

Craigmillar Castle Park



*Management Plan
2014/2024*

Natural Heritage Service
City of Edinburgh Council
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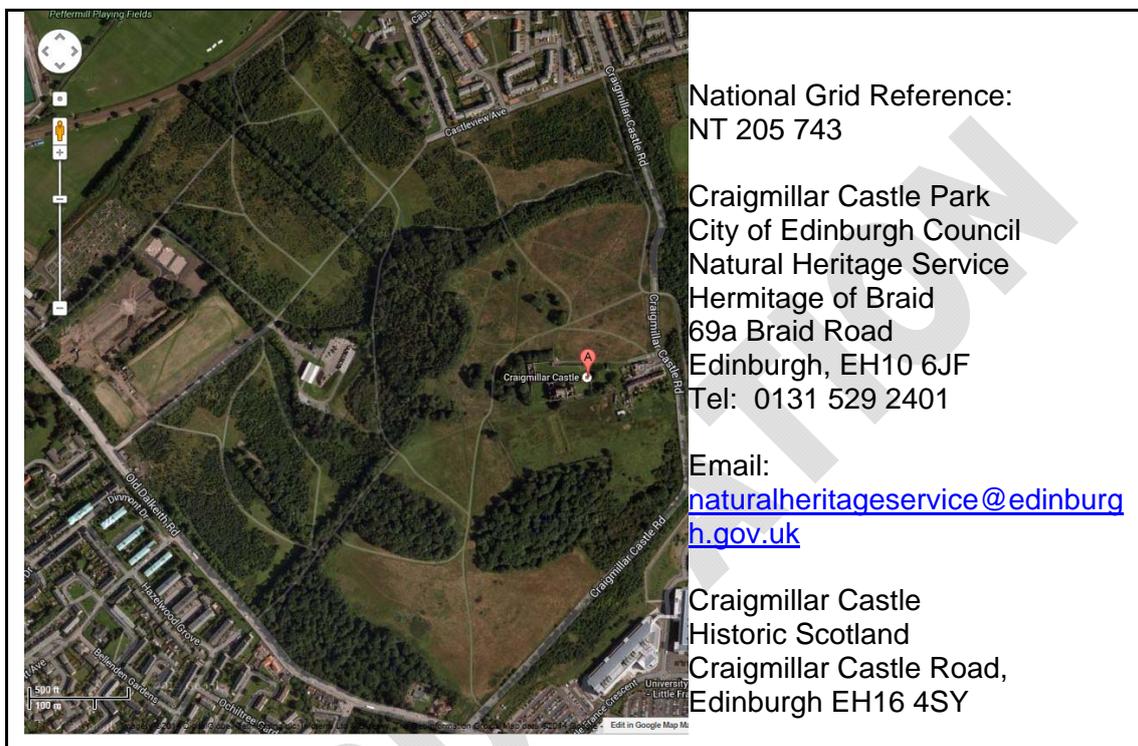
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1.1 INTRODUCTION AND OWNERSHIP

Craigmillar Castle Park is located on the south eastern outskirts of the City of Edinburgh, about 4 km from the city centre, at National Grid Reference NT 205 743.

Map and Location



The area covered by Craigmillar Castle Park extends to 62 ha. Of this ~48 ha, or 77% of the area, is composed of woodland. The remaining areas are made up of open grassland and parkland which together with the woodland are components of the designed landscape linked with Craigmillar Castle.

The Park is located on the eastern side of the A7 road (off Old Dalkeith Road). Craigmillar Castle Road forms the southern and eastern boundary of the main body of the park, although Hawkhill Community Woodland, which forms part of the Park, lies to the east of the road.

The Park lies to the south west of the Craigmillar housing estate, while a railway line forms the northern boundary of the park.

To the west of the site, on the opposite side of the A7, is the Inch Park. Prestonfield Estate lies to the north, while to the southeast is the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (ERI), and further removed, Edmonstone Estate.

Craigmillar Castle Park is owned by the City of Edinburgh Council, and managed by the Natural Heritage Service in the Council's Services for Communities Department. The Council took ownership of the site in 1965 from the Gilmour Family Estate.

The site is open to all members of the public who wish to use the site in a responsible manner. The site resides in both East and South Neighbourhoods.

Previous management decisions have been guided by the Craigmillar Castle Park Woodland Management Plan (2005-2010), see Appendix 1, in conjunction with the Natural Heritage Service annual work plan.

Summary of main users; walkers, schools, orienteering, mountain bike events, dog walkers, cyclists, runners, national and international visitors as well as a location for local community events and projects.

1.2 NATURAL HERITAGE SERVICE

The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) Natural Heritage Service manages 12 parks across the city plus the Pentland Hills Regional Park. The emphasis is on conservation of the natural, cultural and historical interest in these areas. The Natural Heritage Service also seeks to increase public understanding, appreciation and care for the countryside in and around Edinburgh.

The Natural Heritage Service undertakes this by;

- Ensuring that our twelve sites and the Pentland Hills Regional Park are clean, safe and well maintained;
- Providing a service that responds to the various needs of our local communities and customers;
- Working in partnership with other organisation for the benefit of the sites and the local communities;
- Working in conjunction with Friends and local communities groups to ensure that the public are involved with the management of the sites; and,
- Ensuring that we are efficient in how we work and that our work is of a high quality.

Services that are provided include conservation management, community involvement and support for site access, interpretation, infrastructure and appropriate grounds maintenance, site inspections and site enhancements and appropriate survey work.

Natural Heritage Parks

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20064/parks_and_green_spaces/270/natural_heritage_sites

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to be a site-specific document, produced by the Natural Heritage Service to follow on from the Craigmillar Castle Park Woodland Management Plan (2005).

This document summarises previous strategies and management approaches and provides a 10 year plan for the site from 2014-2024. Also included in this management plan is a detailed work plan 2014-2019 which is a working document providing specific year by year management actions.

Previous plans include "Craigmillar Castle Park Archaeological and Historical Landscape Assessment and Restoration Management Plan", written in 1999 by Peter McGowan Associates and "Craigmillar Castle Park Woodland Management Plan May 2005". These plans are also available to view (in print only) to provide information on landscape, layout, history and land use as well as previous management actions for context.

2.2 WIDER POLICY CONTEXT & STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

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

Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP)- This sets out Scottish Ministers' policies, providing direction for Historic Scotland and a policy framework that informs the work of a wide range of public sector organisations.

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) - This the statement of the Scottish Government policy on nationally important land use planning matters.

Planning Advice Note (PAN) 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology- The new Archaeology PAN reflects 17 years of accumulated changes in the policy context, the statutory planning system, the key stakeholders and in archaeological practices. Similar to its 1994 predecessor (PAN 42) it provides advice to planning authorities and developers on dealing with archaeological remains. But it does so with a fresh emphasis which is proportionate to the relative value of the remains and of the developments under consideration.

Edinburgh City Local Plan- This 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. A second local plan, the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan, covers the remainder of the Council's area, including Cammo Estate. The Edinburgh City Local Plan is a replacement for five existing local plans, prepared at various times since 1992, covering different parts of the same area.

Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015- The Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan (ELBAP), page 3, outlines its context for action in relation to legislation and responsibilities. The full plan can be found at 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 throughout Edinburgh. In essence it supports sustainable transport objectives, contributes to better health, provides social benefits and contributes to tackling climate change. CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL 11 River Almond route passes through Cammo Estate.

Capitalising on Access – An Access Strategy for the City of Edinburgh – The City of Edinburgh Council – September 2003- The Strategy sets out a framework for developing inclusive access for everyone who lives in, works in, and visits Edinburgh.

Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy – The City of Edinburgh Council, March 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.

2.3 LEGISLATION & LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The Natural Heritage Service ensures the management of Craigmillar Castle Park adheres to all relevant legislation including key pieces of legislation. There have been a number of changes over the years in legislation which affect the management of sites like Craigmillar Castle Park, 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 SMC is required for any work. However, listed building consent may still be required for any structures outside the scheduled area. For Cammo Estate the CECCRS will be required to consult with Historic

Scotland and CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Archaeological Services over consent required to carry out works on this site.

