

Artist's Engagement Report – Jeremy Cunningham – Corstorphine Connections, Edinburgh

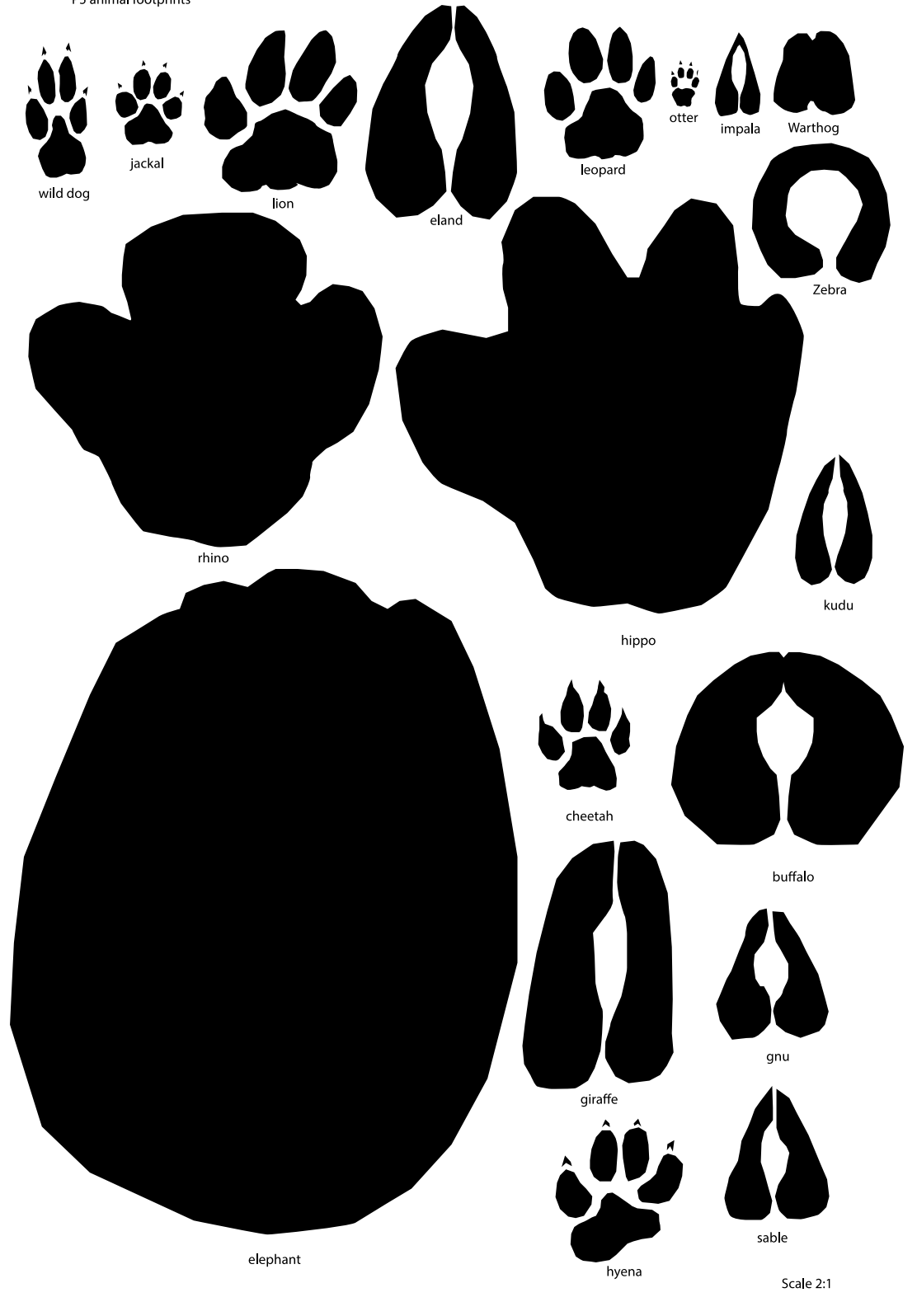
The Corstorphine Connections project has key focuses of interventions around Corstorphine Primary School and Carrick Knowe Primary School. Jeremy Cunningham, was asked to work with these two schools to develop artworks that would enhance the environs around the two schools where the low traffic interventions were focused.

