

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

May 2021 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Rainbow over the Reserve, with blue sky below and Burnswark in the background - 19th May.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during May.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Common Gull, Crossbill, Dunnock, Feral Pigeon, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, Greylag Goose, House Martin, House Sparrow, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Redpoll, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Mandarin, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Red Kite, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Swallow, Treecreeper, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Field Vole, Hare, Hedgehog, Mole, Otter, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer.

c. Reptiles and Amphibians

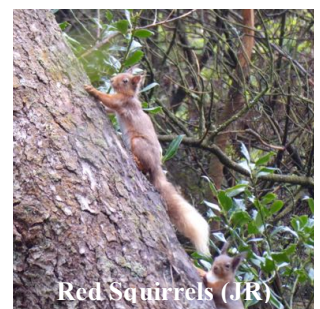
Common Lizard, Frog, Toad.

d. Invertebrates

Butterflies: Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Peacock.

e. Fungi

Birch Polypore, Bog Beacon, Glistening Inkcap, Hoof Fungus, Jelly Ear, Willow Bracket.



Photographs by Jean Robson (JeR), Jim Rae (JR)

3. Eskrigg Reserve - May 2021 Photo-gallery



1st Row (RO'N): Coal Tit, Lesser Redpoll, Goldfinch
2nd Row (RO'N): Male Siskin, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Female Siskin
3rd Row : Blue Tit (RO'N), GSW (RO'N), Mandarin (KN)
4th Row (AL): Bank Vole, Mallard, Red Squirrel
5th Row (JR): Green-veined White, Hedgehog, Water Carpet

Photographs by Robert O'Neil (RO'N), Keith (Chippy) Nicoll (KN), Alexandros Leontiades (AL), Jim Rae (JR)

4. May Activities at Eskrigg Reserve

11th **Jim** met up with **Charlotte** and **Neil Whitelaw**.

Charlotte had brought her Trampler (an off-road mobility scooter) along so that they could try out a 5 km route round the Woodland Walks with a view to possibly organising a Disabled Ramble at Eskrigg in the summer. Charlotte managed the proposed route on the tramper, but needed a bit of help in some sections. These areas would need to be levelled out if the ramble was to go ahead. Charlotte took some photographs and film footage to show a colleague. Jim received a call the next day to say that the Disabled Ramble had got the go-ahead and would take place on Friday 25th June. Meanwhile, **Jim** and his team will get to work on the upgrades.



5. Maintenance work at the Reserve and Woodland Walks in May.

6th **Jessica Gillan** helped to weed the Reserve path while **Jim** emptied the dog bins and dug a hole for a tree to be planted the next day.

7th **Sheena** and **Jim Anson** kindly donated a favourite tree, which had out-grown their garden, to Eskrigg Reserve and Woodland Walks. It is a slow growing, Japanese Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*).

Russell Smith and **Lee Paterson** (from GLS Fencing) kindly helped **Jim** to load the tree into the trailer at the house and off again at the planting site. **Jim** then removed the tree from the half-barrel it had been grown in and planted it at the side of the Northern Loop of the Red Squirrel Trail.



13th **Jake Creighton** helped **Jim** to break up some tar planings, load them into the quad bike trailer and take them round to the path to Pip's corner, where they were used to fill in some of the ruts (a).

15th **Zack Nicholson** and **Jack Pritchard** helped **Jim** to continue with the resurfacing of the path to Pip's Corner with Terram membrane and 14mm gravel (b).



18th & 19th **Jim** pruned the bushes along the western edge of South Turmuir Plantation, on the North-West Loop. He then dug out and widened the path at the bend, fitted Terram membrane and started to re-surface the bend with gravel.

20th **Jake Creighton** helped **Jim** to finish laying gravel at the N.W. bend and then they pruned the trees further along the path to facilitate disabled access with mobility scooters. They then laid rubber flooring in the Red Squirrel Hide before locking up.



Between the 21st and the 30th, **Jim** continued to make improvements to the path to Pip's Corner, removing tree roots, laying Terram membrane, 14mm clean gravel and finally 10mm sub-base on the top.

Jim was helped on the **22nd**, **26th** and **30th** by **Zack Nicholson** and on the **27th** by **Jake Creighton**.

Jessica Gillan weeded some of the Reserve path on the **27th**. Then, on the **28th**, she and **Jim** weeded the path to the Kingfisher Hide.

Note: In mid-May, the female Mute Swan's condition rapidly deteriorated until it could hardly walk, so **Jim** called in the SSPCA and the swan was taken to the Wildlife Hospital at the Barony College.

6. Some of the plants that were flowering at the Reserve in May

Apple, Bilberry, Bird Cherry, Blackthorn, Bluebell, Broom, Bugle, Crab Apple, Creeping Buttercup, Daffodil, Daisy, Dandelion, Dog Violet, Forget-me-not, Germander Speedwell, Golden Saxifrage, Gorse, Hawthorn, Lady's Smock, Lily-of-the-valley, Marsh Marigold, Meadow Buttercup, Pignut, Pink Purslane, Primrose, Red Campion, Round-leaved Water Crowfoot, Rowan, Tormentil, Water Avens, Wild Garlic, Wood Sorrel.



With reference to the list at the top of the page, can you identify the flowers in the above pictures?

Photographs by Jim Rae



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