

# Notice of meeting and agenda

## Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee

**10.00 am Friday, 29th November, 2019**

In the Regional Park Headquarters, Hermitage of Braid, 69A Braid Road, Edinburgh  
EH10 6JF

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend

### Contacts

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Tel: 0131 529 4085

## **1. Order of Business**

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- 1.1** Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

## **2. Declaration of Interests**

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- 2.1** Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

## **3. Deputations**

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- 3.1** If any.

## **4. Minutes**

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|------------|---|---------|
| <b>4.1</b> | Minute of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum of 22 February 2019 – submitted for approval as a correct record (circulated) | 5 - 16  |
| <b>4.2</b> | Minute of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee of 30 November 2018 – submitted for approval as a correct record (circulated)    | 17 - 24 |

## **5. Regional Park Issues**

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- 5.1** Pentland Hills Regional Park Management Update – verbal report by Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Manager
- 5.2** Pentland Trail Centre Proposal - presentation by Alastair McClung
- 5.3** Strategic Management Plan - Update on Work Undertaken and Approval of Vision, Principles, Aim's and Proposed Consultation - verbal report by the Senior Natural Heritage Officer (circulated) 25 - 80
- 5.4** Update on Heritage Lottery Fund Pentland Path Project - verbal report by Senior Natural Heritage Officer/Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace trust
- 5.5** Workplan Delivery Update 2019/20 - verbal report by Senior Natural Heritage Officer
- 5.6** Harlaw House - Café and Car Parking - update by Convener – Report by

## **6. Any Other Urgent Committee Business**

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- 6.1** Farmers and Landowners – Any Other Items they would like to see in the Consultative Forum Agenda

## **7. Dates of Next Meetings**

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- 7.1** Dates for future meetings –

PHRP Consultative Forum	To be confirmed
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PHRP Joint Committee	29 May 2020
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## **Laurence Rockey**

Head of Strategy and Communications

### **Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee Members**

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#### **Voting Members**

The City of Edinburgh Council: Councillors Neil Gardiner (Convener), Graeme Bruce, and Ricky Henderson.

Midlothian Council: Councillors Russell Imrie, Kelly Parrie and Pauline Winchester.

West Lothian Council: Councillor Damian Timson.

#### **Non-voting members:**

Scottish Water: Archie MacGregor.

Scottish Natural Heritage: Janice Winning.

East Lothian Council (to be nominated).

Farming: Bob Barr (NFU).

Landowning: Clare Sturla (SLE).

### **Information about the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee**

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The Joint Committee is responsible for the funding and governance of the Regional Park and comprises elected members from the constituent local authorities covering the area of the Regional Park, and other public bodies with an interest in the area, and a representative each from the farming and landowning interests. The Joint Committee meets at least twice each year.

#### **Further information**

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If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Blair Ritchie, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, Waverley Court, Business Centre 2.1, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG Tel 0131 529 4085, e-mail [blair.ritchie@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:blair.ritchie@edinburgh.gov.uk)

A copy of the agenda and papers for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the main reception office, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.

The agenda, minutes and public reports for this meeting and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>.



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# Minutes

## Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum

**12.00 noon Friday 22 February 2019 in the Currie RFC, Malleny Park, Balerno, Midlothian**

Present:

**Councillors** Gardiner (in the chair) (The City of Edinburgh Council), Robert Barr (SNFU), Becci Barr (Easter Bavelaw Farm), Alastair McClung (Swanston Farm), Hamish Clark (Friends of the Pentlands), Janice Winning (Scottish Natural Heritage), Rod Dalitz (SHRA).

**Community** Councils – Johanna Carrie (Fairmilehead Community Council), Hugh Watt (Balerno Community Council).

### In Attendance:

Ross Woodside (Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust), Chris Alcorn (West Lothian Council), Steven Webley, Jenny Hargreaves, Victor Partridge, Tommy McManmon, and Blair Ritchie (City of Edinburgh Council).

Stuart Wright (Hillend Leisure) and Richard Slipper (MRTPI)

## 1. Minutes

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### Decision

The minutes of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum of 4 May 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

## 2. Update on the New Management Plan

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The Regional Park Manager provided an update on the New Management Plan. He indicated that he was working on the new draft and officers were working on the strategic framework section of the document, which involved a considerable amount of work. At the meeting of the Officers Group on 7 February, actions had been allocated for officers to carry out. After that, it was hoped there would be collaboration with the partnership organisations to draw together all the relevant information to update the draft plan. He would then pull the draft together.

The Convener noted that the officers were going forward with their bid for the first stage of funding. They had received money from the three councils, which was most welcome. This then was work in progress.

## Decision

To note the update.

### 3. Livestock Attacks (Sheep Worrying)

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The Natural Heritage Officer gave an update on livestock attacks, which included the following:

#### Livestock Attacks in the Pentland Hills

- Eleven reported sheep attacks (“worrying”) in PHRP in 2018
- 2019 started off with one on New Year’s Day (Flotterstone Glen)
- Edinburgh official stats: 4 attacks
- Midlothian stats: 8 attacks
- Actual numbers higher due to lack of reporting to Park or police
- Two dedicated events at Visitor Information Points, to be repeated in 2019
- Police presence on quad bikes throughout year
- Launch of SPARC livestock attacks campaign

#### Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime

- Launched 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Penicuik Estate
- Attended by various press (TV, radio, and newspapers)
- Representatives of British Horse Society, Kennel Club, Police Scotland, PHRP, NFU Scotland, NFU Mutual, Scottish Land and Estates, as well as Emma Harper MSP (South Scotland)
- Some discussion at this event of the need to alter language ( “worried?!”), as well as look again at current legislation such as the “1953 Act”

#### Protection of Livestock (Scotland) Bill

- Launched 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2019 (yesterday) at the Scottish Parliament
- Discussed the appropriateness of the term “Worrying” (p18 and 19)
- Discusses NFU requests to alter SOAC so all dogs have to be on leads in vicinity of sheep (“vicinity” not defined)
- Proposed adding alpacas, llamas, deer and ostriches to definition of livestock (1953 Act: cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses and poultry)
- Proposed the following:
- Increase of penalties for the offence of livestock attack (up to £5000 / six months imprisonment / community penalty, and / or dog ownership life-ban)
- Provision of powers to police officers to require dog owners to take their animal to a vet for evidence gathering purposes
- Enable Scottish Ministers to delegate powers to organisations such as SSPCA to undertake investigations and enforcement

Discussion took place and the following points were made:



- The Scottish Natural Heritage was involved in the livestock campaign. It was intended to lengthen the campaign to allow more awareness. They were trying to target the audience through different methods, including social media. The National Access Forum recently had a meeting with Dog Trust Scotland who wanted to help promote responsible ownership.
- The Senior Natural Heritage Officer had been in touch with the NFU and Radio Scotland had broadcasted a chat show about dogs on leads in public places.
- It was necessary to clarify what was responsible behaviour and “worrying” should be replaced with “dog attacks” or “attacks on livestock”.
- The Dog Trust did not train dogs, as there was limit to how much training could be provided. However, not letting dogs unaccompanied outdoors was important, as there were a large number of attacks resulting from this.
- The NFU was making some representation to the campaign. There was concern that dogs ranging loose in wild areas had an adverse effect on wildlife and people should be made aware of this and be more mindful.
- To try help the situation, the Natural Heritage staff tried to explain to dog owners how to behave properly.

## **Decision**

Members to give feedback on any ideas on dealing with livestock attacks to the Regional Park Manager and the Senior Natural Heritage Officer.

## **4. Harlaw Visitors Centre (Current Position)**

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The Convener indicated that BVT was hoping to take this on. They were looking for HLF funding, but the criteria had changed so it was harder to achieve this. So he would take this “off-line” and liaise with officers and BVT in order to seek progress. He had welcomed the initial proposals from BVT and end result would have been “win win” but the timescale had now changed.

Discussion took place and the following points were made:

- The visitor centre was still open and was being well-used, especially by the Friends of the Pentlands (FoP).

- Was there any progress about parking?
- A meeting would be arranged with Lord Roseberry and other stakeholders in due course to discuss parking, paths, tracks and other issues. The result of these discussions would be circulated.
- The FoP supported any progress towards creating the visitor centre.
- If there were paths “off road”, it might encourage people to walk rather than drive. There had been number of potential routes that had been checked out.
- The FoP had identified one path which was usable now and was off the road.

The Convener indicated that there some good suggestions had been made, such as the reduction of traffic and the creation of more paths from Balerno Village. However, more funding was required for the park, with funding from the Council was constrained, therefore, it might be necessary to look at other ways of getting funding streams.

### **Funding Issues**

The Convener explained that officers had suggested it was necessary to consider alternative ways of raising revenue and there would be discussions at the landowners meeting in March, to this end. There would have to be a dialogue with stakeholders to find ways to fund the activities. There might be something to do that landowners were willing to undertake, such as hosting events in the park.

If suitable events were to take place the Natural Heritage Service would provide the service such as ensuring the presence of wardens to prevent damage. It would be necessary to agree how the revenue could be distributed between landowner and council. There was activity in the area already and the service had to be in control to in order to help protect the park.

Discussion took place and the following points were raised:

- At this stage, it was not known what the events would look like. The service would input into how these should be managed.
- Any Council revenue raised by events would be put back into the park.
- It was some difficulty to plan events that took place across various landownerships in the park as it was necessary to first get the permission from all the landowners.
- The first stage could be to discuss at the Landowners Forum, to determine the level of interest and to ensure that it was not detrimental to the park.

- There was an events policy in place, which meant that the Council did not currently charge for events. There was a process in place that could be developed, which also meant identifying an event organizer.
- It might be possible for the Natural Heritage Service to provide wardens and manage events.
- It was necessary to get landowners to communicate and to get written agreement for access across the Pentlands.
- There was at present an ongoing bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), which meant that there was potential funding to upgrade the paths. With the upgrade of the paths, there would be some management mechanism to pay for the ongoing management of that through events.
- It was necessary to agree a date for the landowners meeting, which might take place the second week in March.
- There had previously been guarantees to upgrade paths, but this had not taken place. Unless there was a guarantee that the paths would be upgraded and maintained by an outside body, there would not be sustainable use.
- There were budgetary constraints and it was necessary to find alternative ways of funding, such as the HFL bid. This would be discussed at the Landowners Forum in March.

### **Decision**

- 1) The Convener to circulate the workshop output report on parking, paths and tracks.
- 2) The Friends of the Pentlands to e-mail Jenny Hargreaves/Convener with suggestions on how to progress Matters.
- 3) To note that the Friends of the Pentlands would wish to attend a meeting with Lord Roseberry in due course.
- 4) The Regional Park Manger to update the Forum about the HLF bid.

## **5. Pentland Trail Centre**

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Alistair McLung gave an outline of the proposed Pentland Trail Centre. He explained the process of how the developers intended to make use of the land and he thought that LothianBurn was a good location for that. He explained how they worked through the pre-application process and the purpose of the trail centre. There was a need more funding. The developers had put in place a more professional team and were now trying to move things forward. Conversations were now taking place with Hillend Ski

Slope, they were trying to come to come together to create something that worked for everybody. So now the emphasis was to move closer to Hillend Ski slope to a better facility.

Richard Slipper presented the report. He was aware of the planning context. The proposed development would be mostly within Edinburgh Council, but partly in Midlothian. He had made the initial proposal for planning application. It was intended to develop mountain biking in Scotland and this was a major initiative to promote this sport. There were already excellent facilities for mountain bikers, but he wanted to get people initially interested in the sport. It was necessary to decide how best to use this land next to the City, which involved constraints and challenges.

He then provided details of the proposals and the surrounding area:

- The ongoing successful business at the Brasserie and at Swanston.
- The story of Lothian Burn etc.
- Trails across the large acreage, running up to the “T” shaped wood, and a trail head.
- There had been consultations in 2015 on the Hub concept.
- The overall cycle catchment had very big urban catchment.
- The survey of 5 years ago indicated that most people travelled by bike to the Pentland venues and less by car.
- Pentlands was most popular for quick “whiz out” of an evening or during the week.
- The age of riders was mostly in the 35-44 category.
- This was an opportunity to get fresh participants into the sport early and older participants who had not been on a mountain bike for a while.
- Female participants represented only 20% of those questioned.
- There was overwhelming approval of proposals of the facilities.
- A team had been appointed to look in more detail at the land quality and character.
- That was the first analysis of where best to install the trails and where to locate the built facilities.

He then outlined the planning application.

- The neighbouring Destination Hillend had proposals for an upgrade for a much enhanced winter sports facility. They had worked to accommodate this.
- Hotel approval was being progressed for the Lothianburn Site.
- They were aware of neighbouring sites and activities and were in active discussions. There was some early work of what work requirements there were for the site.
- The ski slopes were very visible.

- The plan denoted the different challenges of the site.
- Some of the features of the site, included accommodation for “glamping”.
- The trail centres worked in a similar way to skiing in that there would be various grades of difficulty for different users. The footpaths access trails doubled up as access points to other areas
- It was necessary to use the woodland to create an environment and to help to hide the trails.
- With the PPP, a point would be reached where the application was acceptable. There would be approximately 10km of cycling trails, including a facility for walking.
- A planning condition would probably require a method statement stipulating how the paths would be designed. When the PPP stage was complete, the next stage of the planning process would begin.
- The way in which sustainable trails was being built was changing, there was the challenge of wild biking and these trails would help to manage this.
- This would be expensive to build and maintain, had to be sustainable and it was necessary to decide how to raise the revenue.
- The Trail Centre required facilities, such as a clubhouse and it was necessary to get finance to work this facility. The generation of revenue would help with this.

