

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve May 2026 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Eskrigg Pond on the 6th of May, with the information board replaced.



2. Reported wildlife sightings at the Reserve during May

a. Birds:

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



5 Goslings guarded by Mum

b. Mammals: Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Stoat with young one

c. Amphibians: Frog, Toad

d. Butterflies: Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell

Photographs by Jim Rae

3. Selection of photographs taken in May



Row 1: Star of Bethlehem, Grey Heron, Water Avens

Row 2: Ducklings, Siskin, Goslings

Row 3: Red Squirrel on Bird Feeder, young Stoat (AW), Red Squirrel on Squirrel Feeder

Row 4: Yellow (Flag) Iris, Grey Birch Moth, Broom

Row 5: Marsh Thistle, Drinker Moth Caterpillar, Red Campion

Photographs by Jim Rae and Alison Wylie (AW)

4. Maintenance work



Fri. 01 Jim treated the Red Squirrel Hide with a coat of Wood Preservative during the morning and early afternoon.

He then worked with Vikki Mitchell to install a bench seat on the Southern Loop in memory of Gerry Mitchell.



Sat. 02 Jim carried out his weekly dog-poo patrol followed by a wild flower survey.

Wed. 06 Jim concreted in the information boards for the Frog, Toad, Marsh Marigold and Rowan Tree and then attached the information board about the pond to the jetty.



Fri. 08 Sam Pattinson, Derek Campbell and Jim resurfaced parts of the path between the Reserve and the Car Park.



Mon. 11 & Tue. 12 Jim cleared the self-seeded birch trees from along the Reserve west-bank. He also cleared the Digger Access Track from the Scots Pines to the pond.

Fri. 15 Jim cleared the fallen Pine from the Digger Access Track then strimmed and raked the areas around the Compost Toilet, Eskrigg Centre and Duck Feeder.

Sat. 16 Jim strimmed and raked the area in front of the Red Squirrel Hide and then the area around, the bench seats near the forestry entrance.



before

after

Thu. 28 Sybille Spägele and Jim Rae cut out the self-seeded trees along the banks of the ditch south of the Reserve.

Fri. 29 Sam Pattinson and Jim Rae cleared more of the banks and the ditch itself.



before

after

Photographs by Sybille Spägele and Jim Rae

Sat. 30 **Jim Rae** tidied the area around the Shelter and also strimmed and raked the area west of the Silt Trap, the Picnic Area and the open wood east of the Shelter.



5. Events

Tue. 12 & 19 Students from **Lockerbie Academy** carried out practical fieldwork at the Reserve.

Sun. 17 **Jim** took part in the 'Walk the Walk' and completed three laps around the Castle Loch at Lochmaben and raised £330 in sponsorship for Eskrigg Nature Reserve. Many thanks to all the sponsors for their support.

Wed. 20 Visit by **Aidan Nicol** (The Southern Uplands Partnership) to plan some events later in the year.



Fri. 22 & 29 **Alison Wyllie** (Early Years Scotland) ran the first two of four 'Forest Babies' events in the Forest Classroom next to the Reserve.



Sat. 23 In the morning, seven members of the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust and a friend visited **Dalskairth Wildlife Reserve**, owned and managed by **Graham Ovens**.

Graham gave the group a very informative talk about the history of the site, before and since he created the Reserve, as the group looked out over the area from a raised hide.

Graham then took the group on a guided tour of the Reserve. The party learned about the range of trees planted on site, watched a colony of bees going in and out of a hole in an old tree, climbed on to a raised platform on a tree to watch the wildlife on a small pond below and then skirted a large pond to observe the flowers, wildfowl, butterflies and the hundreds of damselflies.



Speckled Wood (F)

After a packed lunch, the group thanked **Graham** for his hospitality and a fascinating visit.

In the afternoon, the group travelled to Kippford to take a walk round the Kippford Community Nature Reserve, known as "**The Kipp**". The warm, sunny afternoon was enjoyed by all.



Horse Chestnut



Shelter

Photographs by **Jim Rae**

Tue. 26 & Wed. 27 Moth Trapping

On the Tuesday evening **Jim Rae** set out three moth traps, a small one in the Willow Carr, a medium-sized trap in the Scots Pine Plantation and a large trap with a mercury vapour lamp on the Pond Fringe. For some unknown reason, the mercury vapour lamp was switched off during the night and no moths were caught in the trap. The results for the other traps were as follows: (**New species in red**)



1

Small Trap (Willow Carr)

Ingrailed Clay	<i>Diarsia mendica</i>	1
Small Phoenix (5)	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	2
Water Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	1

Medium Trap (Scots Pine Plantation)

Buff-tip (3)	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	1
Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	1
Coxcomb Prominent	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	1
Dark Marbled Carpet (6)	<i>Chloroclysta citrata</i>	1
Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	1
Map-winged Swift (7&8)	<i>Korscheltellus fusconebulosa</i>	2
Miller (2)	<i>Acronicta leporina</i>	1
Mottled Pug (10)	<i>Eupithecia exiguata</i>	2
Nut-tree Tussock (4)	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	8
Pale Tussock (1)	<i>Calliteara pudibunda</i>	1
Poplar Hawk-moth (9)	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	1



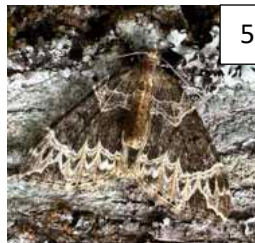
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3



4



5



9



6



7



10



8

Photographs by Jim Rae

**Total people count for May = 1,512 - Average number per day = 49
2 days over 100 : 3rd and 29th**

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.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)
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