

Explore the Environment

with:



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Friday 9th March 2012

Programme of Constituency Visits

part of Scottish Environment Festival

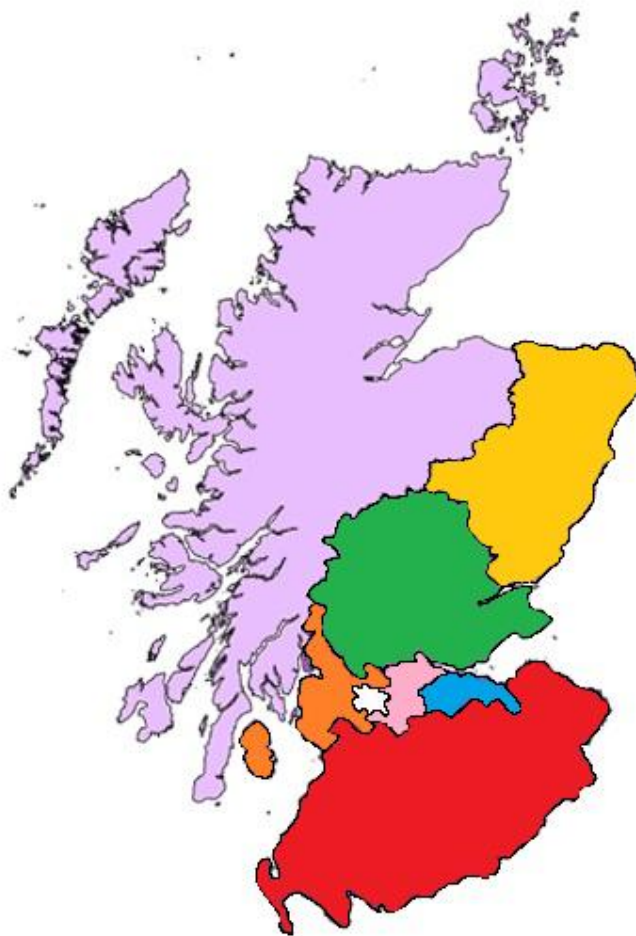


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As part of the Scottish Environment Festival programme, MSPs, their partners, children, staff and friends are invited to pick a visit(s) from the programme to a site in or near your constituency.



We have categorised the programme by constituency areas as indicated by the map. We have also supplied an appendix of mini maps of our various locations.



- Purple** – Highlands and Islands
- Yellow** – North East Scotland
- Green** – Mid Scotland and Fife
- Orange** – West Scotland
- White** – Glasgow
- Pink** – Central Scotland
- Blue** – Lothian
- Red** – South Scotland

Please note: that in some cases event details or constituency visit can only be finalised once an MSP has expressed interest in attending, so please let us know **as soon as possible** of your attendance.

In all cases please let us know of your preference of visit(s) you wish to attend by email to: Rea Cris: rea@scotlink.org and we will put you in touch with ground staff for further confirmations.

Across all constituencies

Ramblers Scotland

Go for a walk with your local Ramblers group! We have 55 groups across Scotland who walk most weekends, and on some weekdays. We can arrange a walk to suit MSPs in their constituency.



Ramblers Scotland has 55 local groups across the country and all groups run regular walk programmes offering a variety of walks from short 3-5 mile rambles to strenuous hikes up Munros. We can offer each MSP the opportunity to walk with their local group and have a chat with Ramblers members as they enjoy Scotland's great outdoors. Depending on the walk, MSPs will need to be properly equipped with walking boots/strong shoes and waterproofs, and if it is a day walk they will need to bring a packed lunch. MSPs should contact Helen Todd in the Ramblers Scotland office on 01577 861222 or helen.todd@ramblers.org.uk who will then liaise with the groups to set up a walk to suit the MSP.

Time: Approx. – 9-5pm

Address: All constituencies

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

RSPB Scotland

The natural wonders of Scotland are just waiting to be discovered. Why not visit one of the many sites that RSPB Scotland manages?



We have over 70 nature reserves across the country, from Shetland to the Solway and from Aberdeenshire to the Western Isles. These reserves include woodlands, wetland, coast and upland, supporting a range of birds, mammals and plants. We also work in partnership at many Date with Nature sites such as the Galloway Red Kite Trail. In March, wintering geese will still be around in many places, but the signs of spring will be appearing. Several of our sites also run education programmes for local schools. We can find a visit to suit – whether you want something active, a quiet walk, or just a cuppa and a chat at one of our visitor centres. Find out what we're doing in your area. See <http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/> for more details

Time: Any time of day

Address: All regions, many constituencies

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS)



Scotland's rivers and freshwaters are species places and are home to some of our most iconic and important fish and other species and habitats. RAFTS has 25 fishery and river trust members across almost all of Scotland who work hard to protect and improve our freshwater habitats and the species they support.

Why not pay a visit to a local fishery trust? There you can find out and learn more about their education projects based upon the salmon life cycle, a range of habitat restoration projects to repair damaged in stream and bankside habitats, how fisheries trusts with RAFTS are now delivering the largest programme of invasive non-native species control work in Europe tackling American signal crayfish, American mink and a range of non-native plants including Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed, see Atlantic salmon hatcheries in operation to help increase juvenile fish production, how trusts work with developers to live alongside open cast coal mines and how greater public access and volunteer effort is being harnessed to help our rivers and lochs.

