Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve
October 2026 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No: SC 005538

1. **Shortly after Sunrise on the 25th of October (SR)**



2. **Reported wildlife sightings at the Reserve during October**

   a. **Birds:**
   Barnacle Goose, Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Goshawk, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, Greylag Goose, Jackdaw, Jay, Kingfisher, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Merlin, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Mute Swan (overhead), Nuthatch, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Pinkfoot Goose (overhead), Raven, Red Kite, Redpoll, Redwing, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stockdove, Swallow, Treecreeper, Tree Sparrow, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer

   b. **Mammals:** Grey Squirrel, Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer

   c. **Amphibians:** Frog, Toad

   d. **Reptiles:** Common Lizard



Kingfisher (BT)

Photographs by Sybille Rae (SR) & Brian Taylor (BT)

3. Selection of wildlife photographs taken at Eskrigg Reserve in October



Row 1: Blusher, Fly Agaric, Cauliflower Fungus
Row 2: Girdled Knight, Conifer Mazegill, Blistered Cup
Row 3 (BT): Kingfisher, Redwing, Chiffchaff
Row 4: Hare'sfoot Inkcap, Green Lacewing, Common Puffball
Row 5: Sulphur Tuft, Holly Berries**,** Candlesnuff Fungus

Photographs by Jim Rae & Brian Taylor (BT)

4. Replacement of the Drainage Pipe under Eskrigg Farm Road.

The old pipe was only 12 inches in diameter and could not cope with the volume of water that was draining off the adjacent field at times. When that happened, the water flooded across the Farm Road, flowed across the car park and down the path to the Reserve, eroding the path in the process.





On the 9th of October, **Scott Young** brought a digger along and, during the morning, dug out the old pipe and installed an 18 inches diameter pipe plus extension. A job well done. **Thank-you Scott.**





5. Maintenance work in October

Sun. 04 Jim prepared the ground for the siting of a new bench seat on the **Northern Loop**.







Thu. 08. Jim strimmed and raked the last stretch of the **Pipeline Walk** and then raked the path from the Forest Road into the Reserve.

Mon. 12 In the morning, Jayden Scott and **Jim Rae** started the job of tidying up the Forest Road down to the Reserve entry point. They strimmed and raked the sides of the Forest Road from the Cemetery entrance down to the Gravel heaps.





Further sections were completed on the 13th, 19th, 20th and 21st.





Storm Austen arrived on Friday 23rd October, followed by **Storm Boelo** on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th October. The Reserve Manager, **Jim**, decided to close the hides over the weekend. On the Monday morning there were many wind-blown trees blocking the Forest Road and one down on top of the container. The wind was still very strong, so **Jim** decided to keep the hides closed for another day.




When the wind died down on Tuesday 27th, Castlemilk Forestry Staff came round right away and cleared the road and removed the tree that had come down on the roof of the container. Well done lads.

In the late afternoon of the 27th, Jim cleared away the remaining tree debris from the forest road and decided to reopen the hides the following day.

Wed. 28 After the storm, all the paths were covered with leaves and pine needles so **Jim** spent the day raking and clearing the path from the Forest Road to the Compost Toilet and then down the Southern Loop to the bridge.






Fri. 30 **Derek Campbell, Sybille Rae** and **Jim Rae** strimmed and raked much of the path from the Reserve Car Park down toward the granite seat. Meanwhile, Scott Maclean made repairs to the door of the Kingfisher Hide.

Estimated people count for October = 1600 - Average number per day = 52

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)
Address: Carradale, 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, DG11 2DZ
Mobile: 07739 987 009 - Email: jim.rae2012@gmail.com