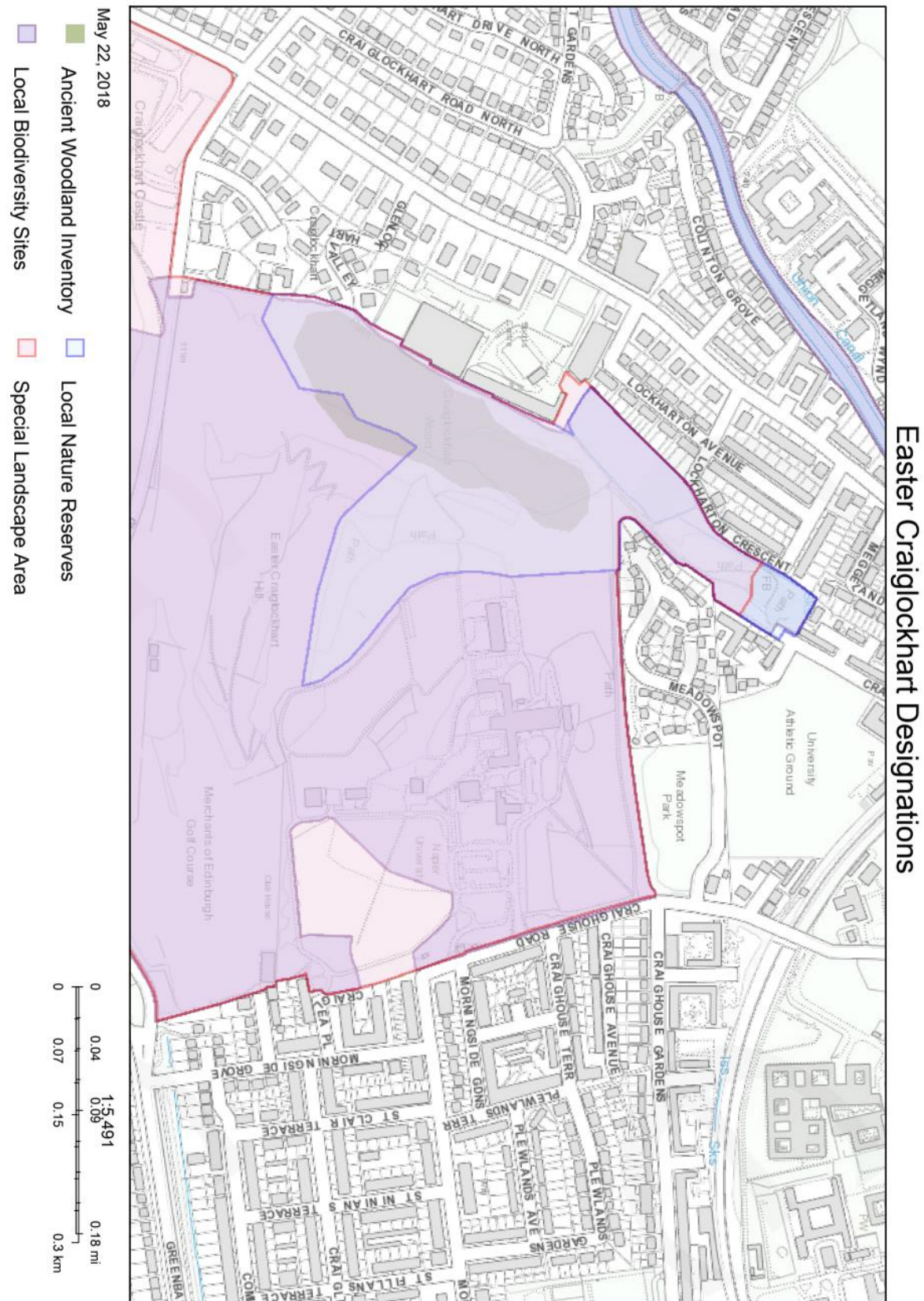
Map A –ECH LNR Boundary



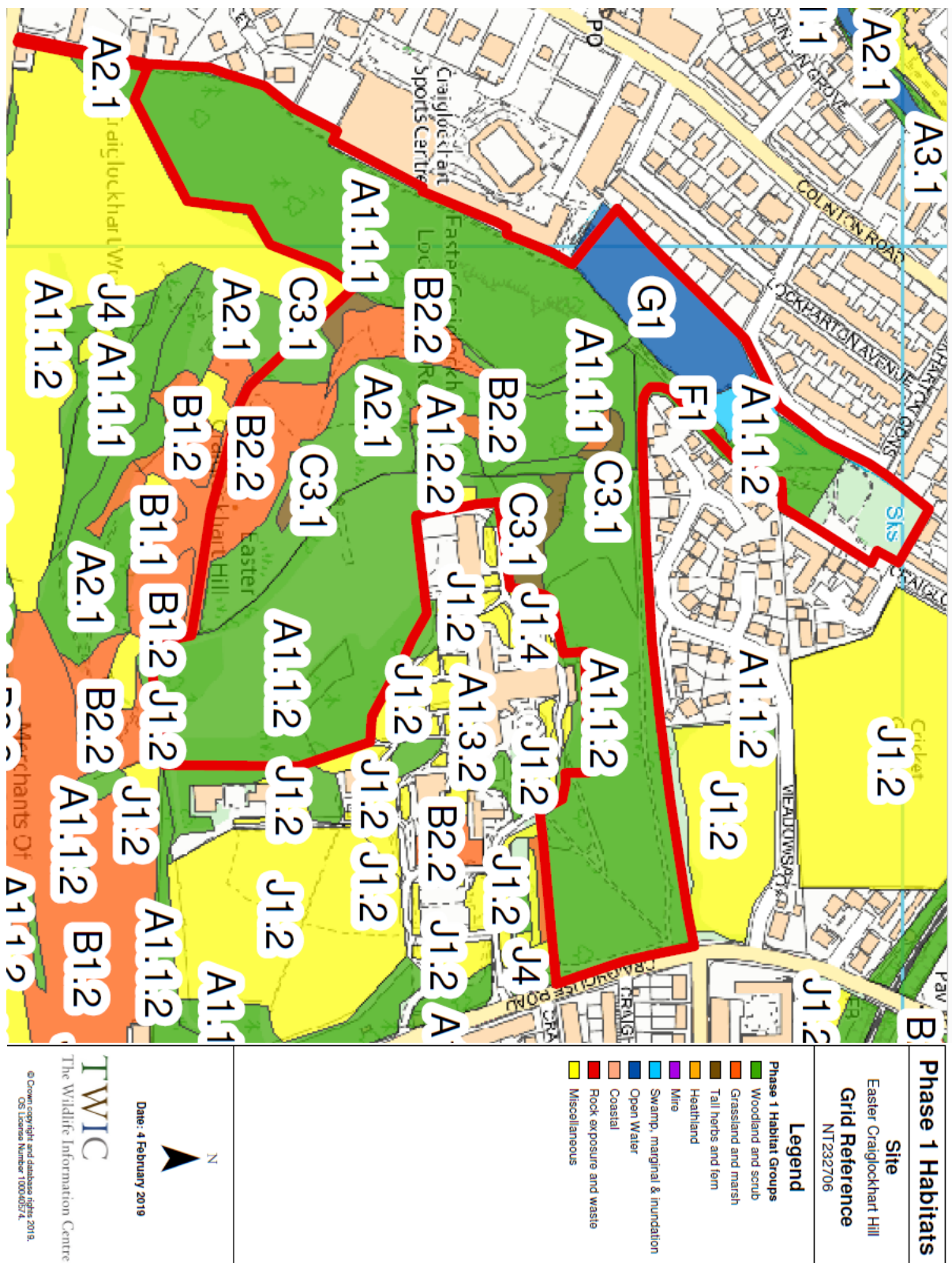
Mab B – Area Transferred in 2018 (Hilltop LNR Area included – W3)



Map C – Craiglockhart Hill designations



5.3 Appendix C Phase 1 Habitat Types Map (2019 TWIC Survey)



5.4 Appendix D Craighouse Path Upgrades/Spending Plan

The City of Edinburgh Council Atlas



Paths:

Paths (**Estimated Costs**)	path m	Path Width	cost per m2	steps	Width	cost per m2		cost (Estimated)
Wildflower Meadow (complete)	85	1.5	30	45	1.5	100	Type 1&whin	10575
CL Plce (South Path)	100	2.5	30	80	1.5	30		11100
E. Craighouse	250	2.5	30					18750
W. Craighouse	250	2	30					15000
Steps further to hilltop(west)	40	1.5	100					6000
Zig-Gag (into woodland)	75	1.5	30					3375
Interpretation Panels New/Upgrades	20000							20000
site furniture - Benches/Picnic	5000							5000
Green Gym (suggested)	40000							40000
								129800 total

Estimated costs include welfare.