Time: Approx. – 9-5pm

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: Visits are available across Scotland in the following areas:

Annan, Argyll, Ayrshire, Clyde, Cromarty Firth, Dee, Deveron, Isla and Bogie, Don, Esks (Montrose), Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie, Kyle of Sutherland, Nith, Tay, West Sutherland

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Macdiarmid Primary School, Portree, Skye

MSPs are invited to join a number of John Muir Award celebrations across Scotland. These events will recognise people's enjoyment of, and commitment to the natural environment



High Life Highland (Community Learning) supports delivering the curriculum for excellence through outdoor learning to a cluster of primary and secondary schools on Skye and Lochalsh. Macdiarmid Primary School are completing their John Muir Award based on a series of local field trips and activities within the school grounds, following a theme of biodiversity.

Time: Daytime flexible from 10am – 4pm

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: Carbost, Skeabost Bridge, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9PD

Discovering Places in partnership with the Abriachan Forest Trust.

Supported by John Muir Trust

Discovering Places is the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad campaign to inspire the UK to discover their local historical and natural environment and we are piloting the Discover Explore project across the Great Glen.



Discover Explore is an exciting new exploration game, which encourages families and schools groups to discover many of the hidden stories and places that lie along the Great Glen through a series of missions. Abriachan Forest provides a great backdrop for explorers to uncover the mysteries of this enchanting place. There are trails with tales, heights to climb and treasures to find. Can you take on the Adventures of Abriachan?

Would-be explorers create an online explore profile and then download the Abriachan missions and head off on physical adventures in the Forest. Explorers can win badges by correctly answering questions, which can only be discovered by being at Abriachan Forest. Missions to complete at Abriachan include: Trail Mission: Trails with Tails, Olympic Mission: Forest Triathlon, Buddy Mission: Abriachan Forest Bingo and On the Road Mission: Spot the most Buzzards. Approximate timing to complete all 4 missions would be 3 hours but we recommend that the MSP tries out the Trail Mission which would take about an hour.

For further details about Discover Explore please visit our staging platform (not visible to the public) to find out more: <http://staging.discoverexplore.co.uk>

Time: Flexible till 4pm

Address: Abriachan Forest, Tyeantore, Abriachan, Inverness, IV3 8LD (see map appendix)

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate. There are currently two other locations, which could also be visited; Culloden Battlefield and/or Fort Augustus. If interested please get in touch as soon as possible.

STURDY SHOES RECOMMENDED AND BRING ALONG PAPER AND PENCIL

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND

Council Environment Team, Huntly Primary School, Huntly Food & Health Group & British Trust for Conservation Volunteers



Visit to the Huntly Woodlands and neighbouring allotments project which working with the local schools and community groups is enabling local residents to use, enjoy and help to manage the town's woods and set up a new allotment.

The visit will start from the Huntly Primary School visiting the nearby Meadows Woodlands which the pupils use for the John Muir Awards, move on to the Battlehill Wood the scene of recent replanting and other environmental projects with BTCV,

schools, and community, finishing at the recently established allotments for tea and homebakes from the community kitchen.

Representatives of the partner organisations will be in attendance to discuss the projects and answer questions.

Time: 10am – 12pm

Address: Huntly Primary School, Meadows Wood, Battlehill Wood and Glamourhaugh Allotment, Huntly, Aberdeenshire.

OUTDOOR SHOES AND CLOTHING SHOULD BE WORN.

Friends of Haddo (Local Community Group), National Trust for Scotland: Haddo Country Park Regeneration



Following a recently successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund: Parks for People project, the three partners (Aberdeenshire Council, NTS and Haddo Estate) and local community would welcome the opportunity to show MSPs around areas which stand to benefit from the award.

The park is a historic designed landscape, and has dedicated Forest School sites, as well as being a haven for otters, bats and red squirrels. A tour of the Country Park is proposed, taking in key elements, such as the Scots Mile, lakes, statues and other historic structures, as well as play and amenity areas.

There are likely to be two members of staff (the Acting Visitor Services Officer and the Formartine Ranger), as well as at least one representative from the community groups involved. A wide range of local groups have input to the HLF bid, and will be key to its implementation going forward.

Time: 13:30-16:00

Address: Haddo Country Park and Estate, by Tarves, Aberdeenshire

OUTDOOR SHOES AND CLOTHING SHOULD BE WORN.

Fyvie Nursery Spring Walk

As part of a drive to ensure more outdoor education for children, seasonal walks are organised three times a year by Fyvie Nursery and Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service.



A walk around Woodhead & Windyhills Community Woodland. An S.S.S.I., this site was rescued from destruction through quarrying by the efforts of a local group. 50 million years ago, the area was part of a river bed and has valuable river sand soil. It is now a heather, birch, Scots pine & rowan rich woodland with badger setts and interesting geological features. A member of the community group may be available to take the M.S.P. on a personal guided tour.

