Caring for the hills, so that the landscape and habitat is protected and enhanced.
Since its designation in 1986, The Pentland Hills Regional Park has set out to provide a managed recreational resource for the people of Edinburgh, the Lothians and beyond. The attraction of the Pentland Hills is largely based on their upland landscape character and the excellent access provided by over 100km of managed paths and related facilities such as car parks, visitor centres, information, signage and waymarking.

This recreational access takes place on land that is mainly owned and managed for other purposes such as farming, military training, public water supply and upland estate management. For recreation to co-exist and thrive alongside these primary land uses, a level of active management is required. Management services are provided and funded by the three partner local authorities: the City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and West Lothian Council. Scottish Water is also a funding partner for the Regional Park.

In these challenging economic times, all local government expenditure is under pressure. It is more important than ever that services are delivered efficiently and provide real benefits for those that use them. The benefits of outdoor recreation and the value derived from the experience of visiting places such as the Pentland Hills can be difficult to measure. The results of a Social Return on Investment Study, carried out in 2012/13, were therefore welcomed at this time.

The study carried out by Greenspace Scotland and commissioned by the City of Edinburgh Council found that for every £1 of public money invested, the value of benefits derived ranges between £7 and £13. This indicates that the investment in visitor and countryside management services in the Regional Park is of real benefit to the people who use them. These include active recreational visitors, participants in events and organised activities, people enjoying nature, landscape and the peace of the hills and the people who live and work within them.

The Regional Park remains a vibrant place where outdoor recreation is enjoyed by over 600,000 visitors each year. There are opportunities and challenges for the Park and rising to them requires the sustained input from services provided by local authority partners and by the many volunteers and land managers working together. I am pleased that 2012/13 represents another busy year for the Regional Park and I do hope that you enjoy reading about some of the highlights in this Annual Report.

Chairman’s Report

Councillor Bill Henderson
Chairman
Pentland Hills Regional Park
During 2012/2013 some important changes were made to the governance and management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

The membership of the Consultative Forum was reviewed and it was pleasing to welcome new members to represent a wider range of interests including Community Councils, angling, mountain biking, events management and land ownership.

The Regional Park headquarters at Boghall farm were vacated and moved to a new location at the Hermitage of Braid. The office relocation was part of a wider service re-organisation that saw the Pentland Hills Ranger Service merge with the City of Edinburgh Council Countryside Ranger Service. The new service will continue to manage the Pentland Hills Regional Park on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils. The Regional Park will continue to be managed in an integrated fashion and retain its own unique identity. From a visitor and land manager’s perspective there should be little noticeable change. Behind the scenes however, there are a number of operational advantages. There is now a larger pool of experienced staff available to support the Regional Park. Tools, equipment and other resources are shared, providing greater flexibility and capacity to carry out work where required.

The sharing of office and administrative facilities will make more efficient use of property and buildings.

The role of the Pentland Hills Regional Park is evolving, including the management of services provided. The success of the Regional Park depends on a wide range of people, organisations and interests all playing a part. Increasingly, the role of the Regional Park Service is one of facilitation. Resources are increasingly directed at helping others visit, enjoy and use the Pentland Hills responsibly. The foundation of this has three aspects. The first is maintaining visitor facilities and access infrastructure including paths, signage and way marking, car parks and visitor centres.
2012/2013 was another busy year for the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

The second is working with land managers and visitors to advice and resolve issues as they arise. The third is working with other organisations and interest groups to help meet their needs with respect to the Regional Park. Examples of this are working with volunteers and community groups, working with and advising event managers, working with outdoor learning providers and working to support local economic activity.

These changes both respond to the current economic conditions and help put the Regional Park on a sustainable footing for the years ahead. Perhaps more importantly however, 25 years after its designation they represent the start of a new phase for the Regional Park. This new phase may be characterised less by greater focus on provision of meaningful support for the range of interests and activities that take place within its boundary – many of which are illustrated in this annual report for 2012/2013.

Alan McGregor
Regional Park Manager
The year’s annual report is structured around:

**Themes**
Nationally and locally relevant priority areas.

**Outputs**
The work that has been carried out.

**Outcomes**
What has been achieved as a result.

This approach is intended to illustrate how the Pentland Hills Regional Park supports the current priorities of the communities it serves.
Theme 1
Economic development

A thriving local economy in the Regional Park is important to the people who live and work in the hills and to the people who visit.

