



# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project West Lothian, Scotland

*An urban community greenspace management project on a 3.5 ha site*

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

---

This case study is one of a set written as part of a Forest Research project. Some case studies are written by the community group, others by researchers who visited and interviewed group members, but they have all been validated and endorsed by the community groups.

Forest Research developed a standard method for describing the case studies, outlined in Lawrence and Ambrose-Oji, 2013 "A framework for sharing experiences of community woodland groups" Forestry Commission Research Note 15 (available from [www.forestry.gov.uk/publications](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications)).

The case study comprises three parts:

1. The **Group Profile** provides essential information about the form and function of the community woodland group. Profiles were prepared following the methodology
2. The **Change Narrative** which documents key moments in the evolution of the community woodland group with a particular focus on the evolution of engagement and empowerment
3. The **Engagement and Impacts Timeline** documents milestones in the development of the community woodland group, its woodland and any assumed or evidenced impacts.

The case studies collectively provide a resource which documents the diversity and evolution of community woodland groups across Scotland, Wales and England. The method ensures that the case studies are consistent and can be compared with each other. We welcome further case studies to add to this growing resource.

For further information, and for the detailed case study method, please contact:

**Bianca Ambrose-Oji:** (Bianca.Ambrose-Oji@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

For further information about this case study, please contact:

wilma2104@yahoo.co.uk

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

## 1. Group profile

<b>Woodland: Dedridge Burn and associated Environment including Dedridge Plantation and Dedridge Pond</b> Map ref: NT 059 663 Webpage: <a href="http://www.spanglefish.com/dedridgeenvironmentecologyproject/">http://www.spanglefish.com/dedridgeenvironmentecologyproject/</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DedridgeEnvironmentEcologyProject/">https://www.facebook.com/DedridgeEnvironmentEcologyProject/</a> Date of profile: 30/03/14 Resources: In-person meeting	
<b>1. Institutional context (in March 2014)</b>	
<b>1.1 Ownership of the woodland(s)</b>	The land on which Dedridge Environment Ecology Project (DEEP) carry out their projects is publicly owned and maintained by West Lothian Council.  <b>Classification of tenure: Informal agreement (public)</b>
<b>1.2 Access and use rights to the woodland(s)</b>	The land on which DEEP operate is publicly accessible and generally located along the corridor of the Dedridge Burn. Access along the burn is provided by one of the Livingston Greenways, and multi-user tarmac path network serving the Livingston area. Paths linking to the greenway give access to adjacent woodland, parks, and pond features which are located along the burn corridor. Dedridge Plantation has a number of these path links providing access from housing areas adjacent to the woods.
<b>1.3 Regulations/responsibilities affecting the woodland(s)</b>	The minimum legal requirements for H&S, historic monuments and pest and diseases management as outlined in the UK Forestry Standard.  The site is not designated and there are no legal constraints on the site or on its use. The group does not have an access agreement and have not found it necessary to have one. All legal obligations lie with the site owners (West Lothian Council).

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

<b>2. Internal organisation of the group/enterprise</b>	
<b>2.1 Group members, representation and decision making</b>	<p>There are no restrictions of any kind to membership of the group.</p> <p>The community is mainly a community of place who are the people who live and work in the Dedridge area as well as other stakeholders who use the site. The group feel they fully represent the community and have very good relationships with other groups in the area including schools, youth groups, and churches. The community is very well represented at meetings and in activities.</p> <p>The committee meet in one of the member's homes. Decisions/issues are taken to open meetings held regularly at the local community centre, where matters are discussed and put to the vote. There has never been a poorly attended meeting.</p>
<b>2.2 Communication and learning processes</b>	<p>The main methods of communicating the group's activities are regular open meetings and information days. The meetings are attended by members of the local community council who report back to their group. They also have a website where achievements are posted. A Facebook page has been established more recently which is updated by one of the groups' volunteers.</p> <p>The group advertise their meetings in a locally produced publication which is distributed to every home in Dedridge. Meeting dates and location are always advertised in West Lothian Courier (newspaper). Information days (approximately 1 per year) are also held. Some activities are promoted by the Central Scotland Forest Trust both electronically and in hard copy (leaflets, fliers and posters).</p> <p>The group report that their methods have been effective to date, but are aware of the need to further engage with key age-groups, in particular young adults within the community.</p>
<b>2.3 Structure and legal status</b>	<p>The group was formally constituted in 2007 and is registered as a charity and regulated by OSCR. The Objectives of DEEP which are written into the constitution are:</p>