*Prices do not include VAT and are based on similar projects in 2014.

Green Gym suggestion is to create woodland exercise areas fitting with the environment of the woodland. Using features already available and “natural” equipment from resources either already on site or which would not look out of place on site.

The S75 can also be used as seed or match funding to support Council or FECH applications for external funding for suitable projects consistent with this Plan which include the transferred area outlined above.

5.5 Acknowledgements

Since 1988, the local community in the form of the Friends of Craiglockhart Nature Trail and the Craiglockhart Woods Group, the City of Edinburgh Council Natural Heritage Service and adjacent landowners (first Lothian Health Board and then Napier University, now Craighouse Ltd.) with financial support from local businesses and numerous urban nature conservation funding bodies,

have promoted the Craiglockhart Nature Trail and the primary management of the area as an urban wildlife site (most of which can be found on the FECH Website). The evolution into a formal Local Nature Reserve in 2005 was the culmination of dedicated and focussed work by all towards the vision of the nature conservation maintenance of, and public access to this important urban natural greenspace resource. It is hoped this good work can be carried on in the future. The LNR has been extended to include the transferred woodlands.

Every year from 2009 the site has been awarded Green Flag status which is testament to the continued hard work and commitment that those noted above have invested in the site to ensure its continued success.

6. References/Further Information

6.1 Management Aim Prescriptions

6.1.1 Aim 1

- To maintain and enhance the nature conservation interest of the different semi-natural habitats.

Habitats

Continue programme of fixed-point photography every 3 years. Initial sets of photographs were taken in 2001 to build up a library of images to primarily facilitate an accurate monitoring system of several factors. This includes path erosion; spread of scrub and; encroachment of undesirable species etc. This was previously being implemented as an action within the photography department of ENU as part of that landowner's contribution to the management actions. However, it will now be overtaken, as far as possible, by CECFNH.

Marsh

- Maintain paths around marsh area by cutting back vegetation in summer, brushing fallen leaves in autumn and resurfacing with whin dust as required.
- Monitor wetland area for informal paths.
- Remove variegated reed Canary grass *Phalaris arundinacea* and other garden escapes by hand. Remove Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*. Much of this work can be done using volunteer groups who are looking for conservation tasks.
- There should be periodic reduction and control of Bull Rush *Typha sp.* And Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*.

Woodland:

Generally: - Monitor all management and human impact on the woodlands. Monitoring should be recorded in site inspection logs based with the CECFNH at The Hermitage of Braid. This monitoring is in addition to the fixed-point photography and should be designed to systematically record any vandalism, dumping, fire-raising etc. Any management by the local authority or other landowners can also be noted for comment or action as required.

The Council has completed a survey of all mature trees beside paths and buildings, including those within the newly acquired sections of woodland. This information is available to CECFNH through Easytreev.

Management of tree population on the site: - Continue to replace elms *Ulmus sp.* which have been lost due to removal (Dutch elm disease) with woodland species such as Oak *Quercus sp.* or Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* where possible dependant on Ash Dieback. Several (up to 5 trees) should be planted for each large elm lost to maximise the chances of successful establishment. These trees will need to be thinned in the future if they all survive. Whips should be used to maximise rate of establishment and minimise vandalism. Local seed should be used wherever possible. Possible sources include on-site seed collection, the Lothian Conservation Volunteers (LCV) tree nursery,

Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) from Bawsinch Nature Reserve native species arboretum at Duddingston.

