

Roslin Glen Country Park



Management Plan
2010–2015



Overview of the Management Plan

The purpose of the Roslin Glen Country Park Management Plan is to identify issues relating to the management, maintenance and development of the Park and to set out the management vision, aims and action plan to enable improvement of the site over the next five years.

The vision is to:

To manage and improve Roslin Glen Country Park as a key site within the Esk Valley for the benefit of people and wildlife in such a way as to ensure it is one of the most attractive sites for Midlothian residents and visitors to the area.

The Plan draws on previous plans and policy documents used to direct activities within the Park to create an holistic plan that integrates all the activities undertaken by the Council and other organisations such as the Friends Group and volunteers. The Action Plan and Marketing Plan together cover maintenance activities, improvements, promotion and community involvement over the next five years.

The Plan will be available to all interested parties including the local community, elected members and Council staff to explain the rationale behind management policies, decisions and actions. The Plan will also assist in applying Green Flag criteria as part of the Green Flag Award Scheme to enable better understanding of the quality of management at the site.

This management plan was produced in February 2010 to cover 5 year period for Midlothian Council's Land Services by Mark Hamilton Landscape Services in association with the Midlothian Ranger Service and Roslin Friends of the Park.

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SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

1.0 Location and Outline Description

Roslin Glen Country Park lies 500m south of the village of Roslin in Midlothian. Penicuik is situated 4km to the southwest, while the city centre of Edinburgh is 11km to the north.

The Country Park occupies both banks of the River North Esk from Kirkettle Mill (ordnance survey grid reference NT 265619) to the footbridge over the river below Roslin Castle (grid reference NT 274628), covering a distance of over 1.5 km. The Country Park is linear in shape, with a maximum width of 250m. The car park for the site is located at grid reference point NT 272628.

The Park covers an area of 24.7ha and comprises principally of a steep sided glen clad by woodland on both sides of the River North Esk. Among the attractions of the Park are woodland and riverside walks with links to other walking routes as well as a car park, a picnic area and a rich industrial history relating to the production of gunpowder between 1804 and 1954. The popular tourist site of Rosslyn Chapel is located to the north east of the Park and the spectacular Rosslyn Castle which is a private residence is also located on this side of the Park. Both are linked to the Park by a public path.

(Refer to Map No.1 – Location)

1.0.1 Ownership

Roslin Glen Country Park has been owned by Midlothian Council since the 1970's and is managed by the Land Services Section via the Midlothian Ranger Service.

1.0.2 Contact

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1.1 Scope and Purpose of Management Plan

A Woodland Management Plan was produced for Roslin Glen Country Park in early 1999 which covered both the woodlands within the Country Park (within the ownership of Midlothian Council) and those around Roslin Castle (within the ownership of the Earl of Rosslyn). This Plan covered a five year period, and the works recommended for the Country Park were by and large implemented. The Woodland Management Plan for the Country Park was updated for the period 2006-2011, and again most of the recommended works were implemented.

Funding for the implementation of the woodland management works was provided by The Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland, and by Midlothian Council.

BILSTON

ROSLIN

RIVER NORTH ESK

ROSEWELL

ROSLIN GLEN COUNTRY PARK

**Roslin Glen Country Park
Management Plan 2010**

**Map: 1
Location Map
Scale 1:20,000**



In addition the following reports are relevant to the management of Roslin Glen:

- Roslin Glen Baseline Survey Report – Gunpowder Mills Heritage Assets. 2006.
- Midlothian Local Plan. 2006.
- Core Paths Plan for Midlothian. 2009.
- Midlothian Parks Spaces Audit. 2009.

This Management Plan draws on the previous plans and policy documents listed above. The purpose of the plan is to identify issues relating to the management, maintenance and development of the Park and to set out the management vision, aims and objectives.

This Plan will be available to all interested parties including elected members, the local community and council staff and will explain the rationale behind management policies, decisions and actions. In addition, the plan will indicate the level of resources required to achieve continuous improvement.

The Plan covers a 5 year period between 2010 and 2015 and includes detailed management proposals.

The Plan is also intended to assist in gaining Green Flag accreditation for the Country Park. The Green Flag Award Scheme is a national quality standard for parks and other open spaces. Following pilot work by Edinburgh and Dundee Councils the scheme is now being rolled out in Scotland. The Green Flag Award Scheme criteria provide a quality standard against which Roslin Glen Country Park can be assessed. In 2009 1,000 parks and green spaces held the award including 11 sites in Scotland.



The River North Esk is a key feature of the Park. A bridge crosses the river just downstream of the weir, which was used to channel and control water flow into a mill lade.

SECTION 2 – VISION AND AIMS

2.0 Vision

Midlothian Council's Corporate Plan sets out key areas for improving the local environment and under Objectives 1 and 2 there is a requirement to:

- *Improve people's health and well-being*
- *Conserve and improve Midlothian's natural environment*

Roslin Glen County Park is one of Midlothian's key sites for outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the countryside and contributes strongly to these objectives.

In developing this management plan the Friends of Roslin Glen were consulted on the vision for the park which is:

To manage and improve Roslin Glen County Park as a key site within the Esk Valley for the benefit of people and wildlife in such a way as to ensure it is one of the most attractive sites for Midlothian residents and visitors to the area.

2.1 Aims

The management of Roslin Glen Country Park requires a balance between a variety of interlinked and sometimes conflicting interests. Ten management aims have been derived as steps towards achieving the overall vision for the Park.

- a) Conservation
To increase the biodiversity value of the site.
- b) Landscape
To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value.
- c) Recreation
To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.
- d) Community Involvement
To engage with the local community and user groups, and to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the Park and to use the Glen as an environmental educational resource.
- e) Cultural
To protect and conserve all features of cultural significance and industrial heritage value.
- f) Sustainability
To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.
- g) Legal
To ensure that the site management works complies with all legal obligations.

- h) Maintenance
To ensure that a maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the Park and meet visitor expectations.
- i) Safety
To ensure the safety of visitors to the site and staff working on the site.
- j) Marketing
To positively promote Roslin Glen Country Park to Midlothian residents and potential visitors to the area.

Table 1 below shows how the aims have been linked to the eight criteria of the Green Flag Award Scheme.

Table 1 Aims and Green Flag Criteria

No.	Green Flag Criteria	Aim
1	A Welcoming Place	b) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value. c) To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.
2	Healthy, Safe and Secure	i) To ensure the safety of visitors to the site and staff working on the site. g) To ensure that the site management works complies with all legal obligations. c) To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment. c) To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.
3	Well Maintained and Clean	h) To ensure that a maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet visitor expectations.
4	Sustainability	f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.
5	Conservation and Heritage	a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site. e) To protect and conserve all features of cultural significance and industrial heritage value.

No.	Green Flag Criteria	Aim
6	Community Involvement	d) To engage with the local community and user groups, and to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the Park and to use the Glen as an environmental educational resource.
7	Marketing	j) To positively promote Roslin Glen Country Park to Midlothian residents and potential visitors to the area.
8	Management	<p>f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.</p> <p>d) To engage with the local community and user groups, and to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the Park and to use the Glen as an environmental educational resource.</p>

SECTION 3 – CONTEXT OF THE PARK

3.0 Policy and Designations

3.0.1 Midlothian Council Policies

The Midlothian Local Plan identifies the following planning policies which relate to Roslin Glen.

- RP 1 Protection of the Countryside (from development)
- RP 6 Area of Great Landscape Value (protection from development)
- RP 9 Esk Valley Landscape Assessment Protection of River Valleys
- RP 12 Regionally and Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (Gunpowder Mill only)
- RP 16 Regional and Country Parks

Part of the site lies within the Conservation Area around Roslin.

3.0.2 Core Paths Plan for Midlothian 2009

The Core Paths Plan for Midlothian identifies key path routes for the Midlothian area. The Park includes two core path routes:

- No.32 A 1,000m section of the path that connects the Park and the Roslin area to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Foot/Cycleway.
- No.33 A 1,300m section of the path network within the Park itself.

3.0.3 Historic Buildings

Roslin Glen contains a Gunpowder Mill complex with a collection of associated structures. This is recognised in the Midlothian Council Local Plan as being regionally and locally important. The history of the site and the physical remains of a variety of structures within the site have potential for interpretation which could generate more interest on a local and regional scale.

3.0.4 Woodland Classification

Roughly 13ha of the Park's woodland is classified as 'Ancient Semi-natural Woodland' with a further 4.1ha classified as 'Other Woodland'. This classification recognises the importance of the woodland and indicates that extensive woodland cover has been present on the site since at least 1750.

