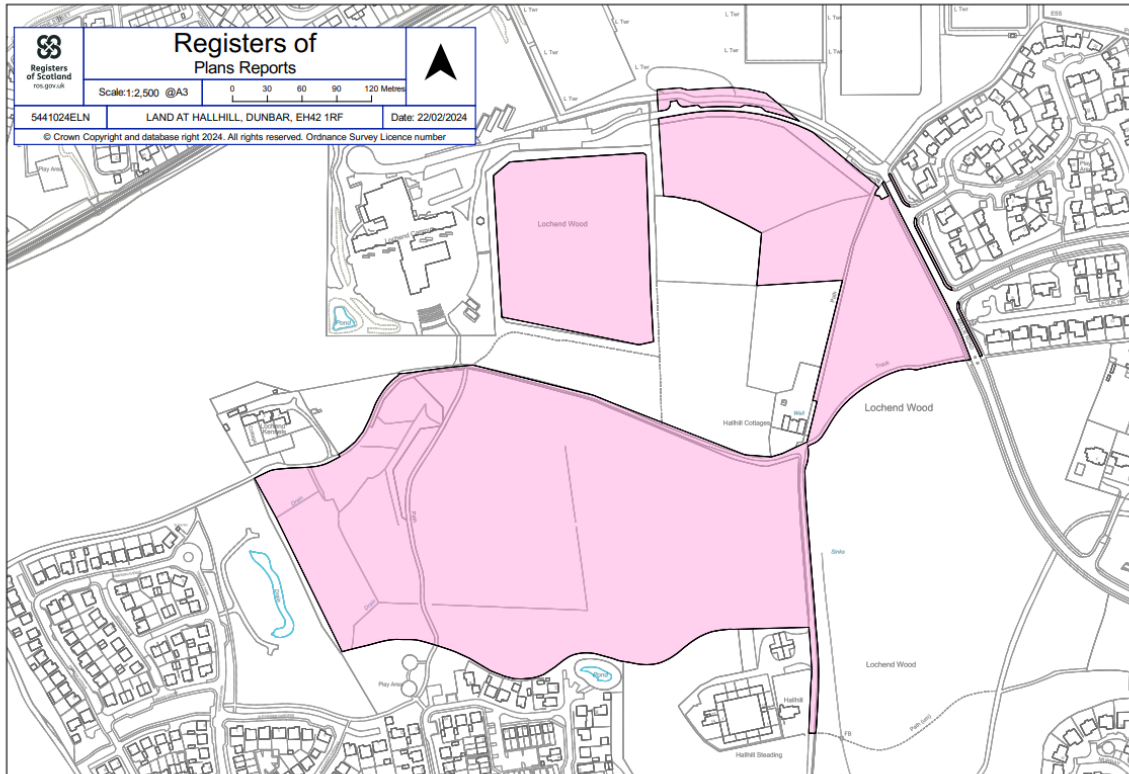




Jamspot Biodiversity Plan

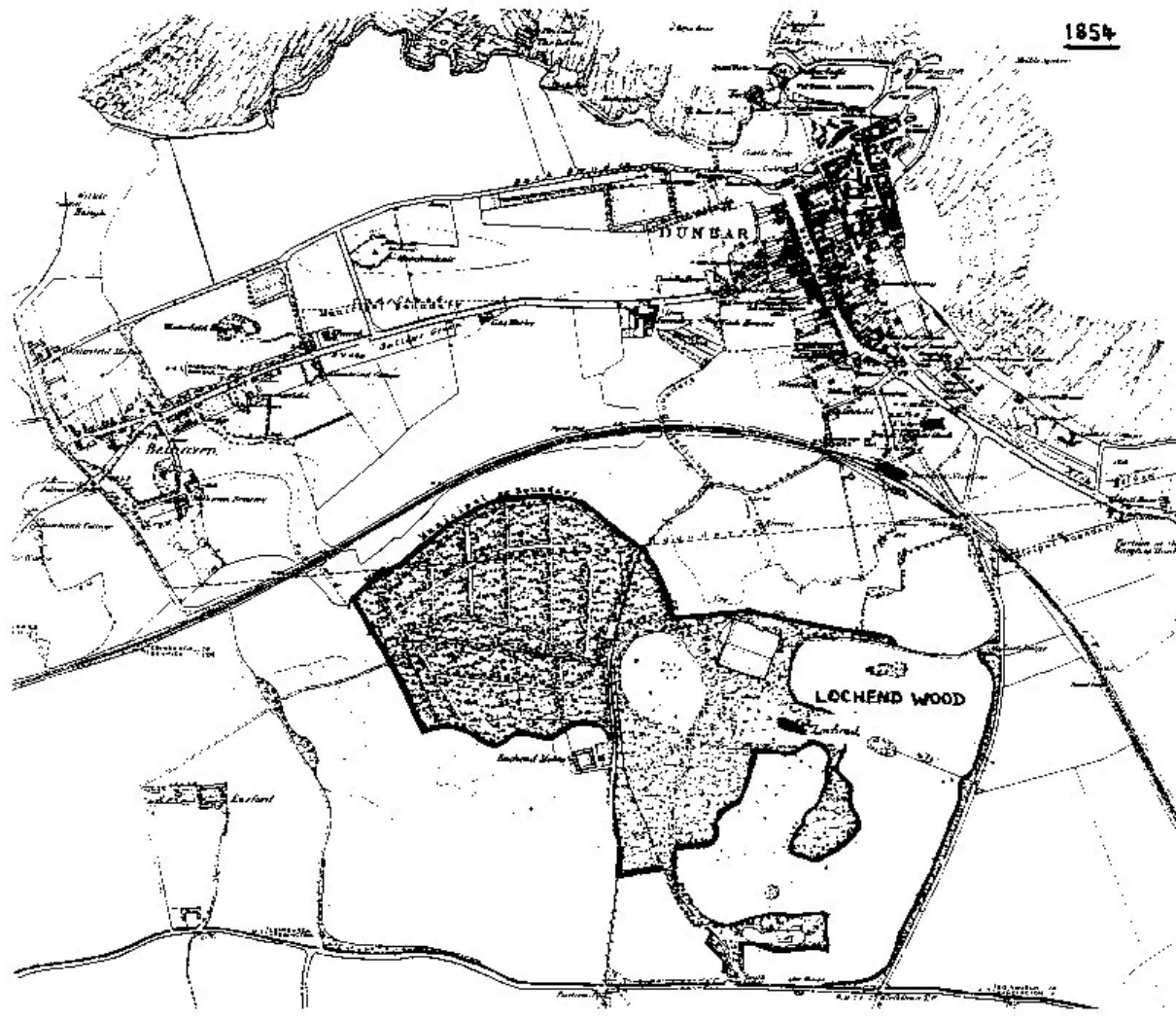


Hallhill Jamspot Biodiversity Plan

Introduction

The development of the Jamspot Park is a facility that will encourage people to enjoy the outdoors and to be involved in looking after their Local Environment. The facility will provide facilities for people to be involved in formal and informal activities. The facilities will also have a Community Café where there will be toilets and refreshments. This will provide a meeting place for groups who will be involved in the management of the park and the community woodland.

History of the Jamspot Site and Lochend Woods



Site History

The Jamspot Park is an area surrounded by Woodland next to the Hallhill Sports Centre. The site was covered by woodland in 1854 and a large section of Lochend Woodland was cut down during the war for wood supplies. The small section of woodland to the northeast was replanted with one species of pine tree and has not been maintained and is not good for the local flora and fauna. The rest of the area was turned over to farming for the Hallhill Estate. The site was eventually taken over by Eweford Farm and has been in agricultural use for many years by them until the site was sold for a Housing development. As part of the planning process East Lothian Council agreed with the developer that the area of the land within the woodland will be allocated as a play area with open space and an additional sports pitch that is required due to the growth in the population of the town. As part of discussions between the Community and the Council Staff agreement was reached that the new park would become

the Jamspot area and would be a good place to locate a skate park and pump track for the benefit of the whole Community.



Current Biodiversity of the Jamspot and Woodland

The area has been neglected for years, with no maintenance to the trees or the drainage system resulting in flooding. This has caused further deterioration in the woodland and the flora and fauna across the site. This has also had a damaging impact on the path network and the natural regeneration of the environment. The site is now surrounded by housing and that requires quality path network through the woodland and park area. Without any management plan people will continue to make their own pathways and that will not be good for the flora and fauna or their own safety.

How the Community will deliver Biodiversity Net Gain

The Community will deliver a Woodland Management Plan that will recognise that it is an urban woodland that will be attractive for the community to use the woodland and the open space. The plan will recognise conflicts that can happen, and it will design measures to minimise impacts between the Community and the woodland flora and fauna. We will also consider the best way to manage the woodland waterways that run across the woodland and under the Jamsport Park. The design will consider if it possible to create a managed wetland area in the woodland that will rise and fall with the rainfall.