- In accordance with the Councils management of dangerous trees these should be reported via CECFNH to the Trees and Woodlands officer.
- Debris which falls from trees (branches) should be kept clear of paths. This debris should certainly not be removed from the site, due to its nature conservation value. However, attempts should be made to give the site a generally cared for look - which can help reduce vandalism. - Fallen and cut trees can be left to be used for building furniture, drainage etc. Branches overhanging paths and trees which show evidence of disease (e.g. fungi) should be removed by CECFNH or if too large for them then reported to the Trees and Woodland Officer to be removed by the Forestry Unit.
- Dead and dying trees should be left standing wherever possible as they provide essential nest sites for birds, roost sites for bats, habitats for invertebrates and fungi.
- Regeneration which is very successful in some parts of the site needs to be controlled in favour of native species. Regenerating specimens of natives should generally be left but those of non-natives removed.
- There are some exceptions, even in the woodland, where ash regeneration totally dominates to the exclusion of other trees, shrubs and ground flora. In these circumstances the ash *Fraxinus excelsior* must be thinned and monitored to allow healthy specimens to 'get away'. This is due to the Councils Ash dieback policy which seeks to remove, as quickly as possible, all trees infected. Thinning of young trees like ash *Fraxinus excelsior* can be carried out by CECFNH using groups like Forest School Groups and local schools who wish to help with management of the site.
- Where sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, is regenerating most should be removed. However, sycamore is a very important element in this woodland. To aim for a native only situation would be rather false, therefore it is best to control sycamore regeneration and encourage other species by the removal of some young sycamore trees and saplings.
- Where the desired habitat is woodland adjacent to the marshland the similar selective thinning of the willow *Salix sp* and birch *Betula sp*. is required. This type of selective thinning can be carried out quite quickly by unskilled labour or volunteers if trees are first marked.
- Thinning is also required in the plantations. Here glades and rides can be opened up to benefit wildlife. This will generate a possible resource for surfacing (shredded brush wood). In the coniferous plantation areas native broad-leaved trees and shrubs can be planted at the woodland edges and within the plantations themselves.
- The areas of laurel *Prunus sp*. must be monitored and cut back if it looks to be encroaching on other parts of the site.

Management of the woodland shrub layer: -Protect the newly regenerating shrub layer species particularly holly *Ilex aquifolium* from detrimental over shading. This involves the removal of any less desirable species such as sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* or even herbaceous or other scrub species such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* from the immediate locality to prevent smothering or stunting of the plants.

-Plant other native shrubs such as honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, which although expensive to buy can greatly improve the quality of the woodland. Cuttings could be taken, on site and grown on . This would ensure the provenance of seed bank is maintained.

Management of the woodland ground flora: - Growing on site is typical semi-natural woodland flora such as dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, these should be encouraged to spread into suitable areas where they are lacking (possible source locally from Hermitage of Braid). This can be done by transplantation e.g. bluebell bulbs can be moved after flowering. (Owner's permission essential) Bulbs could also be rescued from sites under threat. Bluebells of known provenance has already been planted in the wood to the north of the marsh on the derelict building site and along the woodland edge.

- Control the spread of garden escapes, ground elder *Aegopodium podagraria* and ivy *Hedera sp.* to be monitored and removed in areas where there are no other species growing.

Scrub

- Monitor and maintain the spread of gorse and continue to control the open area of the, particularly splitting large swards to create fire breaks. There is however no need for any reduction in the actual area of scrub as it is a desirable habitat in its own right.

- Only small plants either isolated within the grassland or at the edges of the scrub area need to be removed, to maintain the status quo. This management can be carried out by hand. It is important to monitor the situation with the scrub particularly if mowing and scarifying techniques are applied to the adjoining grassland, which may allow undesirable seedlings of scrub to reappear within the grassland.

- Below the Easterly view point, looking north towards Meadowspot, is an area of scrub dominated by gorse but with a greater component of brambles *Rubus fruticosus*. It would appear that this area has had inappropriate tree species planted into it in the past, including larch *Larix sp.* and sycamore. As this area of scrub is different from the others and has a different aspect it would be appropriate to maintain its special character and remove these non-native trees. There is also the risk that they will grow up and obscure the excellent view from this 'lower' viewpoint.

Grasslands

-Mowing of selected areas of both types of grassland found in the 1994 and 2004 National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys is recommended. This will continue with the strimming by CECFNH and the hand removal of cuttings being undertaken by LCV twice a year in May/ June and late September/October on the wildflower meadows. Wildflower seeding/planting for meadow improvement will occur as appropriate.