3.1 Strategic Significance of Park

The Park has a strong strategic significance within the region with importance as a wildlife corridor, path link and as a public open space, within easy reach of population centres.

3.1.1 Edinburgh and the Lothian's Forestry Habitat Network

The Edinburgh and the Lothian's Forestry Habitat Network plan has mapped the Roslin Glen area as a Core Woodland Area, containing very high quality woodland. The woodland within the Park combines with woodlands to the north and south to provide a valuable and extensive area of gorge woodland.

3.1.2 Biodiversity Action Plan

The Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan has a Habitat Action Plan for Gorge Woodlands which calls for such woodland to be managed as an important habitat as part of the river valleys. Recent woodland management has reflected this aim. To the north of the Park a 44ha area of the River North Esk valley is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

3.1.3 Path Routes

The paths within the Park provide an important link to other more extensive walking routes. The formal paths are designated as core path routes and they link directly to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway. The paths also link to a path route leading northwards along the valley of the River North Esk to the village of Polton.

3.1.4 The Midlothian Open Space Audit

The Midlothian Parks Spaces Audit recorded all the public open spaces within Midlothian. Each site was given a PAN 65 Typology code and its quality assessed in terms of access, attractiveness, biodiversity, functionality and community benefits. Roslin Glen was audited as one site together with areas in private ownership beyond the Park boundaries. The area received an overall score of 74% which is above average and received favourable comments. However, it is felt that if the audit area had excluded the areas beyond the Park boundary then it would have scored much higher.

3.2 Historic Background of the Park

The Roslin area is steeped in history with key locations being the famous Rosslyn Chapel and the neighbouring Rosslyn Castle. These sites are adjacent to the Country Park and the Chapel is a popular tourist attraction. The castle is a striking building but it is not open to the public. Information on the Chapel and Castle can be found by visiting the Rosslyn Chapel website at www.rosslynchapel.org.uk

The site of the car park at Roslin Glen was previously a carpet factory, and some buildings and structures, such as the bleach fields, are still in existence. The Roslin Heritage Society has detailed information on the history of the site and can be contacted via their website at www.roslinheritagesociety.org

Within the Park the most significant features of cultural heritage are the remains of the extensive Roslin Powdermill which occupy the north side of the valley. The gunpowder produced by the mill was used in the Napoleonic, Crimean and Boer wars, among others.

The mills closed in 1954 and the Forestry Commission acquired the site. The Forestry Commission do not appear to have undertaken much in the way of woodland management during their ownership, although two small sycamore plantations were established during this period.

Midlothian Council acquired the site in the 1970's. At this time mill remains, including over forty buildings and three bridges, were still standing but safety fears led to demolition of most of them. Today the remnants of mill walls, lades, chimneys and magazines are visible throughout the north side of the Park.

In 2006, a baseline survey was carried out on the surviving historic features by a consultant archaeologist in partnership with the Council and the Roslin Heritage Society. A prioritised action plan was prepared which informs the recommendations for this element within the management plan. (Ref: *Roslin Glen Baseline Survey Report, Gunpowder Mills Heritage Assets. 2006*). It is intended to seek means of implementing some of the key recommendations of the Report, although it is appreciated that significant resources would be required to achieve full implementation.



The photograph above shows the Sulphur and Saltpetre Refineries within Roslin Glen (From Roslin Heritage Web Site).



This recent photograph shows the remains of the mill-wheel building. An interpretation board can be seen in the foreground which explains some of the history of the Gunpowder Mills.

The Roslin Heritage Society has prepared various materials related to the Park's history and carries out talks on the history of the gunpowder mill complex. Further information and can be found on their website at www.roslinheritage.society.org

3.3 Management Rules

Management Rules are in place for all key countryside sites in Midlothian and are reviewed on a ten year cycle. The rules are posted at each countryside site including Roslin Glen Country Park to enable enforcement by Authorised Officers; in the case of Roslin Glen this is the Midlothian Ranger Service.

3.4 Community Involvement

Roslin Glen Country Park has benefited from the sustained interest of the local community. In the past the Roslin Heritage Society was the main contributing local organisation to the management of the Park but more recently the work of Roslin Heritage Society has been augmented by the formation of the Friends of Roslin Glen in 2007.

The 'Friends' group was formally constituted in 2009 and has currently 45 members. The group operate in partnership with Midlothian Ranger Service, local residents and local land owners to enhance both the Country Park and the wider area within Roslin Glen.

The aims of the Friends group include the promotion of:

- Recreation
- Nature conservation
- Cultural heritage
- Landscape

The Friends group work with the Midlothian Ranger Service to undertake small scale conservation tasks such as pruning work and planting trees and shrubs. In future, it is likely the group will support larger scale initiatives concerned with improving the Park.

The Edinburgh University student volunteer group 'The Dirty Weekenders' have a good relationship with the Ranger Service and have been involved at the Park undertaking practical vegetation management tasks.

3.5 Surveys and Assessments

There are a number of Plans and Reports which are relevant to the past and ongoing development of the Country Park as described below.

3.5.1 Woodland Management

The initial Woodland Management Plan was produced in 1999, and the revised Woodland Plan covers the period until 2011. The original Plan included description, survey and assessment of the woodlands in the Country Park together with proposals for improvement.

To date the proposals of the Woodland Management Plan have been implemented as per the schedule within the plan. This work has included:

- Small scale thinning
- Selective felling of sycamore

- Felling of sycamore plantation and replacement with alder
- Removal of sycamore and beech seedlings
- Removal of dangerous trees
- Small scale tree planting
- Litter removal
- Small scale path improvements

Forthcoming works for 2010 includes:

- Continued removal of exotic tree seedlings
- Continued small scale thinning
- Continued site maintenance

The maintenance of the site is undertaken by the Midlothian Ranger Service. Seasonal maintenance tasks include:

- Path strimming
- Strimming around bench seats and logs
- Clearance of overhanging branches encroaching onto the path
- Litter removal
- Remedial works to paths
- Treatment of hogweed and other invasive weed species

3.5.2 Biodiversity

Roslin Glen was designated as a Local Biodiversity Site in 2008. Biodiversity Actions are linked to the Midlothian Biodiversity Action Plan covering areas of habitat enhancement, creation and ongoing management.

The site includes a large area of deciduous woodland, some scrub vegetation, open grassland, and running water.

3.5.3 Archaeology

The 'Roslin Glen Baseline Survey Report – Gunpowder Mills Heritage Assets' referred to in sections 1.1 and 3.2 provides a series of recommendations for the conservation of the remaining gunpowder mill buildings and the key recommendations of the plan are set out in the work plan. These proposals aim to protect the existing archaeological features and prevent any further deterioration of the structures due to the action of encroaching vegetation.

3.5.4 Open Space Audit

This audit was carried out by an independent consultant to inform the progression of an Open Space Strategy for Midlothian. The audit found that Roslin Glen is a high quality site which provides an attractive and accessible location providing benefits for people and wildlife.

The Audit found that *'All the settlements of Midlothian are located within 10km of a Country Park'* and specific comment was the success of the introduction of horse access.

SECTION 4 – ANALYSIS

An analysis of the site is given below with recommendations contained within the Action Plan in Section 5.

4.0 Context for Improvement

The Woodland Management Plan for Roslin Glen Country Park has to date been used to manage improvements at Roslin Glen. The open space audit also provides an assessment of the quality of the overall park.

With the formation of the Friends of Roslin Glen it was felt that a more comprehensive management plan that linked to the Green Flag Award Scheme criteria would provide a more holistic basis for improving the quality of the park and links to the community.

4.1 A Welcoming Place

4.1.1 General

An important feature of any park is to make users feel comfortable using the site. The Country Park is well designed and attractive to visitors with plenty of features of interest both within the Park and also nearby including Roslin Chapel and the River Esk.

4.1.2 Finding the Park - External Physical Access

The Park lies 500m to the south of the village of Roslin in Midlothian with easy access by public road. It is 1.5km from the A701 and 4km from the A720 Edinburgh By-Pass.

While the Park is signposted for walkers and is directly link to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway, signage from Roslin, and the Chapel and Castle, is perhaps lacking. In terms of motorised access the Park has a large car park located off the B7003. The Park is also easily accessible by public transport with regular bus services from Edinburgh City Centre to Roslin.