Outputs

Social Return on Investment
In 2012/13, the City of Edinburgh Council commissioned Greenspace Scotland to carry out an assessment of the social return on the collective investment made by partner local authorities in providing countryside and visitor management services in the Regional Park.

Social Return on Investment (SROI) uses an established approach to account for the concept of value. It accounts for the social, environmental and economic benefits of services provided.

The SROI exercise was carried out in consultation with those most affected by the services provided in the Regional Park and sought to identify the changes they experienced as a result. These included: individual visitors, community groups and community based projects, volunteers, learning providers, land owners and managers, agencies and local businesses.

The study found that every £1 invested generates around £9 of benefits.

In addition to tangible benefits, the study concluded that people have a strong sense of affection for the Regional Park and derive pleasure and enjoyment from it. This, the report concluded, is much harder to measure, but is nevertheless an important quality to recognise.
The study also identified ways in which the Regional Park could improve on and better demonstrate the value it provides. It is recommended that in addition to measuring service outputs, the Regional Park should build on its ability to measure and demonstrate the outcomes resulting from these services. There is an opportunity to further develop partnerships with community based groups and other public agencies. The Voluntary Ranger Service was identified as being valued particularly highly and therefore a service that should be further supported. There is an appetite for further strengthening communications and relationships with land owners and managers. Lastly, the need for a new visitor survey was identified to capture recent changes in visitor numbers and patterns of recreational usage.

The SROI study demonstrates that local authority funding of the Regional Park is delivering real and tangible benefits experienced by the people it serves and will help guide the future development of the services. The help and support of both Greenspace Scotland and all those who contributed to the study is greatly appreciated.

Working with farmers and land managers
A ‘sheep worrying initiative’ was implemented in the Flotterstone Glen area of the Regional Park for the second year, in partnership with Lothian and Borders Police. The initiative was set up in response to an increase in sheep worrying by dogs. During the initiative, Lothian and Borders Police patrolled the Flotterstone Glen area on four out of five weekends, using specialised off-road vehicles to access the upland sections and handed out 600 flyers to the public highlighting the reasoning behind the initiative.

The Regional Park installed seven new highly visible signs at key access points into the Flotterstone Glen area, highlighting the lambing season and the importance of effective control of dogs. Regional Park staff also spent time at weekends raising awareness by handing out leaflets and giving information to members of the public. The initiative resulted in no animals being lost at Kirkton Farm and Eastside Farm had no incidences for a second year.

Pentland Produce
The Regional Park continued to support the work of Pentland Produce by providing secretarial and administrative support. In 2012/2013 Pentland Produce made plans to refresh their website and considered how a wider range of services such as fishery’s and holiday accommodation, might be incorporated. Although current market conditions mean that sales of Pentland Produce were relatively low, it was recognised that the brand still has an important part to play in supporting the local economy.

Midlothian Snowsports Centre
In November 2012, Midlothian Council completed a package of major new improvements to facilities at Midlothian Snowsports Centre. £600,000 of improvements was made possible by an investment of £533,000 from SportScotland with the balance coming from the Boyd Anderson Trust. New facilities include, 210m of new main slope, 60m of new nursery slope, significant upgrade to existing nursery slopes and installation of new uplift equipment.

The improvements strengthen the Snowsports Centre as a premier venue of its type in Europe and as a centre for both national sporting excellence and grass roots participation for the people of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian. Located within Hillend Country Park and in the busy north eastern area of the Pentland Hills, the new facilities further enhance the range of recreational opportunities available in the Regional Park.

Outcome
The Regional Park continues to support the local economy of the hills.

THE VOLUNTARY RANGER SERVICE WAS IDENTIFIED AS BEING VALUED PARTICULARLY HIGHLY AND THEREFORE A SERVICE THAT SHOULD BE FURTHER SUPPORTED.
The Regional Park is a place for people to take physical exercise, to enjoy the outdoors and take a break from the pressures of modern life.

**Outputs**

**Site inspections**
A new system of site inspection was introduced covering key locations in the Regional Park. These inspections monitor and record the condition and quality of visitor facilities at key access points and other locations.

The new system ensures that matters needing attention are identified and resolved quickly. Work generated from the inspections is co-ordinated by the Regional Park Service and delivered in a number of different ways: directly by Regional Park staff, by other local authority services, appointment of contractors, or working with Friends, community groups, and other volunteers. This approach illustrates how looking after the Regional Park depends on a wide range of people and organisations all playing a part.