- The spread of scrub onto the grassland will be halted in the areas where mowing occurs but must still be monitored in the uncut areas. Trees are also spreading into areas of grassland (MG1) next to Craiglockhart Wood which has a significant tall herb element. The encroaching trees must be removed to maintain the character of this area. The trees are mainly ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and will rapidly turn this area into an extension of the woodland if not checked; they will also obscure some views.

-The spread of tall ruderal herb species must be monitored – the fixed point photography will allow long term monitoring.

Open Water

- The habitat creation areas to the north end of the pond continues to thrive providing a valuable area for nesting water birds like coot *Fulica atra* and moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. The fence was originally to keep swans out and allow the vegetation to establish. However, they have gotten through and created a nest. This does not seem to have affected the nesting of smaller species and has naturally kept the expansion of the bull rush in the area in check. This area should continue to be monitored, managed and maintained to keep dogs out. This can be done by the CECFNH and volunteers.

- previous edge planting provides nesting areas for water birds, while the platform provides a nesting area for the swans *Cygnus olor*. This would keep them away from the ducks and other water birds and potential predators like dogs and foxes *Vulpes vulpes*. However, their new habitat has a high success rate, with four of five signets surviving to adulthood in 2017. The pond is a small one and cannot support more than one swan family so no more nesting platforms would be required. However, potential for a central island is being considered. The existing areas will be monitored for continued success and repaired as required.

- Continue to maintain the height of the eastern hedge to allow birdwatching but maintain a barrier to limit access for dogs to the water and the disturbance to wildlife. The hedge needs to be protected by adding woven willow to the base to prevent further erosion.

6.1.2 Aim 2

- Safeguard and, where necessary, enhance the populations of any threatened, endangered or typical species

- It is Council policy to limit the use of chemicals in their local nature reserves, this will continue.
- Monitor marsh orchid populations.
- Control any invasive species.

6.1.3 Aim 3

- Maintain the aesthetic value of the site

- Remove trees from the upper part of the north facing slope to prevent the views from the upper, open regions of the site becoming obscured. Regard must be made, however, for views outwith and towards the site as well as from the site.
- Litter removal and other general tidying up projects will be continued, particularly involving local youngsters and volunteers. Further letter drops to local people with an explanation of the problems caused by dumping garden refuse and the legal responsibilities is also recommended in conjunction with Council Environmental Wardens.
- The FECH will continue to raise funds for works and organise at least two litter task days each year.
- Grass cutting regime to be continued.
- Regular inspections with the identification of broken or worn items and their replacement or repair

6.1.4 Aim 4

- Provide educational opportunities for the local community, schools and visitors through interpretation and Marketing.

- Continue to encourage the use of the site by local schools and groups, particularly repeat visits as this will encourage local children to develop a sense of ownership.
- Publicity for any events must be arranged to maximise the profile of the area if it is to fulfil its functions as a Local Nature Reserve. Events at ECHLNR are marketed, along with other CECFNH events through posters, on notice boards through Council and friend's websites and social media.
- Continued connection and communication with events such as Environment Week and other City-wide initiatives is recommended. Getting events into their programmes, which must be organised well in advance, is very productive.
- Websites are a useful way of both marketing and disseminating. The CECFNH website can be found at <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/naturalheritageofficers>, and the FECH website at www.eastercraiglockharthill.org. These are updated on a regular basis. Leaflets and information for teachers and other group leaders can be downloaded and used on site.
- Continue to update and widely publish current FECH nature trail leaflet and improve the way mark trail which complements this leaflet.
- Posters are put up to highlight issues like garden waste, dog fouling, responsible cycling and thin ice on the pond as required. Environmental Wardens will be called on to deal with issues like illegal dumping of garden waste, dog fouling etc.

6.1.5 Aim 5

- Continue and increase community involvement and work with local FECHs

- The FECH will continue to represent the community views on the area and will formally seek views from the community each year at their AGM.

- It is essential to sustain the existing high level of community interest and involvement. The FECH will continue to hold community/fundraising events at least once a year.
- It is important that links continue to be maintained with the Craiglockhart Community Council and the South West Neighbourhood Partnership who are very supportive of the LNR. A representative of The FECH will continue to attend the community council as a co-opted member.
- In terms of the wider community links will continue to be maintained with the other Friends groups in the city.
- A City Volunteer Ranger Service was set up in 2009. However, at the time, the service was unsustainable. CECFNH and FECH will continue to consider the sustainability of a new, similar group and, if plausible, will look to implement such a service. They, alongside CECFNH and FECH, would monitor the site, record wildlife, carry out minor works, pick up litter and record larger tasks for action.
- CECFNH to continue to offer ECHLNR for practical tasks to corporate and other volunteers groups.