Lothian Buses: 15, 15A

First Buses: 62/62A/62B, 40A/140/141/142

Contact Traveline for more details - 0870 608 2 608

4.1.3 Finding the Park - Internal Physical Access

The Park has a well surfaced, level car parking area with good lines of site. There is parking for roughly 70 cars. A height restrictor of 2.2m prevents access to the main car park by large vehicles such as buses and caravans. These larger vehicles are able to use a hardstanding area located adjacent to the main car park.

Car parking is free of charge with the following opening times:

Summer: 8am - 8pm

Winter: 8am - 5pm

The Park has a large picnic area set within amenity grassland located close to the car park.

There is a good footpath system which is well signposted and although not all routes are suited to all abilities there are good opportunities for disabled users and equestrian users. The main path through the site links to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway providing opportunities for longer distance walks. This involves crossing a footbridge onto the southern side of the river just below the weir. This bridge is suitable for equestrian use. Access downstream along the south side of the river is difficult, and as there is no means of easily crossing the river at the eastern end of the Park, public use of this part of the site is limited. The lack of public use is most likely beneficial in terms of wildlife.

A second pedestrian bridge (unsuitable for equestrian use) just to the north of the car park facilitates access between the Park and Roslin Village, the Chapel and Castle, and an informal route along the north side of the river towards the village of Polton.

4.1.4 Information on Access

An information leaflet about the Park, including an illustrative map, is available from a dispenser located at the information shelter in the site car park.

A large orientation board located within the car park shows the location of the site in relation to surrounding landmarks and features.

The Park is featured on the Midlothian Council website with directions, site details and a seasonal update of activities within the site. The Park is also included on the 'Explore Midlothian' website as part of a 9km looped walk beginning at the village of Rosewell.

The site is also listed annually in the Lothian's and Borders 'Outdoor Diary of Events and Activities' which is available in printed form and also as a website. Details of the location and forthcoming public events are listed.

The Friends of Roslin Glen group also intend to set up their own website to promote the site and the activities of the group.

4.1.5 Social Access

The Friends of Roslin Glen and the Roslin Heritage Society provide a consultative forum upon which the Council can get feedback on ideas for improving the Park. The Friends Group has, with the Ranger Service, organised two '*Teas in the Park*' events that have been extremely well attended and have raised funds for the Friends group.

The group hope to widen the Friends membership and to increase involvement from the wider community in and around Roslin.

The Park includes the following access related facets:

- An on-site information Panel which is regularly updated with information of events, legislation (SOAC) and details of the Friends Group.
- A site leaflet dispenser.
- A local Gate Keeper who provides a level of on site security and a means of reporting incidents.
- Weekly patrols by Midlothian Ranger Service, providing face to face contact with visitors.
- Community Police Officers who patrol the site.

- A number of local residents who use the site on a regular basis and are in contact with the Ranger Service.

4.1.6 Aspects of Design

The Park has been designed to be welcoming to the public and to provide an attractive amenity space for informal recreation. Improvements to the site will be carried out in consultation with the Friends of Roslin Glen to ensure the support of the local community. Specifically the re-design of features such as the roundel within the car park will be undertaken after discussion with the Friends Group.

4.1.7 A Welcoming Place - Actions

- 1 Install signage to and from Roslin Village.
- 2 Upgrade Roundel to create improved entrance feature.
- 3 Install new steps to create river viewpoint.
- 4 Include the Park as part of the Midlothian Walking Festival.
- 5 Prepare strategic bid for funds to improve Esk Valley between Polton and Roslin

4.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

4.2.1 Health and Well Being

The Park offers a range of opportunities for recreation, health and well being.

- A good, well sign-posted path system which provides opportunities for a variety of walking routes suited to a range of fitness levels.
- Opportunities for cycling and horse riding.
- Clear lines of sight along major walking routes.
- Links to long distance routes outwith the park.
- Attractive areas suitable for quiet relaxation.
- Opportunities for conservation volunteer work.

4.2.2 Equipment and Facilities

The principle facilities are the car park, picnic areas and information hub. These are inspected once each week by the Countryside Ranger and daily by the Gate Keeper who undertakes opening and closing duties at the car park.

The design of the car park has been improved over the years to create a sense of being introduced to a countryside setting yet to also provide a feeling of security. This has involved ongoing thinning of woodlands and improvements to paths to ensure people feel safe and that all users are welcome.

The picnic area has picnic benches and open space on level ground. In the past, large picnics have been organised here by groups such as the Polish community. The information hub comprises of a large double sided notice board with a range of information on activity within the Park and in the surrounding area. The board has contact details for the Ranger Service and for the Friends group.

Members of the Friends Group regularly visit the site and report any problems. Required works will be undertaken by the Ranger service and/or Land Service staff to resolve issues promptly where this is feasible. There are a range of improvements that could be undertaken to improve the current car park and the frontage to some of the buildings to make the car park more attractive.

4.2.3 Safer Parks Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency the contact details of the Ranger Service, Midlothian Council and the local Community Police Officer are available at the information board in the site car park. This includes an emergency 24 hour council contact. A key advantage of the site is that there is a Gate Keeper (living adjacent to the main entrance) who is on duty twice a day to open and close the gate to the car park, and able to report any identified difficulties.

4.2.4 Security

A sense of security is provided by the presence of the Ranger staff, the Gate Keeper, and others. The Ranger Service patrols the site at least weekly, and are often on site at other times when undertaking management tasks. The duties of the Gate Keeper include site

checks and opening and closing the site every day. The local community police patrol the site occasionally and are informed of any incidents relating to site security.

4.2.5 Staff and Volunteers

The Ranger Service patrol the site on a weekly basis and are trained to enforce the management rules, resolve conflict and ensure accordance with the Nature Conservation and Land Reform Acts as well as meeting and greeting the public. The Ranger Service also has procedures relating to the Child Protection Act with all Ranger staff having 'enhanced disclosure Scotland' clearance to ensure their suitability for working with children and vulnerable adults. Lone Working procedures are in place.

A key part of the Ranger patrol is to fill in the health and safety checklist which is then recorded with any problems arising dealt with promptly. If any hazards are identified, the public are made aware through signs and warning barriers, in accordance with risk assessment procedures.

The Friends Group members are regular site users (several members will visit on a daily basis for dog walking) and inform the site Ranger of any problems or concerns.

A good working relationship exists between the Community Police Officer, based in Loanhead and the site Ranger. The Community Police Officer regularly undertakes independent site visits and the resident Gate Keeper will contact the officer if there is a problem.

Midlothian Council '24 hour Emergency contacts' are posted at the information shelter within the Park.

Ranger Service contact numbers are displayed at all main entrances to the Park and the Gate Keeper can be in immediate contact with other services should problems arise.

Local school groups attend environmental education and other sessions within the Park. The content of these sessions encourages good citizenship, which engenders a sense of respect for the outdoor environment in general and for the Park specifically.

4.2.6 Physical Security

There are a range of paths for users which include wide open paths with good views and options to take informal woodland paths off the main route. Paths have also been constructed around the main car park to enable views of the river and woodlands for the benefit of users of all abilities.

Inspections are undertaken to ensure that trees near to paths are not a danger to the public, and that site structures and facilities are in sound condition.

4.2.7 Health and Safety Policies

The Ranger Service has robust safety systems in place that are audited every three years. Risk assessments for all Service activities are reviewed annually. Site patrol sheets identify health and safety issues for reporting as they arise and these are all dealt with appropriately.

4.2.8 Control of Dogs

Roslin Glen is well used by dog walkers some of whom are in the Friends Group and many who are regular users of the Park. The regular users report on any problems that arise.

To some extent the dog owners are self-policing, however, increasingly the Park is being used by professional dog walkers and by dog training groups. This can cause some conflict with local visitors who have reported both themselves and in some cases their dogs feeling intimidated by these large groups of dogs.

A litter bin where dog waste can be disposed is in place at the car park.

The Ranger Service and dog warden are able to enforce the existing management rules relating to dogs and the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003, which states that dog foul must be uplifted.

4.2.9 Healthy, Safe and Secure - Actions

- 1 Continue to provide opportunities for voluntary conservation activities.
- 2 Continue to work with Criminal Justice Team.
- 3 Provide 'Midlothian Ageing Well Groups' with the new site leaflet.
- 4 Offer a guided walk to health walk leaders to raise awareness of the site.
- 5 Encourage Roslin Primary pupils and staff to walk to their environmental education sessions.
- 6 Explore potential for funding to upgrade steps leading from Roslin Chapel to the Castle.
- 7 Produce a report to investigate the links between physical and mental health and contact with nature.
- 8 Replace damaged picnic benches.
- 9 Include signage on each bench to prevent fire damage from the use of portable BBQ equipment.
- 10 Install 3 new picnic benches to include a disabled access / accessible picnic bench design.
- 11 Introduce a checklist to be carried by members of the Friends Group during their site walks to assist in reporting problems.
- 12 Ensure that Ranger Service risk assessments cover all tasks carried out on site.
- 13 Prepare a recording system to facilitate community events on site.