Carrick Knowe Primary School. The acting headteacher at Carrick Knowe identified the P5A, P5B, P6A and P6B classes as ideal candidates for the workshops with Jeremy. Following on from some previous consultation work in the schools by the Edinburgh LTN team a theme of wild animals (by association with the nearby Edinburgh Zoo) and their habitats was selected for these school workshops which took place in late January 2023.

At Carrick Knowe the two classes of P5 pupils looked at leaf shapes and the footprints of wild animals with Jeremy to develop black and white card silhouettes.



P5 animal footprints



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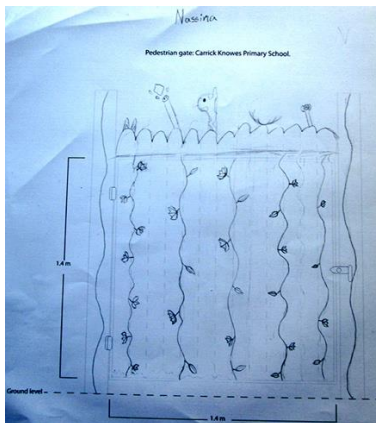




the black and white card silhouettes

lend themselves to translation in to laser cut steel.

It transpired that the pedestrian gates leading in the school were not compliant with modern safety standards so Sustrans kindly offered further funding to replace these gates. As a result, the P6 classes had the opportunity to 'design for real' a set of new gates and fence panels which incorporated the wild animal and habitat themes.



A P6's gate design is the basis for the new entrance gate layout

One gate design was selected as an attractive and workable proposal in to which some of the P5 leaf and designs could be incorporated. Other designs were selected as images for the screens for the electricity substation on north side of the entrance in to the school. A selection of images from other drawings were used to form the images for the fence panel between the gates.

Corstorphine is like a separate village in the City of Edinburgh with an active community and Community Council and a deep history. At Corstorphine Primary school I was asked to focus on this deep history in workshops with one P3 class, two P4 classes and one P6 class. Jeremy was helped in his research into the history of locality by the displays in the Dower House in St Margaret's Park and the Corstorphine Trust Archivist. A number of themes emerged including the Dovecote, the distinctive, Corstorphine Sycamore, the history of the use of what is now St Margaret's Park as a market garden and orchard and the symbolic oil lamp associated with lighting the way across the Corstorphine Marches. The lamp appears in the Corstorphine Primary School Badge.

The P3 class were already researching the history of the distinctive street names found in Corstorphine so Jeremy worked with this class to explore how these might find visual expression.



A distinctive street name designed by a P3 pupil

The two P4 classes at Corstorphine Primary explored the themes outlined in the paragraph above and produced some very colourful drawings which will be reproduced as small panels which can be fixed to some of the new structures associated with the project area and to some lighting columns.



images based on the history of the

area.

The P6 class proposed designs for a new pedestrian gate in to the school



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The Corstorphine Community Trust and Community Council

The Corstorphine Community Trust and Community Council played a major role in facilitating the consultation process for the artworks. They provided exhibition space in the Kilgour Room of the Dower House for three weeks in March 2023 for the work by the children, and the designs that have evolved from this work, and publicised the exhibition via their mailing lists and social media. The Café staff in the Dower House Café also kindly played a key supporting role in promoting the exhibition and guiding visitors to it.



The exhibition in the Kilgour Room of the Dower House in St. Margaret's Park

Extracts from the exhibition visitor book:

"Lovely to see all this excellent artwork by the children"

"Love the children's designs for the school gates and the more measures along the High Street to remind people drivers that this is a street for people (children especially) the better"

"Lovely paintings but not much information about the proposed changes"

"Great to see this space being used for the local community"

"The designs linked to the history of the street names of Corstorphine is super"

"Good to see the children being given the freedom to express themselves as individuals linked to the environment. Great ideas well done"

"It was very exciting to see my art on display"

"Please explain the point of this exhibition, what has this artwork got to do with low traffic neighbourhoods? So far all we have is designs for the school gates" Please explain how much this exhibition costs and what is the benefit! Is this a joke!



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