6.1.6 Aim 6

- Encourage responsible public access and manage conflict

- Display cases will be erected at the entrances to update changes in the LNR and bring everything under Council standard.
- Improve access points by rebuilding or replacing old and broken steps and gates.
- Provide information and advice to users and manage the site to reduce conflict.
- Continue to monitor and maintain all paths, identify and action repairs as required or to prioritise larger works.
- Clearly define routes by way markers, as part of the nature trail or simply for a casual walk. This can be a cheap but effective way of helping to stop people entering more sensitive areas and increasing the satisfaction of a visit for visitors. Funding will be sought to replace the current way marking with something clearer and longer lasting.
- Access to bikes on steep slopes can be reduced by planting up shrubs to block potential desire lines this will also reduce conflict with speeding bikes and walkers, reduce erosion on areas susceptible to erosion and improve water retention in areas of flooding.

6.1.7 Aim 7

- Meet all legal obligations regarding the site

- Regular patrol and monitoring of the site undertaking repairs as necessary and reporting defects where appropriate, ensuring that the site is safe and well maintained.
- Investigate to determine ownership prior to works being completed with particular reference to boundary wall responsibilities.
- Ensure that actions do not impact on the flora and fauna of the site and enhance biodiversity where possible and practicable.
- Ensure that works do not adversely impact on neighbouring properties.
- Promote opportunities for access for all and consider ways to improve accessibility on the site in any works being carried out.
- Report any offence to the appropriate governing/ legal body.

6.2 Policy and legislative context

6.2.1 Legislation

There have been many changes over the years in legislation which affect the management of sites like Easter Craiglockhart Hill, the most notable are:

- Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011- This Act amends three pieces of primary legislation:

- The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953;
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; and
- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conversation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.

The Act harmonise aspects of historic environment legislation with the planning regime; improves the ability of central and local government to work with developers and their partners; and improve the capacity to deal with urgent threats and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of deterrents (Historic Scotland Website). If a monument is both listed and scheduled, only Scheduled Monument Consent is required for any work. However, listed building consent may still be required for any structures outside the scheduled area. For ECH LNR the Natural Heritage Service will be required to consult with Historic Scotland and Council Archaeological Services over consent required to carry out works on this site.

- The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (WANE) – The Act amends a number of other pieces of legislation including the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and aims to modernise game laws, introduces new wildlife offences (vicarious liability), adds further regulation to snaring, updates to the ways Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are dealt with, updates to the licensing system, amendments to deer stalking and deer management, strengthens protection of badgers, makes changes to Muirburn practices and operational changes to Site of Special Scientific Interest management.
- The Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy 2015 – this document aims to provide a guiding framework for national, regional and local mitigation, control or eradication initiatives helping to reduce the detrimental impact of INNS.
- The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 - This has opened the area up to use by a much wider range of people and recreational pursuits, which, at times can cause conflict. However, the area is regularly monitored by CECFNH and volunteers, who provide advice to users on responsible access.
- The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: Aspects under the Act for which CECFNH have responsibility in relation to the management of land and water, are as follows:

Public bodies operating in Scotland are obliged to consider, and account for, the impacts which their activities and policies have on the overall balance and health of the natural biological environment, at a local, regional, national and international level. The City of Edinburgh Council are required to act, in ways which are consistent with the exercise of their other statutory functions, to ensure that the conservation of that naturally-occurring biological diversity is encouraged and advanced.

- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 - Badgers and their setts are comprehensively protected by this Act as amended by the WANE Act 2011.

It is an offence to:

- wilfully kill, injure, take or attempt to kill a badger;
- possess a dead badger or any part of a dead badger;
- cruelly ill-treat a badger;
- use badger tongs in the course of killing, taking or attempting to kill a badger;
- dig for a badger;
- possess, sell or offer for sale any live badger;
- mark, tag or ring a badger.