Time: 9:30-11:00am

Address: Woodhead, Nr. Fyvie, Formartine, Aberdeenshire.

STURDY OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING RECOMMENDED

Portlethen Moss & Portlethen Community Woodland Park

Visit to two sites in Portlethen where community led projects have resulted in significant improvements to public access to green spaces, biodiversity and amenity. (Aberdeen South and North Kincardine Constituency)



These sites, which are located approximately 1.3 Km apart are both wonderful examples of how partnership working between communities, local authorities and public agencies can work together to create and improve public spaces to the benefit of both the community and biodiversity. As well as their positive contribution to environmental improvements both sites are immediately adjacent to the built up area and close to schools. They provide a much appreciated and utilised educational and recreational resource.

The community and schools have been involved with both projects from their inception and continue to participate fully in implementation and on-going management of the sites. Successful bids for European funding have been augmented by support from Aberdeenshire Council and sponsorship from private business, to provide additional features and assets for the sites.

At the Moss, new and improved path links, direct action including planting and gorse control and interpretation have improved the site and raised its profile. The site forms the gateway to an area of raised bog, of great local importance for nature conservation and biodiversity. The Moss project was awarded 'commended' in the Rural Landscape Development category of Aberdeenshire Council's 2010 Design Awards.

The woodland park comprises approximately 2.8 Ha of recently planted woodland, with outdoor classroom/events area, natural play area, paths and other open areas of diverse habitats e.g. a bank of wildflowers and wet areas. The new woodland was awarded Highly Commended in the New Native Woods Category of the Scottish Finest Woodlands Awards 2011.

In 2009 the local community group leading on both projects, The Portlethen Moss Conservation Group were awarded the Green Butterfly Award in recognition of their efforts and achievements.

However members of staff will be there and if possible someone from the community, to describe and discuss details of the projects and answer any questions.

Time: approx. 1.5 hours – can be arranged morning or afternoon to suit
Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address:

Site 1 – Portlethen Moss, Bruntland Road, Portlethen (Grid Reference NO 911962)
Parking available opposite site entrance AB124QN

Site 2 – Portlethen Community Woodland Park
Downies Road, Portlethen (Grid Reference NO 922963)
Parking available at Portlethen Parish Church to the north of the site (AB124QP)

STURDY FOOTWEAR & WARM/WATERPROOF CLOTHING ADVISED

Dune on the Beach

An opportunity to discover some of the coastal treasures the tide has left behind, and take a closer look at the wide variety of bird life along this Local Nature Reserve.



Ranger Service will lead a guided walk around the Reserve, which involves going over sand dunes (some areas of the dunes have board walk in place), and down onto the beach and back along the path adjacent to the river. Binoculars will be available.

Time: 10am – 11:30am

Address: Waters of Philorth LNR, Banffshire & Buchan Coast

STURDY FOOTWEAR AND WATERPROOF CLOTHING REQUIRED

MID SCOTLAND AND FIFE

Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society

Visit to Scottish Dolphin Centre, including an opportunity to conduct a Shorewatch on the beach for dolphins. Sarah Dolman, Head of Policy for Scotland and Alice Mayne Centre Manager will be available.



Time: Start 12pm

Address: Scottish Dolphin Centre, Spey Bay, MORAY, IV32 7PJ (see map appendix)

STURDY SHOES ARE ADVISED

Butterfly Conservation Scotland

Visit to Wester Moss nature reserve, a very accessible lowland peatland Site of Special Scientific Interest. Managed by BCS and Stirling Council (Owners) to safeguard its highly specialised wildlife, maintain its ability to store carbon, to provide public access and opportunities for volunteer involvement. The peatland is adjacent to Polmaise Bing, itself an interesting wildlife site, well-used by local people.



Time: Between 10am – 2pm

Address: Polmaise Mining Museum car park, Fallin, near Stirling, Postcode approx FK7 7GY (see map appendix)

WATERPROOF FOOT WEAR AND WARM CLOTHING RECOMMENDED. NO FACILITIES ON SITE.

Loch Leven Heritage Trail - Ramblers Scotland

A short walk on this is a nationally-important trail which demonstrates the potential economic, health and social benefits that path networks can bring to rural communities. The trail is also the focal point for Ramblers Scotland's first Active Nation Community project, for which we are currently seeking funding. This project will show how a physical activity legacy can be created across Scotland from the forthcoming Olympic and Commonwealth Games by increasing walking and cycling levels using local path networks.



Local path groups have successfully developed the path which currently encircles two-thirds of the loch with plans to complete the route this year. The project has also led to the upgrading and promotion of other paths in the area, linking settlements to the heritage trail and providing a nationally important route for residents, visitors and tourists alike.

MSPs are invited to walk a section of the trail with Ramblers staff and key volunteers, and to visit one of the newly-established cafes around the trail for a coffee or lunch. Starting from the Ramblers Scotland office.

Time: 10:30-12:30

Address: Ramblers Scotland office, Milnathort, Kinross KY13 9DA (see map appendix)

STURDY SHOES OR BOOTS AND WATERPROOF CLOTHING RECOMMENDED.