Following the presentation, discussion took place and the following points were made:

- There was a plan for free car parking and this would help provide access to the Commercial Hub.
- The shops and cafes would provide the revenue, it was not intended to charge for car parking.
- Was it anywhere near the ski lift? Was there an option to use the ski lift for uplift?
- It was hoped to make the facility attractive and charging parking fees might diminish this.
- It was necessary to be astute about the proposals. This was a free outdoor recreational sport that to be made sustainable and there had to be an element in the proposals that permitted this. It was hoped to generate the income from the retail element. The developers were looking to get feedback to make this work.
- At a previous meeting of the Joint Committee, as part of the proposed new ski centre, there had been proposals, for routing the bus to see if it was possible to go higher up to the ski centre.

The Convener indicated that the developers should have discussions with the Natural Heritage Service. In the past there had been mountain bikes whose use had been detrimental to the landscape. These proposals potentially could have some impact on the park. The Council was applying for funding from the HLF for the Regional Park. The developers might want to consider this. Other points raised included:

- There was an issue with illegal trail building and the proposed trail centre, would help to manage this.
- There were concerns that the creation of footpaths might lead to more mountain bikes, however, any planning approval would be hedged with conditions and would be linked to the aims of the Regional Park.
- Policing the paths might prove difficult, however, there were various measures that might be implemented such as pedestrian gate or signage to mitigate any damage.
- It would be difficult to stop mountain bikes, however, the facility could be used to educate cyclists to use the paths responsibly.
- It might be the case that illegal bike trails was partly due to a lack of education, opportunity and facilities.
- There were both potential benefits and challenges, which had to be carefully navigated. It had to be decided how to build the design code, ensure that there were safeguards on the site that generated the income and to harness the income to maintain the landscape.
- The developers were keen to speak to the community council and the FoP regarding the planning contributions that were related to this policy.
- A license was not required for a sporting organisation. However, there might need to be one for a bar within the complex.
- The idea of the trails seemed positive, but it was not clear how much more building would be required on the main road.
- The topography of the land would mean that the new buildings would not be visible until people were close to them.
- There was a great deal of tourist activity in the city centre and it would be beneficial to take it to the edges of the city and reduce the number of cars.

- This was a key site in the green belt. There were opportunities to tie the proposed development in to woodland round the Pentland and contribute to the greenbelt.
- The Scottish Forrest Strategy aimed to increase the capacity of the woodland through planting. There might be a case for cross collaboration for woodland planting in the Pentlands.
- The developers should ensure that the development accorded the with aims of the park and was sensitive to woodland policy and considered the impact on wildlife.

The Convener thanked the developers for their presentation.

### **Decision**

Discussions to take place between the developers and the Natural Heritage Service regarding the proposed development.

## **6. Operational Report**

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The Senior Natural Heritage Officer presented the Operational Report. Amongst other issues, she referred to the current staffing levels. The Operational Report included the following:

### **Biodiversity**

- 10 surveys took place, 34 members of public attended (most ever)
- Bavelaw Marsh – wildflower meadow surveyed, cut and raked
- Wildflower meadow at Hillend was enlarged by cutting a bigger area 1700m<sup>2</sup> to 2440m<sup>2</sup>

### **Interpretation**

- Pentland Inspirations
- Website
- Facebook posts via Edinburgh Outdoors
- Guided walks and activities
- Seasonal signage
- Doors Open Day 2018
- 50<sup>th</sup> Pentland Beacon in production, bigger edition due to it being the 50<sup>th</sup>

### **Community Groups and Education**

- Volunteer Rangers
- Friends of the Pentlands
- Dean Park Primary involved in wildflower planting
- FoP and Malleny Anglers planted trees around the reservoir.
- Woodlands School involved in general conservation jobs.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award: (NO DATA FOR 2018 YET) but

### **Donation Scheme**

- RINGGO active throughout the Park
- Boxes now installed at:
  - Swanston
  - Threipmuir
  - Flotterstone
  - Harlaw
  - Bonaly

### **Harlaw Area**

- In addition to the annual Livestock Worriyng campaign event at Harlaw PHRP held a 'Responsible Access' event.
- Wildlife Garden Mgt
- Camping litter and fires
- Hooked on Harlaw ran again in July, very successful at engaging people with angling and access.
- Pond dipping for public held at the wildlife garden pond.
- FoP Tea and Cakes – successful fundraising at Harlaw June, Sept, and Oct.
- Drystone dyking association continue to use Harlaw dykes for training and have repaired several fallen sections.

### **Harlaw and Threiomuir Water level**

- Water level in Harlaw and Threiomuir reservoirs drastically low due to lack of rain all summer. Notices erected to warn of risk of slipping on steep muddy banks and getting stuck in mud.

### **Bonaly Area**

- Tree Management



- Car Park Ownership
- Fires
- Vandalism
- Storm damage
- Deer Rescue

#### **Harperrig, Threipmuir, Swanston, Hillend and Boghall**

- Boghall Farm - bridge and set of steps at had been replaced
- Bike racks at Swanston and Threipmuir
- Hillend Country Park – a stile replaced with a self-closing gate at the top of the Ski slope.
- Leithhead - steps and a stile repaired
- Little Vantage Car Park - pot-holes filled in and grass cut
- Harperrig Reservoir
  - field gate replaced and fence and drystone wall repairs.
  - tree planting
  - Completed a successful grant application for a defibrillator to be installed on the outside of Anglers Hut and available for all to use.
- Tree planting Green Cleugh

#### **Dreghorn, Castlelaw and Flotterstone to Carlops**

- Car parking- Dreghorn closure
- Filming requests
- Vandalism – fence cutting
- Eastside logging and replanting

The Senior Natural Heritage Officer thanked the Friends of Pentlands for their work which included a considerable amount of litter picking, throughout the entire length of Pentlands.

#### **Decision**

To note the update.

## **9. Dates for Future Meetings**

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Dates for future meetings were as follows:

31 May 2019          Joint Committee

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## Minutes

### **Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee**

**10.00am, Friday 30 November 2018 in the Regional Park Headquarters, Hermitage of Braid, Edinburgh**

**Present:**

**Voting Members:**

**City of Edinburgh Council** – Councillors Gardiner (Convener), and Bruce.

**West Lothian Council** – Councillor Timson

**Non-Voting Members:**

**National Farmers Union** – Bob Barr

**Scottish Land and Estates** – Clare Stula

**Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust** – Charlie Cumming

**In attendance:**

David Jamieson, Jenny Hargreaves and Victor Partridge (City of Edinburgh Council), Justin Venton, Douglas Harvey, Susan Arbuckle, Garry Sheret, (Midlothian Council), Chris Alcorn (West Lothian Council (Planning)) and Blair Ritchie (City of Edinburgh Council).

Scott Fraser (Scottish Water), David Logan (Caledonian Water Alliance), Andrew Munnis (Montague Evans).

#### **1. Minute**

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The minute of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum of 4 May 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

The minute of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee of 25 May 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the amendment of Page 2, paragraph 1, line 1 to: “The Convener indicated that Health and Social Care could help to get funding.”

#### **2. Destination Hillend**

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Garry Sheret (Midlothian Council) reported on the proposals for “Destination Hillend” and outlined the following issues:

## **Background and Introduction**

- Hillend was over 50 years old
- It was underachieving

## **Current Issues**

- It was an aging facility
- The freestyle surface was now closed

## **Overview**

- Increased number of schools were visiting

## **Our vision**

- To create something that was not affected by the seasons
- Year round destination
- Bring people from all age groups
- Bring people from all over Scotland
- Ensure future of Hillend
- Infrastructure upgrade required

## **Bring Reception to 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

- Bring digital elements
- Bus transfer links
- Foodcourts and cafes
- Retail units required
- Take pressure off Midlothian Council for ski hire
- Wigwams – camping element
- Attractive views
- Attracting tourism

## **Alpine Coaster**

- Boost tourism
- At 800 metres, it was the longest in UK

## **Jump Slope**

- Flexible Jump Slope extensions
- Fun slope

## **Hilo Activity Dome**

- First in Scotland

## **Hotel Site**

- There had been discussions with hotel operators

## Summary

- Aimed to create year round family oriented attraction
- Safeguard the future of the site
- Income stream required
- Opportunity to create something of national importance
- Would attract people both locally and further afield

Discussion took place and the following points were made:

- There was no café on top as there was only a chairlift for access at present, which would be exposed for users.
- The Dome gave off a “glare”, but would be possible to change the colour to make it blend in with the surroundings.
- The contours of the site meant the buildings were not visible as they fitted into the contours of the hills. Even the Dome was in a “hollow” area and it should not be too visible.
- When the Natural Heritage staff was relocated, it might be possible for there to be accommodation at Hillend.
- There could be a visitor facility to provide information on the routes.
- There were various planning stages to go through and the developers should be on site next year but had phased this to 2022. But it was necessary to first carry out work on infrastructure to cope with the increased visitor number and on structures such as the Coaster.
- There would be a two-lane road for access. The Junction on to the Biggar Road was currently being designed. A filter lane was a possibility, but the possibility of more free flowing traffic should be explored. It would also be necessary to carry out a transport assessment for the planning application.
- It might be necessary to introduce charges for the car park at Hillend and consider other revenue streams.
- Regarding car parking, to cope with additional cars up the slope, it was necessary to consider the contours of the hill. If there was sufficient demand to justify a second tier, this could be considered in future.
- The resurfacing of the slope would be undertaken as ongoing maintenance.
- All the land was zoned for leisure activity, it complemented what already existed and was in keeping with adventure sports. There was nothing contrary to the Local Plan.
- There had been positive discussions with a leading hotel brand regarding the Hotel. The proposed footprint was merely an expansion of the existing footprint.
- The Convener thought that this was a welcome development and that encouraging some of the tourists to visit attractions outside of the city would be beneficial.
- There should be adequate parking and good public transport to provide choice.
- The transport assessment report would address active travel.

- It was necessary to establish the routes and destinations for buses.
- It was hoped that there would be very little “down time” for skiing caused by the proposed development, as the Snowsports Centre would remain open throughout the works, apart from normal closure of slopes for maintenance.
- It might be advantageous to contact the Transport Convener regarding proposed travel arrangements.
- The proposed road would not affect that building at bottom of Hillend which was leased to the Friends of Pentlands.

The Convener thanked the officer for the presentation.

### **Decision**

To note the update.

## **3. Wondering What Scottish Water was doing in the Pentland Hills – South Edinburgh Resilience**

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David Logan (Customer Liaison Officer, Caledonia Water Alliance) and Scott Fraser, (Regional Communities Manager) reported on the South Edinburgh Service Resilience Project and outlined the following:

### **Project Overview**

Caledonia Water Alliance (CWA) had been tasked with improving the water network within Edinburgh and the Lothians, in partnership with Scottish Water.

- Over 12km of pipeline
- New temporary Pumping Station
- Increasing Resilience

### **Working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park**

Working within the Regional Park did not come without its challenges. Some of the key challenges faced were:

- Keeping access for the public across the Pentland paths.
- WW1 practice trenches
- Unexploded Ordnance
- Environmental

### **Engineering Challenges**

Working on Projects of this scale did not come without its challenges. Some of the key challenges faced were

- Auger Bore under A702
- Harlaw Burn
- Road Crossings
- Existing Utilities

Discussion took place and the following points were made:

- The WW1 practice trenches would be marked out by the Archaeological Team. Reports had been sent to the Council.
- The possible re-instatement of the trenches could be considered, but it would be necessary to consult with MOD in the Park.
- The iron pipes were well over 100 years old, as plastic did not last as long as iron, the pipe would be wrapped to increase the lifetime of the pipe
- All pressure on the pipe connections were tested as the work progressed.
- There would be no replacement pipes to the reservoir at Hillend, the pipes would connect the junction where the pipes went to the reservoir.
- It was expected that the project would be completed in 2020.
- If the Augore Bore did not work, the developers would bring in a different, perhaps larger machine.

The Convener indicated that this was an interesting project and thanked the presenters.

### **Decision**

To note the update.

## **4. Pentland Hills Regional Park Operational Update**

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The Senior Natural Heritage Officer provided a verbal update on operations carried out in the Park for the period October 2017 to May 2018, outlining current staffing levels and adjustments to boundaries. This included the following:

### **Biodiversity**

- 10 surveys took place, 34 members of public attended (most ever)
- Bavelaw Marsh – wildflower meadow surveyed, cut and raked
- Wildflower meadow at Hillend was enlarged by cutting a bigger area 1700m<sup>2</sup> to 2440m<sup>2</sup>

### **Interpretation**

- Pentland Inspiration
- Website
- Facebook posts via Edinburgh Outdoors
- Guided Walk and activities
- Seasonal signage
- Doors Open Day 2108
- 50<sup>th</sup> Pentland Beacon in production, bigger edition due to it being the 50<sup>th</sup>

### **Community Groups and Education**

- Friends of the Pentlands
- Dean Park Primary involved in wildflower planting
- Fop and Melleny Anglers planted trees around the reservoir
- Woodlands School involved in general conservation jobs
- Duke of Edinburgh Award: (No Data for 2018 Yet)

## Harlaw Area

- In addition to the annual Livestock Worring campaign event at Harlaw PHRP held a 'Responsible Access' event.
- Wildlife Garden Management
- Camping litter and fires
- Hooked on Harlaw ran again in July, very successful at engaging people with angling and access.
- Pond dipping for public held at the wildlife garden pond.
- FoP Tea and Cakes – successful fundraising at Harlaw in June, September, and October.
- Drystone dyking association continue to use Harlaw dykes for training and had repaired several fallen sections.