This system, established in August 2012, resulted in 25 issues being identified and resolved in the Midlothian area of the Regional Park, 30 in the City of Edinburgh Council area and 10 in West Lothian.

**Paths maintenance and improvements**
All path works which took place during the year were ongoing maintenance. These included drain clearing, small sections of path resurfacing and clearing culverts. They were carried out in-house and with the assistance of volunteers, including, but not limited to, the Friends of the Pentlands, Balerno Ramblers and Pentland Hills Voluntary Rangers.

Plans are in place to carry out upgrade works on four sections of path; Bonaly – Torduff, 500 metres; Cock Rigg, 450 metres; Bonaly Reservoir, 330 metres; Clubbiedean Track, 250 metres. However, due to tendering delays these works have been carried forward for completion during financial year 2013/14.
Access infrastructure
Monitoring of paths and access infrastructure was carried out during routine site inspections by Regional Park staff and weekend patrols by Voluntary Rangers. All maintenance requirements were recorded and carried out as part of the Regional Park maintenance programme.

Access management
In addition to enquiries relating to outdoor events in the Regional Park 10 enquiries relating to the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 were also received. These related to wild camping, routes suitable for horse riding and access to the reservoirs for the use of non-motorised water craft.

Visitor facilities
A package of new work was completed around Harperrig Reservoir. The project, funded by LEADER and West Lothian Council, has improved visitor access, facilities and landscape within the Harperrig area.

New signage was installed to direct visitors from the A70 to Harperrig Reservoir. A new visitor information panel explains what to see and how to access the area responsibly. Two new walking routes have been way marked. The first is a 2.6 km path along the south shore of Harperrig Reservoir joining the path from Little Vantage to the Cauldstane Slap. The second, called the ‘Woodpecker Walk’ is a 500m, self-guided trail around woodland incorporating three information points and a wildlife watching screen. The screen and a new bird hide on the south shore of the reservoir were constructed by students from Oatridge College. From here visitors can view a variety of animals and wildfowl. Finally, 25,000 trees were planted by Central Scotland Forest Trust, to improve the landscape and create habitat for wildlife.

Harlaw House Visitor Centre maintained its 3 star Visit Scotland accreditation following a light refurbishment of the building and repairs being carried out to the main access track with 28m² of new tarmac.

Flotterstone Information Centre was refurbished with new flooring, interior decoration and the installation of new display screen equipment.

Walking Festival
The Pentland Walking Festival was held over three days. Five guided walks were offered attracting 69 participants. The Regional Park also led two guided walks as part of its contribution to the Midlothian and West Lothian Walking festivals, with a total of 24 participants on each walk.

Recreational events
There has been a steady increase in the overall numbers and participants in outdoor events such as running, triathlons, cycling, horse riding and open water swimming.

and the importance of places like the Regional Park as a venue for them. While this is welcome, the cumulative effect on the path infrastructure, other people’s enjoyment of the hills and management operations needs to be managed. The Regional Park continues to offer advice on responsible access to events organisers as well as helping land managers.

Outcome
The Regional Park has managed an important resource for the people of Edinburgh and the Lothians to engage in active outdoor recreation – supporting health and well-being.

The Park aims to support sustainable management of recreational events and is planning to establish a Working Group in 2012/2013 to this effect.

There were 26 events with 1880 participants in 2011 and 36 events with 3356 participants in 2012. This significant rise illustrates the increasing popularity of outdoor activities and the importance of places like the Regional Park as a venue for them. While this is welcome, the cumulative effect on the path infrastructure, other people’s enjoyment of the hills and management operations needs to be managed. The Regional Park continues to offer advice on responsible access to events organisers as well as helping land managers.
Theme 3
Community partnership and participation

The Consultative Forum Review
The Consultative Forum was reviewed resulting in a number of changes to improve its ability to inform and influence the work of the Joint Committee and the Regional Park Service. Membership was revised to encourage input from a wider range of interests. All community councils on the periphery of the Park who expressed an interest were invited to join. Representation was also secured from angling, mountain biking, water based recreation and events management interests. These changes boosted attendance and improved the quality of discussion at Forum meetings.

Work with Friends of the Pentlands
The Friends of the Pentlands held an ‘Access for All’ event at Harlaw, facilitating environmental education for 19 individuals who were unable to participate in physical exercise.