Mclaren High School, Stirling

MSPs are invited to join a number of John Muir Award celebrations across Scotland. These events will recognise people's enjoyment of, and commitment to the natural environment



An entire S1 year group work toward a John Muir Award at Discovery level within the schools grounds and surrounding areas of Callander and Loch Lomond and Trossach National Park. A cross curricular team of teachers deliver an engaging series of activities to meet the experiences and outcomes of individual subjects with a key focus being on outdoor learning. The Curriculum for Excellence Challenge also helps meet Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing experiences and outcomes.

Time: Daytime flexible from 10am – 4pm

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: Mollands Road, Callander, Perthshire, FK17 8JH

In all cases please let us know of your preference of visit(s) you wish to attend by email to: Rea Cris: rea@scotlink.org and we will put you in touch with ground staff for further confirmations.

WEST SCOTLAND

Mountain Woodland Restoration

Mountain woodland restoration at the potential Calder wildwood and a site visit to a moorland/woodland fringe habitat to look at this important aspect of our upland environment with emphasis on such species as juniper. Led by Alan Brown, Countryside Officer and will guide the MSP's through the existing sitka plantation and provide details of the species associated with upland native woodlands.



Part of the proposed Calder wildwood is within a Special Protection Area for hen harriers and the woodland aims to enhance the habitat for this species.

Time: 13:30-15:30

Address: Muirshiel Country Park, Calder Glen Road, Near Lochwinnoch, PA12 4LB

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING ARE RECOMMENDED.

Managing recreation on an inland loch Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The event will describe and discuss the actions required to balance the sometimes conflicting objectives of increasing recreation with conserving the natural environment. In many ways the Castle Semple Loch site is representative of the challenges faced across the Regional Park (all 108 square miles).



There will be opportunity for site visits to see several aspects of the natural and cultural heritage and to observe recreational uses of the loch and its surroundings. The Regional Park Manager, Charles Woodward will lead the event starting indoors with an overview of the issues. Weather permitting there will be a boat trip on the loch and moderate ability walks (either 2 or 4 miles) to see features. Capacity of the boat is 4 guests.

Time: 10:00-13:00

Address: Castle Semple Visitor Centre, Lochlip Rd. Lochwinnoch Renfrewshire. PA12 4EA

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING RECOMMENDED

Branching Out into Mental Health & Wellbeing at Clyde Muirshiel

The benefits of the outdoors have been widely documented as an effective way to improve physical health but also mental health. The Regional Park has recently been very active in the Forestry Commission model 'Branching Out'. There have also been great developments in staff training and utilising existing skills.



Starting with an excursion to current Branching Out site and possible meeting with participants in the wood. There will then be a presentation indoors about previous programmes and the benefits the outdoors has to wellbeing.

Time: 13:00-15:30

Address: Castle Semple Visitor Centre, Lochlip Rd. Lochwinnoch Renfrewshire. PA12 4EA

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING RECOMMENDED

Woodland Management for People and Other Species

The day will focus primarily on the use, amenity value and preservation and enhancement of this natural resource. Starting with an Indoor Presentation of the Woodlands in the Park and some of their uses, participants will then walk to a local wood with its scenic viewpoints and Maze.



Time: 13:00-15:30

Address: Castle Semple Visitor Centre, Lochlip Rd. Lochwinnoch Renfrewshire. PA12 4EA

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING RECOMMENDED

Hen Harrier Monitoring & CCTV Projects of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

The Rangers of Muirshiel Country Park will offer expertise on the rare raptor the Hen Harrier with a unique insight via our successful monitoring and nest camera project.



A member of staff will be available and will guide the MSP's through unique nest footage of the Hen Harrier as well as providing a tour of the specialised habitat. The area is located within the Special Protection Area and is Site of Special Scientific Interest to help conserve this nationally important species.

Times: 10:30-12:30

Address: Muirshiel Country Park, Calder Glen Road, Near Lochwinnoch, PA12 4LB

WATERPROOF AND STURDY FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING RECOMMENDED

The Dolphin House Outdoor Education Centre, South Ayrshire

MSPs are invited to join a number of John Muir Award celebrations across Scotland. These events will recognise people's enjoyment of, and commitment to the natural environment



Through a four day residential outdoor learning programmes South Ayrshire Council challenges primary school pupils to experience local wild places through fun and adventurous activities and take

responsibility for the care of the natural environment. John Muir Award celebrations will take place back in the school where the pupils will share their experiences with others.

Time: Daytime flexible from 10am – 4pm

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: Culzean Castle and Country Park, By Maybole, Ayrshire, KA19 8JX

In all cases please let us know of your preference of visit(s) you wish to attend by email to: Rea Cris: rea@scotlink.org and we will put you in touch with ground staff for further confirmations.

GLASGOW

Glasgow Living Waters

Since 1989 Froglife has been at the heart of efforts to conserve native amphibians and reptiles in the UK. Throughout this time Froglife have initiated a number of national and regional projects, and remained a central voice for public advice on issues surrounding reptile and amphibian conservation. Froglife's work falls into three strands: on the ground conservation, environmental education and communication (the provision of advice/information).