## Harlaw Water Levels

- Water level in Harlaw reservoir drastically low due to lack of rain all summer. Notices erected to warn of risk of slipping on steep muddy banks and getting stuck in mud.

## Bonaly Area

- Tree Management
- Car Park Ownership
- Fires
- Vandalism
- Storm damage
- Deer Rescue

## Harperrig, Threipmuir, Swanston, Hillend and Boghall

- Boghall Farm - bridge and set of steps had been replaced
- Hillend Country Park – a stile replaced with a self-closing gate at the top of the Ski slope.
- Leithhead - steps and a stile repaired
- Little Vantage Car Park - pot-holes filled in and grass cut
- Harperrig Reservoir
  - field gate replaced and fence and drystone wall repairs.
  - tree planting
  - completed a grant application for a defibrillator to be installed on the outside of Anglers Hut and available for all to use.
- Tree planting Green Cleugh

## Dreghorn, Castlelaw and Flotterstone to Carlops

- Picnicking and barbecues by the river
- Car parking
- Filming requests
- Eastside logging

Discussion too place and the following points were made:

- Regarding media, West Lothian Council would circulate material for Pentlands Regional Park.
- Woodland Schools in Currie was involved in general conservation work as one of the community groups.



- The Heritage Service had been approached by other organisations to carry out a branching out programmes.
- The Service tried to discourage people from having fires in the Harlaw Area, although it only had authority over Council land.
- Farmers appreciated the efforts of the staff to put out fires.
- The staff had taken measures such as putting up “no fires” posters, taken water to douse the fires and had asked landowners if they could take up 4x4 landrover. They were considering buying a special sprayer.
- One of the problems regarding the fires was that the fires appeared to be extinguished, but were continuing to burn underground.
- The water level at Harlaw Reservoir was set by SEPA. The lack of rain was responsible for the low water level, not the Hydro Scheme. Threipmuir reservoir now had water in it, therefore, hopefully Harlaw would recover.
- There had been a deluge of water on one section of the Water of Leith, however, this was not the responsibility of SEPA, as the burns feeding in to it were not controlled. It was only the reservoirs that were controlled by SEPA.
- There had been a constructive meeting about sustainable access for Harlaw House. There was no resolution yet and further meetings could take place. It was the responsibility of Balerno Village Trust (BVT) to compile the report.
- BVT wanted to lease Harlaw House not to own it.
- The transfer of the lease was the responsibility of the Council, who owned the property. The issue of access had to be resolved and a decision had to be made on the transfer of the lease.
- It was necessary to create a safe path from Balerno.
- It was necessary to take action regarding the Heritage Lottery Funding Bid.
- There had to be focus on replacing the Pentlands Regional Park Management Plan, which had to be in place to receive lottery funding.
- It was necessary to get funding and it might be possible to get contributions from the three local authorities
- It might be possible for Edinburgh and Lothian Greenbelt Trust to become involved.
- Hopefully an Environmental Impact Assessment would not be required.

The Convener thanked the Senior Natural Heritage Officer for her presentation.

### **Decision**

- 1) The Senior Natural Heritage Officer to send media information to West Lothian Council.
- 2) The Senior Natural Heritage Officer to contact SEPA in respect of the need to raise the water levels at the reservoir at Harlaw.
- 3) The Senior Natural Heritage Officer to circulate the presentation.
- 4) Committee Services to check out possible dates for the next meeting of the PHRP Consultative Forum in February 2019.

- 5) Chris Alcorn (West Lothian Council) to liaise with Charlie Cummings in ELGBT regarding possible funding.
- 6) David Jamieson (Greenspace and Cemeteries Manager) to arrange for officers to meet and discuss ways to progress the Heritage Lottery funding and this group to report back to the Vice-Convener.
- 7) Each authority to confirm their position by 7 December on their ability to contribute to the Heritage Lottery Funding process and report to David Jamieson.
- 8) The Convener to communicate to elected members in the three councils that they should attend the meeting of the Joint Committee if possible.

## 5 Any Other Business

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### 5.1 Meeting with Farmers and Landowners

The representative of the NFU reported that farmers and landowners used to hold meetings once a year and it might be useful to have these again.

It was confirmed that there had been a meeting in February 2018 and it was hoped to have another one.

#### **Decision**

The Convener to discuss with the Senior Natural Heritage Officer, the possibility of holding a meeting of the farmers and landowners in January 2019.

## 6. Dates for Future Meetings

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Consultation Forum – To be confirmed.

Joint Committee – 31 May 2019.



# Pentland Hills Regional Park Strategic Management Plan 2019 - 2028 **FINAL DRAFT**



pentland hills  
regional park

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# 1 Introduction

## The Pentland Hills Regional Park

The Pentland Hills Regional Park covers some 10,000 hectares of land, located immediately south west of Edinburgh, straddling the local authority boundaries of The City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and West Lothian Council. A map of the Pentland Hills Regional Park is provided in **Figure 1.1**. It is within easy reach of a population of 761,000 from the three local authority areas offering opportunities to access the outdoors.

## The Pentland Hills Regional Park - Origins

The Pentland Hills Regional Park (PHRP) was designated in October 1984, under section 48(A) of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 as supported by The Regional Parks (Scotland) Regulations 1981. Initially the PHRP was operated by Lothian Regional Council who prepared a Subject Local Plan to guide the Parks policies and management. Following local government re-organisation in 1997, Lothian Regional Council was disbanded and its functions superseded by the three unitary local authorities comprising The City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and West Lothian Council.

The policies relevant to the Pentland Hills Regional Park contained within the former Lothian Regional Council's Subject Local Plan were then incorporated into the local plans of the respective three new unitary authorities. This remains the position with the Pentland Hills Regional Park currently covered by; The City of Edinburgh Council Local Development Plan (LDP) 2016; Midlothian Local

Development Plan 2017 and the West Lothian Local Development Plan 2018. All three LDPs are under review to prepare LDP2's.



The City of Edinburgh Council is currently the managing authority of the Pentland Hills Regional Park under the terms of a Minute of Agreement between the three local authorities.

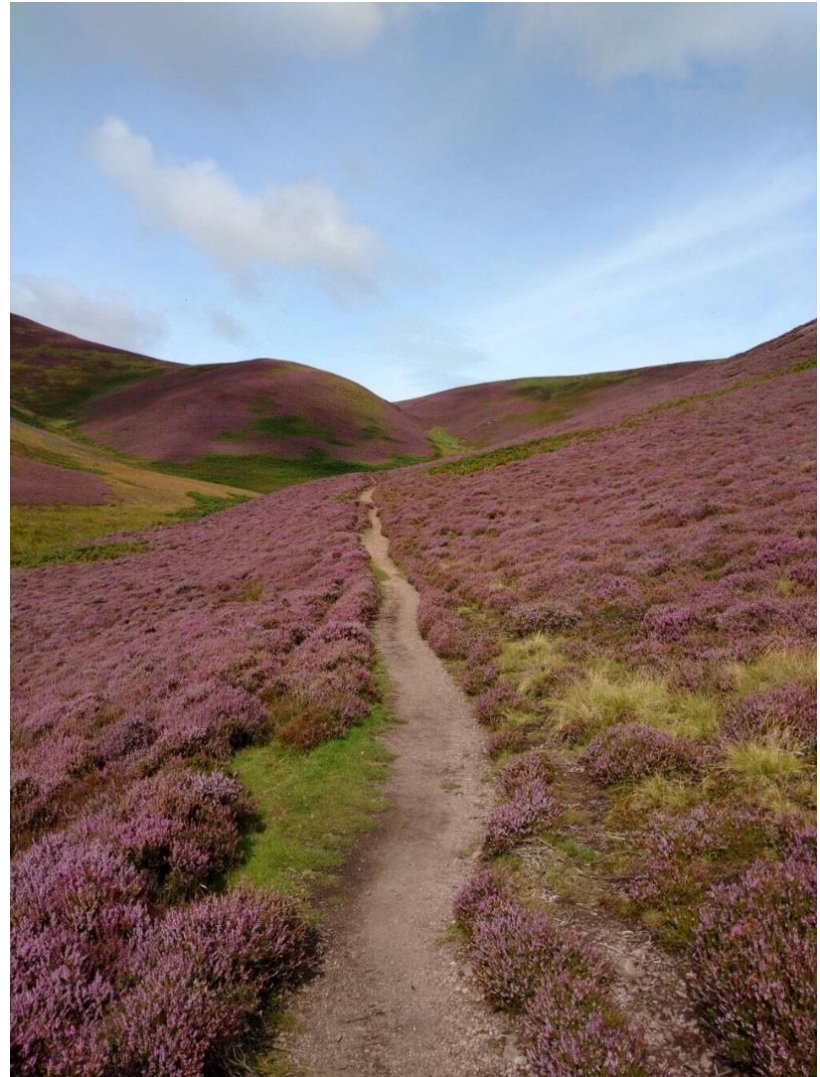
The aims of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, as set out in its designation order, are:

- to retain the essential character of the hills as a place for the peaceful enjoyment of the countryside
- caring for the hills so that the landscape and the habitat is protected and enhanced

- within this caring framework, to encourage responsible public enjoyment of the hills
- co-ordination of these aims so that they co-exist with farming and other land uses within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

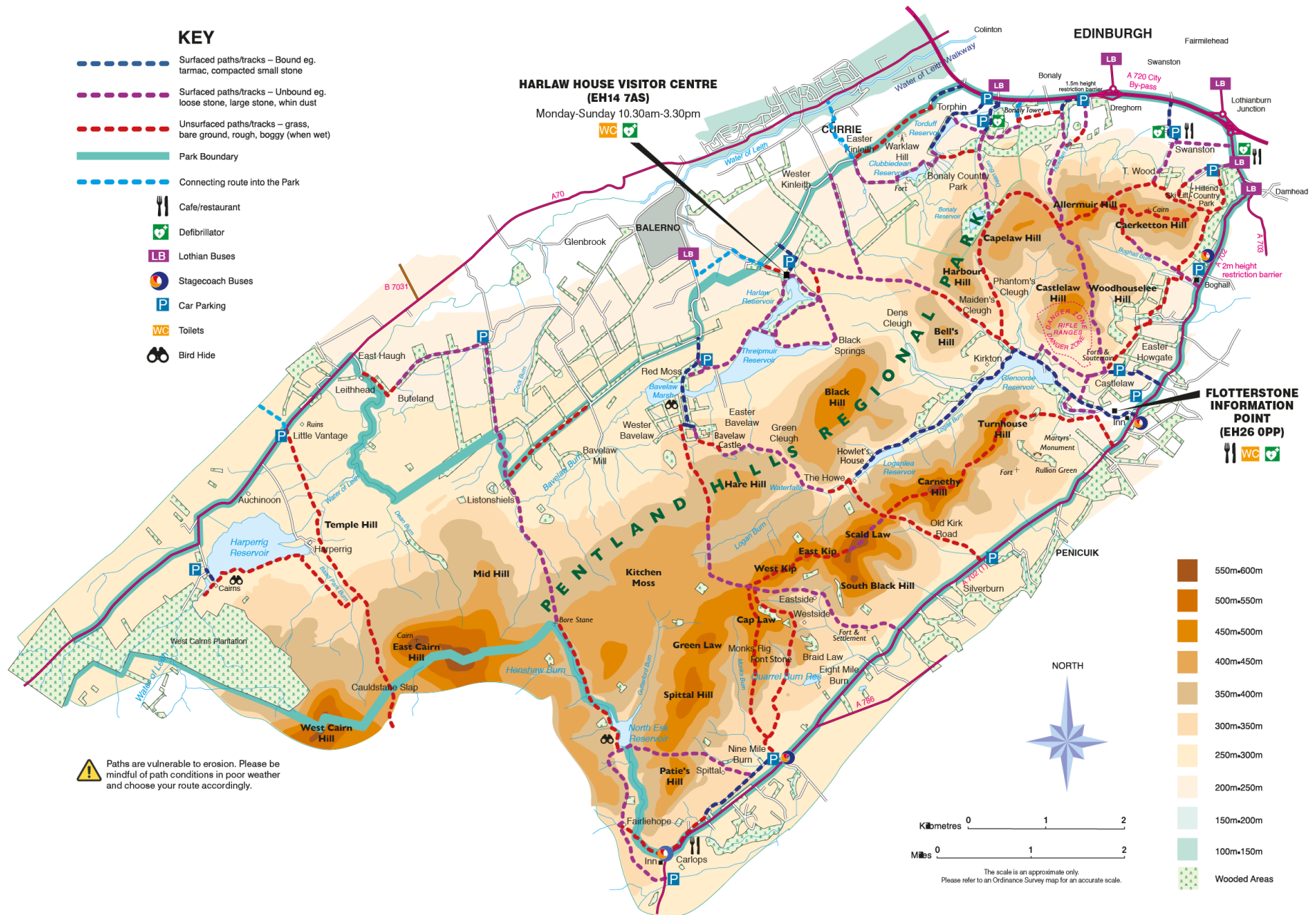
The Pentland Hills Regional Park is a living, changing environment and has evolved as a mixed land use resource which is an important leisure, economic, community and heritage asset to the capital city and the surrounding Lothians.