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. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code, produced by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), explains peoples access rights and responsibilities and has three key aspects which include; taking responsibility for your own actions; respecting the interest of others; and, caring for the environment. The area is regularly patrolled and monitored by the Countryside Ranger Service and volunteers, who provide advice to users on responsible access.

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011

Came into force on 01 January 2012 and introduced a requirement for all public bodies to make publicly available a report on their compliance with biodiversity duty. For public bodies already established on that date, the first reports are due to be prepared and published by 01 January 2015. For bodies established after 01 January 2012, reports are due within three years of the date of their establishment.

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004-Aspects under the Act for which the Countryside Ranger Service have responsibility in relation to the management of land and water, are as follows:

1. Biodiversity

Duty to further the conservation of biodiversity

(1) It is the duty of every public body and office-holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

Public bodies operating in Scotland are obliged to give proper consideration to, 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. CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL are required to act, in ways which are consistent with the exercise of their other statutory functions, in order to ensure that the conservation of that naturally-occurring biological diversity is encouraged and advanced.

City of Edinburgh Council Natural Heritage Service are required to survey and check for potential disturbance to bats, nesting birds, badgers prior to any work being undertaken.

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, CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL have to ensure as much of the space as possible is accessible to people who have problems walking, for those who use wheelchairs and buggies.

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 in connection with 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 by reason of any such danger.

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

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) (Section 21) - Under the Act, Local Authorities have exclusive statutory powers to set up and manage Local Nature Reserves (LNR). A LNR is a place with special local natural interest, set up to protect nature, and for people to enjoy and appreciate. This may be relevant if Craigmillar was to be considered for this designation.

CONSULTATION

2.4 DESIGNATIONS

There are several designations placed upon this park, which include;

- Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)- Craigmillar Castle and grounds are designated as a SAM, and the neighbouring areas of grassland and policy woodland are recorded on the Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes Inventory.
- The mature woodland areas within the park are recorded in the Scottish Semi-Natural Woodland Inventory as semi-natural broadleaf woodland, but are listed as 'long established plantation origin' woodlands in the more authoritative Nature Conservancy Councils' Inventory of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. Jubilee Park as the area was previously called has a National Playing Fields Association designation, and is an Urban Wildlife Site (by CEC).
- Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)- Craigmillar Hill is designated as a RIGS.
- Right of Way- This is the access route from the Inch to Craigmillar.
- Tree Preservation Order (TPO) - A TPO has been in place over the Craigmillar Castle Park area since 1973, extending over 64.4 hectares of the site, including the woodland areas and parkland tree features. The TPO is administered by the CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Planning Section of the local authority who are consulted regarding proposed tree management operations.
- Green Belt- The Park is located within the Green Belt of Edinburgh and is governed by Policy E8 under the Local Plan. This policy restricts developments within areas of designated Green Belt for purposes other than uses appropriate to a rural area such as agriculture, forestry, or countryside recreation.

3.1 STRATEGIES

To protect and ensure Craigmillar Castle Park is an area of accessible, appropriately managed high quality greenspace for the residents of South East Edinburgh and the wider community of Edinburgh.

The park will:

- Be a site of excellence and a model of good practice in benefiting both nature and people.
- Be a quality location for recreation, physical activity and relaxation.
- Increase the biodiversity of South East Edinburgh.
- Be a site with high quality habitats.
- Provide a diverse and interesting educational resource for residents of Edinburgh.
- Be an area of appropriately maintained landscape which will enhance the visual appearance of South East Edinburgh.

The production of the Management Plan will assist in the delivery of a number of Council Strategies, including the following:-

- Open Space Framework (which contains guidelines for planning, managing and protecting Edinburgh's open spaces.
- Parks and Gardens Strategy
- Urban Forestry Strategy
- Nature Conservation Strategy
- Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan/Habitat Action Plan

4.1 PARTNERSHIPS

The Council have managed the site since 1965 when the site was acquired from the Gilmour family estate. The City of Edinburgh Council Natural Heritage Service manages the day to day activities and maintenance of Craigmillar Castle Park, with the valued assistance of a range of partners and organisations.

Natural Heritage Service manages the site and co-ordinates routine maintenance, capital spend, H&S remediation work, planned revenue spend and appropriate community engagement projects. Some of our partners include:

- City of Edinburgh Council Forestry Team
- Natural and Built Heritage – City of Edinburgh Council Planning
- Neighbourhood support services including; taskforce and grounds maintenance teams (Litter, waste and grounds)
- City of Edinburgh Council SGM (Meadow Management)
- City of Edinburgh Council Outdoor Unit & Community Learning and Development teams
- City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Services (CEAS) who provide an archaeological curatorial advisory and management service for the council assisting the NHS in terms of heritage, interpretation, promotion and planning.
- City of Edinburgh Council and Historic Scotland Scheduled Ancient Monument & Castle
- Rowanbank – Environmental Education and Engagement, TCV / Green Team / NCW / EVOLS / CWAG. Along with a number of other conservation and maintenance volunteers & community engagement organisations
- External partners including Historic Scotland, appointed contractors, 3rd party environmental project delivery partners e.g. ELGT

The Natural Heritage Service manages the site with support and assistance from several other departments within City of Edinburgh Council. Forestry Department, Natural and Built Heritage arm of Planning, other members within the Parks and Greenspaces unit within the division of local neighbourhoods – East and South Neighbourhoods including taskforce for assistance with litter control on the site.

Also included are Archaeological Services (CECAS) who provide any archaeological curatorial advisory and management services for the Council, which is important in terms of advising on impact of any new landscaping/development schemes and in terms of heritage interpretation and promotion.

The Natural Heritage Service engages with the local neighbourhood office and provides regular reports to the Environment Sub Group Committee and Neighbourhood Partnership meetings to share information on the site to keep local communities informed including Local Councillors, Community Parks Officers, CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Officers and local community members and organisations.

The Craigmillar Woods Action Group (CWAG) are a key community group involved with the park. They have a regular presence carrying out conservation tasks. They are keen on ensuring their focus is on action and activity days and arrange regular dates to visit the park and undertake tasks that help with site management.

These tasks can vary from litter removal, path repair, encroaching vegetation, drain clearance or renovation, wild flower meadow maintenance amongst other tasks. This group are self led and meet on site every fortnight year round. This group contribute a huge amount in helping the Natural Heritage Service keep on top of routine maintenance and upkeep of the site and are of great value to the site.



Bridgend Inspiring Growth (BIG) is a charitable organisation based in south Edinburgh who are working towards the renovation of Bridgend Farmhouse for community ownership, use and benefit. BIG's vision for the refurbished farmhouse sees a sympathetically restored building run as a social enterprise. The renovated farmhouse would potentially provide services for a range of people; those with learning disabilities or mental health issues; low income local individuals and families; those with an interest in ecological and environmental issues. It would enable people to use the farmhouse as a base for accessing Craigmillar Park and Woodland for social and recreational activities such as cycling, walking and green gym activities.

A number of events and activities have been arranged by the project co-ordinator for BIG and have used Craigmillar Castle Park as a venue and base for a number of activities engaging the local community on the site. The Natural Heritage Service will continue to provide any advice, when sought, and support use of the wider site in appropriate activities and events.

<http://www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk/>

Conservation volunteer organisations work with the Natural Heritage Service to co-ordinate a range of tasks and activities on site to engage volunteers offering practical maintenance and conservation tasks as well as increasing knowledge of local greenspaces, understanding of range of habitats, environmental education and increase self confidence and employability skills in land based industries.

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) group visit our sites including Craigmillar Castle Park regularly and frequently work on a number of valuable maintenance tasks including path renovation and vegetation encroachment. A recent project includes the renovation of an entrance with a timber fence boundary around a newly introduced 80/20 wildflower and natural grass meadow area.

TCV also offer a Green Gym activity on a weekly basis at Craigmillar during 2014/16 working with the Natural Heritage Officers to identify suitable conservation / maintenance tasks for the local community to become engaged at their local greenspace and build an active and positive interaction on the site.