Froglife, in partnership with Glasgow City Council, have been creating and enhancing ponds on selected sites since July 2009. The greenspace around Carmunnock is one area where project work has focused on the management of existing habitats and the creation of ten new ponds for amphibians. Local volunteers and organisations have supported and assisted Froglife staff with work on site. Froglife encourages local community involvement on project sites and provides training to ensure sites are appropriately managed in the future.

A member of Froglife staff will be present during the site visit to lead a walk around the site to demonstrate work completed and the value to amphibians and biodiversity in general. Community benefits and social inclusion opportunities provided through Living Waters will also be covered during this walk.

Time: 2pm- 3pm

Further event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest, please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: Windlaw Marsh (Carmunnock South). Parking area at Carmunnock Road end of Old Playing Field Road, Carmunnock. (see street on map appendix- please note the red arrow is not the meeting point, just the centre of Carmunnock- Old Playing Field Road is shown to the North West of this arrow)

THERE ARE NO SURFACED PATHS ON SITE. WATERPROOF SHOES AND WARM CLOTHES RECOMMENDED.

The Hidden Gardens, Glasgow

MSPs are invited to join a number of John Muir Award celebrations across Scotland. These events will recognise people's enjoyment of, and commitment to the natural environment



The John Muir Award is used as a framework for activity for the Taskforce volunteer group at the Hidden Gardens. Delivered over the course of 8 months, the adult volunteers come together on a weekly basis to develop the garden's wild flower meadow, as well as enjoying the garden through creative and expressive experiences.

Time: Daytime flexible from 10am – 4pm

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: 25a Albert Drive, Glasgow, G41 2PE

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

North Lanarkshire Living Waters

Since 1989 Froglife has been at the heart of efforts to conserve native amphibians and reptiles in the UK. Throughout this time Froglife have initiated a number of national and regional projects, and remained a central voice for public advice on issues surrounding reptile and amphibian conservation. Froglife's work falls into three strands: on the ground conservation, environmental education and communication (the provision of advice/information).



Froglife, in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council, has been creating and enhancing ponds on selected sites since January 2011. Cumbernauld Community Park is one of the sites where project work has focused on the creation of five new ponds for amphibians. Friends of Cumbernauld Community Park have supported and assisted Froglife staff with work on site. Froglife encourages local community involvement on project sites and provides training to ensure sites are appropriately managed in the future.

A member of Froglife staff will be present during the site visit to lead a walk around the site to demonstrate work completed and the value to amphibians and biodiversity in general. Community benefits and social inclusion opportunities provided through Living Waters will also be covered during this walk.

Time: 10-11am

Further event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest, please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: Cumbernauld Community Park. Meet outside the house at the entrance to Eastfield Cemetery, Craighalbert Road, Cumbernauld (*see map appendix*)

SOME OF THE WALK WILL LEAVE THE SURFACED PATHS ON SITE. WATERPROOF SHOES AND WARM CLOTHES RECOMMENDED.

SOUTH SCOTLAND

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) Caerlaverock Wetlands Centre

WWT is a leading wetland conservation organisation saving wetlands for wildlife and people across the world. Founded in 1946 by the late Sir Peter Scott and based in the UK, where it has a network of visitor centres dedicated to engaging people with wetlands and their wildlife and including over 2,000 hectares of wetland habitats. WWT has over 1 million visitor a year and over 200,000 members.



Caerlaverock Wetlands Centre, a 570 hectare nature reserve on the North Solway, is Internationally important for its wintering wildfowl and wading birds. Visit will be led by Dave Fairlamb, Centre Manager, with contributions from other members of the team during the day. Refreshments and/or Lunch can be provided in the Granary Coffee Shop at the Wetlands Centre depending on timing of visits. Short tours of the Centre, reserve (inc birdwatching hides/observatories) will be available. Binoculars can be provided.

Time: Daytime flexible from 10am – 5pm

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, DG1 4RS

OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING REQUIRED

LOTHIAN - EDINBURGH

West Mains Allotment Association

Launch of new site meeting venue, possible thanks to funding received from Awards for All. The new cabin will act as a training and information venues as well as provide networking opportunities for plot-holders and the local community. Launch will be presented by allotment committee together with plot-holders and members of the community. A tour of the site will follow, providing information about the site itself and upcoming biodiversity projects.



MSP is invited to give a short speech along with committee chair and have the honour of cutting the ribbon.

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Address: Blackford Avenue (see map appendix)

FLAT SHOES AND A WATERPROOF WOULD BE RECOMMENDED. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

Members of Scottish Allotment and Garden Society (SAGS) and Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Association (FEDAGA)

Inverleith Allotments Association

Visit of the site, which is one of the largest sites in the city. The site has won the Edinburgh in Bloom competition for the past two years. Allotments are no longer simply the domain of the elderly gentleman; more and more women and younger people are now cultivating plots to grow vegetables and flowers and benefitting from the exercise and fresh air. The plots themselves provide shelter for a wide range of biodiversity from pollinators to predators making allotments an important part of the Scottish environment.



Members of committee will be on hand to lead tours and answer questions. If MSP wish, questions can be submitted to association prior to the visit.