With this evolution comes increasing and changing pressures and demands on the Pentland Hills Regional Park management and the other key stakeholders seeking to balance recreation and enjoyment with economic demands and the conservation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's natural and built heritage assets.



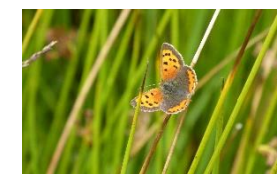






### Figure 1.1





## The Purpose of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

The overall purpose of this plan to provide the relevant contemporary strategic framework guiding the management of the Park and the preparation of detailed action plans which will translate the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan into deliverable tasks and projects.

This Plan is an update to the previous 10-year Strategic Management Plan that covered the period 2007-2017 and provides a renewed over-arching vision for the sustainable integrated management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park. It highlights the underlying principles and themes which provide the framework within which aims, objectives and actions have been formulated.

The Plan also seeks to highlight potential benefits which could accrue from the delivery of the recommended proposals and identifies their relevance in the context of relevant strategies, policies and plans in the wider sphere e.g. at the local, regional, national and international levels.

The Plan identifies a prioritised programme for investment together with monitoring recommendations.

## Development of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Development of this plan has included:

- A review of relevant Pentland Hills Regional Park documentation; local, national and international agency strategies, policies and plans.
- A consultation programme to develop the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan. This included workshops with the PHRP Consultative Forum, meetings with the PHRP land managers and the PHRP Service, an initial presentation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan process to the PHRP Joint Committee with opportunities to provide inputs. In addition, an invitation to provide comments, opinions and suggestions for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan was provided.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

The PHRP Plan (2007-17) was subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the current plan has undergone SEA screening to ensure best planning practice and compliance with statutory obligations, which concluded that as the relevant three LDPs all received SEA's it is not necessary to undertake a full SEA of this particular management plan as it continues to aim to improve the environment.



## 2 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Vision

### Introduction

The long-term vision for the Pentland Hills Regional Park recognises a number of key factors which provide the context for the PHRP Plan.

The three local authority stakeholders have statutory powers and duties in relation to their constituent parts of the Pentland Hills Regional Park and therefore, they exercise significant control over activities in the Park. All three authorities are members of the Sustainable Scotland Network which brings together practitioners from local authorities throughout Scotland to share experiences and take action on sustainable development.

The parameters of the existing Park management roles are facilitative, advisory and consultative.

Current regional and local policies, and proposals which are directly relevant to the Pentland Hills Regional Park and which are a fundamental aspect of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's legal framework include.

#### Edinburgh Local Development Plan 2016

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20013/planning\\_and\\_building/66/edinburgh-local-development-plan](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20013/planning_and_building/66/edinburgh-local-development-plan)

#### Caring for the Environment

Policy Env 6 Conservation Areas – Development

Policy Env 8 Protection of Important Remains  
 Policy Env 9 Development of Sites of Archaeological Significance  
 Policy Env 10 Development in the Green Belt and Countryside  
 Policy Env 11 Special Landscape Areas  
 Policy Env 12 Trees  
 Policy Env 14 Sites of National Importance  
 Policy Env 15 Sites of Local Importance  
 Policy Env 16 Species Protection  
 Policy Env 17 Pentlands Hills Regional Park  
 Policy Env 22 Pollution and Air, Water and Soil Quality

#### MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017

<http://midlothian-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/midlothian-local-development-plan-2017?pointId=4791461#document-4791461>

#### Protecting Our Heritage - Safeguarding and Managing Our Natural Environment

Policy ENV 1 Protection of the Green Belt  
 Policy ENV 2 Midlothian Green Network  
 Policy ENV 4 Prime Agricultural Land  
 Policy ENV 5 Peat and Carbon Rich Soils  
 Policy ENV 6 Special Landscape Areas  
 Policy ENV 7 Landscape Character  
 Policy ENV 11 Woodland, Trees and Hedges  
 Policy ENV 12 Internationally Important Nature Conservation Sites  
 Policy ENV 13 Nationally Important Nature Conservation Sites  
 RD3 Pentland Hills Regional Park  
 RD4 Hillend Country Park

Policy ENV 14 Regionally and Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites  
Policy ENV 15 Species and Habitat Protection and Enhancement

### Preserving our Historic Environment

Policy ENV 21  
Policy ENV 23  
Policy ENV 24

### Encouraging Sustainable Energy and Waste Management

Policy NRG 1 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Projects

Appendix 6: Pentland Hills Regional Park policy considerations 1-9

### Midlothian Open Space Strategy

[http://www2.midlothian.gov.uk/Council/meetings/public/Planning%20Committee/20130528/CM\\_PC\\_20130528\\_11\\_2.pdf](http://www2.midlothian.gov.uk/Council/meetings/public/Planning%20Committee/20130528/CM_PC_20130528_11_2.pdf)

### West Lothian Local Development Plan 2018

[https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/27735/Adopted-West-Lothian-Local-Development-Plan/pdf/West\\_Lothian\\_Local\\_Development\\_Plan\\_-\\_Adopted\\_final.pdf](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/27735/Adopted-West-Lothian-Local-Development-Plan/pdf/West_Lothian_Local_Development_Plan_-_Adopted_final.pdf)

Policy ENV 4 Loss of Prime Agricultural Land  
Policy ENV 6 Peatlands and Carbon Rich Soils  
Policy ENV 7 Countryside Belts and Settlement Setting  
Policy ENV 8 Green Network  
Policy ENV 9 Woodland, Forestry, Trees and Hedgerows  
Policy ENV 11 Protection of the Water Environment / Coastline and Riparian Corridors  
Policy ENV 13 Pentland Hills Regional Park  
Policy ENV 14 Pentland Hills Regional Park – Further Protection  
Policy ENV 17 Protection of International Nature Conservation Sites

Policy ENV 19 Protection of Local Biodiversity Sites and Local Geodiversity Sites  
Policy ENV 20 Species Protection and Enhancement  
Policy ENV 32 Archaeology  
Policy NRG 1 Climate Change and Sustainability

### West Lothian Open Space Strategy 2005-15

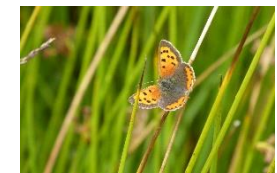
<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/2448/Open-Space-Strategy>



Current National strategies, legislation and reports with key messages relevant to the future operation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park include: -

*Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014)* The SPP sets out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers' priorities for operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. The SPP promotes consistency in the application of policy across Scotland whilst allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect local circumstances





*Ambition. Opportunity. Place. Scotland's Third National Planning Framework (NPF3) – (2014)* This brings together Scotland's plans and strategies in economic development, regeneration, energy, environment, climate change, transport and digital infrastructure to provide a coherent vision of how Scotland should evolve over the next 20 to 30 years.

NPF3 and this SPP share a single vision for the planning system in Scotland:

*We live in a Scotland with a growing, low-carbon economy with progressively narrowing disparities in well-being and opportunity. It is growth that can be achieved whilst reducing emissions and which respects the quality of environment, place and life which makes our country so special. It is growth which increases solidarity - reducing inequalities between our regions. We live in sustainable, well-designed places and homes which meet our needs. We enjoy excellent transport and digital connections, internally and with the rest of the world.*

Both are currently under review in light of the Planning (Scotland) Bill 2019.

*Land Use Strategy (2016)* This second Strategy retains the long-term Vision on how to realise the full potential of Scotland's land in ways that result in multiple benefits for our economy, environment and communities; and the Principles for Sustainable Land Use to guide policy and decision making.

*2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013)*, is Scotland's response to the EU biodiversity targets and UN Aichi targets. It sets a target of halting the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services in Scotland by 2020 and is accompanied by a

Route Map (2015), which sets out six 'Big Steps for nature' and Priority Projects to deliver them. Scotland is a stronghold for habitats and species threatened elsewhere in Europe, providing the largest part of the UK's contribution to the EU Natura 2000 network of protected sites.

*A future strategy for Scottish agriculture: final report (2018)-* A report from the Scottish Government's Agriculture Champions on the development of a future agriculture strategy which include themes on enhancing Scotland's Natural Capital, improved integration, continuity, improving productive efficiency, assisting agriculture through the transformational change and illustrating career opportunities.

*Our Place in Time (2014)* is Scotland's strategy for the historic environment. It sets out a vision of how our historic environment can be understood, valued, cared for and enjoyed.

Our Place in Time identifies four strategic priorities:

- cross-cutting strategic priorities – ensuring that the cultural, social, environmental and economic value of our heritage continues to contribute to Scotland's well-being
- understand – investigating and recording our historic environment to continually develop our knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the past, and how best to conserve, sustain and protect it
- protect – caring for and protecting the historic environment in order to both enjoy and benefit from it, and to conserve and enhance it for future generations

- value – sharing and celebrating the richness and significance of our historic environment.

*Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019–2029* The long-term framework for the expansion and sustainable management of Scotland's forests and woodland. The Strategy has the principles of sustainable forest management at its core, including an adherence to the principle of 'the right tree, in the right place, for the right purpose'. It also recognises the need for better integration of forestry with other land uses and businesses and builds on the achievements of the previous strategy.

*Reaching Higher: Building on the Success of Sport 21 (2007)* –sets out the Scottish Executive's long-term aims and objectives for sport in Scotland until 2020. The strategy identifies the provision of quality facilities as fundamental to its delivery. Specifically, the strategy states that "Scotland's natural environment provides new and exciting outdoor sporting opportunities" – within the parameters recommended by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. However, the strategy also acknowledges the need for care in ensuring that the integrity of the natural environment and its enjoyment by other users is not compromised by those participating in outdoor sporting pursuits.

Changes in subsidy schemes resulting from external policies and national strategies e.g. impact of Brexit, CAP Reform, Rural Stewardship Scheme, Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme.

*Climate Change Plan: third report on proposals and policies 2018-2032 (RPP3)*- This plan sets out the path to a low carbon economy while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland in 2032.

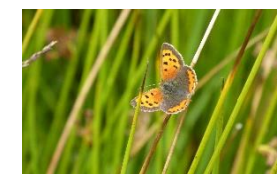
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-climate-change-plan-third-report-proposals-policies-2018/pages/1/>



The City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils all formally signed up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration 2007. The Declaration acknowledges the reality and importance of climate change and is a means of demonstrating local leadership and commitment to action. The Declaration includes commitments both to mitigate human impact on climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to predicted climate change impacts.

The responsible exercising of statutory access rights for all introduced by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (Part 1) and maintaining a sustainable balance between the different land use pressures caused by those visiting the Pentland Hills Regional Park as well as those who work and live within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.





## The Vision Statement

Reflecting all these various national, regional and local policies and strategies, the vision for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan is:

*To guide and assist all stakeholders in the sustainable management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's changing environment in a way which supports communities living and working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, promotes responsible access for all, develops public understanding of the mixed land use resource and conserves and enhances the Pentland Hills Regional Park's landscape, cultural, historic and natural heritage features.*

The vision comprises four elements:

### Conservation and Enhancement of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's Natural and Historic Environment

The varied landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage character of the PHRP significantly contribute to the environment of the Lothians and is the fundamental strength of the resource. Conserving and enhancing the Regional Park's natural and historic environment against a backdrop of mixed human activities and demands, as well as other changing circumstances such as climate change, is therefore a central management challenge of the PHRP Plan.

The majority of the land holding within the PHRP is in private ownership, therefore aims can only be achieved with the ongoing support of these land managers on the basis of demonstrable mutual benefits. Visitors and local communities also have an important role to play in the future conservation and enhancement of the PHRP through the implementation of responsible behaviours, attitudes, awareness and understanding as well as active participation.



### Developed Public Understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Successful future sustainable management of the PHRP will require shared awareness and understanding amongst land managers, stakeholders, organisations and visitors. The PHRP is a living, changing environment and there is an ongoing need to identify, promote and disseminate information that facilitates this enhanced understanding.

### Responsible Access for All

The PHRP is an established resource for recreational activities. With the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and many national agendas promoting more healthy life-styles and increased levels of exercise activity there is potential for increased access demands and activities participation on both land and water in the PHRP.

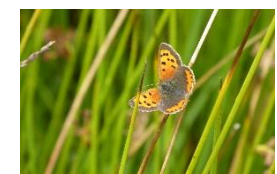
The importance of promoting, and managing responsible visitor access that is compatible with the mixed land use of the PHRP and balancing recreation and visitor enjoyment with the long-term sustainability of the natural and historic environment of the PHRP is integral to the PHRP Plan.

### Support for Communities Living and Working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park

The PHRP hosts communities who live and/or work in and adjacent to the PHRP and it therefore has an important supporting social and economic role. The PHRP Plan recognises that development of initiatives and activities within the PHRP should seek to achieve compatibility and co-existence with all land uses as this is fundamental if the long-term sustainability of these communities is to be facilitated. Inclusion is fundamental to ensure that the living and working communities can be encouraged to play active roles in shaping the Pentland Hills Regional Park's future.