The Green Team also work with the Natural Heritage Officers across a number of our sites with groups of young people on various environmental projects. New Caledonian Woodlands have engaged for 2015 to explore practical tasks on Natural Heritage sites for a health related project with programmes rolling across the year. Dunedin Canmore EVOLS group have a similar rolling programme providing young people opportunities to undertake tasks for work and employment programmes. Corporate Volunteers are also engaged across all Natural Heritage sites who see activities as vital in showing commitment to the local environment and value the experience for team building.

The park is used by other groups for a range of activities; liaising with the Natural Heritage Officers when necessary. An orienteering course was installed with a local group "The Interlopers" and has been very successful with events very well attended in previous years and continues annually.

The local Paths to Health group use Craigmillar Castle Park as a walking route as the range of paths available is suited to different levels of walkers.

A Jog Scotland group based at the ERI and University uses the park regularly for practice and training also due to = the range of terrain and number of paths available.

Rowanbank are working with the Natural Heritage Service and the CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Community Learning & Development team offering a Magical Woodland Walk event at the site in 2014 and 2015 to engage local communities, in particular children and their families, with their local greenspace. This is an outdoor theatre type event which has attracted over 200 people at previous locations in Edinburgh.



A number of schools and other clubs use the park for guided walks and visits, including; a Scout group has created two geo-caches on the site. The Scottish Agricultural College, Castlevie Primary School, Liberton after School Club, Inch Golden Years Club, Scout groups and local schools have all visited the park to undertake litter picks and have engaged in geo-cache activities whilst on site.

2015/16 brings a new opportunity to work with the Outdoor Learning Unit. "The Great Big Awards Week" is being explored now to provide a weeklong event planned and delivered in partnership between the CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Natural Heritage Service and the CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Sports & Outdoor Learning Unit. The project aims to promote and support wider CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Natural Heritage site engagement by groups of children and young people who are working towards achievement of nationally recognised awards

in the city.

The Sports & Outdoor Learning (SOL) unit and Natural Heritage Service are working in partnership to engage individuals from schools across the city to participate in a week long programme of practical conservation work across multiple sites managed by the Natural Heritage Service. As well as providing a platform for children to complete achievement awards sections, this piece of partnership work will enable the Natural Heritage Service to carry out valuable conservation work across several of their managed parks, while encouraging more children and young people to use and engage with their local Natural Heritage parks. The SOL unit will then provide an education focus by supporting schools to use their local sites sustainably going forward to support curricular and extra-curricular outdoor learning.

4.2 MARKETING AND EVENTS

The Natural Heritage Service entry on our Edinburgh Outdoor listing can be found via the CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL website and read below:

<https://www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk/featureDetails.php?id=26>

Background

Craigmillar Castle Park is a natural heritage park with areas of mature and young woodland, grassland and old quarries. In 1997, over 40,000 trees were planted as part of the millennium forest for Scotland project. This park provides an excellent place to walk, cycle or jog on many different paths to explore the different habitats. The park has been awarded a Green Flag since 2010, in recognition of it being a quality greenspace.

History and heritage

Craigmillar Castle Park is set against the backdrop of Craigmillar Castle. An enormous baronial structure famously associated with Mary Queen of Scots, was built in the 15th century by Sir John Preston. It passed from the Prestons to Sir John Gilmour (a distant relative) in 1660 and remained with that family until 1946 when it passed to the state and then onto Historic Scotland who manage it today.

Wildlife

The area is a mixture of open parkland with groups of veteran trees; mature woodland located around the fringes of Craigmillar Hill; and recently created woodland established on the fields on the north and western edges of the Hill. The young woodlands at the north of the park are made up of many different native species: alder, birch, oak, ash and hawthorn are just some. These trees are excellent places to see and hear the many small birds that live in the park, such as bullfinch. Watch for the buzzards soaring over the grasslands in the park. They make a mewling cry as they call to each other. The range of grasslands and woodlands means there are plenty of rabbits and voles for them to eat.

You can find out more about parks we manage, how to get there, what activities or events are scheduled, and how to contact us to report any issues. In addition to this listing City of Edinburgh Council parks and greenspaces gather views via an annual park survey.

In addition, the Natural Heritage Service advertises its yearly programme of events in a published leaflet available at the Hermitage of Braid, Pentland Hills Regional Park Information Centres at Flotterstone and Harlaw and Cammo Estate Visitor Centre.

For important events, or to advertise information about local community group activities and projects, the Natural Heritage Service makes use of the Councils communications department who organise press releases, both in small local newspapers as well as the Edinburgh and National Newspapers. These press releases are important to reach out to different groups and promote knowledge of the park and activities.



There are also display cases at the main entrances to Craigmillar Castle Park where posters about events and activities in the park are displayed.

Other groups also use the park for walks and events, which can bring newcomers and allow them to discover the park.

The Natural Heritage Service has offered guided walks and engagement events in Craigmillar Castle Park with partners that allow people to learn and enjoy both the history and access in the park.

The Natural Heritage Service also seeks to continue to promote responsible use of the park by groups, schools and individuals, and will be actively working to increase use and activities by these stakeholders.



4.3 INTERPRETATION

The site is naturalised with large open spaces, managed woodlands, grassland, relaxed grass and a sensitive network of paths. 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.

Craigmillar Castle Park has seen a great improvement in the interpretation available in the past few years; there are now orientation maps at 9 locations and 3 notice boards at main pedestrian entrances. Several new interpretation cairns were installed a number of years ago interpreting the history, landscape and wildlife; some of these were badly damaged by vandals in recent years and are in the process of being replaced.

An interpretation leaflet and map was produced in association with a local history group and partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It outlines some of the Parks history and is distributed from local libraries, community centres, and Craigmillar Castle, to encourage new visitors to explore the park.

Existing Interpretation

x9 orientation panels with maps at key entrances around the site
x4 interpretation panels across the site at points of specific interest depicting;
Yew Tree Walk
Horse Chestnut Avenue
Grassland Habitats
Mary Queen Scots

A specific site leaflet was produced around 2007 detailing the local history, historical site use, a map with formal paths noted and some wildlife species to look out for whilst on site. Geo-caches have been created by a number of groups and can be searched for on site. Three geo-caches are known to have been created at Craigmillar Castle Park and can be accessed from visiting <https://www.geocaching.com/play>

The message conveyed by any interpretation should reflect the park's history and potential as a home to a wide range of animals and plants as well as a place for recreation. In addition, any new interpretation must be undertaken in consultation with CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Archaeological Service and Historic Scotland.

The objective of any interpretation should:

- Explain and promote the archaeology and landscaping heritage of the area – Interpreting the buildings and plantings you see today.
- Involve the local groups in deciding what and how the area is interpreted
- Be accessible to as wide a range of people as possible, both physically and mentally
- Incorporate the corporate look of boards at our other sites

The Natural Heritage Service manages a number of parks throughout the city and therefore wishes to keep interpretation on these sites within recognisable style guidelines.

These are:

- The interpretation should match the style and colouring of previous interpretation produced on Natural Heritage Parks,
- Made from sustainable hard wearing material, vandal proof, and can either be easily replaced or cleaned,
- Must include CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL logo and the logo of any grant providers,
- Fonts must be easy to read and distinguish letters in good contrasting colours, and,
- Must be physically accessible to all, complying with government legislation.

New technology which is accessible through web sites and mobile phones such as QR codes as have been used in other parks will be investigated.

4.4 LOCAL COMMUNITY

The increasing involvement of local community groups and individuals with an interest in Craigmillar Castle Park is important in continuing the positive development of the park. CWAG will continue to receive support and guidance from the Natural Heritage Service.

Involvement with other volunteer groups that are active throughout Edinburgh will continue and direct engagement with corporate and local community groups.

This is useful, not only for the good work these groups help accomplish, but also to introduce people from throughout Edinburgh to Craigmillar Castle Park, and encourage them to come back and visit the park.



A member of staff will continue to attend the East Neighbourhood Partnership Meetings, representing the Natural Heritage Service, in order to ensure continuity of management of the park with Council staff from other departments and the public.

4.5 SAFETY

The Natural Heritage Service aims to provide high quality parks which are safe, enjoyable and welcoming. This is a challenge at times with high visitor numbers and impacts on our parks such as extreme weather (high winds and flooding) vandalism, erosion and misuse.

