

Location and History

OS Grid Reference: NY126805

Eskrigg Reserve is located 1.6 miles south-west of Lockerbie Town Centre, on the east side of South Turnmuir Plantation. It is on the site of a former curling pond built around the mid 19th century on land owned by Castle Milk Estate. The site occupies 7 acres (2.8 hectares). Until the mid 20th century the pond was used for skating, curling and duck shooting.



The site is now managed by Lockerbie Wildlife Trust and became a nature reserve in 1988. It contains a wide range of habitats, each with its indigenous flora and fauna, some of which are quite rare.

There are areas of heathland, wetland, willow carr, stream, open water and coniferous woodland with a rich deciduous shrub layer. The Scots Pines support a healthy population of red squirrels.

You can help look after the Reserve if you:

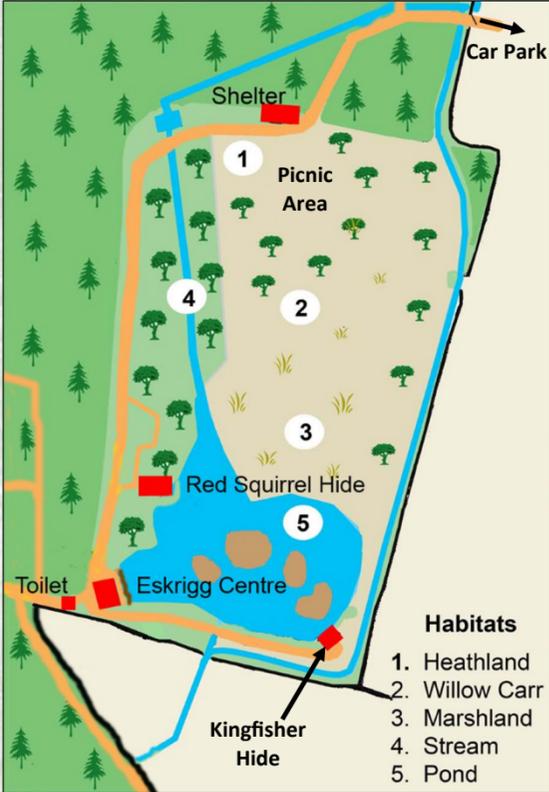
- keep to footpaths
- keep your dog on a lead while within the Nature Reserve
- clean up after your dog
- take your litter home
- respect all wildlife habitats, plants, animals and other visitors
- record any wildlife sightings at Eskrigg Centre

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust works in partnership with Castle Milk and Corrie Estate and would like to acknowledge its invaluable support.

Woodland Walks around Eskrigg Reserve



Eskrigg Reserve



Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

The Trust is a registered charity managed by a committee elected from the membership. Anyone with an interest in wildlife is welcome to become a member. Members receive a Monthly Reserve News Bulletin by email.

Trust Activities

We normally run a varied programme of events throughout the year. These include excursions, fund-raising events, talks and a range of plant and animal activities at the Reserve for different age groups.

Reserve activities for children are run mainly during the spring, summer and autumn holidays and at other times by arrangement with the Reserve Manager.



Adult and family activities take place throughout the year. Moth trapping takes place from April to October.

Wild Food and Fungal Forays are organised in the period August to October.



Training events, such as Small Mammal Trapping and Red Squirrel Surveying, are organised as required, as are Bird Box and Squirrel Feeder construction workshops.

Once a month, from October till March, there are evening meetings at Lockerbie Town Hall at which guest speakers give illustrated talks on topical and interesting wildlife themes. Members and visitors can have a chat during the refreshment break, purchase items from the sales counter or perhaps win a raffle prize. There is usually a small entry fee with a discount for members.

Visit our website for details of all events:
www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk

Eskrigg Centre

From the windows at the front, you can look out over the pond and see the resident wildfowl and a range of other visitors at various times of the year. In the trees on either side, you can watch the woodland birds and red squirrels at and around the feeders.



The Centre has wheelchair access. There is also a teaching/research extension to the viewing area, which can be booked for use by school and community groups.

The Centre also has a range of wildlife magazines that can be read on site and information leaflets that can be taken away.

Jim Rae, retired biology teacher, is available to organise or assist with practical activities such as:

- pond dipping, woodland mini-beasts or moth trapping
- guided walks through the Reserve and Woodland Walks



You can contribute to the Trust's wildlife records by entering your wildlife sightings on the board in the Centre.



Opening Times

The **Reserve** is open to the public all the time.

The **Centre** is open to the public during the day:

- between 9am and 4pm from the beginning of November till the end of February
- between 8am and 5pm from the beginning of March till the end of October

The Eskrigg Centre may also be opened at other times by arrangement with the Reserve Manager.

Access for All

The Reserve Car Park has space for approximately sixteen vehicles - cars, vans or minibuses. It is not suitable for coaches. Alternative parking for visiting bus parties can be arranged, in advance, with the Reserve Manager.

The hard-core path from the car park to the Reserve is suitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs, as well as normal pedestrian traffic. The path is fenced off from the fields on either side.



Within the Reserve there is disabled access to all paths, Picnic Area, Red Squirrel Hide, Eskrigg Centre and the Compost Toilet. The Kingfisher Hide is the only area without disabled access.

Some of the Woodland Walks have also been upgraded to all-user paths forming the 3km Red Squirrel Trail. A mobility scooter is available on site by prior arrangement with the Reserve Manager.

Volunteering

There are opportunities for teenagers and adults to carry out volunteer work at Eskrigg Reserve and Woodland Walks. Students, who volunteer to carry out construction and maintenance work, may qualify for a Duke of Edinburgh Award or Saltire Award.



If they carry out some research as well, they may earn a John Muir Trust Award.

Adults may volunteer to carry out construction and maintenance work. With suitable training and experience, they may also be able to assist with the running of certain activities.

If you would like to book for an event, be a volunteer or require further information, please contact the Reserve Manager:

Jim Rae, 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, DG11 2DZ.
Mobile 07739 987009 / Email jim.rae2012@gmail.com

www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk

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Nature Reserve and Woodland Walks



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