## 3 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Themes

### Themes

Taking the vision for the Regional Park, this translates into five themes for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan which are:

- (1) Responsible Enjoyment and Understanding of the Hills**
- (2) The Local Economy of the Hills**
- (3) Conservation and Enhancement of the Landscape, Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Hills**
- (4) Partnership & Participation**
- (5) Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.**

Each of these themes represents a broad heading under which any topic relevant to the future operation and management of the PHRP can be allocated.

### Guiding Principles

The operation of the PHRP takes place within the following guiding principles:

- The conservation and enhancement of the condition and diversity of the PHRP landscape, natural heritage and natural historic environment;

- The provision and management of opportunities for the widest public enjoyment of the PHRP through recreational activities appropriate in type and scale to the essential qualities of the PHRP;
- The encouragement and facilitation of educational activities and research which will contribute to the development of public awareness and understanding of the PHRP environment and to foster support for its long-term protection and sustainability;
- The support for a social and economic environment associated with the PHRP management and operation that brings benefits to the residential and business communities within the PHRP boundaries;
- The development of the contributory role of the PHRP to the delivery of cross cutting agendas including the protection of natural and historic environment, climate change, public health, education, social justice, and, community involvement objectives.;
- Encouraging the development of partnership support for the future PHRP management and stewardship – embracing the PHRP stakeholders, land managers, residents and the general public;
- The delivery of the highest quality services in the PHRP management operation which wholly embraces a culture of flexibility and adaptability and which is founded upon consensus and cooperation; and
- The monitoring and measurement of the delivery of the PHRP Plan actions - in terms of identified timescale targets as well as the attainment of the environmental, recreational, educational, social and economic aims and objectives.



## The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Vision, Themes and Principles Flowchart

A flowchart illustrating the inter-relationship between the overall Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan vision and its constituent themes and guiding principles is shown in **Figure 1.2**





## Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Vision Statement

To guide and assist all stakeholders in the sustainable management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's changing environment in a way which supports communities living and working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, promotes responsible access, develops public understanding of the mixed land use resource and conserves and enhances the Pentland Hills Regional Park's landscape, cultural, historic and natural heritage features.

Figure 1.2

Conservation and Enhancement of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's Heritage and Environment

Developed Public Understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Responsible Access for All

Support for Communities Living and Working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park

### Theme A

Responsible Enjoyment and Understanding of the Hills

#### Principles

The provision and management of opportunities for the widest public enjoyment of the PHRP through recreational activities appropriate in type and scale to the essential qualities of the PHRP.

The encouragement and facilitation of educational activities and research which will contribute to the development of public awareness and understanding of the PHRP environment and to foster support for its long-term protection and sustainability.

### Theme B

The Local Economy of the Hills

#### Principle

The support for a social and economic environment associated with the PHRP management and operation that brings benefits to the residential and business communities within the PHRP boundaries.

### Theme C

Conservation and enhancement of the landscape natural and historic environment of the Hills.

#### Principles

The conservation and enhancement of the condition and diversity of the PHRP landscape, natural heritage and natural historic environment.

The development of the contributory role of the PHRP to the delivery of cross cutting agendas including the protection of natural and historic environment, climate change, public health, education, social justice, and, community involvement objectives.

### Theme D

Partnership and Participation

#### Principles

The development of the contributory role of the PHRP to the delivery of the cross cutting agendas including the protection of natural and historic environment, climate change, public health, community involvement and sustainable transport.

Encouraging the development of partnership support for the future PHRP management and stewardship – embracing the PHRP stakeholders, land managers, residents and the general public.

### Theme E

Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

#### Principles

The delivery of the highest quality services in the PHRP management operation which wholly embraces a culture of flexibility and adaptability and which is founded upon consensus and co-operation.

The monitoring and measurement of the delivery of the PHRP actions in terms of identified timescale targets as well as the attainment of the environmental, recreational, educational, social and economic aims and objectives.



## 4 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Strategic Framework

### The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Framework

For each of the five PHRP themes listed:

- **Theme A** - Responsible Enjoyment and Understanding of the Hills;
- **Theme B** - The Local Economy of the Hills;
- **Theme C** - Conservation and Enhancement of the Landscape, Natural and Historic Environment of the Hills;
- **Theme D** - Partnership & Participation;
- **Theme E** - Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

a strategic framework has been prepared which includes:

- aims
- objectives
- key operational programme actions including dates
- potential outputs and outcomes.

For ease of use the vision, themes, principles, aims and objections have been brought together to show how each one flows. Appendix 1 shows the Prioritised Implementation Programme for the 10-year time frame between 2019-2028 which also highlights the potential outputs and outcomes of the actions.

### Framework

#### Vision

*To guide and assist all stakeholders in the sustainable management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's changing environment in a way which supports communities living and working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, promotes responsible access, develops public understanding of the mixed land use resource and conserves and enhances the Pentland Hills Regional Park's landscape, cultural, historic and natural heritage features.*

#### Themes and Principles

##### Theme A – Responsible enjoyment and understanding of the hills

Principles: -

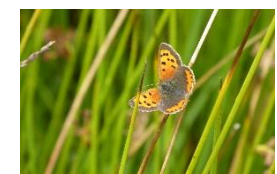
The provision and management of opportunities for the widest public enjoyment of the Pentland Hills Regional Park through recreational activities appropriate in type and scale to the essential qualities of the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

The encouragement and facilitation of educational activities which will contribute to the development of public awareness and understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park environment and which fosters long term support.

##### Aim 1: To promote and manage compatible forms of responsible recreational activity in the Pentland Hills Regional Park

- a. to support and manage responsible outdoor (land and water) recreational activities
- b. to support responsible outdoor access activity within the Pentland Hills Regional Park (PHRP) which relates to, and supports, the objectives of the local access forums and the





respective outdoor strategies of the City of Edinburgh Council(CEC), Midlothian and West Lothian Councils

- c. to balance the visitor recreational and leisure enjoyment with other PHRP land use activity.

#### Aim 2: To sustain and enhance a high-quality visitor experience

- a. to ensure that the PHRP resource meets needs and expectations of visitors (existing and new)
- b. to provide contemporary visitor and education facility that adds to the appeal of the PHRP as a visitor destination and which appeals to a broad range of market sectors
- c. to maintain and enhance a comprehensive public access network of paths within the boundaries of the PHRP
- d. to continue to monitor and deliver structured programme of maintenance and upgrades- particularly in areas of proven popularity such as Harlaw/Bonaly/Flotterstone
- e. in partnership with Scottish Government and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFU) and PHRP Farmers, capitalise upon the Land Management Contract (LMC)- option 15 as a possible mechanism to sustain and enhance the visitor experience in the PHRP e.g. maintaining/developing path surfaces and associated infrastructure
- f. to continue the provision of socially inclusive facilities access and enjoyment for all, particularly in compliance with the requirements of The Equalities Act 2010.

#### Aim 3: To raise awareness and increase visitor understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park

- a. to continue promotion as a free outdoor recreational resource offering healthy lifestyle opportunities for all;
- b. to continue and enhance the environmental education programme;
- c. to establish co-ordinated (and consistent) sign posting provision to the PHRP;
- d. to establish co-ordinated (and consistent) signposting and interpretation provision within the PHRP;
- e. to develop public access to PHRP literature- in advance of visiting the PHRP.

#### Aim 4: To promote and provide more sustainable visitor transport opportunities

- a. to improve sustainable access to, and within, the PHRP providing opportunities to reduce visitor dependency upon private cars
- b. to reduce safety hazards created by irresponsible access/ visitor parking during peak times.

#### Theme B - The local economy of the Hills

Principle: -

The support for a social and economic environment associated with the Pentland Hills Regional Park management and operation that brings benefits to the residential and business communities within the Pentland Hills Regional Park boundaries.

**Aim 1: To sustain a healthy, diverse range of agricultural, forestry, sporting and recreational businesses within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.**

Objectives: -

- a. to support the sustainable economic opportunities through appropriate diversification to supplement incomes from activities such as agriculture, forestry, sporting management and recreational businesses
- b. to generate a growing customer base for sustainably produced PHRP local produce
- c. to maintain, and where appropriate expand, extensive areas of moorland which provides a valuable resource for sport, nature conservation, agriculture, landscape and recreation.

**Aim 2: To develop the Pentland Hills as a Green Tourism destination**

Objective: -

- a. To widely promote the green and sustainable credentials of the PHRP

**Aim 3: To achieve integrated land and water management**

Objectives: -

- a. To deliver potential benefits from current and future changes in land management support schemes maximised to maintain and enhance the special qualities of the PHRP;
- b. To widely promote Best Practice in land management within the PHRP

**Aim 4: To achieve enhanced environmental sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Economy**

Objectives: -

- a. To promote increase in the use of energy from renewable resource by communities and businesses in a manner which is compatible with the special qualities of the PHRP and which contributes living and/ or business operational cost savings for those living and working within the PHRP;
- b. To maximise energy efficiency of existing infrastructure and new development;
- c. To reduce the carbon footprint of the PHRP.

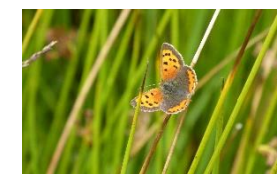
**Theme C - Conservation and enhancement of the landscape, natural and historic environment of the Hills**

Principles: -

The conservation and enhancement of the condition and diversity of the Pentland Hills Regional Park landscape, natural and historic environment.

The development of the contributory role of the Pentland Hills regional Park to the delivery of cross cutting agendas including the protection of natural and historic environment, climate change, public health, education, social justice, community involvement objectives.





## (1) Landscape

**Aim 1:** To conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Pentland Hills.

Objectives: -

- To maintain the visual amenity of the hills;
- To ensure that development respects the landscape character of the Pentland Hills;
- To influence landscape change arising from new development;
- To Influence design arising from new development.

**Aim 2:** To promote enhancement of the landscape quality within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

Objectives: -

- To ensure that landscape enhancement reflects the distinctive character of the hills;
- To understand the contribution of existing landscape components within the ecosystem and encourage their enhancement.

**Aim 3:** To promote partnership with the local community to foster stewardship of the landscape.

Objectives: -

- To encourage participation in landscape enhancement schemes;
- To work in partnership with interested parties and agencies to promote positive landscape stewardship.

**Aim 4:** To promote appreciation and understanding of the landscape including the interaction between the physical form, natural processes, land management, and, natural and historic environment

Objectives: -

- To promote the landscape objectives through information, interpretation, advice and education;
- To promote understanding of the underlying geology of the Pentland Hills and how it gives rise to the landform.

**Aim 5:** To promote the management of access to the Pentland Hills Regional Park without adversely affecting the landscape.

Objective: -

- To prevent further damage to the landscape arising from increased public access by repairing and upgrading the network paths.

## (2) Natural Heritage

**Aim 1:** To realise the full ecological potential of the Pentland Hills Regional Park by protecting maintaining and enhancing the present ranges of species and habitats.

Objectives: -

- To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats and species present within a healthy ecosystem in the PHRP;
- To maintain and enhance biodiversity in the PHRP;

- c. To contribute to the positive management of all Local Biodiversity Sites within the PHRP;
- d. To identify and enhance habitat networks;
- e. To encourage relevant management of all designated sites;
- f. To support relevant management to increase populations of protected species;
- g. To encourage actions to address identified invasive species within the PHRP;
- h. To increase awareness of the natural heritage in the PHRP through engagement and active participation of the wider community;
- i. To increase engagement in biological recording;
- j. To consider biodiversity issues at strategic and local planning level to ensure ecosystems are strengthened;
- k. To bring existing native woodland cover under positive management and expanded, where appropriate;
- l. To promote enhancement of Landscape Quality within the PHRP through woodland management and creation;
- m. Improve native woodland management.

### (3) Historic Environment

**Aim 1:** To conserve and enhance the character of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's historic environmental features by Integrated management and raised public awareness of the historic environment.

Objectives: -

- a. To conserve and enhance the historic environment resource within the PHRP;
- b. To work in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the three local authorities' archaeology services as appropriate to maintain and enhance public awareness and understanding of the significance of the archaeological and built environment resource in the PHRP;

- c. To protect the character and pattern of the natural historic environment from future development activity in the PHRP.

### Theme D- Partnership and participation

Principles:

The development of the contributory role of the Pentland Hills Regional Park to the delivery of the cross-cutting agendas including the protection of natural and historic environment, climate change, public health, education, social justice, community involvement and sustainable transport objectives.

Encouraging the development of partnership support for the future Pentland Hills Regional Park management and stewardship-embracing the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

**Aim 1:** To maintain and develop partnership support for securing the long-term sustainability of the Pentland Hills as a living and changing mixed land use environment.

Objective: -

- a. To secure the necessary long-term commitment to the sustainable management and operation of the PHRP.

**Aim 2:** To develop public participation and support for securing the long-term sustainability of the Pentland Hills as a living and changing mixed land use environment.

Objectives: -

- a. To further develop existing public and participation and partnership initiatives in the PHRP management and operation;



- b. To continue and develop the existing contribution of the PHRP to cross-cutting agenda and community focussed initiatives.

**Aim 3: To secure commercial sponsorship support for the delivery of Pentland Hills Regional Park project initiatives.**

Objective: -

- a. To expand partnership based funding opportunities to include commercial business sector sponsorship support as a mechanism to enhance/ fast-track PHRP Plan project or programme implementation, PHRP resources etc.