The Regional Park also worked with the Friends of the Pentlands on an anti fly tipping initiative at Dreghorn, ongoing litter picking activities and a range of practical conservation and maintenance activities. The Pentland Hills Regional Park continues to benefit greatly from the enthusiasm and hard work of the Friends. This support is acknowledged with thanks.

Volunteering in the Regional Park
There are three main ways volunteers can support the Regional Park:

1. Conservation volunteers receive a quarterly newsletter detailing practical tasks. These tasks assist in park management activities such as wildflower meadow raking, invasive species removal and path maintenance. The Park aims to offer at least one conservation volunteer day per month. In 2012/13, nine conservation sessions were carried out in partnership with the Friends of the Pentlands. Additionally, four conservation volunteer days were held with 15 participants carrying out path surfacing, vegetation removal, cutting back gorse and heather regeneration on the moorland.

2. The Pentland Hills Voluntary Ranger Service offers a longer term volunteering opportunity. This requires a more invested training process and a greater time commitment (at least eight days annually). Voluntary rangers are trained to patrol the Regional Park independently on pre arranged routes and provide essential information on the condition of paths, infrastructure, engage with recreational users, assist with enquiries and provide information on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Voluntary Rangers also help on guided walks and with biodiversity surveys. There are currently 29 Voluntary Rangers who in 2012/13 spent 99 days patrolling at weekends and a further 39 days providing support for other park management activities. This represents a total support of 828 person hours from the Voluntary Ranger Service. This support is greatly appreciated.

3. Volunteers can also take part in the public events – see under Learning, development and responsible citizenship.

In February a successful joint training day was held between the Pentland Hills Voluntary Ranger Service and the Volunteer Wardens from Holyrood Park. The training focused on outdoor access legislation and its application in practice. Participants learnt about the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and visitor management at other sites.
Community and corporate groups
The Regional Park supports partnership working with a wide range of organisations including:

- environmental education providers
- health and wellbeing organisations and charities
- award providers
- forest school providers
- practical conservation organisations and colleges
- higher education establishments.

The Regional Park hosted 13 community groups, engaging with 157 participants. This included a group of 17 Norwegian councillors who wanted to learn how the Regional Park promoted the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and about its approach to visitor management.

The Regional Park service also work with corporate groups. Tasks are carefully selected to meet the needs of the groups and to carry out works of direct benefit to the Regional Park and its visitors. Tasks include drain clearance, tree tube removal, revetment construction, and self seeded tree and shrub removal.

Pentland Inspirations Art and Photographic Competition
The fifth biennial art and photographic competition was held in 2012, 38 entrants produced 61 photographs and three paintings. The photographs and paintings formed an inspiring exhibition that went on a six month tour of 13 venues across the Lothians, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire. Sponsors of the competition were the Friends of the Pentlands and Mount Parnassus. Prizes were supplied by Cicerone Press, Stenlake Publishing Limited and Tiso. Pentland Inspirations is a partnership project between the Regional Park and the Friends of the Pentlands.

Neighbourhood partnerships
The Pentland Hills Regional Park was represented on the City of Edinburgh Council's Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Environment and Transport Group. The Group provides a forum for community engagement in transport and environment matters in the area which includes much of the Regional Park within the City of Edinburgh Council boundary.

Mountain biking
A group of interested volunteers from the mountain biking community contacted the service wishing to ‘give a little back’. Projects were identified at Clubbiedean involving track repair, sleeper bridge construction and an extension of the path surface. Additional works included drainage and path improvements in the Green Cleuch and ‘mountain bike friendly’ water bar installation on Maidens Cleuch.

Mountain bike activity at Bonaly in White Hill Wood was monitored during 2012 and a pro active way of managing the structures identified. The Regional Park engaged with users and discussed appropriate use of the site, particularly looking at the impact on the natural environment, habitats and the safety of other visitors.

Outcome
In 2012/2013, the Regional Park maintained a strong working relationship with the communities it serves.
THE REGIONAL PARK PROVIDES A RICH RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE TO LEARN ABOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE AND TO FOSTER AN ATTITUDE OF CARE AND RESPECT FOR BOTH THE ENVIRONMENT AND THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE HILLS.