Site Inspections and site visits are scheduled to be undertaken on an agreed schedule determined by Senior Natural Heritage Officers. Any issues with infrastructure, vegetation, health and safety, woodlands, anti-social behaviour, commercial flytipping, biodiversity, vandalism or litter or other site considerations for action are identified by the Natural Heritage Service and prioritised accordingly.

The Natural Heritage Service works closely with local police and Neighbourhood Environment teams including Community Safety to reduce anti-social behaviour in Craigmillar Castle Park.

Particularly incidents such as illegal motorbike use, fires, burnt out cars and other significant accumulation of items of fly-tipping or dumping. The Natural Heritage Service has also developed a good working relationship with the Wildlife Crime Officers in Police Scotland in order to monitor any suspicious activity regarding wild animals such as badgers, foxes or raptors in our parks.



The Natural Heritage Service reports all anti-social or illegal activity over its twelve sites including observations of any illegal incidents to Police Scotland to assist in monitoring trends and ensure the Police are made aware of all issues within the parks managed by the Natural Heritage Service.

The CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Forestry Unit employs the use of their Easytreev Data Base to monitor the condition of trees that are next to roads, paths, buildings. Sometimes due to storm damage or the age of some of the trees and their susceptibility to disease some ancient and younger trees do have to be felled for public safety. Where ever possible these are de-limbed to maintain as much biodiversity value as possible in addition to stumps being retained on site.

The Environmental Wardens who are based in the Neighbourhoods through the Community Safety teams assist the Natural Heritage Service by providing a high visibility presence in Craigmillar Castle Park in the aim to reduce dog fouling, flytipping 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. 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.

4.6 SUSTAINABILITY

Included in the CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL sustainability policy is a view to reduce peat use. This is applied to our Natural Heritage Sites and applies specifically at Craigmillar Castle Park where no peat is used. The sustainability policies of City of Edinburgh Council are included in the Green Flag Awards and Parks Quality Assessment measures.

Leaf litter, tree branches and fallen wood are left in situ if this it is safe, or moved to areas away from paths, 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 a number of ways.

Where found controls include:

Ragwort is pulled by hand. Giant hogweed is treated with glycoshphate based herbicide at the start of the growing season to suppress the seed bed. Japanese knotweed is treated with glycoshphate based herbicide.

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.

Craigmillar Castle Park is within easy walking distance of two large housing estates and the site is used as a thoroughfare for people getting to other areas of the city. It is also well served by local bus routes, particularly along Old Dalkeith Road to the west of the park and Peffermill Road to the north of the park. There is only a small amount of car parking available on the edges of the park which aims encourage people to walk or cycle to the park if they live locally, or use the bus. The park has two of Edinburgh's Core Paths running through it, further encouraging sustainable travel to the park and through the city.

4.7 MAINTENANCE

The Natural Heritage Service Officers carry out regular site visits to Craigmillar Castle Park. Any issues with site furniture, infrastructure, vegetation control, invasive control, H&S concerns, woodland condition, anti-social behaviour, biodiversity and habitat management, vandalism or litter or other site considerations for action is recorded and work is identified and prioritised for remediation.

Natural Heritage Service Officers work directly to resolve issues quickly, where appropriate, within the team with assistance from our Estate workers, with other council departments or appointed 3rd party contractors.

Guided by our site workplan, management plan, CONFIRM asset checking or Site Inspection records and the internal and external measures of quality we address issues on site as required. Staff from within the Natural Heritage team, other council departments or appointed external contractors including; repairs and improvements, annual grounds maintenance management, flytipping site deep cleans, infrastructure repair or maintenance, amenity forestry work, refurbishments or maintenance and where capital budgets allow - additional site assets.

Work required may be referred to the local Neighbourhood team for support or other internal Council Services as appropriate. For added value and engagement opportunities we identify appropriate tasks or projects on site and engage with volunteers to help us maintain and improve the site.



Inspection Recording

Natural Heritage Service Officers record site inspections on a Site Inspection Database to allow us to track and record the number of issues, faults or reports or maintenance work required on site which allows us to track issues and remediation as well as record staff presence on site.

Scheduling of Site Inspections is co-ordinated by the Senior Natural Heritage Officers and time is allotted to all Natural Heritage Officers to undertake formal Site Inspections across all 12 city sites and the Pentland Hills Regional Park across the year.

Officers are now engaging with a City of Edinburgh Council wide system of asset monitoring software called CONFIRM which allows both a site wide asset check or custom built inspections to be undertaken and recorded using the council wide software. CONFIRM provides a monitoring system of all assets on site for assessment and a condition report with links of the assets to the correct City of Edinburgh Council department for remediation work. CONFIRM is expected to come into full use by Natural Heritage Service sometime after 2015.

Play Equipment

The site is furnished with an excellent quality rope and slides facility. Where City of Edinburgh Council parks provide play areas that are available to members of the public, these must meet The British and European safety standard BS EN1176. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) strongly recommend that all play areas have at least one inspection every year from an independent suitably qualified body such as RoSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents).

Advice from ROSPA suggests that Children's Playgrounds should be inspected annually by an independent specialist to ensure the long term safety of the site, equipment and ancillary items. This will also meet legal and insurance responsibilities as well as complying with the requirements of EN1176 (the new European Playground Standard).



The formal inspection of City of Edinburgh Council play equipment is co-ordinated by Parks and Greenspaces Senior Technical Officer with formal engineering recorded inspections with annual independent inspection and risk assessment each year as part of their inspection schedule. Play areas within City of Edinburgh Council are held on a database called Play Safe which records type of equipment, installation date, type of surface and furniture on site. Any faults or defects with equipment are isolated and made safe to be repaired at a later date. Records are kept by City of Edinburgh Council Workshops departments. Annual inspections and risk assessments are carried out on all playgrounds by an independent playground inspector.

Informal checks of play equipment and surrounding areas for broken glass or litter is undertaken on the scheduled site inspections any defects or areas of concern are reported to the Play Team for scheduled repair.

Grounds Maintenance

The grounds maintenance on site is usually delivered by City of Edinburgh Council Grounds Maintenance teams. Natural Heritage sites with their size and complexity require co-ordination of the schedule which is managed by the Natural Heritage Service.

Natural Heritage Officers determine the requirements of the site and establish a detailed maintenance plan and cutting schedule to manage the complex and sensitive landscapes and habitats. Natural Heritage Officers work closely with any appointed department or contractor to deliver consistent grounds maintenance standards and quality results on site which are monitored across the year.



Infrastructure Maintenance

There are approximately 10km of different paths and well used routes throughout Craigmillar Castle Park. The paths vary in surface type and users and include tarmac cycle paths to informal woodland or open grassland desire lines.

Many of the surfaced paths were upgraded or created between 2005 and 2007 as part of the successful WIAT funding application.

A previous Path and Facilities Maintenance Plan produced in 2008 has been updated with an updated condition and action plan from 2015.

The plan shows each path or structure detailing location, work required and a priority for the work and an indication of costs for the work where available.

See additional document for a summary of infrastructure condition in the "Path&Infrastructure_Maintenance Workplan 2015" offering an at-a-glance condition report at the time of the assessment (Summer 2015) and potential actions (subject to future available budget and resources). Full specifications for the works will be created only as budget becomes available and projects can be delivered.

Internal and External Measures of Standards

There are measures that are used to determine consistent standards in parks and greenspaces locally and nationally.

City of Edinburgh Council started to use the nationally recognised Green Flag Award as an indicator of quality in 2007. In 2014 a record 26 parks were awarded a green flag and 124 of Edinburgh's 137 parks and greenspaces met or exceeded the parks quality standard, established to ensure quality across all of the councils greenspace estate.

The Green Flag Award is the UK's national standard for parks and green spaces where the Council green spaces, strategies, management policies and practices are peer reviewed by Green Flag judges. It aims to recognise and celebrate high quality green spaces. The award strives to ensure that everyone has access to safe, clean and pleasant space where they can relax, meet, play or exercise. Awards are given on an annual basis and winners must apply each year to new their Green Flag Award status.