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advance education and to provide, or assist in the provision of, facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation, where such provision or assistance (i) is in the interests of Social Welfare of the community; and (ii) is made with the object of improving the conditions of life of the members of the community in the area of benefit</li> <li>• Act as a promoter of environmental improvements to the Dedridge burn and to the surrounding woodlands for the general benefit of the residents of Dedridge</li> <li>• Attract grant income from third party organisations towards the costs of the project</li> <li>• Maximise community participation in both the management of the project and in the upkeep of the woodland after works have been carried out</li> </ul> <p>The group produce an annual report which is available to the public at meetings and annual accounting obligations are fulfilled. Income is 100% grant revenue.</p> <p><b>Classification of legal form: Charitable Unincorporated Association</b></p>
<p><b>2.4 Regulations/ responsibilities affecting the group/ enterprise</b></p>	<p>As a constituted group DEEP keep a record of their meetings and activities. As an affiliate the group also report to the Local Community Council.</p> <p>As a charity, there are annual reporting obligations to OSCR including the submission of the annual accounts.</p>
<p><b>2.5 Forest management objectives and planning procedures</b></p>	<p>The first and focal project carried out by DEEP was the undertaking of woodland management works in Dedridge Plantation located in the heart of Dedridge. The works were funded through development gain resulting from expansion of the main Almondvale shopping centre, and used to fund and implement a management plan for the woodland. The works involved dealing with hazardous trees and safety issues, woodland thinning and group felling, enrichment planting, and access improvement works.</p> <p>The works were implemented under the approved management plan with the assistance of WIAT grant funding. Ongoing management of the woods has involved management of access features, installation of seating and drainage, clearance of minor storm damage, addressing safety issues, and monitoring of and treatment of diseased</p>

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

	<p>trees, utilising a combination of contract and volunteer labour.</p> <p>Follow up development of the woodland as a community resource has continued on from the woodland management works, including the installation of a nature trail, a sculpture trail with the pieces designed by local schools, and the de-silting and restoration of the woodland's central pond feature.</p> <p>The group have continued their programme of environment improvements along the Dedridge Burn to include restoration of on-line pond features and associated areas of woodland and scrub habitats.</p> <p><b>Overall aim of plan: Conservation and heritage</b></p>
<p><b>2.6 Implementing the woodland management plan</b></p>	<p>The bulk of the woodland management was implemented under contract, and contractors are employed to carry out most maintenance and management operations. Contractors are supervised by a forestry consultant employed by DEEP, and all works are overseen by the Local Authority.</p>
<p><b>2.7 Business/ operating model and sustainability</b></p>	<p>The group has achieved a transformative change in the public spaces along Dedridge Burn, and its objectives for the sites it has carried out improvement works on are to ensure that these areas maintain and managed into the future.</p> <p>The group is now focused on linking up other neighbouring wildlife sites by creating wildlife corridors. They are also taking on a consultative role supporting the development of neighbouring environmental groups.</p> <p>Grant aid and matched funding from the groups own reserves makes up 100% of total revenue. There is no intention to trade.</p>
<p><b>2.8 Benefit distribution rules</b></p>	<p>No services or products are traded, so the benefits are limited to the public benefits accrued on site.</p>

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

<b>3. External linkages</b>	
<b>3.1 Partnerships and agreements</b>	<p>DEEP has very close links with the local authority. Large scale works are carried out under contract, following detailed discussion with WLC representatives and approval of plans and work specifications produced by DEEP.</p> <p>Where required, formal agreements with WLC as landowners are undertaken by the group, but most works carried out by the group themselves are low key/ risk and are carried out on an informal basis. West Lothian Council provide the assistance of their Neighbourhood Environment Team (NETs) for volunteer events such as planting days and litter picks.</p> <p>Elected local authority representatives sit on the group's board and there are regular informal meetings. The group also have very close relationship with numerous departments in the local authority and with MSPs. These contacts have proven very helpful for raising awareness of issues and sourcing funds.</p>
<b>3.2 Associations</b>	<p>DEEP have connections with West Lothian Council's Neighbourhood Environment Team, Swan and Goose group, the Woodland Trust, and numerous local groups including: local over 50s keep active groups, schools, churches, Bellsquarry Woodland Group, Central Scotland Forest Trust, Murieston Environmental Group, the Woodland Trust for Scotland, volunteers from local businesses (including GE, Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association, Ross and Liddle (Solicitors), ASDA), with the local Community Payback teams, and with many other groups, individuals and organisations.</p>
<b>4. Resources</b>	
<b>4.1 Forest/woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size: 3.64 ha</li> <li>• Location NGR-NT060 854</li> <li>• Access -The site lies south of the main Livingston shopping area and is connected to and forms part of Livingston's Greenway Path Network</li> <li>• Soil type and site potential---acidic brown earths and podsolic brown earths</li> <li>• Species mix—Deciduous (Oak, beech, sycamore, holly alder, ash willow etc) and coniferous Scots pine and larch</li> </ul>