Theme 4
Learning, development and responsible citizenship

Outputs

Bonaly Antisocial Behaviour Problem Solving Partnership
The Regional Park co-ordinated four Bonaly Problem Solving Partnership meetings in 2012/13. The Partnership is supported by Lothian and Borders Police, the City of Edinburgh Council’s South West Community Safety team and Environmental Wardens and the Regional Park.

Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) promotion
The SOAC was promoted through leaflets and displays in Harlaw House Visitor Centre and Flotterstone Information Centre, on the Regional Park website, all publications and face to face contact with the public. The Regional Park Service also attended two community events in partnership with Lothians and Borders Police to promote the SOAC:
• Penicuik High School to promote responsible camping (520 participants).
• Oxgang Community Safety Day to promote wearing appropriate clothing while visiting the Regional Park (304 participants).

Regional Park events and activities programme
In 2012/13, 24 events and activities were delivered by the Regional Park Service to engage with visitors and promote responsible access in the Regional Park. They offer opportunities for people to assist with biodiversity surveying, practical conservation tasks, take part in guided walks and family orientated days out.

The programme involved a total of 302 participants. Activities included:
• 11 biodiversity surveys (32 participants)
• three activity afternoons at Harlaw House Visitor Centre (124 children and 67 adults)
• a family friendly cycling event, ‘Pedal the Pentlands’ as part of National Bike Week (six participants)
• three map and compass courses (21 participants); and four events as part of the Pentlands Walking Festival (52 participants).

Outdoor learning
A review was initiated of how the service could support outdoor learning in the Regional Park. A survey was issued to schools and other outdoor learning providers. The results suggested the following support would be of benefit:

1. Bringing together and supplementing existing support resources including:
   • maps showing access points, path surface, gradient and accessibility
   • identification of good places for specific learning activities
   • public transport information
   • direction to topic based information and resources
   • provision of equipment to borrow.

2. Use of new technology to access resources and information.

3. Provision of targeted, site based training for teachers and other outdoor learning providers to increase confidence about bringing groups to the Regional Park.
Information and Interpretation

- Produced two issues of the Pentland Beacon magazine that is now available as an interactive PDF.
- Produced and distributed 4,500 copies of the ‘Enjoy the Pentland Hills Regional Park’ publication – the annual events programme.
- Produced and distributed advertisement for the Pentland Inspirations competition.
- Working towards a Visit Scotland accreditation for Flotterstone Information Centre.
- 21,899 leaflets and visitor guides uplifted by visitors from visitor centres.
- 85,852 visits to the Regional Park website (1 April 2012 – 6 March 2013).

Dreghorn fly tipping project
Dreghorn was highlighted as a problem area for litter and fly tipping. After an initial joint clear-up, the Friends of the Pentlands offered to carry out regular monthly litter picking from January 2012. Building on this the Friends secured a grant for £3,852 from Zero Waste Scotland to improve the area and reduce fly tipping. In total 300 volunteer hours were committed to the project.

The funding was primarily used to install preventative measures, improve the general amenity of the area and reduce the likelihood of littering and fly tipping.

The initiative aims to encourage people to use the car park in a more responsible way. The Friends of the Pentlands continue to monitor the site and have now started to turn their attention to measures to reduce dog fouling in the locality.

The green dog walking scheme
The City of Edinburgh Council secured a licence to operate the green dog walker scheme. The scheme is a community led initiative which encourages people to proactively engage with the issue of dog fouling in their locality. It is likely that the scheme will be extended to cover the Harlaw area which is a known problem area for dog fouling. In 2012/13 the Regional Park worked closely with the local Environmental Warden service to reduce fouling at Harlaw. Two fixed penalties were issued to dog owners who failed to pick up after their dog.

New Parks Management Rules
In 2012/13 the City of Edinburgh Council introduced a new set of Parks Management Rules. These can be applied to land within the Regional Park which is owned by the City of Edinburgh Council, this includes Bonaly Country Park and Harlaw and Threipmuir Reservoirs. The new rules can be viewed at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parkrules

Outcome
Park users and the wider community were helped to understand more about the rural environment and how to enjoy it responsibly.
Theme 5
Environmental quality and climate change

Biodiversity
The Regional Park continued to support and be key members of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group and the Raising Awareness Working Group and is responsible for delivering many of the actions relating to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Surveying work included a Phase One Habitat survey of Bonaly Country Park, monitoring of vegetation by fixed point photography at Bavelaw Marsh SSSI, The Howe SSSI and Hillend Wildflower Meadow. New monitoring started on the path up Turnhouse Hill, Carnethy and Scald Law. Bumblebee transects were carried out at Bonaly Country Park. Surveys, with public involvement, for green hairstreak butterfly, large red damselfly, small pearl-bordered fritillary and common blue butterfly/six-spot burnet moth resulted in 33 people attending. The Breeding Bird Survey methodology was used for monitoring the condition of bird populations on Bonaly moorland. Bat boxes were checked at Harlaw by licensed Natural Heritage officers and the Lothians Bat Group did their annual monitoring of bat boxes at Flotterstone.