4.3 Well Maintained and Clean

4.3.1 Litter and Waste Management

A number of measures are in place to counteract issues relating to litter and fly tipping.

There is one bin located by the car park entrance, which is cleaned twice per week in summer and once per week in winter. The Ranger liaises with Midlothian Council waste service if there are problems such as fly-tipping. The site Gate Keeper is employed to collect rubbish in the lower glen, on a daily basis.

Members of the Friends Group and other regular visitors often pick up litter on an informal basis.

The thinking behind the litter management is that a clean site is more likely to stay clean and that the presence of litter is likely to attract more litter. Those involved in the management of the site aim to remove litter or fly-tipping as quickly as possible. Rangers report that the time required for litter collection at this site is decreasing.

4.3.2 Grounds Maintenance

The Country Park is maintained to the standards set out in the Council's Grounds Maintenance specification. Maintenance works include:-

- Weekly litter collection
- Seasonal mowing of amenity grassland
- Seasonal mowing of rough grassland
- Cut wild flower meadow and remove arisings once each year
- Strim footpaths twice per year

In addition tree works are carried out on unsafe trees and in accordance with the work plan within the Woodland Management Plan.

Paths, steps and other structures such as handrails and seating are inspected by the Ranger Service and remedial work is programmed and prioritised either through Land Services Grounds Maintenance or the volunteer programme as appropriate. Works are prioritised according to risk and/or impact on the public's use of the amenity.

4.3.3 Building Maintenance

4.3.3.1 Habitable Buildings

Two habitable buildings are situated adjacent to the main car park but while they are owned by the Council they are not managed by Land Services. One of these building is now occupied by the Midlothian Model Engineering Society who run a miniature railway at Vogrie Country Park. By occupying and improving the building they have saved it from demolition and have improved both the fabric and appearance of the property. In return the Society has been granted a ten year rent-free period.

The second building is an unoccupied three story property which is available for lease. Discussions with the Midlothian Council Estates Section suggest there may be an

opportunity, if market forces allow, to lease this building to an organisation sympathetic to the aims of the Park.

4.3.3.2 Unoccupied Buildings and Structures

Remnant buildings associated with the former gunpowder mills have been audited and a list of priority works drawn up that deals with the structures in which the public might be most interested and where public safety is most important. The former mill wheel and lade within the gunpowder mill is the key priority along with the remains of a factory chimney.

Countryside bridges, railings and steps are inspected by the Ranger Service and larger structures such as the bridges across the River North Esk are inspected by the Council's Structures Section on a three-yearly cycle.

Small bridges and the remaining relic structures are monitored by the Ranger Service and serious problems which cannot be undertaken by Land Service are reported to the Structures Section as necessary.

4.3.4 Equipment Maintenance

All council staff are trained to operate maintenance equipment and provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment required.

Risk Assessments are in place for all maintenance activities and updated annually. Vehicles and machinery are maintained to a high standard by the Council's Fleet Services at their Stobhill Depot.

Fuel and chemicals are stored off site and in accordance with COSHH. All staff including the Ranger Service are trained in the use of relevant chemicals.

4.3.5 Cleanliness

The Ranger Service patrol the site each week and volunteers from the Friends Group are on site most days. The Gate Keeper will contact the Ranger Service if there are undue problems on site.

Urgent issues such as used syringes and needles are addressed immediately. Land Services staff are trained to deal with safely with needles and syringes.

Land Services Grounds Maintenance responds to complaints with cleanliness timeously. Land Services staff are trained to deal with a range of cleanliness issues including, litter, vandalism, dog mess and chewing gum.

4.3.6 Well Maintained and Clean - Actions

- 1 Request recycling education officers to attend public events.
- 2 Approach Waste Service to explore possibility of installing recycling bins at main gate.
- 3 Improve the internal fabric of the three story building to allow new tenancy.
- 4 Prepare funding bid to conserve the mill wheel building.
- 5 Develop a formal policy and procedure with Waste Services for addressing their response to problems such as graffiti, vandalism, litter and dog fouling.
- 6 Keep site clean and free from litter with weekly collections.
- 7 Maintain signs and furniture. Monthly check.
- 8 Cut path verges ~ 2,700m twice per year.
- 9 Prune back encroaching branches for full path length ~ 2,700m. Once per year.
- 10 Undertake drainage works to preserve path surfaces.
- 11 Improve paths to and from Roslin Primary School.

4.4 Sustainability

4.4.1 Introduction

Midlothian Council's Corporate Plan under its Sustainability theme states: *"We want to ensure that everything that we do can be justified by its positive long-term social, economic and environmental benefit to Midlothian and so is not done merely for short-term gain."* Under the Community Planning Partnership agreement, Midlothian Council has a duty to protect and improve the environment

While the Council is working on many fronts to improve sustainability, it is recognised that the management of countryside sites often requires few inputs yet provides clear social and environmental benefits.

4.4.2 Environmental Management

Midlothian Council is working on a number of initiatives towards sustainable management practices including which are outlined in the *Council's Sustainable Development Scheme and Action Plan 2009/10* which is available on the Midlothian Council website.

4.4.3 Pesticides

At countryside sites such as Roslin Glen pesticide use is restricted to key operations which form part of a larger plan or strategy such as the Local Biodiversity Action Plan or the Woodland Management Plan and therefore such interventions are minimal.

Application of chemicals is always carried out by staff trained and with the relevant certification. Rangers advise the public and sign areas where spraying work is being carried out which will always be undertaken at non-peak times of public use.

At Roslin Glen, the use of chemicals is restricted to glyphosate and is used to control invasive species, in particular Japanese Knotweed. The location of these sites is usually well away from public access routes and is restricted to less than 0.12 ha in total. This work is undertaken as one of the key priorities within the Midlothian Biodiversity Action Plan.

Occasionally tree stumps are treated with herbicides. This usually occurs where non-native species have been felled and treatment is the only option to control re-growth where native species should be planted in the gap created.

4.4.4 Use of Materials

The Council's Sustainability Action Plan targets procurement policies as a key means of delivering sustainable services stating that:

"We will adopt a strategic approach to procurement which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development".

The procurement of goods and services takes into account not only value for money but other factors such as environmental performance by encouraging suppliers, manufacturers and other parts of the supply chain to promote responsible use of resources including

human resources. This is further developed through the statement in the sustainability plan that:

"We will give consideration to increasing the procurement of ethically and fairly traded goods."

Land Services has already converted its greenhouses at its plant production nursery to biomass fuel harvested from Council owned sites and in doing so has reduced costs by 75%.

Midlothian Council aims to phase out the use of peat. Peat substitutes have been trialled at the plant production nursery, but this has met with very limited success and in some instances complete failure. There is, however, discussion with neighbouring local authorities to establish an improved formula to be trialled in the near future. In the meantime the Council uses carefully managed peat reserves which are not of scientific or scenic interest and which are locally based in order to minimise carbon miles.

The use of peat-based products however is not a particular issue at Roslin Glen Country Park as planting is limited to a small number of native trees and shrubs. The Council nursery uses reusable cells for raising bedding and shrubs thus reducing use of materials and vermiculite and perlite are used for growing on from cuttings.

4.4.5 Resource Conservation and Waste Management

The purchase of materials is guided by the Council's Sustainability Plan which aims to reduce the impact on resources. The Sustainability Plan states

'We will ensure we are on-track with our involvement in the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme.'

Appropriate materials are used on site and increasingly products such as reclaimed aggregates and recycled plastic instead of quarried stone and milled timber are being used. There is virtually no peat use on site except from very limited numbers of cell grown trees. A key driver for using recycled products is grant aid for new projects which often requires that the design and implementation of projects use sustainable and recycled products.

As part of the National Curriculum the Ranger Service provide information to schools and others on sustainably issues.

4.4.6 Recycling

In Midlothian Council green waste which is collected from both households and public areas is sent for composting by Forth Resource Management. This waste is windrow composted to create PAS100 screened compost, for use as a soil improver and substitute for chemical fertilisers. Any contamination removed before the composting process begins is disposed of responsibly to a licensed non-hazardous landfill site.

According to the REMADE 2009 report Midlothian Council is the second highest performer in Scotland in terms of recycling green waste.