Green Flag - Parks Quality Assessments

The Parks Quality Assessments (PQA) are a local measure of overall quality carried out annually on all council parks and green spaces. Each park is given a score from a set of standard measures and feedback on these scores help departments manage and improve their parks.

Green Flag PQA criteria include the following categories:

A welcoming place
Healthy, Safe and Secure
Clean and well maintained
Sustainability
Conservation and Heritage
Community involvement
Marketing and promotion
Management

Craigmillar Castle Park first achieved its Green Flag Award in 2010 and has held it each year since – to date in 2014.

Craigmillar Green Flag Criteria PQA Overall Scores

2014	71%	Very Good
2013	69%	Very Good
2012	72%	Very Good
2011	74%	Very Good
2010	70%	Very Good
2009	65%	Very Good
2008	66%	Very Good

Results and specific feedback on each category is factored in to site maintenance programmes on the site where improvements can be realised with available budgets.

Following the assessments judges are asked to propose three recommendations for each site based on their findings. These recommendations are designed to ensure that structured improvements are undertaken in every park, which will hopefully improve the targeted criteria score and therefore the quality across the whole site. It also provides a broad level indication where improvements will be targeted based on the Green Flag criteria which will enable possible strategic citywide assistance in some cases.

Improvement actions can be identified for parks through various sources but the Park Quality Assessments carried out each year provides the site manager with specific information on the quality of their parks that can be used to identify areas for improvement or promotion.

Landscape Quality Standards

The Landscape Quality Standards (LQS) are a local measure for grounds maintenance carried out annually on all council parks and green spaces. Each park is given a score from a set of standard measures and feedback on these scores help departments manage and improve their grounds maintenance planning and delivery. Landscape Quality Standards focus on the result and not the process. They are a means of defining levels of measureable quality.

Categories that are considered to be present or to be considered at Craigmillar Castle Park are as follows:

- Standard Amenity Grass
- Low Maintenance Grass
- Biodiverse Grassed / Meadow Area
- Hedge - informal
- Naturalised bulbs in grass
- Established Woodland area and copse
- Newly Planted Woodland
- Play Area
- Path / Hard standing
- Invasive Non Native Species
- Litter / debris

CONFIRM

Confirm OnDemand is a software solution that was chosen in 2013 to underpin the City of Edinburgh Council's new environment asset and works order management system. The new solution will consolidate and replace IT and workflow management systems to deliver more proactive, real-time public services to Edinburgh's citizens, and help the City Council realise more than £1 million in savings across various cost centres by the end of 2018.

CONFIRM will allow the Natural Heritage Service to undertake complete asset check on our sites as well as customised site inspections to provide a monitoring of all assets on site and a single system of assessment, condition report and trackable markers for remediation. CONFIRM is expected to come into full use by Natural Heritage Service during 2015.

4.8 WOODLANDS & TREES

Craigmillar Castle Park extends to 62ha with around 77% of the area said to compose of woodlands.

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) has been in place over the Craigmillar Castle Park area since 1973, extending over 64.4ha of the site including the woodland areas and parkland tree features. The TPO is administered by the City of Edinburgh Council Planning department and relevant sections of the local authority will be consulted regarding proposed tree management operations.

Tree cover within the Craigmillar Castle Park is varied in terms of location, age class, species and structure. Coverage extends to approx 47ha in a number of discrete areas but can sensibly be grouped into four distinct woodland types.

Policy Woodland

Long established woodland features planted by the former owners of Craigmillar Estate as designed landscape features and to help landscape and screen various quarries located on the site.

Parkland Features

Small wooded areas, avenues and individual trees are located at strategic locations in the park forming prominent landscape features.

Reclamation Woodland

A number of former quarries in the park were used as landfill sites in the 1980's. Landfill operations were closed and the areas were sealed, capped and planted with a variety of pioneer tree and shrub species.

New Woodland Planting

In 1997 a significant area of open land associated with the former plant nursery was planted as part of the Millennium Forest for Scotland Project. Works were funded by the Forestry Commission under their WIAT scheme. This new woodland comprise approximately 58% of the total wooded area in the park. National Vegetation Classification (NVC) used: Oak Birch Mix / Oak Ash Mix / Beech Mix / Native Pinewood Mix. The NVC woodland Type W10 Lowland Mixed Broadleaf Woodland would be most representative of indicative of expected woodland given local conditions.

In 2004 City of Edinburgh Council submitted a successful grant application for Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS) and a Woodlands In and around Towns (WIAT). All legal obligations linked with the original planting scheme and funding under MFST and WGS have been fulfilled. Reference to original planting schemes and outcomes can be found in the Woodland Management Plan (2005). [Appendix XX](#)

The funding of the following work was included in this application:

- Production of a Woodland Management Plan
- Felling of diseased Elms
- Safety Felling of dangerous trees
- Tree surgery works to safeguard the public
- Cutting of firebreaks within the Millennium woodlands

Additional commitments made in this application in 2004 included:

- Production of a Recreational Management Plan

Ride Management

- Grass cutting of open areas
- Installation of benches and seating
- Removal of redundant fences
- Removal of fly-tipping and burnt out cars
- Removal of litter

The management plan has been produced and the actions identified have been fulfilled to the requirements of the SFGS/WIAT funding bid.

A large number of the wooded compartments at Craigmillar Castle Park were planted around 1997 as part of the Millennium woodland project. These young woodland compartments are now becoming established and require a view to be taken over the medium to longer term to bring the compartments into active management. Future management is under the advice of CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Natural Heritage Service and CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Forestry Team.

There is currently no ring fenced maintenance budget within the Natural Heritage Service or CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Forestry Team allocated to maintenance of amenity woodland management for non emergency work. Future funding needs to be sought and allocated to the plans priorities as funds become available. All advisory notices are based on amenity management of trees and woodland compartments as a whole. Single trees identified or assessed with any immediate hazards or risks will be managed as emergency works.

Woodland management for Craigmillar Castle Park should reference the Craigmillar Woodland Management Plan (2005) before instruction of any specific maintenance work undertaken by any contractor.

There is a supplemental work plan produced in 2014 as a flexible working document providing an overview specifically of the juvenile woodland compartments and provides basic advisory notices for future active management including suggestions of % thinning and suggested time frames from 1-10 years. The advisory notices are not linked to any legal or expected framework for management.

The CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Forestry Team employs the use of their Easytreev Data Base to monitor the condition of trees that are next to roads, paths, buildings. Sometimes due to storm damage or the age of some of the trees and their susceptibility to disease some ancient and younger trees do have to be felled for public safety. Where ever possible these are de-limbed to maintain as much biodiversity value as possible in addition to stumps being retained on site.

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL Forestry Team also undertake an annual maintenance programme of managing Dutch Elm on sites across Edinburgh. Craigmillar Castle Park has a schedule of work undertaken on site with identified tree stock to be felled and burnt onsite to prevent the spread of Dutch Elm. The work continues with the Forestry Unit scheduling time in Winter to undertake this essential work.

4.9 LITTER

Routine maintenance for bin emptying is completed by the Taskforce Environment Teams based at depots associated with local Neighbourhood Offices. Craigmillar Castle Park segments both the South Neighbourhood and East Neighbourhood boundaries.

There are 5 bins across the site at key entrances which are serviced by East and South Neighbourhood taskforce team twice weekly.

Peffermill Entrance
Castleview Avenue Entrance
Craigmillar Gardens Entrance
A7 recycling centre Entrance
Bridgend Farm junction Entrance

Bins are emptied on a schedule and routine basis as arranged and co-ordinated by the local Taskforce Management teams or ad hoc when requested by Natural Heritage Service Officers.

Litter found on the internal park verges and path networks is removed by Natural Heritage Officers if limited in quantity and removed off site for disposal.

There has been an opportunity to undertake site specific 'deep cleans' at Craigmillar due to the persistent and high volume nature of litter and fly tipped items found on site. There were x2 'deep cleans' undertaken in 2014. There are x4 'deep cleans' scheduled for 2015 to assist us with meeting PQA and Green Flag standards across the site.