#### **Theme E - Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan**

Principles: -

The delivery of the highest quality services in the Pentland Hills Regional Park management operation which wholly embraces a culture of flexibility and adaptability and which is founded upon consensus and co-operation.

The monitoring and measurement of the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan "actions" in terms of identified timescale targets as well as the attainment of the environmental, recreational, educational, social and economic aims and objectives.

**Aim 1: To provide a Pentland Hills Regional Park management structure which is best placed to fully deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.**

Objective: -

- a. To ensure that the PHRP management organisation has sufficient authority to be able to deliver the scope of agreed actions over the life-cycle of the PHRP Plan.

**Aim 2: To provide effective management and direction to achieve management direction to achieve delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.**

Objective: -

To ensure appropriate management systems are in place, or developed, to meet the PHRP Plan delivery requirements.

**Aim 3: To secure necessary funding resources to make the full delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan a realistic and achievable goal.**

Objective: -

- a. To ensure sufficient funding through the investigation funding streams such as; developer contributions; CEC Transient levy- ring fenced for PHRP; grant applications e.g. WL Wind Farm, NLHG

**Aim 4: To fully engage Pentland Hills Regional Park Management stakeholder groups in the processes required to deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.**

Objective: -

- a. To facilitate enhanced awareness and understanding of the importance of managing the mixed land use environment of the PHRP- to the greater benefits of all who use, live or work in the PHRP.

**Aim 5: To promote awareness and understanding of the rationale, aims and benefits of the Pentland Hills Regional Park to the general public.**

Objective: -

- a. To secure the necessary ongoing commitment throughout the Plan life-cycle to achieve the delivery of the Plan action proposals.

**Aim 6: To monitor on an ongoing basis the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.**

Objective: -

- a. To measure the success of the implementation of the PHRP Plan against targeted timescales.

For the detailed 10-year Action Plan that translates these aims and objectives into actions, outputs and outcomes see Appendix 1.







## 5 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Monitoring and Review

### Monitoring the Implementation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

It will be fundamental that the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis to monitor the success of the Plan delivery in terms of the prioritised timescale targets. The Plan should be viewed as a fluid document in the context of a number of factors:

- Continuation of existing PHRP initiatives
- Implementation of Plan proposals (which may, or may not, be completed during the time-span in which the PHRP Plan has been set
- Delay (or cancellation) of identified actions due to changes in circumstances unforeseen at the time of the formulation of the PHRP Plan
- The possible introduction of additional Plan proposals deemed appropriate in addressing changes in the Pentland Hills Regional Park's circumstances unforeseen at the time of the formulation of the PHRP Plan.

The PHRP Plan has set out a number of Guiding Principles (see *Chapter 3*) which underpin the Plan aims, objectives and actions. The monitoring process should therefore assess whether, and to what degree, these guiding principles are being met through the

delivery of the Plan, as this will impact upon the level of success in delivering the overall vision of the PHRP Plan.

In order to achieve this, the monitoring process should incorporate a set of indicators which will provide a view at any given time of the implementation of the PHRP Plan as well as providing a cumulative picture of the Plan delivery across all of the five Plan Themes.

### Proposed Plan Monitoring Indicators

A potential checklist of specific monitoring indicators has been derived from the scope of the PHRP Plan action recommendations. These potential indicators – together with their suggested monitoring frequency - are outlined in the following sections.

#### (1) User Activity

The PHRP is a valuable leisure and recreational resource offering a range of passive and active pursuits in an attractive landscape and environment setting. Monitoring of user activity will assist the responsible participation and management objectives and contribute to balancing the user activity with the other PHRP land use activity.

Potential Indicators include:

- development and extension of existing path and facility audit to enhance baseline information reference of actual and future visitor requirements **(Short Term)**
- patterns of visitor activity (location and types of activity) within the PHRP boundaries **(Medium Term)**.

## (2) User Experience

Both existing, and future, PHRP visitors will have expectations of a high-quality experience from their PHRP visit. Monitoring both the condition of the PHRP facilities and infrastructure as well as changing market trends will assist the PHRP to manage the visitor experience and maintain / enhance the quality levels.

Potential Indicators include

- Addressing PHRP improvement qualitative research findings contained in the 2005/2006 PHRP and 2016 Potsdam & Edinburgh Universities Visitor Surveys **(Short Term)**;
- Collating visitor counts figures for increased usage and determining high use areas **(Short term)**;
- Update of Paths and Facilities Inspection reports **(Ongoing)**.

## (3) User Education

Visitor education is fundamental to developing responsible usage of the PHRP as well as enhancing awareness, understanding and appreciation of the mixed land use environment.

Potential Indicators include:

- Number of PHRP land managers voluntarily engaging in educational programmes **(Short Term)**;
- Number of “hits” on the PHRP web-site and social media forums **(Ongoing)**;
- Numbers of, and those participating in, PHRP Service led programmes **(Ongoing)**.

## (4) Visitor Transport Profiles

Visitor traffic volumes and modes to, and around, the PHRP have a fundamental impact on the Pentland Hills Regional Park’s management, its environmental quality and on the communities living and working within the PHRP. Monitoring the visitor transport profiles will assist in encouraging more sustainable visitor transport activity in the PHRP.

Potential Indicators include

- Number of core paths linking settlements surrounding the PHRP into the PHRP included in the City of Edinburgh, West Lothian and Midlothian Councils Core Paths Plans and any subsequent reviews. **(Short Term)**;
- Levels of use of public transport e.g. numbers using bus services which service the Regional Park **(Medium Term)**
- Levels of use of PHRP car parks **(Ongoing)**.

## (5) Agricultural Activity & Business Sustainability

Agriculture is the predominant business activity and a significant land use within the PHRP which has an influence on the landscape of the PHRP, the land management, as well as contributing to the PHRP employment and economy. Monitoring the extent of the agricultural activity will therefore provide useful information on any changes which have an economic consequence or potential environmental implications for the PHRP management.

Potential Indicators include:

- Number of renewable energy generation/energy conservation schemes within the Regional Park **(Short Term)**;





- The change in the number of producers participating in the “Pentland Produce” brand scheme (**Ongoing**);
- Number of farm and/or other business start-up, development, diversification projects within the Regional Park (**Ongoing**).

## (6) Land Management Change

The PHRP is a living, mixed, land use environment where changes in the land management regimes could have a fundamental effect on other land use activities as well as impacting upon the natural and historic environmental qualities of the PHRP. Monitoring the land management changes provides important management information on the PHRP environment and the potential cumulative effects which are relevant to the overall PHRP management and operation.

Potential Indicators include:

- Establishment of a Code for Sporting Shooting within the Pentland Hills Regional Park (**Medium Term**)
- Changes in the levels of heather moorland cover and woodland planting (**Medium Term**).

## (7) Community Vibrancy

There are a number of people residing within the PHRP boundaries and who contribute to the life of the PHRP through participation in community based initiatives, economic activity e.g. employment and expenditure in the PHRP, and pro-active involvement in the PHRP management e.g. community council representation on the PHRP Consultative Forum.

Sustaining and enhancing socially inclusive communities within the PHRP should be a fundamental goal and monitoring the health and pulse of the PHRP communities should be an ongoing activity.

Potential Indicators include:

- Membership levels of the “Friends of the Pentlands” and their agreed role in assisting the delivery of those elements of the PHRP Plan commensurate with the Friends objectives and interests (**On-going**)
- Changes in economic benefits for the Park communities brought about by visitor activity in the Park (**Medium Term**)
- Levels of community volunteering e.g. participation in the PHRP Volunteer Ranger Service (**Ongoing**).

## (8) Landscape Change

The distinctive landscape character of the Pentland Hills Regional Park and its contribution to the landscape setting of Edinburgh as a capital city is the reason why the PHRP is a special environment. The landscape is made up of topography and natural processes, historical and current land management activity and the Pentland Hills Regional Park’s biodiversity.

Monitoring change gives an indication of the likely pressures on the landscape and assists in defining management actions required to conserve and enhance it.

Potential Indicators include:

- Changes in field boundary features e.g. drystone dykes, hedges and fences (**Short Term**)

- Land use cover change e.g. new forestry and woodland schemes of removal of existing planting, agricultural practices, built development etc **(Ongoing)**
- Visual changes caused by development proposals outside the PHRP boundary – but which impact upon the PHRP setting from key viewpoints both within and outside the PHRP **(Ongoing)**.

### (9) Species & Habitat Change

The PHRP biodiversity is impacted upon by a range of potential factors such as land and water pollution, climate change, land management practices, built development, recreational activity etc. Monitoring the PHRP species and habitat changes therefore provides important management information concerning the potential effects of a number of factors and assists in defining management actions required to conserve and enhance the PHRP biodiversity.



Potential Indicators include:

- Changes in the condition of designated sites within the PHRP **(Medium Term)**
- Changes in populations of protected flora and fauna species as well as invasive species **(Medium Term)**
- Progress in delivering the relevant actions already identified in the three Local Biodiversity Action Plans **(Medium Term)**.

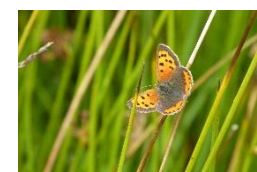
### (10) Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage Change

The Pentland Hills Regional Park's historic environment and cultural heritage includes a rich diversity of archaeological sites, historic landscapes and the built heritage dating back to early prehistory. Similar to the Pentland Hills Regional Park's landscape and biodiversity features, the historic environment, will potentially be affected by a range of factors such as land management regimes, visitor activities and built development.

Monitoring the ongoing condition of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's historic environment and cultural heritage assets will be central to their long-term conservation, preservation and management. In addition, monitoring of visitor awareness and understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's cultural heritage would assist in the overall Pentland Hills Regional Park management.

Potential Indicators include:

- Numbers of historic environment features at risk and requiring prioritised maintenance/repair works **(Medium Term)**



- Number of PHRP Service-led public education events focussing on historic environment features within the PHRP **(Ongoing)**
- Numbers attending the PHRP Service-led events focussing on historic environment features within the Pentland Hills Regional Park **(Ongoing)**.

### Reviewing the Implementation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

The information emerging from the ongoing monitoring of the PHRP Plan (as set out in section 5.1 above), should be used to inform the formal review of the Plan. The focus of the PHRP Plan Action Programme is set within an initial short to medium 6 Year period (2019/23 to 2024/29) corresponding to the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils financial year cycles. The Plan also takes into account longer-term requirements beyond this main timescale – up to an overall 10 Year Plan period (as detailed in Annex 1).

The first formal detailed review of the PHRP Plan should therefore be undertaken in Year 5 (2023 / 24) – during the financial year prior to completion of the initial short to medium term period - with a second review programmed for Year 10 which would correspond with the completion of the main Plan period. The purpose of both these Plan implementation reviews would be to:

- Identify whether the defined Plan actions have been initiated/ delivered against the allocated prioritised timescales;
- Identify delivery progress across all the five Plan Themes – and to highlight areas requiring specific attention e.g. where there is significant programme slippage of initiated actions

or where prioritised actions that should have been initiated have not commenced or where new actions need to be included

- Consider whether re-prioritisation of specific Plan actions is required either due to lack of delivery activity or due to changing circumstances unforeseen during the initial formulation of the Plan
- Identify and confirm action priorities for following the reviews and ensure that agreed action priorities are included in the local authority forward budget planning cycles.

In addition, the Plan review process would provide the PHRP Manager with the appropriate Plan implementation information to report to the PHRP Joint Committee and the PHRP Consultative Forum. Information from the ongoing Plan monitoring activity could obviously be drawn upon by the PHRP Manager in preparing the PHRP Annual Reports.