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

- Age of stands and major operations (date of last felling, planting, thinning) Last thinning 2008.
- Volume – Approximately 120m<sup>3</sup> of timber removed as thinnings, group fellings and safety fellings
- General mix of management compartments – Fairly uniform mixed woodland composition consisting of a mature/ over-mature upper canopy and developing understorey
- Features: Deadwood, ponds, glades, open space, access paths, nature trail, sculpture trail, pond dipping platform, 2 bridges and a weir.
- **Classification of woodland type: Broadleaved.**
- NVC classifications = NVC W11 (Upland Oak Woodland) with some NVC W7 (Alder/Ash Woodland) in waterside locations

## **Outline management history**

The woodland had an intact upper canopy layer which was well stocked, to the point that little light penetrates to the lower levels of the woodland. Young trees in the sub-canopy layer are dominated by shade bearing species such as Beech and Sycamore.

The nature of the woodland is diverse, as would be expected of policy woodland formerly associated with a farm estate. Large sections of the woodland retain a mainly native woodland character, possibly as a result of the topography of the site, which has limited the extent of man's influence in the past. Other areas of the woodland have a more varied character resulting from the introduction of non-native broadleaf and conifer species.

There is provision for public access which developed alongside the Livingston New Town. The level of provision mirrors the intensive use made of the site by local people. The site was subject to anti-social behaviours and was generally only well-used during daylight hours.

The strong association felt by local people towards the site added to the sensitivity of the site in terms of undertaking management operations.

A management plan was drawn up in 2008 to update proposals originally produced for WLC, but not implemented.



# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

---

## Aims:

- To protect and retain the woodland as an amenity and recreational feature for future generations to enjoy.
- To enhance the site to benefit wildlife and increase biodiversity within the woodland and associated features.

## Objectives:

- Encourage a successional layer to retain the woodland feature into the future
- Diversify the age structure within the woodland
- Increase the native woodland element within the woodland
- Encourage the development of a woodland shrub layer
- Reduce the density of the existing canopy to encourage the regeneration of a woodland ground flora
- Retain and enhance existing access
- Retain and enhance associated areas of habitat
- Community involvement

## Woodland Management Works

Implemented under WIAT from 2008-2011 Works included:

- Safety felling
- Removal of windblown and unstable roadside conifers
- Tree surgery works
- Thinning of the upper woodland canopy
- Management of the woodland understorey by thinning, selecting for native species
- Clearance of litter and fly tipping
- Path creation
- Installation of seating and interpretation boards
- Installation of bird and bat boxes

The general condition of woodland is currently good, although the continued senescence of the existing mature canopy is a concern, with further thinning and underplanting required in the future. Tackling the issue of