To support this activity Land Services recycles all its green waste and now uses a 10" bore chipper to enable arisings from its arboricultural activities to be reused or recycled.

4.4.7 Horticultural and Arboriculture Management

There is little horticultural activity within the Country Park with the exception of mowing in the high amenity grass areas by the car park and more occasionally in areas of rough grassland. Trees are managed through a woodland management plan that aims to improve the biodiversity, landscape and amenity of the site.

All newly planted trees are sourced from local provenance in accordance with the Millennium Forest for Scotland Dedication Agreement. Woodchips arising from tree works are either used on site or given away to local allotments groups or recycled at the Council's green waste amenity site.

4.4.8 Pollution Reduction

Fuel and chemicals are not stored on site. Their limited on site usage is audited through the Health and Safety Plan for the Ranger Service and Land Services. Any pollution incidents are reported using the Council's incident report forms and SEPA contacted if there are any spillages affecting water courses.

4.4.9 Water Efficiency

There is virtually no use of water within the Park due to the lack of horticultural features. There is also no pond or other feature that requires to be improved to conserve water.

4.4.10 Energy Efficiency

The Council's Fleet Services is about to embark on a fuel reduction training programme for all its vehicle drivers, across all Council Services. This will include Land Services and the Ranger Service.

There is no electricity use on site linked to the management of the Park. The two habitable buildings available for lease are not controlled by Land Services.

4.4.11 Air Quality

The improvement in air quality is measured by the Council as part of its Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government. The Council's Fleet Service contributes to this measure by compliance to EC 91/542 emissions directive, the latest standard on air quality which applies to all Land Services and Ranger Service plant and machinery.

4.1.12 Sustainability – Actions

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Establish a formal policy of Pesticide Use and Use of Chemicals. |
| 2 | Increase the use of recycled products on site. |
| 3 | Source all plants of local provenance using peat free compost. |
| 4 | Aim to phase out the use of peat. |
| 5 | Implement staff training to reduce fuel use. |

4.5 Conservation and Heritage

Conservation is an important area of work within Roslin Glen Country Park. The Council has improved the woodlands and other features through the Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust project. The Woodland Management Plan includes key objectives to improve the amenity, biodiversity, landscape as well as conserving the existing buildings from encroachment by vegetation. The Conservation Area status covers part of the site and means that interventions by the Council need to accord with this status in respect of the built and natural heritage.

4.5.1 Woodland Ecology

The management of the woodland areas follows the recommendations of the Woodland Management Plan and seeks to increase the existing levels of ecological value.

The woodland is an example of a gorge woodland habitat and includes 13.1ha of woodland which is classified as 'Ancient Semi-natural Woodland.' The mixed deciduous woodland shows a variation in ecological value throughout the glen. The variation is a result of human disturbance, topography, geology, drainage and the spread of exotic species. One of the key reasons for the number of tree species present across the site is experimentation with different timbers for use in gunpowder making.

The woodland includes a small coniferous element and small patches of hawthorn and blackthorn scrub. The spread of exotic regeneration in the form of sycamore and beech seedlings has been a threat to the balance of tree species and recent work has been successful to date to promote the existing native species.

4.5.2 Other Habitats

Other habitats include the River North Esk as an open water habitat, areas of scrub vegetation and open grassland. The Park is adjacent to areas of open farmland and the woodland edge and open ground combine to provide excellent feeding ground for a number of bird species.

The ground flora beneath the woodland canopy contains a number of species which indicate that the site has a long history of woodland cover, including bluebells, dog's mercury, woodrush, wild garlic and wood sorrel.

Recent biodiversity projects within the Park have included:

- Woodland management under the 'Millennium Forest for Scotland' project to remove exotic tree species and to thin to promote native tree species.
- Grassland management for increased diversity.
- The creation of green woodpecker feeding grounds.
- The creation of a small wildflower meadow near the car park.

4.5.3 Fauna

The site provides a home for a range of wildlife including roe deer, badger, otter, pipistrelle bat, daubenton's bat, and bird species including green woodpecker, kingfisher, barn owl, buzzard and dippers. Bird and bat boxes are installed within the woodland area.

The Park also provides conditions suited to a host of fresh water, grassland and woodland invertebrate species. Many of the small-scale biodiversity activities undertaken in the past have helped to further improve conditions for invertebrates, through for example the provision of deadwood habitat piles.

4.5.4 Cultural Landscape

The Roslin Glen Baseline Survey Report – Gunpowder Mills Heritage Assets 2006 provides details of the historic interest of the Park.

The role of the Roslin Heritage Society has been vital in making the connections between the local people and their landscape. The Society gives talks on the history of the Glen and in partnership with the Ranger Service provides an annual outing that focuses on the history of the landscape.

The Council has provided interpretation on the history of the gunpowder mills for the benefit of the public.

4.5.5 Water Management

The River North Esk forms a riparian corridor running the length of the Park. Much of the riparian zones comprises of gorge woodland, a priority habitat in the Midlothian LBAP. The river valley is protected under Council Policy RP9 in the Local Plan in recognition that the Esk Valleys are important areas for conservation, biodiversity and recreation.

The Ranger Service controls the invasive species Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam and are involved in educational work and litter clean ups with the local community.

4.5.6 Geological and Physiographic Features

The Park occupies the steep sided valley of the River North Esk. The river has cut through the superficial glacial deposits and the underlying carboniferous sediments which form part of the upper carboniferous millstone grits. Exposures of sandstones, siltstones, shale and ironstone occur in a number of locations, with a particularly spectacular rock face being visible just below the weir.

The site is recognised as a Regionally Important Geological Site and this status is promoted through information from the Edinburgh Geological Society which is displayed at the information shelter.

4.5.7 Conservation of Landscape

The Esk Valley Landscape Assessment is embedded in the Council Local Plan Policy RP9 which states that river valleys are to be protected from development and conserved and enhanced where appropriate.

Roslin Glen Country Park is a key location within the Esk Valley and this is supported by its partial inclusion within a Conservation Area. In recognition of its significance, Land Services has undertaken a range of improvements to the Country Park over the years that have conserved and improved both the natural and built landscape.

4.5.8 Conservation of Historic Artefacts

As referred to in section 3.2, remnant buildings associated with the former gunpowder mills have been audited and a list of priority works drawn up that deals with the structures in which the public might be most interested and where public safety is most important. The former mill wheel and lade within the gunpowder mill is the key priority along with a chimney that was central to the operation of the complex. There is an interpretive panel located by the key remnant building from the gunpowder mills features that explains the history of the site.

4.5.9 Conservation and Heritage –Actions

- 1 Maintain all newly planted trees until fully established.
- 2 Remove tree shelters from established trees.
- 3 Remove all accessible sycamore and beech trees.
- 4 Remove sycamore and beech seedlings and saplings.
- 5 Fell larger sycamore.
- 6 Restock felled areas with native broadleaves.
- 7 Remove tree shelters from established trees.
- 8 Continue treatment of invasive weed species.
- 9 Maintain wild flower meadow.
- 10 Mow amenity grassland twice per year.
- 11 Maintain open ground by weir to preserve view.
- 12 Monitor the safety of trees adjacent to cycleway.
- 13 Cut path verges twice per year.
- 14 Prune back encroaching branches on path length once per year.
- 15 Introduce monitoring of bats.
- 16 Organise a bat walk.
- 17 Maintain and Conserve Key Historic Mill Structures.
- 18 Develop an external funding bid to conserve and interpret historic buildings.
- 19 Create a web site for the specific history of the Park, if external funding allows.

4.6 Community Involvement

The Midlothian Ranger Service work with the Roslin Heritage Society, Friends of Roslin Glen, local schools, and a range of other organisation to foster a sense of community involvement in the site.

4.6.1 Patterns of Use

The Park is used on a daily basis primarily by local people and becomes much busier at weekends and during holidays when visitors more likely to come from outwith of the immediate area. The busiest time of day at the Park is usually around midday and early afternoon. The car park has seasonal opening hours as listed in section 4.1.2.

There are four counters placed at main entrances to the Park including three people counters and one car counter. It is estimated that 80,000 people per year visit the Park.

4.6.2 Community Involvement in Management and Development

The Rangers work together with the Friends Group to carry out public events and to undertake fund-raising events. The Rangers also work with other groups to implement small scale practical projects, such as tree planting, litter clearances and removal of exotic regeneration. These groups include the following:

- Roslin Primary School. Local children 5-12 years old and their teachers.
- Roslin Rainbows and Girl Guides. Local children 5-12 years old.
- Green Team. Children 15-18 years old, undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh and John Muir Award Schemes.
- Lothian Conservation Volunteers. Adults of all ages undertaking targeted skilled tasks. (4 activities per year)
- Dirty Weekenders an Edinburgh University conservation group made up of students of all ages. Although numbers vary this is a large well establish group capable of skilled tasks. (3 activities per year).