Time: 10am – 4pm

Address: East Fettes Avenue (*see map appendix*)

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR ADVISED AND RAIN GEAR RECOMMENDED

Members of SAGS and FEDAGA

Redhall Allotment Association

(not to be confused with Redhall Walled Garden)

Open invitation to visit allotment site, at the edge of Colinton Dell (formerly a Council tree nursery- change of use circa 1987). Two site committee members will be present- Pauline Valentine, site representative (who is also a Management Committee member for FEDAGA- Edinburgh's allotments association) and Jimmy Hutton, along with some plot holders. There is also a possibility that the Council's Allotment officer will also be there.



Time: Anytime to suit (Gate locked at all times, please arrange for access or you can make arrangements with site representative to be met on the main road).

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: 97 Lanark Road, Edinburgh, EH14 2LZ (*see map appendix*)

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING RECOMMENDED

Members of SAGS and FEDAGA

Leith Links Allotments

Small allotment site, previously under threat from development plans demonstrating healthy living and community involvement with Ageing Well Group, communal composting area and school plot. Site representative and some plot-holders and Ageing Well group will be available.



Time: Anytime to suit

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: 1 Links Garden, Leith, Edinburgh (*see map appendix*)

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING RECOMMENDED

Members of SAGS and FEDAGA

Health Walk - Living Streets Scotland

on behalf of Wester Hailes Health Agency

Health Walk with local residents, coordinated by Wester Hailes Health Agency.

See the local neighbourhood and identify with residents opportunities to make the area safer and more attractive for people of all ages to walk about. Plus you'll feel fitter and healthier too! The health walk leaves from the Wester Hailes Health

Agency for a distance of around 3 miles and can take between 1 and 2 hours. Destination is Heriot Watt campus (Edinburgh, EH14 4AS), with route partly via the beautiful and vibrant Union canal. Return by public transport.

Time: 12:30-2pm (approx.)

Address: Wester Hailes Health Agency, 40 Dumbdryden Drive, Edinburgh, EH14 2QR.

STURDY SHOES ARE REQUIRED AND WATERPROOF CLOTHING IF RAINING.



Wester Hailes
Health Agency
Promoting health in Wester Hailes

paths
for all

40 Dumbdryden Drive, Edinburgh EH14 2QR
Telephone: 0131-458 3080 Fax: 0131-453 4890

Edinburgh Lothians Greenspace Trust

MSPs are invited to join a number of John Muir Award celebrations across Scotland. These events will recognise people's enjoyment of, and commitment to the natural environment



Working in partnership with the Forestry Commission, ELGT deliver the John Muir Award as part of 12 week long 'Branching Out' programmes in local woodland areas in Edinburgh. Working with a variety of mental health services, the programme aims to provide therapeutic woodland activities for the participants.

Time: Daytime flexible from 10am – 4pm

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: Swanston Steading, 109/11 Swanston Road, Edinburgh, EH10 7DS

George Watson's College, Edinburgh

MSPs are invited to join a number of John Muir Award celebrations across Scotland. These events will recognise people's enjoyment of, and commitment to the natural environment



George Watson's College offers an annual 2 week residential experience for all S3 pupils (aged 14-15) which includes an opportunity to take part in the John Muir Award at Discovery level. During 2012, George Watson's College are celebrating 50 years of running residential outdoor learning experiences for pupils (the partnership with the John Muir Award has been in place since 2003). The school is hosting a celebration event on Saturday the 17 March involving pupils past and present.

Time: Daytime flexible from 10am – 4pm

Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Address: Colinton Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5EG

East Lothian Council Countryside Ranger Service

Partners – Scottish Power and RSPB



Levenhall Links is an area of mixed grassland, woodland and wetland situated adjacent to the mouth of the River Esk on the East Lothian coastline. The site is on reclaimed land, originally used by Cockenzie Power Station for the disposal of pulverised fuel ash (PFA). Although parts of the site are still active, much of the land has been landscaped and is managed by East Lothian Council (ELC) to provide an environment that is valuable for both recreation and wildlife conservation. Part of the site is designated as part of the Firth of Forth RAMSAR site, and ELC are currently hoping to designate the area as a local nature reserve. This guided walk will look at how Levenhall Links has developed to the position it is in now and what developments are planned for the future. The walk will be led by one of the East Lothian Countryside Rangers.

Time: 1 – 3pm

Address: Levenhall Links, Musselburgh. Meet at the new racecourse pavilion car park, at the north end of Balcarres Road, Musselburgh.