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

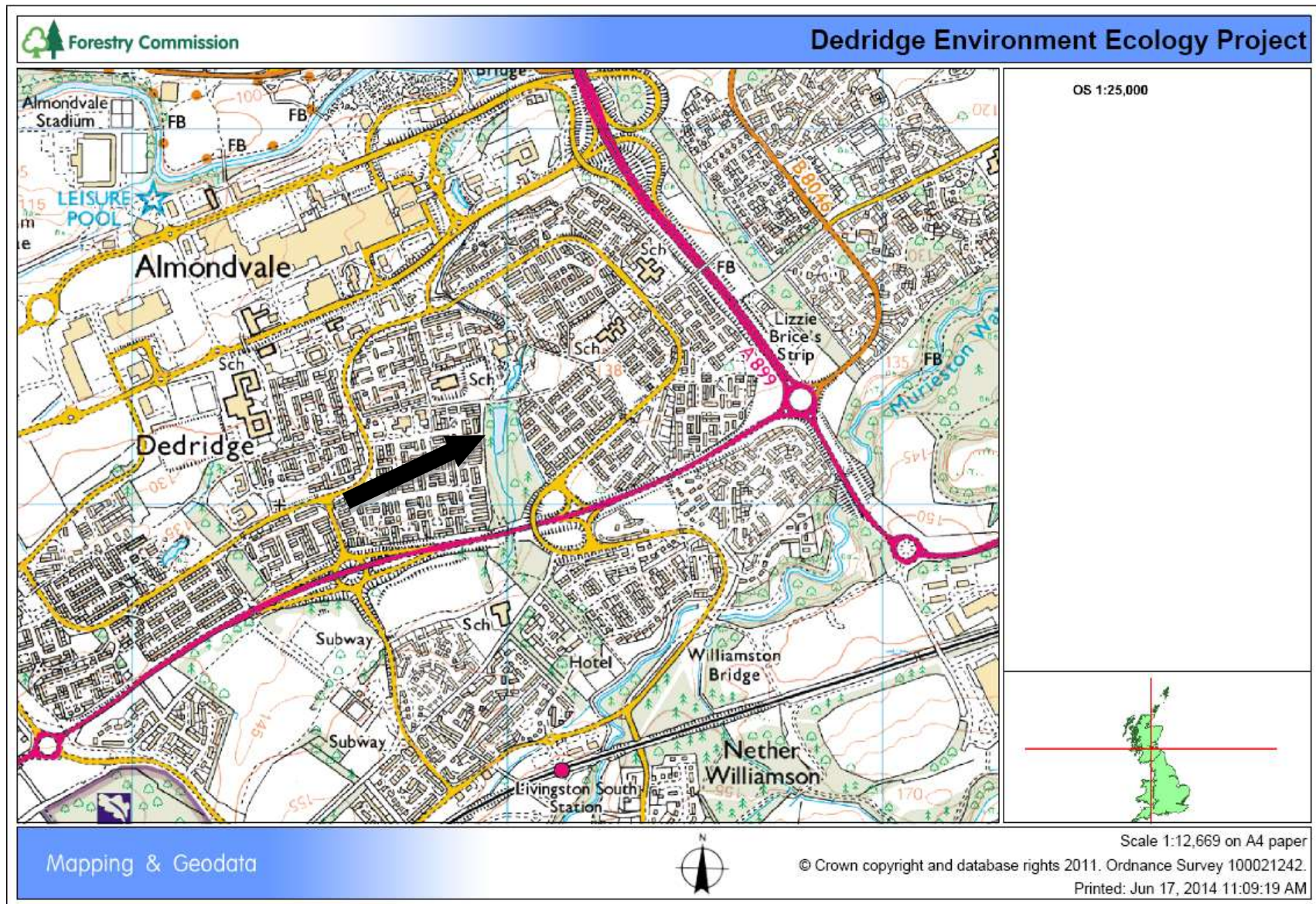
	<p>regeneration of non-native species such as beech and sycamore (which was not funded under the approved WIAT) remains a concern. Access features installed 6 years ago have held up well, but are starting to show signs of deterioration and wear. One of the lasting impacts of the woodland improvement works, and due in large part to the group's activities and vigilance, and support from the Councils environmental teams, is the dramatic reduction in littering and dumping issues.</p> <p>The woodland now supports a diverse understorey of ground flora which was suppressed prior to the implementation of the woodland management plan. Enrichment planting of native tree and shrub species into gaps is resulting in the development of a healthy successional layer, bolstered by natural regeneration. Areas of remnant native woodland flora have benefited from the opening up of the woodland canopy with areas of <i>calluna</i> and <i>vaccinium</i> gradually expanding where present. Other ground flora to benefit includes wood avens, and wood celandine along with grasses and ferns. Various surveys (for birds, bats, badgers, watervole, woodland flora and pond life) have been carried out within the woodland and Dedridge Pond.</p> <p>Notable species identified included badger, and pipistrelle bats, although owing to the urban setting, high levels of public use, and the limited size of the woodland, these have not been identified as resident. Swan mussels are present in the pond, which also attracts a wide range of waterfowl.</p> <p>The biodiversity of the woodland has improved along with the amenity benefits resulting from the woodland management works. The improvements to the Dedridge pond which is encompassed by the woodland have resulting in a transformation to the water body which and added greatly to the amenity and biodiversity of the area.</p>
<p><b>4.2 Woodland and group funding sources</b></p>	<p>The woodland remains in LA ownership. Funds for ongoing management come from a range of non-statutory sources including GE Energy, Edinburgh Airport, Awards for All and West Lothian Council. The group report that the closure of the Woods in and Around Towns grant scheme (WIAT) by the Forestry Commission Scotland has limited the opportunities available for implementing ongoing phases of management for Dedridge Plantation and other woodland areas located along the Dedridge Burn corridor with which the group are concerned.</p>