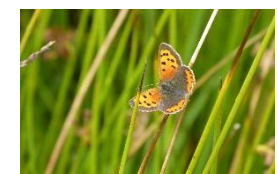


# Appendix 1 Action Plan

Theme A Responsible Enjoyment and understanding of the hills

AIM 1: To promote and manage compatible forms of responsible recreational activity in the PHRP

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
A.1.a.	1.1 Continue to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) to promote greater understanding of the legislative rights and responsibilities for both the visitor and the PHRP land managers in the context of recreational activity in a mixed land use environment.	Greater public and land manager awareness and understanding of exercising and managing access rights responsibly to assist in reducing/minimising the potential for access conflicts within the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.1.a.	1.3 Utilise the 2006, 2016 and future Pentland Path Audits to prioritise path works and seek external funding to implement major works	Provides a key iterative reference (including targets) for future PHRP service work plans. Also provides justification of maintenance funding requirements and funding allocation priorities.	*	*				
A.1.a.	1.4 Utilise the 2016 Infrastructure Inventory to prioritise works to ensure that all items are in 'very good' or 'good' condition.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.1.b.	1.2 Continue to liaise with CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Access Officers and Rangers to co-ordinate the promotion and management of responsible access.	Enhanced partnership communication with management benefit returns in facilitating responsible recreational activity in the PHRP.		*	*	*	*	*



A.1.b.	1.7 Discuss with stakeholders a policy for responsible recreation in the PHRP directly associated with the SOAC rights of non-motorised recreation to include electric bikes and drone use.	As above.	*		*			
A.1.b.	1.8 Review with stakeholders PHRP Events Policy and Guidance (2015)	Better management of organised events.		*				
A.1.c.	1.5 Undertake visitor number surveys through the use of people counters	Assists in the prioritising of works in areas of high usage.		*	*	*	*	*
A.1.c.	1.6 Discuss with stakeholders a policy for responsible water based recreation, in the PHRP.	To reach an understanding and address any adverse scenarios before they arise and demonstrates responsible and responsive management.				*		
A.1.c.	1.9 Continue to work with Police Scotland and other stakeholders to tackle livestock attacks and reduce rural crime.	Reduced levels of attacks and rural crime.	*	*	*	*	*	*

## AIM 2: To sustain and enhance a high-quality visitor experience

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
A.2.a	2.1 Utilise 2005/6 Pentland Hills Visitor Survey and 2016 Potsdam & Edinburgh Universities Visitor Survey to guide	Matches provision to expressed public opinions and views.		*		*		*

	development of visitor facilities, amenities and services.							
A.2.a	2.2 Repeat Visitor Survey exercise at future dates (subject to availability of funding) utilising counters to monitor changing visitor trends and needs.	Identifies any changes in the visitor profiles and their requirements.						*
A.2.b	2.3 Monitor Flotterstone Café, ensure that information is available to visitors and investigate new ways of encouraging responsible recreational activities.	Establishes best practice and opportunities in delivering information -appealing to both new and existing markets - to improve responsible PHRP use and visitor management.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.2.c	2.4 Utilise 2016 PHRP Path Survey and Infrastructure Survey reports findings to prioritise PHRP Service annual work plans and support landowners and tenants who are developing the paths within the PHRP.	Maintenance of both existing and enhanced PHRP networks providing safer environment for mixed recreational use and additional route opportunities.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.2.d	2.5 Utilise 2016 PHRP Path Survey and Infrastructure Survey reports as a baseline template to be updated by the Pentland Hills Service staff and Volunteer Rangers and groups on an ongoing basis.	Provides a key iterative reference (including targets) for future PHRP service work plans. Also provides justification of maintenance funding requirements and funding allocation priorities.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.2.d	2.6 Utilising the 2006 Path Survey and PHRP Upland Path Audit 2016 liaise with landowners over grant funding streams e.g. National Lottery Heritage Fund in applying for and delivering large scale strategic path improvements works.	PHRP and land managers to secure funding support directly related to management public access; deliver enhanced quality of path surfacing and associated landscape furniture; as well as expanding the current path networks by completing missing links- which also enhances the visitor experience potential of the PHRP as a significant outdoor recreational	*	*				



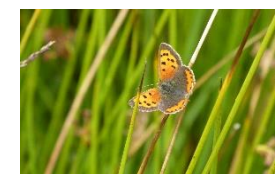


		resource and could provide training and employment.							
A.2.e	2.7 Ensure design of Harlaw Visitor Centre building provides a best practice example of an attraction with optimum disabled access and facility provision.	Fulfils the PHRP obligations in complying with the Equalities Act but also meets wider social objectives e.g. promoting healthy lifestyles and developing the potential for broader public engagement.	*	*					
A.2.e	2.8 Continue programmed review of PHRP services, facility access and infrastructure improvements e.g. path surfaces and gates to comply with the Equalities Act and implement as required.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

### AIM 3: To Raise Awareness and Increase Visitor Understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
A.3.a	3.1 Continue liaison with the CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Council Access Officers and Rangers to maintain and develop the opportunities that the PHRP has to offer as a resource accommodating both informal and formal leisure pursuits.	Contributes to delivery of local and national cross-cutting policy agendas.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.3.a	3.2 Continue pro-active community engagement to include consultation and presentations to encourage additional visits by local community groups,	Pro-active demonstration of relevance and role of the PHRP as a	*	*	*	*	*	*

	education, health and targeted minority groups etc.	recreational and educational outdoor resource.						
A.3.b	3.3 Include the promotion of the PHRP as a facility for outdoor learning.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.3.b	3.4 Liaise with land managers, Police Scotland and National Farmers Union Scotland over opportunities for public engagement with regard to farming and countryside activities.	Meets expressed and continued recognition by some land managers of the importance of environmental education and revitalises previous partnership engagement of land manager community.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.3.c	3.5 Liaise with CEC and Midlothian Councils and the Trunk road contractor to achieve directional signposting of the PHRP from the trunk road network on A702.	Addresses lack of directional signage to the PHRP and would contribute to improved visitor awareness and access to the PHRP.	*					
A.3.d	3.6 Continue utilisation of PHRP Interpretation guidelines in replacing and developing interpretation panels within the PHRP e.g. information boards and panels and also provide digital online information on various aspects of the PRHP.	Enhances the quality of interpretation presentation to the public. Also, assists in the information provision at a number of locations throughout the PHRP.		*		*		*
A.3.d	3.7 Continue to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code responsible access message [a local authority requirement under Section10(7a) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (Part 1)] utilising digital formats and encourage standardised signage.	Delivers and promotes the message of encouraging responsible public access- and the benefits that this has for achieving compatible mixed land-use activity in the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*

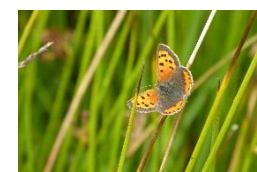


A.3.e	3.8 Continue to develop PHRP website and social media to maximise information provision.	Focussing on the PHRP website and social media platforms as the most effective in reaching both the PHRP current visitors and new visitors provides the best opportunity in communicating information before visitors come to the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.3.e	3.9 Monitor and review the current distribution of PHRP literature to maximise effectiveness of the distribution and market take-up and look to incorporating appropriate adverts.	Targeted literature which is in an accessible form.		*		*		*

#### AIM 4: To Promote and Provide More Sustainable Visitor Transport Opportunities

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
A.4.a	4.1 Continue promotion of existing public scheduled bus service providers that give access to the PHRP.	An increase in visitors arriving by sustainable transport.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.4.a	4.2 Continue discussions with bus service providers to enhance the current provision to the PHRP.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.4.a	4.3 Support and input into CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Core Path Plans, their review and the cross-boundary links from settlements surrounding the PHRP.	Inclusion of strategic path network linking surrounding settlements to the PHRP within the Core Paths Plans creating sustainable non-motorised transport options.	*	*	*	*	*	*

A.4.a	4.4 Ensure that the re-design of car parking provision is carried out where possible to make the maximum use of spaces available.	Maximise farm access and visitor ease of use and avoid disruptive parking.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.4.a	4.5 Encourage and support the network of non-motorised routes that lead to the PHRP.	The action is an additional measure related to the PHRP support for sustainable transport.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.4.a	4.6 Investigate the extension of Edinburgh Cycle Hire Scheme to include PHRP car parks with docking stations.	As above.						*
A.4.a	4.7 Following the redesign of the junction at Mauricewood liaise with bus companies to extend the local bus route to Flotterstone on the A702.	As above.	*	*				
A.4.a	4.8 Investigate the extension of electric car charging points to main car parks within the PHRP.	As above.						*
A.4.b	4.9 Liaise with landowners over the possibility of temporary parking provision for events and promote the use of sustainable transport.	Support diversification of land by land managers having events combined with the events not having a further impact on car park demands.	*	*	*	*	*	*



## THEME B – THE LOCAL ECONOMY OF THE HILLS

AIM 1: To Sustain a Healthy, Diverse Range of Agricultural, Forestry and Sporting Businesses within the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
B.1.a	1.1 Promote effective consultation between PHRP and businesses within and adjacent to the PHRP in respect of opportunities/plans for diversification – in the context of contributing to the PHRP Plan vision and any PHRP management implications.	Provide publicity for appropriate activities in the Park.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.1.b.	1.2 Support the promotion of the 'Pentland Produce' and businesses through publications. Work with farmers and landowners in the PHRP to explore ways of increasing visibility of local produce and business.	Develops an existing agricultural economic activity.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.1.c.	1.3 Support the production and implementation of Moorland Management Plans for core areas of heather cover, i.e. at Bonaly Country Park, to ensure that the resource is maintained and enhanced for biodiversity and heritage.	Robust evidence base for securing resources to better manage moorland habitat within the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*

B.1.c.	1.4 Provide information to land owners, identify suitable areas for moorland rehabilitation and promote best practice for historic and biodiversity land management.	Halting the loss of moorland habitat within the PHRP and securing of better management for the remaining moorland resource.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.1.c.	1.5 Provide information and best practice on carrying out Sport Shooting to landowners on responsible land management and public engagement in relation to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.	Reduction of potential conflict between sporting and other recreational interests.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.1.c.	1.6 Raise awareness of the persecution of raptors and any other illegal activities within the PHRP.	Supporting the protections of protected species.	*	*	*	*	*	*

## AIM 2: To Develop the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a quality assured Green Tourism Destination

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
B.2.a.	2.1 Work with the PHRP stakeholders to seek appropriate Green Tourism accreditation for businesses within the PHRP.	Demonstrable activities developing and enhancing the sustainability of the PHRP as a visitor destination and contributing to Best Practice management and operation of the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.2.a.	2.2 Retain Green Flag Award for PHRP.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.2.a.	2.3 Retain Visit Scotland Accreditation for Harlaw Visitor Centre and assist Pentland Hills Café Express, at Flotterstone, in attaining it.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*





B.2.a.	2.4 Continue to utilise accreditation awards in all PHRP marketing material.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
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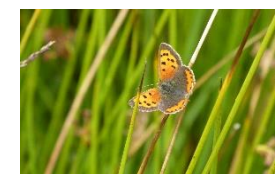
### AIM 3: To Achieve Integrated Land and Water Management

Objective	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
B.3.a.	3.1 Identify areas of Best Practice for land and water management in the PHRP and publicise this to land owners and users.	Best practice in land management is adopted by land managers.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.3.b	3.2 Assist in providing additional best practice management advice based on information and knowledge resourced from other Regional Parks, National Park environments and Scottish Natural Heritage.	Positive land management practices adopted in other Regional and National Parks are reviewed and adapted for local circumstances.	*	*	*	*	*	*

### AIM 4: To Achieve Enhanced Environmental Sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Economy

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
B.4.a	4.1 Liaise with, land managers, residents and local authority planners, on appropriate renewable energy projects for the PHRP and its environs.	Ensure that appropriate renewable energy projects are encouraged within the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*

B.4.b	4.2 Influence design of Harlaw Visitor Centre and Bonaly block to ensure that it incorporates energy efficiency measures which can be used to showcase best practice in sustainable management.	Encouragement of other public and private bodies to incorporate energy efficiency measures into building design.	*	*	*			
B.4.c	4.3 Work with partners to take forward the Woodland Strategy for the PHRP by reviewing the implementation and progress to date and agreeing future actions to be implemented. Also, to incorporate the Carbon Code and to include Central Scotland Green Network and grant schemes [detailed in Theme C :(1) Landscape - “Promote Enhancement of the Landscape Quality within the Pentland Hills Regional Park” aim] Provide input to all planning consultations and strategic land use documents.	Reduction of the carbon footprint arising from the PHRP and staff activities.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.4.c	4.4 Target corporate and business sectors to identify investment benefit opportunities in the PHRP from carbon offsetting commitments from these private sector business operations e.g. corporate responsibility and tree planting.	Reduction of carbon footprint.	*	*	*	*	*	*



## THEME C – CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE, NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HILLS

### (1) Landscape

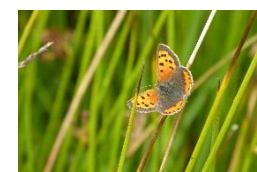
#### AIM 1: To Conserve the Distinctive Landscape Character of the Pentland Hills

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(1) 1.a.	1.1 Monitor changes in land use and land management systems which could affect the landscape in order to promote positive outcomes for the landscape. Potential changes may include changes in the agri-environment grant systems, agricultural practices and climate change.	To ensure that the PHRP influences and maintains input into landscape changes which will be implemented by the PHRP community.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(1) 1.b.	1. 2. Continue to foster contact with landowners and land managers through regular meetings to exchange information.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(1) 1.c.	1.3. Support the protection and implementation of Special Landscape Areas, Green Belt and Local Geodiversity Sites, and Local Biodiversity Sites designations in Local Plans through liaison with constituent and surrounding Planning Authorities as they occur within the Regional Park.	These designations underline the importance of the PHRP landscape, give it status in the decision-making process and give the PHRP and important consultation role to influence development. Ensures that the PHRP (as a relevant consultee) has the opportunity to influence any decisions that could create landscape changes affecting the PHRP setting.	*	*	*	*	*	*

C.(1) 1.d.	1.4. Encourage strict control over the design of new development, including tourist development, in the PHRP. Implement through the PHRP consultation role in relation to development carried out by others and directly for development within PHRP control. Development should be in keeping with the local vernacular and landscape e.g. appropriate design of infrastructure, PHRP car parks Encourage landscape mitigation to structures set into the landscape through pre-application comments and highlighting major projects to the Consultative Forum and Joint Committee for their views.	Ensures that landscape conservation and enhancement takes priority in development decisions and planning applications and that the landscape and visual effects of development are adequately assessed. Protection from in appropriate development and promotion of high quality design in new development.	*	*	*	*	*	*
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#### AIM 2: To Promote Enhancement of the Landscape Quality within the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(1) 2.a.	2.1 Promote landscape enhancement as an important priority in consultation with landowners and land managers. Respond positively to initiatives designed to protect and enhance the landscape.	A greater understanding of the contribution of landscape and the balance between economic, landscape and cultural heritage and habitat interests.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(1) 2.b.	2.2 Seek to ensure that opportunities to provide landscape enhancement in association with new developments are fully explored e.g. the future development at Midlothian Snowsports Centre.	More focussed influence of the PHRP on the other bodies and individuals effecting changes to the landscape i.e. the landscape planning would address the PHRP as an entire entity rather than as separate components within each local plan area.	*	*	*	*	*	*