The Ranger Service is also in contact with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and attend bi-annual local area management group meetings and work in partnership at events such as 'Teas in the Park.'



Local schoolchildren took part in a biodiversity project to create a wildflower area within the Park. The photograph above was taken during the initial work stage in May.



This photograph taken in August, shows the meadow in full flower. Later in the year the meadow was cut and the cuttings were removed.

4.6.3 Facilities

The main facilities on the site are the car park, information shelter and picnic areas. Improvements to the Park's facilities will be carried out in consultation with the Friends Group. Future improvements may also be influenced by information returned from the customer survey.

4.6.4 Children's Play

It is not intended at this stage to introduce children's play equipment to the site.

4.6.5 Educational Facilities

4.6.5.1 Formal Environmental Education

The Midlothian Ranger Service offer educational sessions on various school curricular related areas within the Curriculum for Excellence and Tertiary Syllabi. The numbers in each session are limited to 1 ranger to a maximum of 15 pupils to ensure good communication and to allow feedback from the pupils. The Ranger Service also has Resource Boxes covering habitats and species of the Glen. These are available as an educational tool to any interested group.

The Ranger Service's events are promoted via press releases, fliers to schools, public leaflets, Council website and through word of mouth. Local schools such as Roslin Primary and Beeslack Secondary School are targeted and specific packages have been developed to

suit their needs. The Ranger Service's events are free of charge and they work with over 3,000 pupils in Midlothian annually linking activities to the National Curriculum.

The Rangers have also encouraged the use of safe walking routes to the Glen to promote health and well being. Currently a report is in progress to record the health benefits of the use of Midlothian's countryside sites.

4.6.5.2 Informal Education

Midlothian Ranger Service promote informal education to a wide range of groups, including members of the public, walking groups, brownies, guides and archaeological clubs. Regular activities include guided walks and evening presentations.

4.6.6 Accessibility for All

It is a key objective to provide opportunities for access to all users of the site.

Roslin Glen is regularly patrolled by the site Ranger on a weekly basis to ensure all access routes are open and that any problems are quickly resolved.

Access is promoted to the Glen by road signage, signage for pedestrians and cyclists and equestrian users via the Tyne Esk Trail.

The lower Glen and Car park area is partially accessible to wheelchair users via a river looped path. Accessible picnic benches and seating is placed at regular points on this loop to allow less able visitors the opportunity to rest. Due to the topography much of the upper Glen is inaccessible to wheelchair users or those without a reasonable level of fitness.

The Glen is connected to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Cycleway (which is managed by the Midlothian Ranger Service). This long distance route (Sustrans Regional Route 73) is well signposted and the entrances to the Park are marked on the ground and within the site leaflet as well as on SUSTRANS own leaflets.

4.6.7 Community Involvement – Actions

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Design a visitor survey questionnaire. |
| 2 | Undertake a site visitor survey. |
| 3 | Introduce Suggestion Cards for a period of one year. |
| 4 | Develop a new site leaflet. |
| 5 | Work with the Esk Valley Model Engineering Society to increase their use of Roslin Glen. |
| 6 | Display directions to children's play areas in Roslin village. |
| 7 | Increase the promotion of the Ranger Service with a leaflet. |
| 8 | Involve Roslin Primary School in the visitor survey. |

- 9 Lead a public guided walk at the Park during National Mills weekend on 9th May 2010.
- 10 Hold a 'Teas in the Park' event in August 2010.
- 11 Organise a bat walk.
- 12 Continue to respond to requests for guided walks.
- 13 Request an updated 'audit for those with disabilities'.
- 14 Install 3no. disabled access / accessible picnic benches.

4.7 Marketing

4.7.1 Introduction

The Ranger Service promotes the Park by a range of means and works closely with Midlothian Councils Communications Section to produce high quality interpretive materials to promote the park to a wide audience.

A range of measures are undertaken to ensure the park is promoted properly through events management, publications and the Midlothian Council web site.

Roslin Glen is also promoted by wide distribution of the site leaflet, which is available on site, on the Council website, in local libraries and leisure centres at the Newtongrange Tourist Information Centre and in other community outlets.

4.7.2 Information Provision and Interpretation

4.7.2.1 Leaflet

The existing leaflet is widely available as mentioned above, however it is planned to update the leaflet with changes to site information and to improve the overall design to make it of more interest to site users.

Roslin Heritage Society produce a leaflet called "Roslin Rambles" and a DVD with information on the flora and fauna in the area. The Esk Valley Trust have also produced a DVD on the River North Esk - Source to Sea with archive film footage of the mills before they were closed.

4.7.2.2 World Wide Web

Midlothian Council's own web page (www.midlothian.gov.uk) contains promotional information relating to its countryside sites, including site descriptions, lists of things to see and a downloadable leaflet with map. In addition, there are various external websites including www.visitscotland.com and www.visitmidlothian.org.uk with information about the Park.

The Park is also included on the 'Explore Midlothian' website as part of a 9km looped walk beginning at the village of Rosewell.

The site is also listed in the annual Lothian's and Borders Outdoor Diary of Events and Activities website and is also available in printed form. Details of the location and forthcoming public events are listed.

Roslin Heritage Society (www.roslinheritagesociety.org), the local community of Roslin (www.roslin.village.com), Rossllyn Chapel (www.rosslyn.chapel.org.uk) and the Esk Valley Trust (www.eskvalleytrust.org) all have websites with good information on the Roslin area.

The Friends of Roslin Glen group also intend to set up their own website to promote the site and the activities of the group.

4.7.3 Events

Future planned events include 'Teas in the Park, Aug 2010.' These are free, open air tea parties with live music and a range of outdoor activities. The sale of home-made cakes and refreshments at this event also supports the Friends Group.

4.7.4 Marketing Plan and Park Promotion

As mentioned above the Park is promoted through the site leaflet and via the Midlothian Council website. Events and activities at the site are promoted on site at the information shelter, locally in libraries and shops, in the local press, and also by word of mouth. In addition, the Roslin Heritage Society promote Roslin Glen Country Park together with the surrounding historic sites.

A draft/outline Marketing Plan for the Park is contained within Appendix 1.

4.7.5 Marketing - Actions

- 1 Assist the Friends Group to set up a web site.
- 2 Develop a new site leaflet.
- 3 Design a new interpretation panel to complement the proposed new site leaflet.
- 4 Include the site in walking routes as part of the Midlothian Walking Festival.
- 5 Create a web site for the specific history of the Park if external funding allows the restoration of mill buildings

4.8 Management

4.8.1 Land Services

The Land Services Section within the Commercial Services Division of Midlothian Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of green spaces in Midlothian. This remit includes parks, countryside sites such as Roslin Glen, cemeteries, allotments, woodlands, play areas and sports pitches as well as events management including gala days.

The Ranger Service, which is a unit within Land Services, is responsible for countryside sites and also runs an annual programme of Midlothian-wide countryside events including the Midlothian Walking Festival.

With regard to the management of Roslin Glen Country Park this structure provides the clear and coherent approach required for the maintenance and improvement of the site. There are two buildings on the edge of the main car park that are not the responsibility of Land Service and which are available to let to private organisations as mentioned in Section 4.3.3.

Land Services received the most improved performer award from the Association of Professional Service Excellence (APSE), in December 2009 and the Ranger Service has been best in class for two years running. APSE is a UK-wide bench mark for council services.

4.8.2 Management of the Country Park

The Ranger Service is responsible for the operation of the Park and their activities are given technical and strategic support by Land Services.

The Land Service Operations section carry out the maintenance of amenity grass, grasslands and arboricultural works as well as major path repairs.

Waste Services, which is also part of the Commercial Service Division, is responsible for the collection of litter bins and other waste materials

Estates Services manage the two habitable properties that are leased to private organisations.

4.8.3 Management Plan

This Management Plan seeks to provide an holistic and integrated approach to the management of the Park involving not only Midlothian Council but also key stakeholders and the local community in the decision making process.

The Management Plan includes an action plan (in Section 5) which details and timetables the various improvements that have been recommended.

The Management Plan provides opportunities for both Land Services and the various stakeholders including elected members, the Friends group and Roslin Heritage Society to contribute and understand how the Park is managed. The Ranger Service will oversee the implementation of the Plan.