STURDY SHOES ARE RECOMMENDED

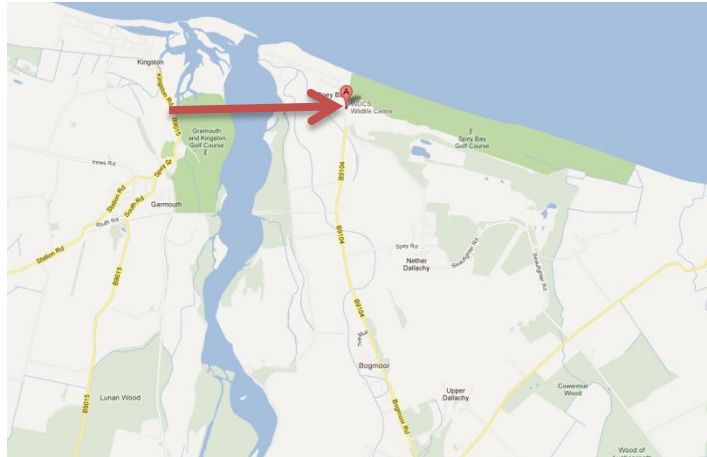
In all cases please let us know of your preference of visit(s) you wish to attend by email to: Rea Cris: rea@scotlink.org and we will put you in touch with ground staff for further confirmations.

MAP APPENDIX

We can also supply larger images or direct internet links to site(s), please email Rea Cris, rea@scotlink.org for more information.

MID SCOTLAND AND FIFE

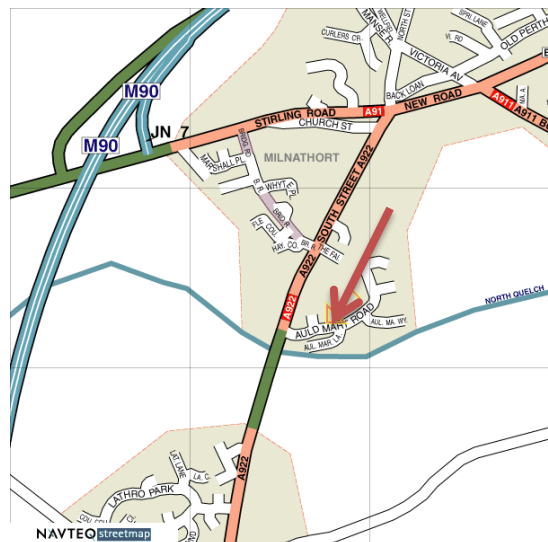
Scottish Dolphin Centre
Spey Bay, MORAY, IV32 7PJ



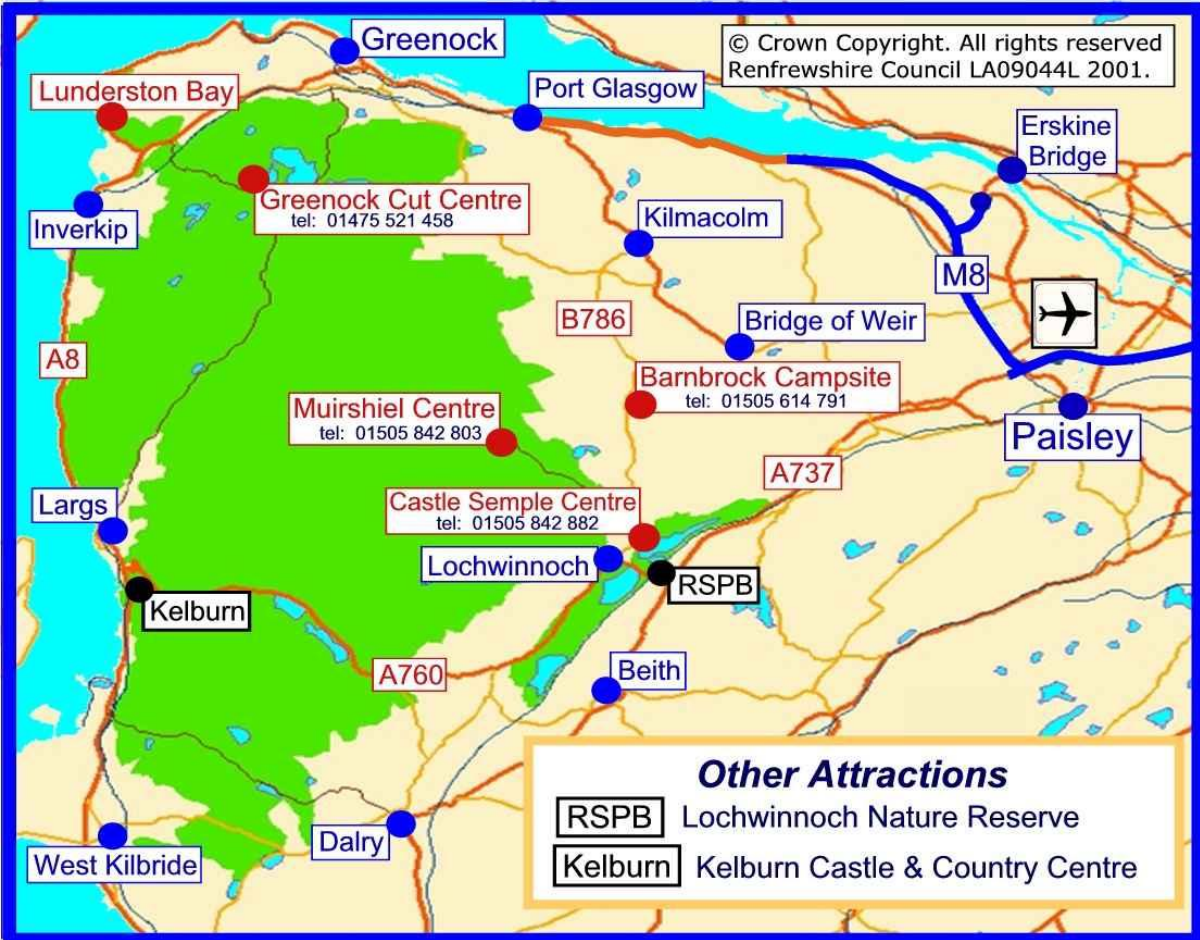
Butterfly Conservation Scotland
Fallin, near Stirling, Postcode
approx. FK7 7GY