### AIM 3: To Promote Partnership with the Local Community to Foster Stewardship of the Landscape

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(1) 3.a.	3.1 Discuss landscape issues with farmers and landowners through existing consultation and liaison mechanisms. (see also Theme D).	Maintains influence of Regional Park in landscape changes to the Pentland Hills. Promotes shared landscape stewardship vision with PHRP land managers.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(1) 3.b.	3.3 Work with landowners who are looking to diversify their holdings.	Provides support for appropriate diversification.	*	*	*	*	*	*

### AIM 4: To Promote Appreciation and Understanding of the Landscape including the Interaction between the Physical Form, Natural Processes, Land Management, Natural and Historic Environment

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(1) 4.a.	4.1 Support and encourage participation from Lothian and Borders Geo-Conservation (L&BGC) Group, include information about geodiversity in interpretive material.	Increased knowledge and understanding of geodiversity.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(1) 4.b.	4.2 Discuss with L&BGC volunteer group the potential to assess all geological features in the PHRP as possible Local Geodiversity Sites.	As above.			*			*



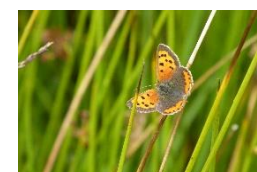
## AIM 5: To Promote the Management of Access to the Pentland Hills Regional Park without Adversely Affecting the Landscape

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(1) 5.a.	5.1 Monitor the effects of increased public access on the landscape in relation to the Land Reform Scotland Act 2003. Address adverse physical impacts e.g. path erosion etc. through consultation with landowners and ongoing PHRP annual maintenance work plans etc. (See also Theme A)	Inputs into the planning and prioritisation of works.	*	*	*	*	*	*

## (2) Natural Heritage

### AIM 1: To Realise the full Ecological Potential of the Pentland Hills Regional Park by Protecting, Maintaining and Enhancing the Present Ranges of Species and Habitats

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(2) 1.a.	1.1 Contribute to the survey and monitoring of key habitats which include: upland heaths, blanket bog, cleugh, woodland, farmland, rivers and streams.	Improved understanding of the distribution of key habitats and their health across the Pentland Hills.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.b.	1.2 Ensure that the key habitats and species identified within the three Local Biodiversity Action Plans covering the Pentland Hills are addressed through projects within the PHRP Annual Work Plan.	Improved biodiversity within the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*



C.(2) 1.c.	1.3 Contribute to the three LBAP partnerships, where in operation, in delivery of agreed actions.	Competition of co-ordinated actions, improved biodiversity and connectivity.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.d.	1.4 To report on progress for each Local Biodiversity Site.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.e.	1.5 Identify key habitat and green network corridors and actions to link and enhance these biodiversity sites and networks.	Increased awareness and information provision to enhance key habitat corridors.						*
C.(2) 1.f.	1.6 Encourage implementation of relevant management actions to deliver favourable conditions of features on designated sites.	More designated biodiversity sites in favourable condition within PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.g.	1.7 Contribute to the monitoring and management of legally protected species of flora and fauna occurring within the PHRP.	Healthy populations of protected species. Results would also be used to inform planners during planning applications or tree planting schemes.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.h.	1.8 Support surveys and encourage appropriate management of identified non-native invasive species occurring within the PHRP	Invasive species populations are brought under control.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.i.	1.9 Increase engagement with general public and understanding via environmental education and volunteering programme.	Greater awareness of the rich natural heritage within the PHRP and increased involvement by local people in its management.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.j.	1.10 Encourage ongoing biological recording within the PHRP through forging of relationships with The Wildlife	Improved records of biodiversity in the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*

	Information Centre, local recording groups and individuals.							
C.(2) 1.k.	1.11 Ensure that an assessment of biodiversity impacts is always included in planning application and forestry consultation responses.	Net gain in biodiversity from development proposals within or adjacent to the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.l.	1.12 Encourage woodland management and creation to maximise biodiversity and connectivity.	Stronger woodland habitat networks and more woodland habitats and species.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2)1.m.	1.13 Work with stakeholder to encourage the uptake of incentives for new woodland and improve management of existing woodland.	New and improved woodland habitats.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.n.	1.14 Support land managers to bring all native woodland in the PHRP under positive management and restore native woodland on plantations on identified Ancient Woodland sites.	Increased native woodland cover in PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*

### (3) Historic Environment

AIM 1: To Conserve and Enhance the Pentland Hills Regional Park's Cultural Heritage Features by Integrated Management and Raised Public Awareness of the Cultural Heritage

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(3) 1.a	1.1 Liaise with Historic Environment Scotland and provide support for owners of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and other historic features.	Increased public awareness.	*	*	*	*	*	*

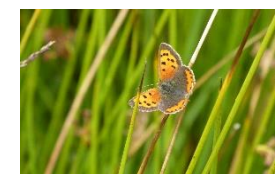


C.(3)1.b	1.2 Promote and interpret cultural heritage sites in the PHRP and ensure that education programmes, temporary exhibitions, website, and guided walks etc focus on the Hills rich archaeological and cultural heritage.	Increased public awareness.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(3)1.b	1.3 Review and develop self-guided downloadable Heritage Trail leaflets and online interpretation.	Increased public awareness.			*			*
C.(3)1.b	1.4 Look at opportunities to develop projects to help deliver on the aims of the emerging (2019) South East Scotland Archaeological Research Framework (SESARF).	Assists delivery of SESARF aims.		*	*	*	*	*
C.(3)1.b	1.5 Explore opportunities for involving volunteers and local groups to enhance the understanding of the Hills historic environment and encourage cross disciplinary working with natural environment research and conservation work/programmes where appropriate.	Increased public awareness and partnership working.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(3) 1.c	1.6 Ensure that the three Local Planning Authority's policies continue to safeguard the character and pattern of the built and historic environment in the PHRP and that it is fully integrated into the wider historic landscape of the surrounding local authorities.	Increased protection and awareness.	*	*	*	*	*	*

## THEME D – PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

AIM 1: To Maintain and Develop Partnership Support for Securing Long Term Sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a Living and Changing Mixed Land Use Environment

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
D.1.a	1.1 Continue to develop close working relationships with all the key stakeholders and those living and working in the PHRP.	Ensures communication, co-operation and increases the sharing of information.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.1.a	1.2 Ensure the long-term commitment of stakeholders' support in delivering and reviewing the existing Hillend Country Park and the Bonaly Country Park Management Plans – as integral components complementing and supporting the delivery of the overall PHRP Plan vision.	Delivers an integrated management approach.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.1.a	1.3 Continue the PHRP Consultative Forum (minimum two meetings per year) as a key mechanism providing both pro-active inputs (advisory) and re-active (sounding board) feed-back to the PHRP Joint Committee in guiding the interpretation, priorities and delivery of the PHRP Plan.	Maintains participation of a wide cross section of PHRP land use interests	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.1.a	1.4 Utilise new communication formats (media and technology) to enhance consultation opportunities and contact with the PHRP management by stakeholders such as the PHRP Consultative Forum members, landowners and the general public.	An Increase in communication.	*	*	*	*	*	*



**AIM 2: To Develop Public Participation and Support for Securing the Long-Term Sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a Living and Changing Mixed Land Use Environment**

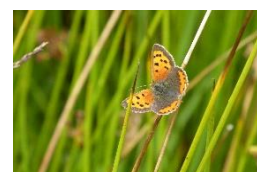
Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
D.2.a	2.1 Support the Friends of the Pentlands (FoP) in complementing the PHRP in delivery of the PHRP Strategic Management Plan and management of the Regional Park in line with the FoP aims and objectives.	Maintains and develops existing partnership with mutual benefits in achieving shared objectives.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.a	2.2 Provide information and guidance in the delivery of practical works led by the FoP to include conservation (e.g. tree planting and management) maintenance on paths adopted by FoP and access for disabled and corporate groups.	Ensures quality of delivery of projects.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.a	2.3 Provide direction and guidance in the management of the Harlaw wildlife garden to include the join production of a management plan for the garden and on-going improvement works.	Ensures continuity and partnership in the management of Harlaw Wildlife Garden.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.a	2.4 Support a co-ordinated approach to the reduction of litter within the PHRP.	Reduced litter in and around the Hills.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.a	2.5 Through the work of the FoP support, where appropriate, non-motorised access links into the PHRP.	Contributes to sustainable transport policies and the reduction in car use.	*	*	*	*	*	*



D.2.a	2.6 Support the FoP educational role by providing guidance, information and building and equipment use.	Contributes to the delivery of environmental education.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.a	2.7 Encourage development and retention of the membership of the Pentland Hills Voluntary Ranger Service.	Maintains and develops well trained personnel to complement the PHRP Service and increases public interaction and delivery of actions.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.b	2.8 Support increased recreational participation in the Pentland Hills by underrepresented groups such as women, children, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.	Broadens sector awareness and potential utilisation of PHRP and contributes to cross cutting national policy agendas of social inclusion.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.b	2.9 Continue support for Bavelaw and Harperrigg Reservoir Management Groups in the PHRP.	Broader sector awareness and implementation of improvement projects raised by these groups.	*	*	*	*	*	*

### AIM 3: To Secure Commercial Sponsorship Support for the Delivery of Pentland Hills Regional Park Project Initiatives

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
D.3.a	3.1 PHRP to investigate appropriate fund-raising initiatives for the PHRP to include, but not limited to, the Donation Scheme, car parking charges, bequests, corporate sponsorship and technologies that can assist with their operation.	Increase in funds for the delivery of capital and revenue projects specifically within the Regional Park.	*	*	*	*	*	*



## THEME E – MANAGING THE PENTLAND HILLS REGIONAL PARK PLAN

AIM 1: To Provide a Pentland Hills Regional Park Management Structure which is Best Placed to Fully Deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.1.a	1.1 Facilitate the PHRP Joint Committee in reviewing terms and conditions of the existing Minute of Agreement between the three constituent authorities and consider any appropriate and beneficial adjustments, in light of the PHRP Plan action requirements.	Provides appropriate opportunity to review the scope of the existing Minute of Agreement- in the context of providing the most appropriate management structure with the necessary powers to deliver the PHRP plan.	*					*

AIM 2: To Provide Effective and Efficient Management Direction to Achieve the Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.2.a	2.1 PHRP Manager to utilise the PHRP Plan to prepare an annual operational workplan - for the PHRP Joint Committee consideration and approval.	Retains continuity from a proven successful format.	*	*	*	*	*	*
E.2.a	2.2 PHRP Manager to implement and oversee the PHRP Plan monitoring and report on progress.	Provides an update on actions.	*	*	*	*	*	*

**AIM 3: To Secure the Necessary Funding Resources Necessary to Make the Full Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan a Realistic and Achievable Goal**

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.3.a	3.1 PHRP Manager to investigate funding streams such as developer contributions, CEC transient levy- ring fenced for the PHRP; grant applications - Wind farm community benefit funding, National Lottery Heritage Fund.	Increased funds to deliver projects.	*	*	*	*	*	*
E.3.a	3.2 PHRP Manager to investigate and realise retail opportunities and income generation specifically related to the Regional Park.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
E.3.a	3.3 PHRP Manager to monitor car park donation scheme and RINGGO system to ensure funding is raised for projects. To also include annual membership scheme.	As above.	*	*	*			*
E.3.a	3.4 PHRP to monitor, review and update the Donation Scheme.	As above.		*				



#### AIM 4: To Fully Engage Pentland Hills Regional Park Management Stakeholder Groups in the Processes Required to Deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.4.a	4.1 PHRP Manager to continue the production of management information keeping the stakeholder groups fully informed of the ongoing implementation progress of the PHRP Plan e.g. Joint Committee, Management Group, Farmers and Landowners and Consultative Forum through established procedures e.g. formal meetings, annual reports, annual business planning processes	Maintains a consistent and transparent flow of key information to retain partnership working.	*	*	*	*	*	*

#### AIM 5: To Promote Awareness and Understanding of the Rationale, Aims and Benefits of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan to the General Public

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.5.a	5.1 PHRP Manager to devise a promotional/information strategy including: - Local Authority Access Officers; - Local Access Forums; - Community Councils; - Liaison with the Friends of the Pentlands and other groups; - Use of the PHRP website e.g. posted features on proposed Plan actions, updates on implementation of current	Delivery of key information.		*				*

	actions and completed actions; - Development of PHRP social media; - Ongoing articles included in the “Pentland Beacon” newsletter; - News updates posted on noticeboards at the Flotterstone and Harlaw visitor centres.							
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**AIM 6: To Monitor on an Ongoing Basis the Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan**

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.6.a	6.1 PHRP Manager to develop and agree a finalised Monitoring Strategy to include an annual report to the PHRP Joint Committee on progress on the PHRP Actions.	Evidence of actions achieved and will allow for adjustments to be made where required.	*	*	*	*	*	*





pentland hills  
regional park

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