4.8.4 Management - Actions

- 1 Provide events that promote social and family activities.
- 2 Maintain the existing links with Roslin Primary School.
- 3 Offer up to 10 school environmental education sessions per year.
- 4 Continue to work with student projects.
- 5 Continue with Ranger-led walks and working with conservation volunteer groups.

SECTION 5 – ACTION PLAN

This action plan lists the recommendation for the management of Roslin Glen Country Park over a 5 year period. An indication of the timing of each action is given with annually meaning that the action should be repeated every year.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	AGENTS	TIMING
	A Welcoming Place		
	General		
1	Install signage to and from Roslin Village, Roslin Chapel, Roslin Castle and Roslin Moat, to be funded by SNH, Scotways and Midlothian Council and installed by volunteers.	Rangers/volunteers	2010/11
2	Upgrade Roundel to create improved entrance feature to site.	LRM / Rangers	2011/12
3	Install new steps to create river viewpoint.	Rangers/volunteers	2010
4	Include the Park as part of walking routes within the Midlothian Walking Festival.	Rangers	Ongoing
5	Prepare funding bid to Forestry Commission and others to improve sites along the Esk Valley including the Country Park. Stage one is underway to prepare forest plan.	Land Services and partners	2010-13
	Healthy, Safe and Secure		
	Health and Well Being		
1	Continue to provide year round opportunities voluntary conservation activities.	Rangers	Ongoing
2	Continue to work with Criminal Justice Team to provide opportunities for people to work as part of Community Service orders.	Rangers	Ongoing
3	Promote health walks by providing 'Midlothian Ageing Well Groups' with the proposed new leaflet.	Rangers	2010/11
4	Offer a guided walk to health walk leaders to help develop their awareness of the site.	Rangers	2010/11
5	Encourage Roslin Primary pupils and staff to walk to their environmental education sessions. A Ranger is to be made available to accompany school groups to and from the site.	Rangers	2010/11
6	Explore potential for funding to upgrade steps leading from Roslin Chapel to the Castle.	Rangers	Ongoing
7	Produce a report based on customer health surveys of conservation groups and school pupils to investigate the links between physical and mental health and contact with nature.	Rangers/Friends Group	2010
	Equipment and Facilities		
8	Replace damaged picnic benches.	Rangers	2010
9	Include signage on each bench to prevent fire damage from the use of portable BBQ equipment.	Rangers	2010/11
10	Install 3 new picnic benches to include disabled access.	Rangers/Friends	2011

	Recommendation		Timing
	Security		
	Staff and volunteers		
11	Introduce a checklist to be carried by members of the Friends Group during their site walks to assist in reporting problems.	Rangers/Friends Group	2010
	Health and Safety Policies		
12	Ensure that Ranger Service risk assessments cover all tasks carried out on site.	Rangers	2010
13	Prepare a recording system to facilitate community events on site. To include forms for permission from Midlothian Council and a simple form to record details of the event with risk assessment.	Land Services	2010/11
	Well Maintained and Clean		
	Litter and Waste Management		
1	Request recycling education officers to attend public events.	Rangers	2010
2	Approach Waste Service to explore possibility of installing recycling bins at main gate	Rangers	2010
	Building Maintenance		
3	Improve the internal fabric of the three story building to allow new tenancy.	Land Services/Estates	2010-13
	Unoccupied Buildings and Structures		
4	Prepare funding bid to conserve and make safe the former mill wheel building and make sections of the mill lade operational again as an attraction in partnership with Roslin Heritage Society and the Friends of Roslin Glen.	Land Services	2011-13
	Cleanliness		
5	Develop a formal policy and procedure with Waste Services for addressing their response to problems such as graffiti, vandalism, litter and dog fouling.	Rangers/Waste Services	2010-11
6	Keep site clean and free from litter with weekly collections.	Rangers	Ongoing
7	Maintain signs and furniture. Monthly check.	Rangers	Ongoing
8	Cut path verges ~ 2,700m twice per year.	Land Services	Annually
9	Prune back encroaching branches for full path length ~ 2,700m. Once per year.	Land Services	Annually
10	Undertake drainage works to preserve path surfaces.	Rangers	Ongoing
11	Improve paths to and from Roslin Primary School.	Rangers /Friends Group	Ongoing

	Recommendation		Timing
	Sustainability		
	Pesticides		
1	Establish a formal policy of Pesticide Use and Use of Chemicals.	Land Services	2011
	Use of Materials		
2	Increase the use of recycled products on site for the structure of signs and for path materials.	Land Services/Rangers	Ongoing
3	Source all plants of local provenance using peat free compost.	Land Services	Ongoing
4	Aim to phase out the use of peat. (Trials of alternatives are already underway).	Land Services	2013
	Energy Efficiency		
5	Fuel reduction in fleet vehicles - Training to be undertaken by staff to reduce fuel use as part of fleet training programme.	Land Services/Rangers	2010/11
	Conservation and Heritage		
	Woodland Ecology		
1	Maintain all newly planted trees until fully established.	Rangers	Annually
2	Remove tree shelters from established trees.	Rangers	Annually
3	Remove all accessible sycamore and beech trees below 20cm dbh.	Land Services/Rangers	Over 5yrs
4	Remove sycamore and beech seedlings and saplings.	Rangers	Over 5 yrs
5	Fell larger sycamore (currently acting as an unwanted seed source) Cpt N3, N6, S9.	Land Services/Rangers	2010-13
6	Restock felled areas with native broadleaves.	Rangers	Annually
7	Remove tree shelters from established trees.	Rangers	Annually
8	Continue treatment of invasive weed species.	Rangers	Annually
	Other Habitats		
9	Maintain 800m ² of wild flower meadow. Annually cut and remove arisings.	Rangers/Friends Group	Annually
10	Mow amenity grassland 0.25ha twice per year.	Land Services	Annually
11	Maintain open ground by weir to preserve view. Once per year.	Rangers	Annually
12	Monitor the safety of trees adjacent to cycleway.	Rangers	Annually
13	Cut path verges twice per year.	Land Services	Annually
14	Prune back encroaching branches on path length once per year.	Rangers	Annually

	Recommendation		Timing
	Fauna		
15	Introduce monitoring of bats	Lothian Bat Group / Rangers	2011
16	Organise a bat walk, in partnership with the Midlothian Biodiversity Officer in August 2010.	Rangers	2010
	Conservation of Historic Artefacts		
17	Maintain and Conserve Key Historic Mill Structures.	Rangers / Friends Group	Ongoing
18	Develop external funding bid to conserve and interpret historic buildings including mill wheel building, restoration of mill lade and former chimney.	Land Services / Friends Group	2010-12
19	Create a web site for the specific history of the Park in the event that external funding allows the restoration of mill buildings.	Friends Group / Rosin Heritage Society	2012
	Community Involvement		
	Patterns of Use		
1	Design a visitor survey questionnaire to record details of the type of visitor and patterns of usage.	Rangers / Friends Group	2010
2	Undertake a site visitor survey – to be carried out by Friends Group in March / June and Sept 2010.	Rangers / Friends Group	2010-12
3	Introduce Suggestion Cards for a period of one year to determine the opinions and wishes of site visitors.	Rangers	2010
	Community Involvement in Management and Development		
4	Develop a new site leaflet, with illustrations, up to date information and location details of Roslin Glen.	Rangers / Friends Group	2010-11
5	Work with the Esk Valley Model Engineering Society (currently leasing a building on site) to increase their use of Roslin Glen.	Rangers / Friends Group	2010-12
	Children's Play		
6	Display directions to children's play areas in Roslin village and at other sites in the local area.	Land Services	2011
	Educational Facilities		
7	Increase the promotion of the Ranger Service by developing and distributing an updated leaflet to advertise the education service.	Rangers	2010-11
8	Involve Roslin Primary School in the visitor survey and include their ideas in future management projects.	Rangers	2011
	Informal Education		
9	Lead a public guided walk at the Park during National Mills weekend on 9 th May 2010.	Friends Group / Rangers	2010
10	Hold a 'Teas in the Park' event in August 2010.	Friends Group / Rangers	2010