There have been persistent issues with breaches at the boundary fence line on the site to the Recycling Centre. This has led to significant accumulations of rubbish, flytipped items and general household waste left on the park side of the recycling centre fenceline. The Civic Amenity Manager



for City of Edinburgh Council includes an external boundary fence sweep by the team leaders at Craigmillar Recycling Depot.

Local volunteers, corporate days, school engagement days, spring cleans, health or work programmes, local scouts and 'giving back' days can all supplement these scheduled days and help us keep the site clean and well maintained.

In cases of extensive littering e.g. significant fly-tipping, burnt out vehicles or items that merit further investigation, the service involves Police Scotland or local Environmental Wardens where necessary. Environmental Wardens teams can investigate and prosecute if evidence is found identifying the owner of fly-tipped

items. Thereafter Taskforce Team Leaders at Neighbourhood Offices then engage for the waste squads to respond and remove the items.

There are a number of local volunteer groups engaged on an annual basis and the Natural Heritage Service co-ordinate annual litter pick events as part of the keep Britain Tidy event each year where volunteers help to clear areas of the park of litter.

In 2014 the service arranged a cross neighbourhood 'deep clean' of the site with the support of the Neighbourhood Environment managers and had 20 staff over a weekend clear the site of litter and fly-tipping. Litter is a persistent issue at Craigmillar Castle Park and one that the service will continue to tackle working with City of Edinburgh Council Neighbourhood support and voluntary groups and individuals.

Bin scheduling is under the management of the Neighbourhood taskforce teams and current servicing frequency is thought to be adequate with the 5 litter bins being serviced twice weekly. There is no routine litter picked or removal from the interior of the site from local taskforce staff. Installation of any additional bin units and associated servicing would need to be costed and agreed by Neighbourhood taskforce managers subject to budget and resources available.

4.10 DOG FOULING

The City of Edinburgh Council does not provide specific dog waste bins - all waste bins are capable of taking bagged foul. Bins are located at all main pedestrian entrances to the site.

The Natural Heritage Service approach for dealing with dog fouling on Natural Heritage Parks is focused on promoting responsible access through the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) and through the Dog Fouling Act. In addition, the City of Edinburgh Council Parks and Greenspaces department has produced management rules under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 which also provide an additional layer of powers to assist in managing behaviour and activities on their land.

The Natural Heritage Service work on the primary principle of promoting responsible access through education and raising awareness with those that use our sites. This approach helps inform users of complex issues surrounding responsible access where users have rights to use land but also have responsibilities.

The Environmental Warden services operate at a Neighbourhood level within the Community Safety team and work within community council wards. The Environmental Wardens have a remit for enforcement and have the ability to issue fines which gives weight to the seriousness of any breach of the Dog Fouling Scotland Act 2003 .

The CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL and Natural Heritage Service want to foster good relationships with all responsible dog walkers. An open dialogue with commercial dog walking businesses have helped inform, influence and shape the content of the commercial dog walking guidelines recently introduced as part of the revised management rules in 2013.

Park Management Rules

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20178/park_management_and_rules

Within Edinburgh the issue of dog fouling continues to be a significant problem which comes with challenges in finding an appropriate solution for the city as a whole.

Enforcement is a powerful and useful way to ensure that when a breach of legislation occurs that the issue can be dealt with with on the spot fines. The Environmental Warden teams also have the power to introduce RIPSAW measures to allow plain clothes surveillance where their local teams feels it is appropriate.

Greater community involvement with positive dog walking role models is being rolled out in the shape of the 'Green Dog Walking Scheme' which is being piloted in Edinburgh shortly.

CONSULTATION

4.11 SURVEY WORK

The Natural Heritage Service has an active and regularly engaged biodiversity volunteer who assists with conducting the annual butterfly survey in the park. This annual survey is done as part of a Butterfly Conservation's nationwide survey to monitor butterfly populations.

A phase 1 survey by The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) in 2010 was undertaken and regular annual updates to the TWIC records are requested. A number of detailed surveys have been carried out over the years on Craigmillar Hill. These include surveys of the woodland areas, and species lists compiled of records of plants and animals found on the site.

A further species list of flora and fauna recorded within and in the vicinity of the park has been produced by TWIC with approximately ~300 plant and ~100 animal species recorded on their database. TWIC have provided an extract of a species list for all species found and recorded on site from 2010-2014.



Engagement with a local enthusiast and botanist in 2014 has allowed us to arrange for a base survey of the Northern Marsh Orchid & Common Spotted Orchid estimating numbers and distribution in areas where local populations have been identified in 2015. There is scope to explore a year on year survey for distribution, spread and population trend to be recorded.

As part of the Craigmillar Castle Park Archaeological and Historical Landscape Assessment and Restoration Management Plan Report (October 1999), an ecological survey was carried out covering the mature woodland and grassland areas summarising the main tree, shrub, ground flora and bryophyte interest in each area along with a comprehensive species list.

The Archaeological and Historical Landscape Assessment and Restoration Management Plan, written in 1999 contains a comprehensive list of both archaeological and historic features with associated information together with plans, drawings and detailed maps of the Park. This document should be read in conjunction with this management plan to provide a full appreciation of the importance of this site and should be used as a reference point prior to any works being undertaken.

5.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 CULTURAL HERITAGE

Historical Background

Craigmillar Castle is a late medieval construction dating from the early part of the 15th Century, and is regarded as being one of the best surviving examples of its age and type in Scotland.

The castle was originally in the ownership of the Preston family, being sold in the 17th century to the Gilmour family. The Gilmour family later moved into Inch House leaving the Castle uninhabited, and as a result the castle gradually fell into disrepair. By the late 18th Century the castle was in ruin.

The Castle is now owned and managed by Historic Scotland and is a popular visitor attraction to the area.

Craigmillar Hill has been extensively quarried over its history, particularly around its lower edges. The hill has provided a valuable source of sandstone for construction, and a number of quarries have been opened and worked at various locations and at varying times. It is thought that the quarries provided stone used in the construction of both Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace.

The 1750 General Roy Map shows Craigmillar Castle perched on the top of Craigmillar Hill and surrounded by agricultural fields. At this time there are no recorded tree features in the vicinity of the site.



An 1820 sketch map of the area shows areas of policy woodland established on the lower northern and western flanks of Craigmillar Hill. The woodlands may have been planted as restoration and landscaping features to screen quarry activities located in these areas. This map also shows Hawkhill Wood, which may also have been established for amenity purposes.

The 1852 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map shows a pattern of woodlands similar to the mature woodlands layout found on the site at present, with some new areas of woodland shown around the hill.

The 1893 Ordnance Survey Map shows minor extension planting to the past policy

woodland planting. The gently sloping fields on the north and west flanks of the hill are at this time shown to be converted from agricultural use to use as a horticultural nursery (known as Castle Nurseries). This map also shows the use of one of the former quarry areas as a fireworks factory, and a blacksmith operating from the site now occupied by the recycling centre.

The Ordnance Survey Map of 1932 shows little substantial change to the landscape over the intervening period, with the nursery operations now shown as the Royal Nurseries. The nursery, which was based at Bridgend Farm, ceased operations sometime in the 1970's.

The first part of the park was acquired by CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL in 1965 from the Gilmour Family, under a



compulsory purchase order. The site occupied by the blacksmith and adjoining quarry areas were taken over by the Council to provide a waste disposal facility and during the 1980's and landfilling of some of the quarry areas was carried out. Following the completion of landfill operations the quarry areas were capped, soiled and planted with trees.

In 1995 the Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust (MFST) initiative was established to herald the new millennium by restoring Scotland's native forests. The planting of the former tree nursery fields at Craigmillar Castle Park was undertaken as a MFST project in 1997. The park was selected by MFST as the location for the planting of their first tree by the Secretary of State for Scotland. A significant part of the planting was undertaken by volunteers, with 2,332 individuals planting 39,650 trees, achieving a Guinness World Record for the largest number of volunteers involved in tree planting.

Craigmillar Castle Park is an important designed landscape located to the south east of Edinburgh city centre. The Park is of historic significance and is set against the backdrop of Craigmillar Castle, itself a nationally important monument and an attractive landscape feature.

