

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve April 2026 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. View of the pond from the Red Squirrel Hide on the 12th of April



The 'floating enclosures' on the pond are for research being carried out by Herriot University into the relationship between the health of the pond and tadpole development.

Results to date: Amphibian Habitat Score - Excellent.

2. Reported wildlife sightings at the Reserve during April

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Dunnock, 'Farm Duck', Fieldfare, Garden Warbler, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Red Kite, Redpoll, Redwing, Reed Bunting, Robin, Sedge Warbler, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Stockdove, Treecreeper, Tree Sparrow, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren

b. **Mammals:** Bank Vole, Grey Squirrel, Hare, Otter, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Stoat, Wood Mouse

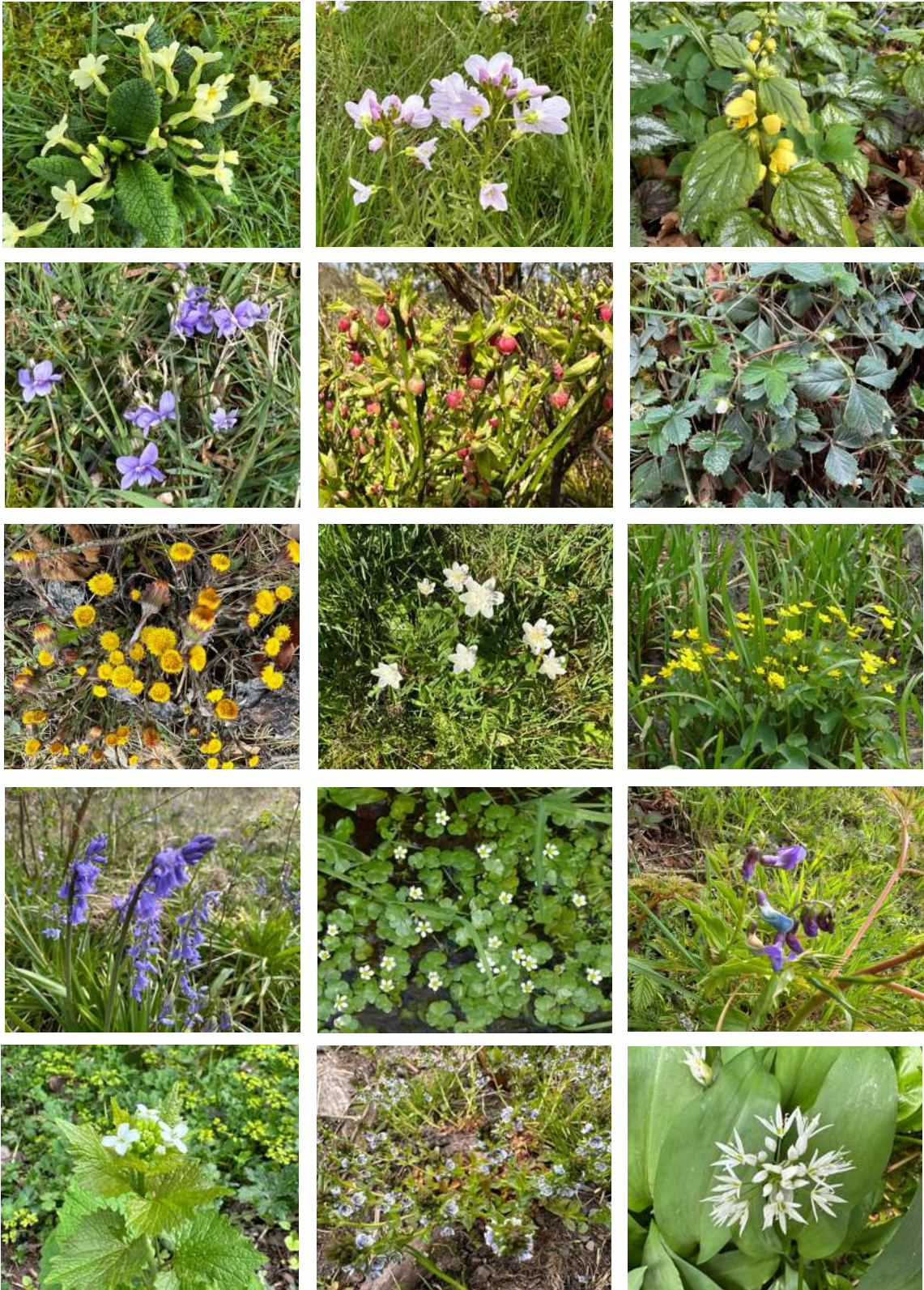
c. **Amphibians:** Frog, Toad



Grey Heron

Photographs by Jim Rae

3. Selection of April Wild Flower photographs



Row 1: Primrose, Cuckoo Flower, Yellow Archangel

Row 2: Dog Violet, Bilberry, Barren Strawberry

Row 3: Coltsfoot, Wood Anemone, Marsh Marigold

Row 4: Bluebell, Water Crowfoot, Spring Pea

Row 5: Garlic Mustard, Thyme-leaved Speedwell, Ramsons

Photographs by Jim Rae

4. April Flowers

In addition to the plants shown on page 2, other plants recorded in flower during the month were:

Bird Cherry, Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Daffodil, Daisy, Dandelion, Dog's Mercury, Goat Willow, Gorse, Lady's Mantle, Lesser Celandine, Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, Wavy Bittercress, Welsh Poppy, Wild Cherry, Wood Sorrel and Wood Speedwell.

5. Reserve Volunteer Maintenance Sunday - 19th April

During the morning, three new volunteers, **Dixon Kirk, Xander Kirk and Shana Kirk** helped **Gordon Reid** and **Jim Rae** to spray many timber structures with Algon in order to kill the algae - the fence at the Cemetery Entrance, the Eskrigg Centre, the Red Squirrel Hide, the Kingfisher Hide, the Shelter, the Compost Toilet and the bench seats.



During the afternoon, **Gordon Reid, Derek Campbell** and **Jim Rae** treated the Eskrigg Centre, ramp and railings with Cuprinol (Country Oak) Wood Preservative. Unfortunately, the rain came on before the work could be completed.

6. Other maintenance or construction work during the month

Wed. 22 During the morning, the Reserve Manager, **Jim Rae**, made a start at clearing the willow stumps that surrounded the Hawthorn tree opposite the Eskrigg Centre.