Having a mosaic of habitats can increase biodiversity, providing more areas of shelter, feeding and breeding habitat for a variety of species.

Grasslands-

Short cut amenity grasslands has low biodiversity value and as such will be kept to a minimum within the landscaping plan for the site. Any areas that can be allowed to be developed as wildflower meadows will benefit the area with regards to the Biodiversity Net Gain of the pump track. Seed sowing in the spoil from the works can be used and the creation of a variety of grassland species as well as various gradients and species densities. Leaving areas to be self-seeded as well as areas of slopes etc in places will allow for natural play opportunities. Areas within and around the track itself will be left uncut till a maintenance cut in the September, the arisings to be left to drop seeds and then removed to reduce the nutrification of the grassland.

Biodiversity grassland /meadow take aways Based on Biodiversity in parks and Green Spaces document (Edinburgh Council)

1. Increase plant species diversity through planting native wildflower plugs or mature plants. Meadow mixes from Scotia Seeds – Wildflowers of Scotland.
2. Cut in rotation so there is always long grass available, leaving an area uncut over the winter months
3. Encourage natural colonisation of wildflowers by removing arisings and exposing small areas of soil ('germination gaps').

Planting of bulbs for immediate impact will be limited to native wildflower bulbs and corms and will aim to be an early nectar and pollen source for early emerging overwintering pollinators.

To help reduce disturbance on wildlife and damage to habitats, Buffer zones will be implemented around the areas for wildlife. For example, naturalised grassland areas bordering woodland areas to discourage walking into areas with specific path routes that encourages people to enjoy outdoors away from where wildlife is supported.

The Boundary of the Jamspot park and the woodland will be enhanced by the establishment of a new hedge that will be good for birds and other wildlife in the area. We will create gaps in the hedge to allow wildlife to pass through and access all areas. The Jamspot Park will be mainly grass including areas within the design of the new facilities. We also plan to include within the hedge row some fruit trees and bushes that will support the biodiversity of the woodland.

Woodland-

Shrubs and trees that provide berries, flowers with pollen and shelter throughout the year are better for biodiversity and will be prioritised. Providing for birds, mammals and invertebrates. Having a diverse range of species within planting will also increase biodiversity.

Hibernaculum's are underground chambers for reptiles and amphibians that use them throughout the winter to protect them from the cold. They can use natural materials and are great for encouraging reptiles and amphibians to a habitat. Invertebrates can also use them for shelter.

It is important to note that there will be consideration of long-term management of a habitat. For example, cutting regimes of meadows, tree and woodland management. Especially if adopted in the future by a different land manager.

Nest boxes can encourage breeding birds into the area and will be provided. Each species has a nest box specification and will be based on: Our ultimate guide to nest boxes (rspb.org.uk)

Any management on the land will be undertaken within the correct times of the year where there is least or no disturbance to wildlife on the site. Namely, bird nesting season is between March and August, though this may vary due to season changes due to climate change. There will be caution between February and September, as there could still be nesting birds present during this time. This is to ensure nesting birds are not disturbed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The Community will also make sure all our young people are involved in the planning and development of the area. They will be encouraged to learn how we all have a responsibility to care for the woodland and improve the biodiversity of the area. The community will support the improvement of the environment including the habitat for the wildlife and the areas where the flora will thrive.

Example of Woodland and Skatepark together



Potential Classroom



School Use

The school have been making use of an areas in the woodland and we are proposing to enhance this area to make it safe by removing the trees that have been blown over and resting on other trees. We will also remove any dangerous broken branches that have not fallen. We will create a teaching area with woodland seating and with safe surfaces for people to access the area. Education boards will be installed around the woodland and the park to inform people of the variety of flora and fauna that is in the woodland. It will provide information how people can help to enhance the area to protect the flora and fauna we have in the woodland.

Future of woodland and open space

We are all aware of the massive challenge we have in front of us delivering the new community park. The enhancement of the area will be carried out at the same time as making the woodland safe through our woodland management plan. The establishment of core paths to direct the people through the woodland and away from sensitive areas will also be delivered. This work will cost the community a significant amount of money and will take time to complete but the community working together through Hallhill Sports Centre will make it all happen.