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

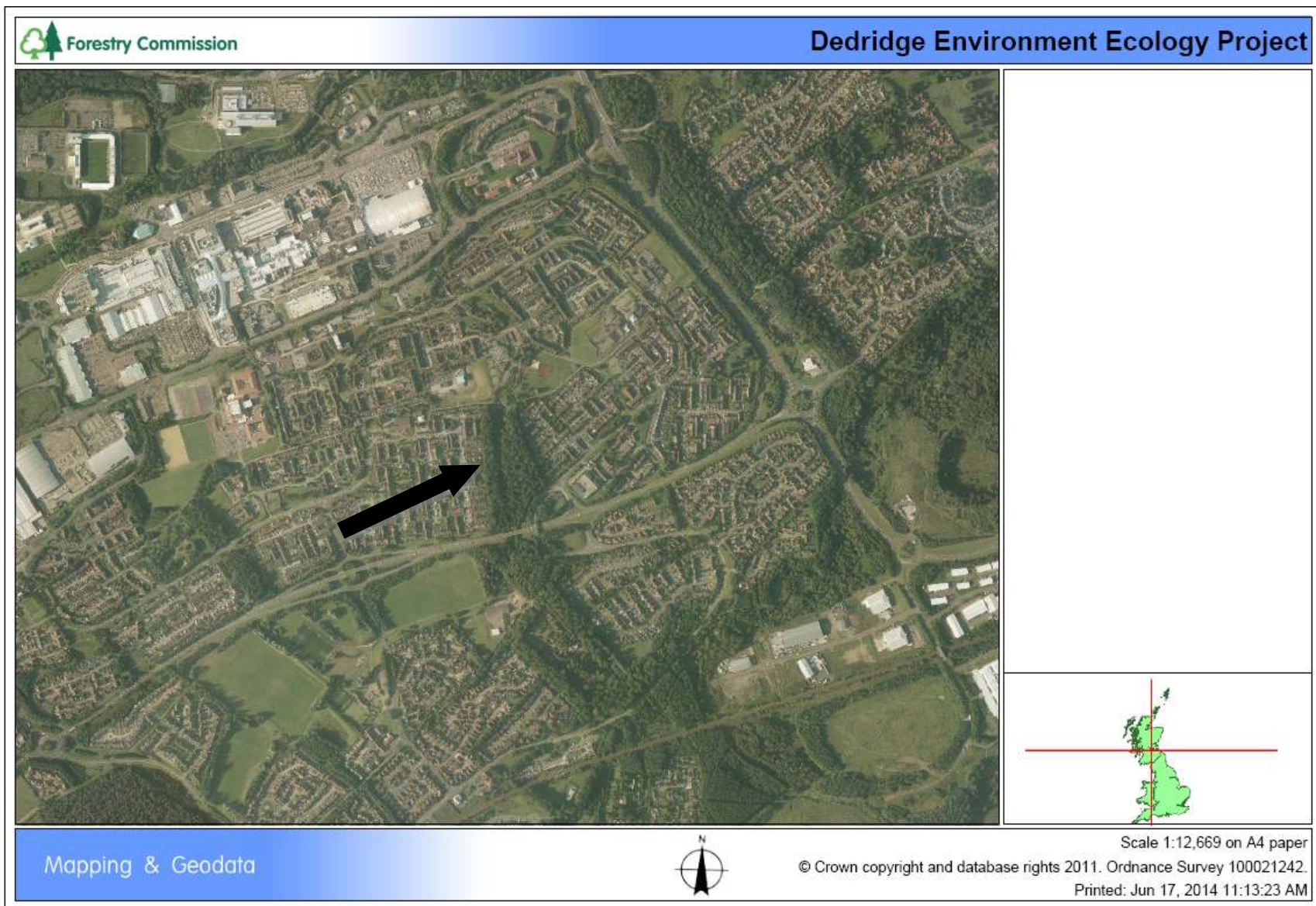
---

<b>4.3 Knowledge, skills, human and social capital</b>	<p>The group work very closely together with West Lothian Council who provide a support in terms of technical and legislative knowledge and awareness, and advise on legal and health and safety matters relating to the groups project work.</p> <p>From its initial stages the group has employed a local environmental consultancy (Mark Hamilton Landscape Services) on a retainer basis to provide technical support, including the drawing up of proposals, tender production and contract supervision, as well as support for volunteer activities.</p> <p>The group itself has a range of skills and experience in a number of fields including financial management and organisational administration, as well as backgrounds in ecological and biological fields, and, environmental education. Where required, specialist knowledge is drawn on from other members of the local community, the Local Authority, consultants, and from others where required.</p> <p>Knowledge is shared between committee members. The group report that they record their actions and achievements meticulously, with all meetings minuted and annual reports produced and disseminated to interested parties.</p>
--	--

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project



# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project



## 2. Change Narrative

---

### 1. **Group History. Moments of change, motivations and engagement**

At the time that DEEP was formed the greenspaces along the Dedridge Burn were subject to high levels of abuse, with anti-social drinking and substance abuse occurring, along with littering and fly-tipping. These factors, along with the dark and foreboding nature of the woodlands and burnside paths limited recreational use of these greenspace areas.

There has been **active engagement** with local environmental improvement projects by the group members for a number of decades. This has focused mainly on the Dedridge burn, ponds and their associated environments. It mainly involved lobbying West Lothian Council to maintain local sites, improve the paths and clear litter and fly-tipped rubbish.

In 2007, Land Securities, the company who developed the Livingston Shopping Centre approached West Lothian Council and the local Community Council to discuss potential local environmental projects that might benefit from investment of the £50,000 Planning Gain fund.

It was suggested by the West Lothian Council that that the funds be used to carry out the environmental improvements that the community had been calling for. A meeting was held between all parties which resulted in the formation of DEEP as a community-based organisation with elected representatives. The **group formation** took place in 2007 and is affiliated to the local community council.

The group was later advised by West Lothian Council to become a registered charity in 2012 to maximise the availability of funding sources which could be attracted for the benefit of the community. This required minor alterations to the original constitution.

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

---

The groups committee currently consists of retired members of the community and are aged between 55 and 85 years. The group constitution requires a minimum of 4 office bearers, and they have recently co-opted a publicity officer onto the committee to help record and promote the group's activities and maintain the group's website and a Facebook page.

The group does not operate on a membership basis as such. The group aims to be inclusive and is open to all members of the local community, and also includes affiliation with local schools and church organisations, community groups and other interested parties. Regular meetings are well attended with 10-20 people present at each.