Craigmillar Castle is located on the eastern edge of Craigmillar Castle Park, sited on the summit of Craigmillar Hill. The castle is a prominent local landmark and is highly visible from much of the surrounding area. Craigmillar Castle and the surrounding landscape is a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument. The castle is owned and managed as a tourist attraction by Historic Scotland and does not form part of the park area.

The buildings within the park comprise of Bridgend Farm Steading and former dairy, located next to Old Dalkeith Road are Category C Listed Buildings. Bridgend Farm is currently unoccupied.

The Park consists of a mixture of open parkland with groups of veteran trees; mature policy woodland located around the fringes of Craigmillar Hill; and juvenile woodlands established on the fields on the north and western edges of the Hill.

The Park provides an area of open space close to the centre of Edinburgh, and in particular to Craigmillar housing estate, and offers extensive walking routes passing through an attractive and varied landscape.

The A7 (Old Dalkeith Road) forms the western edge of the site. This road is a major arterial route leading into Edinburgh city centre from the south. Craigmillar Castle Road forms the eastern boundary to the main body of the park. This road leads from the A7 north-eastwards past Craigmillar Castle and northwards to Craigmillar housing estate. Hawkhill Community Woodland, which forms part of the Park, is located to the east of Craigmillar Castle Road and almost directly opposite the Castle.

Craigmillar housing estate abuts the park on its north eastern edge. The estate suffers from a range of social-economic problems, and as a consequence, it has been included within a Social Inclusion Partnership area. Additionally, along with the adjacent estate of Niddrie, it has been designated as a 'Priority Action Area' by CEC. The area has undergone a series of housing renovation and refurbishment works in recent years.



The Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (ERI) lies immediately to the south of the Park, with Edmonstone Estate being further removed.

There are two cycleways present. One extends from Craigmillar Castle Avenue along the eastern edge of Craigmillar Castle Park to the ERI, while the other links from Old Dalkeith Road to Peffermill Road.

Craigmillar Castle Park, along with Prestonfield Estate to the north, and Edmonstone Estate to the south forms a continuous strip of countryside making up part of Edinburgh's Green Belt.

Inch Park is located to the west of Craigmillar Castle Park, and has historic links with the Craigmillar Castle, with both Inch House and the Castle having been owned by the Gilmour family. The communities of The Inch and Moredun are located immediately to the west of the A7 and the Park.

The Council operates a Recycling Centre from a site within the main body of the Park, although the Centre is not part of the Park. The operation of the recycling

Centre is a continuation of landfill operations that were undertaken during the 1970's. The Recycling Centre is accessed via an access road off the A7.

The area has a long history linked to Craigmillar Castle which was best known as a place where Mary Queen of Scots visited. It was part of much larger estates of the Gilmour family which included Inch house and park nearby.

More recently the area has been used by local people as a park. Development from CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL has included woodland works, path installation, and a large play park within it. In 1998 it was also part of a record breaking tree planting attempt. This project was funded through the Forestry Commission Scotland's Woodland Grant Scheme.

Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)

A scheduled monument is a monument of national importance that Scottish Ministers have given legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Historic Scotland Gardens and Designed Landscapes Inventory. Areas designated as SAM can be found on Historic Scotland's Data Services website:
<http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2000:10:0:>

Scottish Historic Environment Policy sets out Scottish Ministers' policy on scheduled monument consent. It is the value of the monument to the nation's heritage that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument consent. Works on scheduled monuments should normally be the minimum necessary to conserve the important features of a monument.

As each monument will require treatment specific to its individual characteristics, significance and condition, any proposed change to it must be fully and explicitly justified. Certain works may be appropriate at one monument, but not at another.

Archaeological Landscape

A study of Craigmillar Castle Park Archaeological and Historical Landscape Assessment and Restoration Management Plan was produced by Peter McGowan Associates and AOC Archaeology in October 1999.

The report goes into great detail on a number of details relating to the Visual Landscape Survey. Categories under analysis are as follows:

- Visual Landscape Survey
- Geology & Geomorphology
- Zones of Distinct Visual Character
- Views & Vistas
- Ecological Survey
- Woodland
- Grassland
- Summary of Nature Conservation Interest
- Summary of Current Planning and Development Issues
- Ecological Survey list of Species

A copy of the report is available on request. Only print copies are currently known to be available although copies are also held at the National Library in Edinburgh.

Craigmillar Castle Park Archaeological and Historic Landscape Assessment and Restoration Management Plan

Record Id: 2091

Author: Peter McGowan Associates & AOC

Document Title: Craigmillar Castle Park Archaeological and Historic Landscape Assessment and Restoration Management Plan

Publication Date: 1998

Document type: Text

Physical resource type: Document, printed

Description:

A copy of this document is held at Peter McGowan Associates.

<http://www.parksandgardens.org/places-and-people/reference?id=2091>

CONSULTATION

5.2 NATURAL HERITAGE

The park is composed of areas of open rough grassland, managed amenity grassland, mature hedgerow and avenue features, small copses, mature woodland and ancient heritage trees, areas of unmanaged scrub, young and semi-mature woodland, and outcropping rocks and worked quarry faces, all of which provide a wide range of habitats.

A number species of local importance under the Edinburgh and the Lothian Biodiversity Action plan have been recorded on the site. These include woodland and grassland ground flora species, mosses, and tree species e.g. pedunculate oak, aspen.

TWIC is the biological records centre for the Lothians and the Scottish Borders that collects, collates and disseminates information about the wildlife in the area. A list of recorded species are included in the as provided from TWIC recorded on site from 2010 to Summer 2014.

There was an ecological survey undertaken in October 2007 and 1998. This report is available to view on request – print copies only are available.

The site supports extensive areas of open, improved agricultural land with improved pasture on the high ground near the castle. Lower lying arable fields were planted up with broadleaf woodland tree species in large compartments as part of the Millennium Forest for Scotland Project. Works were funded by the Forestry Commission under their WIAT scheme .

Closer to the castle there are distinct areas of woodland all associated with former quarrying activities. Apart from an area of scrub to the south east of the castle other habitats present at the site are shelter belt strip plantations and old hedgerows to the northern site.

NATURE CONSERVATION VALUE

FLORA

Craigmillar Castle Park comprises a mosaic of open and woodland habitats located centrally within a chain of 'green' sites connecting from the south eastern edge of Edinburgh City Centre to the city bypass and the wider countryside beyond.

Connectivity of the various habitats, both within the park and with neighbouring woodland and parkland areas, effectively increases the size and scope and adds additional value to the habitat.

In terms of the woodland areas within the park, there are three main ages classes represented providing additional habitat diversity in terms of tree size classes and canopy structure.

Although mainly dominated by non-native sycamore, the mature woodland areas were established with a wide range of tree species including native tree species, most of which are still represented.

Reclamation woodland mixes are largely composed of non-native species which does limit the nature conservation value of these developing woodland areas. The most recent community woodland planting is largely composed of native woodland tree mixes with small policy woodland elements incorporated to provide an interlock with the pre-existing woodland landscape. These native woodland areas will develop to provide a largely native woodland habitat, adding additional biodiversity value to the woodlands.



Native woodland ground flora is present within many of the mature and semi-mature woodland areas, although heavy shading by the woodland canopy has limited the extent and spread.

Wild celery (*Apium graveolens*) is to be found growing in the area around the castle. Other species to be found in the woodland areas include ash, common lime (*Tilia x europaea*), sycamore, and horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). Other perennial plants include Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), and Bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*).

An extensive survey of species found on the site has been made available to us by a local botanist and enthusiast who has good quality and reliable survey results of the site since the 1990's. Species identified have been marked with approximate locations correlating to a provided map determining area. A copy of the report is available on request. Only print copies are available.

A local population of *Hedera colchica* is on site in the old policy woodland and is thought to have been introduced at the time of the ornamental planting when the castle and grounds were still in use by the Preston Family.

Hedera colchica is a species of Ivy (genus *Hedera*) which is native to Near and Middle East. It is commonly called Persian ivy or colchis ivy. An evergreen climbing plant, growing to 30 m high where suitable surfaces (trees, cliffs, walls) are available, and also growing as ground cover where there are no vertical surfaces. It climbs by means of aerial rootlets which cling to the substrate. In warm climates, it grows more rapidly and becomes established faster than other ivy species.