It is also a crime to interfere with a badger sett by intentionally or recklessly causing or allowing:

- damage to a sett or any part of it;
 - destruction of it;
 - sett access to be obstructed, or any entrance of it;
 - a dog to enter it;
 - disturbance to a badger when it is occupying it.
- The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995: The Act aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face. This Act has been significantly extended, including by the Disability Discrimination Act (2005). It now gives disabled people rights in the areas of: employment, education, access to goods, facilities, and services. The Act requires public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. As land managers, the Council and must ensure as much of the space as possible is accessible to people who have problems walking, for those who use wheelchairs and buggies.
 - The Equality Act 2010 – The Act requires to ensure decision makers have regard for the desirability of reducing socio-economic inequalities; to reform and harmonise equality law; to enable certain employers to be required to publish information about the differences in pay between male and female employees; to prohibit victimisation in certain circumstances; to enable duties to be imposed in relation to the exercise of public procurement functions; to increase equality of opportunity; to amend the law relating to rights and responsibilities in family relationships; and for connected purposes.
 - Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003: The Act has 2 principal aims. The first of these is to amend the offence of dog fouling so that the offence consists of failing to clear up after a dog rather than of allowing a dog to foul. The second aim is to establish new enforcement provisions relating to the offence by enabling local authorities and police constables to issue fixed penalty notices to persons suspected of committing the offence.
 - Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960: The City of Edinburgh Council's liability to users of Parks owned by the Council derives from this Act. This act makes provision regarding any hazards or dangers on land. It requires the "owner in respect of any dangers which are due to the state of the premises or to anything done...on them... [to take] such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that the person will not suffer injury or damage due to any such danger."

Scottish law does not allow the transfer of liability where the landowner is negligent.

6.2.2 The Plan in Relation to Council Policies and Plans

There are many relevant policies and plans that the Council have produced these include:

- Edinburgh City Local Development Plan 2016 - Sets out the Council's policies to guide development in the city and its proposals for specific sites. The Plan covers the whole of the urban area, and part of its rural Green Belt fringe.
- Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 – 2018: The Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan (ELBAP) outlines its context for action in relation to legislation and responsibilities throughout the plan: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/biodiversity>
- Edinburgh Core Path Plan 2008: This was produced, through consultation, as a requirement under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. It identifies key routes for non-motorised access through out Edinburgh. It supports sustainable transport objectives, contributes to better

health, provides social benefits, and contributes to tackling climate change. Easter Craiglockhart Hill contains two core paths. These are the path leading from Glen Lockhart Road to Craiglockhart Terrace and the path leading from Craighouse Road to Craiglockhart Pond, with exits through Craiglockhart Terrace and Craiglockhart Sports Centre.

- Capitalising on Access: An Access Strategy for the City of Edinburgh : The Strategy sets out a framework for developing inclusive access for everyone who lives in, works in, and visits Edinburgh. The priority action outlined by the Strategy relating to this area and relevant to ECHLNR is:

Linking of greenspace networks with residential areas is vital. Areas such as Holyrood Park and Braid Hills provide excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation close to where many people live. Information and signage can help raise awareness locally, so these areas realise their full potential. The ECHLNR management plan will consider the relevant management.

- Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy (The City of Edinburgh Council, 2006): The purpose of the Strategy is that it sets realistic aspirations and shows the way forward to achieving them. The Strategy is a means of matching the availability, function and role of parks and gardens with the changing requirements as identified by user surveys. The study focused on parks and gardens within the urban area including ECHLNR. Under the parks classification system recommended in the Strategy ECHLNR is classed as a Natural Heritage Park. Natural Heritage parks are described as follows:

These are generally large areas, the functions of which are determined by topography and ecology. In the main, these parks will tend to be dominated by woodland but also include coastal areas with topographical features such as hills and river valleys. The semi-natural character of these parks means that management for biodiversity is of fundamental importance, many of which are designated or proposed Local Nature Reserves, Urban Wildlife Sites or Sites of interest for Nature Conservation as defined in the Edinburgh Urban Nature Conservation Strategy and Local Plans. Therefore, these areas are well suited to informal environmental education. Access is likely to be via car hence they will generally include designated car parking areas within their boundaries.

Your feedback is always welcome on any aspect of this Plan. Please contact either CECFNH at naturalheritageservice@edinburgh.gov.uk or FECH through their website <https://www.eastercraiglockharthill.org/> at any point.