The forms of engagement have evolved as the group has become increasingly more well-known through its project work and organised events. As well as organising open days and volunteer events, community engagement is carried out through giving talks and arranging site visits with schools, churches, other community groups, both within the Dedridge Area and engaging with groups further afield (Bathgate, Uphall). Representatives of the group visit their project sites on a daily basis and speak to site users and visitors, maintaining the group's profile.

Since the implementation of the original project works at Dedridge Plantation the group developed an outline masterplan for the Dedridge Burn Corridor with a view to carrying out a range similar improvements in other areas along the Burn (**decision-making**). Priorities were set by the group and West Lothian Council and consultation with local residents. The group has since implemented woodland and pond improvement works on 4 further sections of the Burn, and is monitoring and maintaining these areas in conjunction with WLC.

---

## 2. Challenges, barriers and opportunities for change: Key issues in evolution

### Barriers and Challenges:

- Fundraising, maintaining volunteer interest, and time availability (as volunteers the group have to fit in their activities alongside their many other interests)
- Recruitment of new, younger members to the committee to continue the work so far has been unsuccessful

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

---

- The group recognises that the closure of the WIAT funding has limited funding opportunities for areas of urban woodland and limited the potential for continuing improvement works at Dedridge Plantation and in other areas of woodland located along the Dedridge Burn and other wooded greenways in Livingston

## Facilitating factors:

- The success of the group in achieving environmental benefits in areas of overlooked greenspaces has been recognised. This success has raised the profile of the group both locally and further afield
- The group has had a greater presence in local media after winning various awards, and became better known within the local community. Engagement was always seen as relatively easy as the group was very well connected with local councillors, schools and other community groups. The group place great importance upon the development of personal relations with key people in the local authority, including elected representatives of both MSPs and councillors. A lot of effort was put into developing these relationships which ultimately led to funding opportunities and access to services, as well as raising the profile of the group.
- The group also place a great deal of emphasis upon the importance of interacting and developing relationships with all sectors of the community, including those who were seen as responsible for causing the site to be unsafe. This has meant working with young teenage groups and others who they would not usually engage with socially, mainly on an outreach basis, and working with the local police community officer and WLC's environmental wardens. The interviewees also felt that their age is a benefit (...*'being two old ladies helps...'*) for communicating with people who they feel would not respond so well to other authorities.
- The initial thrust of effort for the group was to carry out the capital works on the Dedridge Plantation and Pond area. This was facilitated by a range of funds, including planning gain money from the development of Livingston shopping centre. Since the main thrust of this work was completed, the group are now focusing on the wider area and achieving benefits



# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

---

through working in partnership with other groups and organisations. In terms of project work the group are focussed on the upkeep and maintenance of the sites they have already transformed.

- Access to funds through WIAT was instrumental in facilitating the extent and scope of the original woodland management works at Dedridge Plantation, without which the ambitions of the group could not have been fully realised.

Throughout the group's existence, revenue has been entirely from grants and, through considerable effort, they have thus far been successful in raising funds from other sources to continue environmental improvements in the area.

The range and technical complexity of the improvement works which the group has undertaken has increased through their activities.

---

### **3. Evolution of income streams**

No information available.

---

### **4. Woodland history and change: Benefits and impacts before group involvement**

The area was originally a mill and it came into ownership of the council. The Dedridge ponds and burn, which the group now manage, were initially part of farm estate, Newfarm, which used the pond as a reservoir. This stored water operated a waterwheel. This power was then used in a grinding mill. This ceased operation in the early 1900s. As the post war housing expanded and the area became urbanised the site came under management by the local authority.

This involved the formalising of paths in the late 1960s by the Livingston Development Corporation and some work to dredge the pond in the 1980, mainly to accommodate urban drainage. There was some investment upgrading the paths in the 1980s, paid for by the Council. The area eventually became very littered and it was dangerous to access some areas. The ponds and

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

---

neighbouring area were used by the community and there were sporadic attempts to manage and clear up the site. These paths were upgraded by the local authority with woodchip in the 1980s, but quickly became degraded again.

In 2001 a management plan was put forward for the site and maintenance improved slightly (some fly-tipped rubbish was removed) but a lack of local authority funding precluded any major works being undertaken to re-establish the ponds and associated environments.

DEEP took on the responsibility for implementing an Updated Woodland Management Plan under WIAT in 2007

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Owner/Manager</b>	<b>Objectives / Benefits (and evidence)</b>	<b>Major operations</b>	<b>Access and use rights</b>
Early 1900s	Private	Operation of mill	Agriculture	Private Land
1960s – 2000	West Lothian Council	Creation of housing	Urbanisation of area surrounding site	Public access for amenity
2001 - 2006	West Lothian Council	Woodland management	Community consultation regarding maintenance of greenspace resulting in Management Plan for Dedridge Plantation. Implementation by WLC was limited by available funds and staff.	Public access for amenity

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

---

## **4. Woodland history and change: Benefits and impacts since group involvement**

At the group's inception the main focus of work was to improve the environment of the Dedridge Ponds and associated woodland areas. Prior to the group's involvement the site was in a bad condition and there had already been a lot of concern within the community about its upkeep and safety. It was very littered and the ponds (which are a big focus of the site) were heavily silted and the paths were in a very poor condition.

Funds that were set aside as part of planning gain from the development of the Livingston shopping centre were used to completely redesign the ponds, clear substantial amounts of rubbish from the site, thin the woodland and carry out enrichment planting, carrying out tree safety works, and the installation of amenity infrastructure such as benches, interpretation board, a nature trail and art works. These works combined have resulted in a complete renewal of the site and a dramatic improvement.

Improvements specific to the woodland include silvicultural thinning, enrichment planting of native species to help establish a field layer and shrub layers which were previously poor, access improvements and the creation of deadwood habitats

Engagement with the community has taken place on a number of levels and the site has now become the focus for artists, religious groups and schools as well as other community groups who visit from neighbouring areas to help with the maintenance. Images of the art installations are increasingly seen in local media as icons of the local area. A number of schools now use the site on a regular basis for teaching purposes. The site has become a focus of the community and helped to bring people together.

The group report that their engagement strategy works very well at present, and they have no immediate plans to alter the current methodology of communication.