Ramblers Scotland office
Milnathort, Kinross KY13 9DA



WEST SCOTLAND



GLASGOW

Froglife
Windlaw Marsh (Carmunnock South)



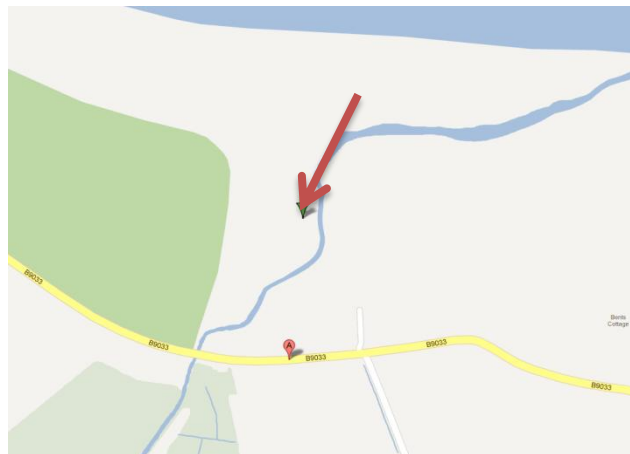
CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Froglife
Cumbernauld Community Park



NORTH EAST SCOTLAND

Dune on the Beach



HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

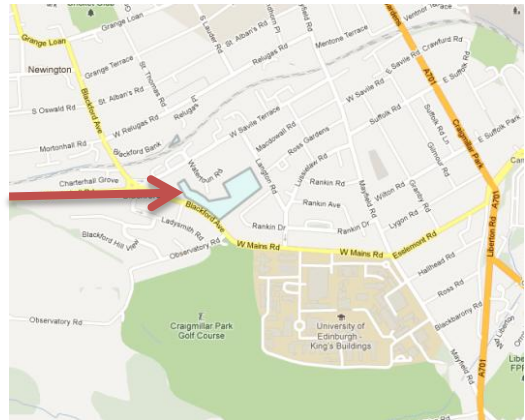
Discovering Places

Directions: From the A82 you approach the Abriachan road from the large turning circle. Travel up the Abriachan road for about a mile, take the left fork at the junction after the village hall marked Abriachan Forest Walks. Pass a small Loch on your left and the Abriachan Forest is the next left turn.

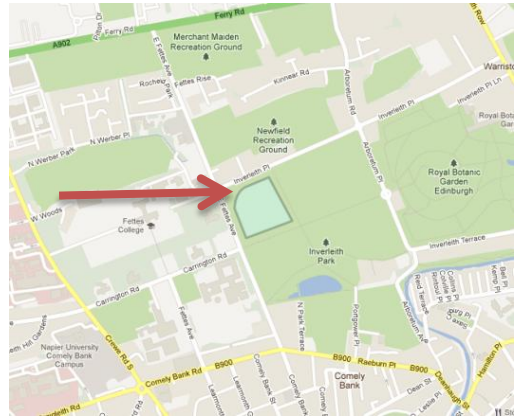
Access: Abriachan Adventurer and Olympic missions take place on accessible paths suitable for buggies and wheelchairs. Buddy mission only partly accessible.

LOTHIAN - EDINBURGH

West Mains Allotment

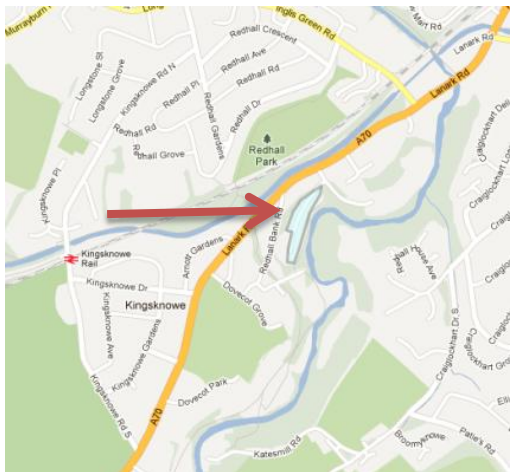


Inverleith Allotment Association



Redhall Allotment Association

Via lane between bungalow numbers 95 and 99. We are at TOP of lane, first opening to the right. Lane opening between Redhall View and Redhall Bank Road- almost opposite the mini terminus bus stop on layby on Lanark Road. Lane entrance has signs attached for the Redhall Walled Garden, a different garden from us.



Leith Links Allotment

1 Links Garden, Leith, Edinburgh
(between cricket club and St.Mary's Primary)