Many people that have used the Compost Toilet in recent months have left the door open when they came out. Since the toilet ventilation system is dependent on the door being kept closed, it was deemed necessary to fit an automatic door closer.

During the afternoon, local joiner, **Scott McLean**, kindly fitted a closer to the toilet door. Once he had done that he kindly helped **Jim** clear more of the stumps.



Thu. 23 During the recent spell of warm weather there was considerable growth of the green algae in the pond and many clumps of algae on the surface were blown into the area in front of the Eskrigg Centre. During the morning, **Jim** spent quite a long time raking much of the algae out of the water and disposing of it on the waste heap.



During the afternoon, **Derek Campbell** and **Jim** removed the two bins and the large, redundant grain storage container from the area opposite the Centre out to the Forest Road and then **Jim** cut away the willow and holly bushes that grew around the hazel bush.

Fri. 24 During the morning, **Jim** carried out his weekly Dog Poo patrol.

In the afternoon, **Derek Campbell** and **Jim** removed the tree stumps from the area around the Hazel bush, removed the sleeper steps then smoothed out the whole area.



Sat. 25 In the morning, **Jim** prepared the ground for planting a Rowan tree and a memorial post.



Sun. 26 **Jim** carried out his monthly Plant Survey.

Mon. 27 Jim prepared an area on the Southern Loop for a bench seat, fixed the seat in place and resurfaced the path in the same area.

He then raked the path from the Forest Road into the Reserve.



Thu. 30 In the morning **Jim** treated the fence at the Cemetery Entrance with Wood Preservative. In the afternoon, he treated the front of the Eskrigg Centre and the outside walls of the Compost toilet.



7. Vandalism

On Tuesday 28th April one or more youngsters carried out a number of acts of vandalism.

- They pulled out two information posts and threw them down the bank.
- They removed the above items from the Kingfisher Hide and threw them into the pond.
- They removed wood shavings from the disperser and scattered them over the floor of the toilet.
- They dropped the toilet roll stand down the toilet into the vault below and removed the hand gel from the dispensers.

If visitors witness any act of vandalism, please report it ASAP to the Reserve Manager (see below) or to the Police.

Photographs by Jim Rae

Total people count for April = 1,007 - Average number per day = 34

These figures only indicate the visitors entering the Reserve via the Reserve Car Park, they do not include the many people who access the Reserve and Woodland Walks via the Cemetery entrance.

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