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

---

Time Period	Owner/Manager	Objectives / Benefits (and evidence)	Major operations	Access and use rights
2007-2014	West Lothian Council/ DEEP	Woodland Management	Silvicultural improvements, dredging of ponds, installation of new paths and art installations	Land Reform Act Links to the WLC Core path Network

---

## 5. Future plans

The group now report that they feel they have achieved significant beneficial changes to Dedridge Plantation. The area now requires low key maintenance to maintain the area as attractive and accessible urban greenspace. There is potential for a second phase of management works to further encourage the diversification of the woodland canopy and manage the woodland understorey, aiming towards the alteration of the woodland composition further towards that of native woodland. Ongoing monitoring and tree safety surveys have revealed that some mature trees will need to be removed in the near future. At present safety issues are being addressed by the local authority.

The group is also monitoring its other projects and carrying out maintenance works alongside WLC where identified.

WLC have indicated that major engineering works are proposed on sections of the Dedridge Burn still to be tackled, and proposals for these areas put forward in the DEEP masterplan for the corridor have as a result been put in abeyance, with potential opportunities for group involvement in the future.

The group's is now involved with helping develop and delivery of the Livingston South Blue Green Network Project, which aims to connect urban green space in the area. This project aims to strengthen the ecological and social links with neighbouring sites. The two interviewees of DEEP sit on a steering committee for the group and consult on the development of neighbouring community environmental projects.

DEEP has also been involved with the development of Improvements to the Lanthorn Park area which link directly to the Dedridge Burn corridor and Dedridge Plantation. One future proposal for greenspace areas including the Dedridge Burn corridor, Lanthorn Park, and Dedridge Plantation includes working with WLC to develop and submit these as part of an application for Green Flag status.

DEEP also find that they are increasingly being asked to advise on and help other groups with the development of local environmental projects in the area.

## 3. Engagement and impacts timeline

Year	Event	ENGAGEMENT	Reasons Barriers and challenges	Changes/Impacts and outcomes Social (evidence)	Changes/Impacts and outcomes Woodland (evidence)	Changes/Impacts and outcomes Financial/ Economic (evidence)
2001 - 2006	West Lothian Council	INFORMAL ENJOYMENT to GROUP FORMATION	Woodland management. Limited resources for implementing improvements	Limited impact. Key safety issues addressed adjacent to housing edge.	Canopy opened up in one section of the woodland. Regeneration of understorey successful.	Limited
2007	Establishment of committee, formal constitution of group, receipt of planning gain funds.	GROUP FORMATION to COMMUNITY CONSULTATION	To improve environmental quality and amenity value. Some local resistance to change. Issues relating to anti-social behaviours to be tackled			

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

2007 - 2011	Grants accessed to carry out multiple biodiversity and amenity improvements to Dedridge Plantation.	FULL MANAGEMENT to ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT by community	Improve the condition, robustness and longevity of Dedridge Plantation. Improved access to encourage community use. Environmental education and awareness raising. Displacement of anti-social activities.	Improved access and installation of facilities including rubbish and dog bins, seating, nature trail and sculpture trail.	Increased light levels and visibility has improved feeling of security. Underplanting of native species	Volunteer activities organised and guided walks given by the group. Increased number of visitors to the area.
2011-current	Dedridge Plantation ongoing management	FULL MANAGEMENT to ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT by community	Ongoing woodland management and maintenance - Safety issues relating to mature trees addressed but are ongoing with tree safety survey highlighting senescing trees and fungal pathogens, and annual storm damage resulting	Site is virtually litter-free thanks to the vigilance of local residents.  Volunteering activity has continued.	Underplanting is developing as a successional native woodland layer. Woodland field and shrub layer is also developing	Demonstration site used by WLC to encourage activities elsewhere in the Council area. Established as an environmental education resource.

# Dedridge Environment Ecology Project

			in large dropped limbs.			
2012-current	Dedridge Burn Corridor Environmental Improvements	FULL MANAGEMENT	Other environmental improvements carried out including Lanthorn Pond (Lanthorn Centre), The Jubilee Ponds (Almondvale), Burnvale, and The Dedridge Burn confluence (River Almond Walkway)	Sites previously unwelcoming and subject to anti-social behaviours.  Volunteering activity has continued.	Pond restoration and creation. Establishment of wildflower meadow areas. Installation of seating, fencing and railings, Viewing platforms and boardwalks. Woodland management. Habitat creation. Treatment of invasive weeds.	Sites have been visited by other community groups from both within and outwith West Lothian, including one group from Denmark. Schools using sites as outdoor teaching areas.