Botanical specimens recorded run into the 100's. This list below is not exhaustive but includes;

- Alexanders (*Smyrniolum olustratum*)
- Black horehound (*Ballota nigra*)
- Good King Henry (*Chenopodium bonus-henricus*)
- French Sorrell (*Rumex scutatus*)
- Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*)
- Yellow loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*)
- Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*)
- False brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)

In spring there are prominent verges full of Green Alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*), part of the Borage family and related to forget-me-nots, found on the verges of the path network and woodland margins.

Northern marsh orchid and common spotted orchid are both present on site. *Dactylorhiza purpurella* is difficult to distinguish from other marsh orchids and was not described as a separate species until 1920. Northern marsh orchid can be recognised by its lip marked with dark spots as well as its purple-violet flower colour.

These orchids are often found in damp or wet habitats with slightly acid soils, such as marshy fields, road verges and sometimes peat bogs and open woodland of which some are found at Craigmillar Castle Park

In addition, there are a number of garden escapees present within the woodland

ground and shrub layers. Most of these are attractive additions to the woodland diversity, but some species are considered to be invasive and may require active measures to control their spread.

Out with the woodland areas, there is a diverse range of open habitats in the form of maintained grassland areas, rough grassland areas and patches of tall ruderal vegetation, all of which provides a variety of habitat types, and add to the biodiversity of the area.

FAUNA

The site support a number of bird species that are well adapted to the habitats available on the site. A number of raptors have been recorded on site include Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) who have known to occupy nest sites in the mature policy woodlands compartments.

Grassland bird species seen on site include Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*). Linnet numbers are known to have dropped substantially over the past few decades, with the UK population estimated to have declined by 57 per cent between 1970 and 2008 (RSPB). Recent Breeding Bird Survey results suggest that while populations in England and Wales continue to decline, those in Scotland and Northern Ireland are currently increasing.



Woodland birds recorded on the site include siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) and Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*).

Mammals recorded on the site include Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), West European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), Eurasian Badger (*Meles meles*), European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Eastern Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), European Mole (*Talpa europaea*) and Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpe*).

Historical badger setts are on site. Grid refs for the old sett records are from Mammal Society records 1967 checked and found as disused in 1983,1994 and 2002.

1. NT285 709 on wooded ridge between 2 old quarries. Sett was 50m west of fenceline
2. NT2859 7064 in small deciduous wood land.

6.0 OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Cultural – To manage and develop the cultural and natural assets of the site in relation to their value in ways which will be attractive to a wide cross section of park users.

Conservation - Increase the biodiversity of the habitats; increasing the proportion of native trees, and by diversifying the woodland age and class structure; improving grassland areas for biodiversity and looking at scrub areas and potential for wetland.

- **Woodlands** – Sustainable management of the woodland by taking positive action through sensitive thinning, safety felling, creation of deadwood habitat, continued maintenance and enrichment planting, protect sensitive ground flora, maintain or increase light levels in selected areas, maintain cover over areas of well developed flora.
- **Juvenile Woodlands** – Sustainable management of the establishing woodland by taking positive management action through sensitive and planned thinning, pruning, crown lifting, safety felling, creation of deadwood habitat, maintain or increase light levels in selected areas
- **Maintain woodland bird interest** - Survey and monitor population, Maintain diversity of scrub and woodland habitat
- **Grassland** – Maintain and enhance grassland areas to improve the range of both flora and fauna. To Include:
 - Maintain and enhance non-woodland bird interest - Survey and monitor bird population, maintain appropriate management of fields, Diversify habitat of fields
 - Maintain and replace parkland trees
 - Maintain wall flora
 - Control invasive species
 - Explore opportunities to improve constituency of grassland and ruderal areas at entrances for improved visual impact and biodiversity value
- **Maintain and enhance invertebrate interest of the site** - Survey and monitor population, Retain old trees, trunks and stumps, manage selected meadow areas for invertebrates on basis of survey
- **Survey flora and fauna** – Undertake or instruct survey work of areas of interest including woodland flora, policy woodlands flora, ruderal species, grassland flora and species of note
- **Parkland Features** – Explore opportunities to work with Forestry department on longer term project of rejuvenating and defining areas of parkland features. Yew Tree Walk and Horse Chestnut Avenue – removal of non native trees dominating area and planting of native historical yew varieties at Yew Tree Walk. Assessing condition of tree stock at Horse chestnut avenue and removing and replanting Horse chestnut to preserve feature and extend lifespan of planted landscape features.

Amenity - Improve the amenity of the park by working alongside Environmental Wardens and Taskforce to continue to remove fly tipping, general clearance, maintaining boundaries, and keeping the site in a litter free condition.

Amenity – Continue to co-ordinate and manage grounds maintenance schedule for sensitive management of the landscape and to good standard

Amenity - Continue to improve paths and entrances to encourage responsible users.

Amenity – Continue to refurbish existing infrastructure to good standard to maintain good standard of facilities on site

Amenity – Explore opportunities to introduce additional infrastructure and furniture at appropriate locations to improve good standard of facilities on site

Amenity – Promote, interpret and improve the understanding of the sites historical land use and flora and fauna interest

Recreation – Rationalise, improve, and enhance the access network and related features throughout the park, and create new features to improve access.

Recreation – Improve and ensure a welcoming entrance at access points

Recreation – Enhance visual experience of site from main routes with selective tree management and suitable locations for site furniture

Recreation – Encourage increased local use and new visitors to Craigmillar Castle Park

Safety - Explore ways to address dog fouling and litter problems on site

Safety - Explore ways to address antisocial behaviour and vehicle use on site

Safety - Ensure that the park does not present a safety hazard to the general public or to users of the site by monitoring the condition of mature trees and maintaining access routes.

Maintenance - Maintain the park to ensure the long-term success of management operations and recreational improvements.

Community - Achieve the stated objectives through the attainment of the local communities support and involvement.

Promotion – Encourage the positive use of the site by its current users, and increase the levels of usage by improving awareness, and undertaking community based project.

Promotion – Encourage the positive use of the site by its current users, and increase the levels of usage by improving awareness. Explore opportunity to produce a 'Resource Pack' for use by schools and groups whilst out on site to provide information to allow them to confidently access the site and determine and run their own projects.

Recreational

From observations carried out by staff on regular site inspections a number of different groups and individuals were noted as carrying out the following activities:

- Walking
- Dog walking either as paid 'professional' dog walkers or as independent owners
- Cycling
- Jogging or running
- Due to its diversity of features an orienteering map at 1:5,000 scale was produced by the Interlopers and this is regularly used for training, including schools, for events and for the permanent course.

Craigmillar Castle Park is in a prime position between two large housing estates and therefore has potential for both recreational use and as a route through the city. It is already used for both these purposes but has potential for more use. It's proximity to Craigmillar Castle means a number of tourists may find their way there but it currently does not offer anything specifically for tourists and is not promoted as such.

A leaflet on the history of Lady Susan's walk was produced as part of a Waste Recycling Environment Network improvement grant.

Educational

The educational value of the site is high. There is an extensive school aged population in the surrounding areas. It is used regularly by local groups and schools including local Forest School providers who use the site regularly.

Recent strategic and operational changes in the Natural Heritage Service now focuses on site and land management with Natural Heritage Officers taking the lead on individual sites as Area or Site Officers. The service does not currently offer specific education engagement programmes. Enquiring groups are provided with information and guidance on site use and site features, provided with assistance on practical projects or activities that can be undertaken without facilitation or supervision.

The Natural Heritage Service continues to work alongside 3rd party organisations and have a continued desire to build partnerships to increase site use, increase understanding of our parks, connect with our communities and to undertake selected practical conservation and maintenance tasks over the course of the year.

A number of local events and festivals have taken place on Natural Heritage Parks with the advice and guidance provided by the team.

The Natural Heritage Service are investigating the possibility of providing information or resource packs to local schools or groups looking for information to help them theme their visits to the sites and add value to their programme of outdoor activities.