

# Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

(www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk)

## Eskrigg Reserve

### May 2020 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:  
SC 005538

1. View of the pond taken on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May - the lowest recorded level and still drying up.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during May.

**a. Birds**

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, House Sparrow, Kestrel, Lesser Redpoll, Jackdaw, Jay, Mallard, Mandarin, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Reed Bunting, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Starling, Swallow, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wren.



**b. Mammals**

Bank Vole, Brown Hare, Common Shrew, Fox, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Stoat, Weasel.

**c. Reptiles and Amphibians**

Common Lizard, Frog, Toad.

**d. Butterflies**

Green Hairstreak, Green-veined White, Large White, Orange-tip, Peacock, Small Copper, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White.



Photographs by Gary Shanks (GS) and Jim Rae (JR).



### 3. Eskrigg Reserve - May Flower-gallery



1st Row: Water Avens, Crab Apple, Red Campion with variegated leaves  
 2nd Row: White Campion, Hawthorn (May) Blossom, White "Bluebell"  
 3rd Row: Broom, Tormentil, Gorse  
 4th Row: Round-leaved Crowfoot, Rowan, Star-of-Bethlehem,  
 5th Row: Herb Robert, Forget-me-not, Pink Purslane  
 6th Row: Holly



Photographs by Jim Rae



#### 4. May Volunteer Activities at Eskrigg Reserve



Added third layer of stones to gabion baskets 1 and 2.



Dug out the area for gabion baskets 3 and 4.

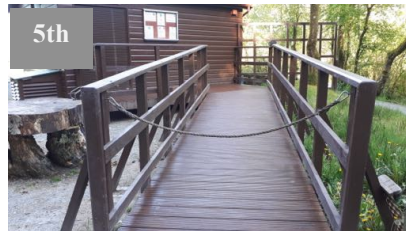


Constructed platform for transferring gabion stones.

Also on 3rd - Picked up dog droppings from paths and emptied the dog waste bins.



Added stones and strengthening cables.



Treated the Centre ramp with wood preservative.



Added more stones to baskets 1 and 2



Completed filling baskets 1 & 2 and tied down the lids.



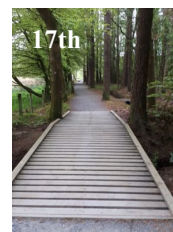
Erected baskets 3 & 4 and prepared for filling.



Treated ramp of Red Squirrel Hide and started filling basket 3.



Completed basket 3 and started on 4.



17th Raked Red Squirrel Hide area and Reserve path in the morning and stripped the wire netting from the long bridge in the afternoon.

18th  
Conducted flowering plant survey



Added stones to basket 4 in the morning and photographed wildlife in the afternoon.



Completed filling basket 4 and tied down the lid.



Raked out the excavated soil to restore the bank and fill in around the platform.



Front view of gabion platform as seen from across the pond.

Jim will meet up with Scott McLean to make arrangements for building the new hide on top of the platform in the near future. Meanwhile it is back to normal maintenance work around the Reserve and Woodland Walks.

Photographs by Jim Rae



5. New Records for Eskrigg

a. The Spiny Mason Wasp (*Odynerus spinipes*)

While doing the Mid-May Flower Survey on May 20th, Jim took this photograph of an insect on a dandelion flower. (Grid Reference NY12642 80573)



When he got home, he identified it as a male **Spiny Mason Wasp**. The male has markedly thickened tips to its antennae. It is a species of potter wasp from northwestern Europe and Scandinavia. In Great Britain it was found as far north as southern Scotland, but according to the following reference\* -

\*"SCOTTISH INVERTEBRATE SPECIES KNOWLEDGE DOSSIER Hymenoptera: Aculeata Part 2 - Wasps" (PDF). Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust. Retrieved 23 April 2017." - it was, thought to be extinct in Scotland by 2017.

Jim contacted Mark Pollitt (SWSEIC) and he had the record verified by Scott Shanks. Mark also told him that the same species had been recently recorded in Ayrshire but this was a first for Dumfriesshire.

b. Dryad's Saddle (*Polyporus squamosus*)

**George Trudt** sent Jim a picture of a fungus that he had spotted on the 24th of May in the woods next to the Reserve. It looked like Dryad's Saddle. George kindly showed Jim the site the next day and he was able to confirm the identification.



c. Lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*)

On the 24th of May, **George Trudt** also gave Jim directions to a patch of Lily-of-the-valley that he had spotted in the woods towards the cemetery end. This plant is found in dry woods, but normally on calcareous soils.



d. Warty Knight (*Melanoleuca verrucipes*)

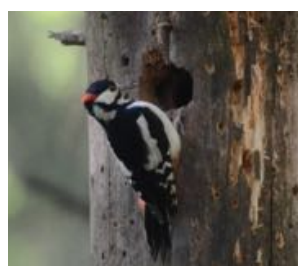
**Jim** spotted another new fungus on the 30th of May beneath one of the recently planted apple trees. The spores of the fungus appear to have been in the potting compost that the tree was originally grown in.



6. A moment during the breeding season of the Great Spotted Woodpecker.



Hungry chick in nest



Father brings food



Big brother must wait

Photographs by Jim Rae

**Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)**

**Address: Carradale, 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, DG11 2DZ.**

**Home Tel.: 01576 203 314 / Mobile No.: 07739 987 009**

**Email: jim.rae2012@gmail.com**