	Recommendation		Timing
11	Organise a bat walk, in partnership with the Midlothian Biodiversity Officer in August 2010.	Rangers	2010
12	Continue to respond to requests for guided walks, activities etc on demand from local groups and interested parties.	Rangers	Ongoing
	Accessibility for All		
13	Request an updated 'audit for those with disabilities' and path survey from the Forth and Tay Disabled Ramblers Group and implement their recommendations.	Rangers / Disability Group	2011/2012
14	Install 3no. disabled access / accessible picnic benches.	Rangers	2011
	Marketing		
	Information Provision and Interpretation		
1	Assist the Friends Group to set up a web site.	Rangers / Friends Group	2010-12
2	Develop a new site leaflet.	Rangers /Land Services	2011
3	Design a new interpretation panel to complement the proposed new site leaflet.	Rangers / Land Services	2010-12
4	Include the site in walking routes as part of the Midlothian Walking Festival.	Rangers / Land Services	Annually
5	Create a web site for the specific history of the Park if external funding allows the restoration of mill buildings	Friends Group	2012-14
	Management		
1	Provide events that promote social and family activities such as 'Teas in the Park' and Midlothian Ranger Service guided walks e.g. Roslin Mills guided walk.	Rangers	Ongoing
2	Maintain the existing links with Roslin Primary School.	Rangers	Ongoing
3	Offer up to 10 school environmental education sessions to primary school classes per year.	Rangers	Ongoing
4	Continue to work with student projects in partnership with Edinburgh University and Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh on request.	Rangers	Ongoing
5	Continue with Ranger-led walks and working with conservation volunteer groups.	Rangers	Ongoing

APPENDIX 1

MARKETING PLAN

The vision for Roslin Glen Country Park is:

To manage and improve Rosin Glen County Park as a key site within the Esk Valley for the benefit of wildlife and people in such a way as to ensure it is one of the most attractive sites for local residents and visitors to the area.

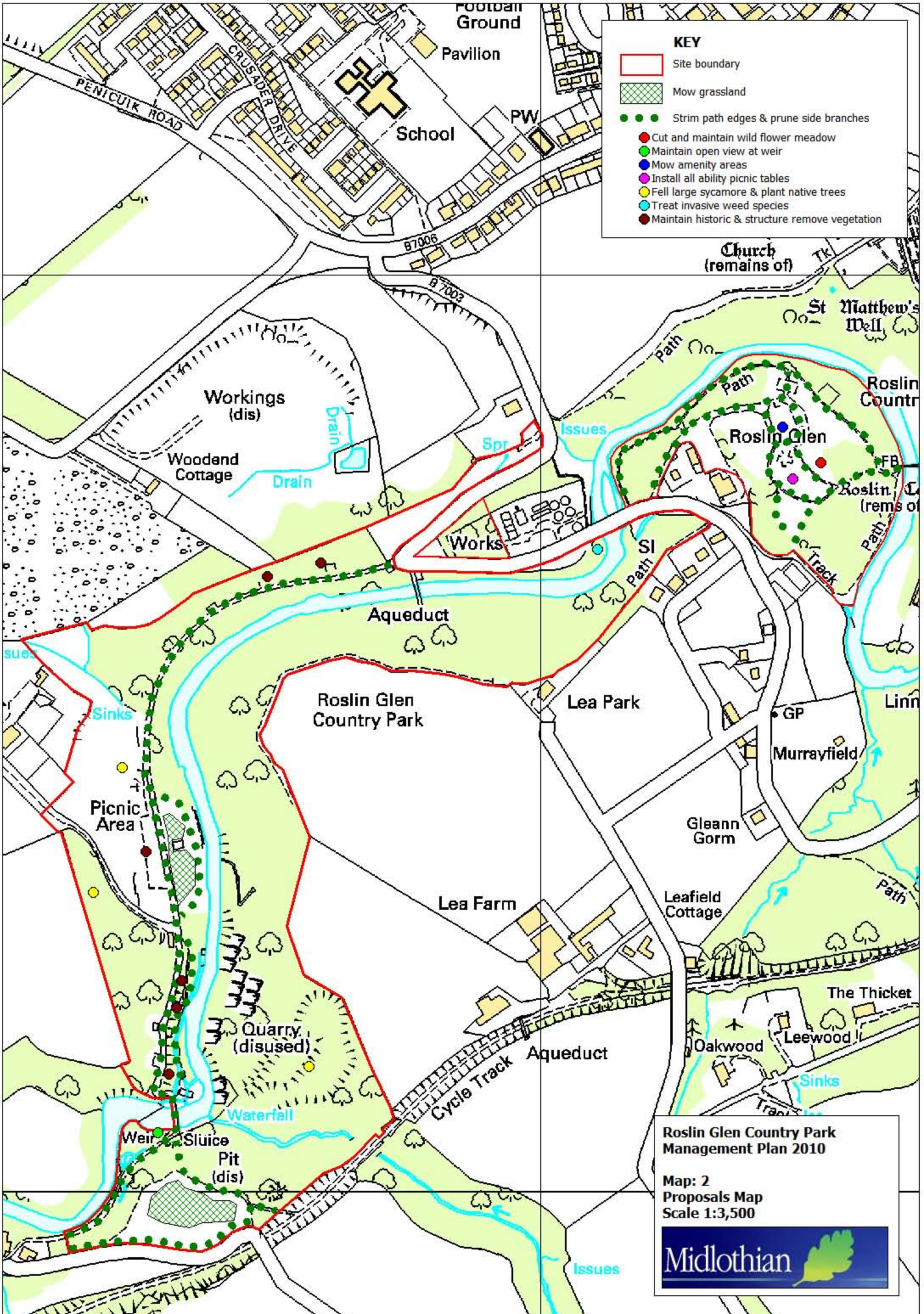
The vision accords with the Council's Corporate Plan which aims to:

- *Improve people's health and well-being*
- *Conserve and improve Midlothian's natural environment*

The Marketing Plan therefore aims to further the Council's priorities and the vision for the Park through clear objectives.

	Marketing Target	Recommendation	Agent	Timing
1	Achieve Green Flag Award.	Green Flag status. If successful use Green Flag brand to promote park and service.	Land Services / Rangers / Friends Group	2010
2	Improving opportunities for the Friends Group to manage and maintain the park for visitors.	Support Friends Group with visitor survey to assess usage and future improvements.	Ranger Service	2010-11
3	Improve off-site signage.	Support Friends Group with survey of off site signage and implement improvements. Link to and from the highly popular Rosslyn Chapel very important.	Friends Group / Ranger Service	2010-11
4	Improve on site signage.	Support Friends Group with survey of on site signage implement improvements.	Rangers	2010
5	Promote the Park with an up to date leaflet.	Review and redesign site leaflet. Continue with wide distribution of leaflet to National, Regional and local outlets.	Ranger Service Ranger Service	2010-11 Annually
6	Improve on site interpretation.	Redesign interpretive boards in consultation with Friends Group. Design interpretive board for mill buildings with Heritage group in conjunction with restoration plan.	Ranger Service Friends Group / Heritage Society / Rangers	2011-12 2012-13
7	Promote the site through web information.	Continue to review and update Council web pages for Roslin Glen Country Park.	Ranger Service	Annually
8	Promote the Friends Group through web information.	Support the Friends Group with development of their own web site.	Rangers / Friends Group	2010-12

	Marketing Target	Recommendation	Agent	Timing
9	Build upon the existing links with local schools and children's groups.	Involve Roslin Primary School in the visitor survey to include their point of view.	Ranger Service	2010
10	Increase the awareness of the path routes within the Park to promote health.	Include the Park as part of walks within the annual Midlothian Walking Festival Programme.	Ranger Service	Annually
11	Promote grant aided and other projects.	Prepare press releases and other publicity information associated with new initiatives to promote the site and the service to internal and external stakeholders.	Land Services / Rangers	Annually
12	Promote the site as an educational resource.	Produce new leaflet for Ranger Education Service. Promote Education Service to local schools to sue the site an educational resource.	Rangers Rangers	2010 Ongoing
13	Annual Events Programme.	Promote events at the park such as Teas in the Park and guided walks through Lothian's Outdoor Diary and other outlets as appropriate.	Rangers	Ongoing
14	Volunteering Opportunities.	Continue to promote volunteer opportunities and activities through press releases and by contacting local groups.	Rangers	Ongoing
15	Strategic Development.	Promotion of strategic initiatives such as the Esk Valley Woodland Improvement Scheme at a Regional and National level to maximise funding opportunities and wider stakeholder support.	Land Services	Ongoing



KEY

- Site boundary
- Mow grassland
- Strim path edges & prune side branches
- Cut and maintain wild flower meadow
- Maintain open view at weir
- Mow amenity areas
- Install all ability picnic tables
- Fell large sycamore & plant native trees
- Treat invasive weed species
- Maintain historic & structure remove vegetation

**Roslin Glen Country Park
Management Plan 2010**

Map: 2
Proposals Map
Scale 1:3,500

Midlothian