Habitat management involved 500 juniper cuttings taken from Castlelaw and given to Inch Nursery for growing on. One day of controlled heather burning for habitat improvement was undertaken on Bonaly moorland. The Friends of the Pentlands cut and raked the wildflower meadow at Bavelaw Marsh.

In Harlaw Garden the pond was cleared of overgrowth of vegetation, trees were pruned at the entrance to the garden to make it more welcoming and the wildflower meadow and nectar borders cut and raked. All work was carried out in partnership with the Friends of the Pentlands.

An area of cherry trees/hazel coppice and compost was turned over by the Green Team as part of their John Muir Award. Work started on the new sensory flowerbed, plants were removed from the existing raised bed by the Friends of the Pentlands. The plants were over-wintered by Woodlands High School as part of their John Muir Award and these plants will then go into Hillend Wildflower Meadow.

An annual cut of all managed wildflower meadows was carried out.

Outputs

As part of our ongoing work to promote biodiversity monthly information sheets were produced to encourage regular visitors to the Regional Park to submit ad hoc records via a spreadsheet to supplement our records. Three family activity days were delivered:
• Spring Watch (44 attended)
• The Five ‘B’s (70 attended)
• The Big Bird Feed (77 attended); provided information for six students doing a Wildlife and Conservation Degree at Napier University and gave two presentations and site visits for students studying at Scotland’s Rural College.

For more information please see the Natural Heritage Service Nature Conservation Annual Report 2012 website: www.pentlandhills.org/info/7/publications/20/publications/4
Woodland management
The main output during the year in relation to woodland management has been the production of the 'Pentland Hills North-East Slopes Woodland Expansion and Management Plan', produced by Mark Hamilton Landscape Service on behalf of Lothians and Fife Green Network Partnership. The purpose of the Plan was to identify and specify proposals for woodland creation and management opportunities on the City of Edinburgh Council landholding at Bonaly Country Park, on the northern edge of the Pentland Hills.

The Plan follows on from the 2011 'Pentland Hills Woodland Action Plan', a broad-based assessment of existing woodland and planting opportunities within five core areas in the Pentland Hills Regional Park. The Woodland Expansion and Management Plan for Bonaly Country Park has built on the outline management opportunities identified in this earlier study and has developed a set of firm proposals, suitable for implementation.

Harlaw Hydro Scheme
The proposal to install a small hydro scheme at Harlaw Reservoir took a step forward in 2012/2013. The scheme aims to utilise existing outflow from Harlaw Reservoir to generate electricity through a small turbine.

Following initial progress by Balerno Village Trust, an Industrial and Provident Society has been established to own and operate the scheme. The scheme aims to generate some 260,000kwh of renewable energy and provide income for local community projects. Planning permission and water abstraction licences were secured, a site lease agreed with the City of Edinburgh Council in its capacity as reservoir owners and fund raising activities progressed.

The scheme represents a welcome addition at Harlaw and will enable wider community benefit from the existing reservoir infrastructure as well as contributing towards reducing carbon emissions.

Outcome
The Regional Park is maintained as an area of high environmental quality. The Park’s woodland and moorland habitats provide a ‘carbon sink’, and its natural resources are starting to support low carbon, micro renewable energy schemes at a community level.
Financial Report

The financial report refers to the year ending 31st March 2013. These accounts are unaudited at this stage.

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The Pentland Hills Regional Park
Facts and figures at a glance

### Date of Park Designation
1986

### Estate
- Area of park: 10,000 ha (38 sq miles)
- Car parks: 14
- Key access point: 25
- Reservoirs: 10
- Landowners: 46
- Way-marked trails: 100 km
- Annual visitor numbers: 600,000

### Land Manager Support
- Seasonal signs erected and removed: 100
- Sheep and lambing: 20
- Lambing and bird nesting: 40
- Topping: 40

### Recreational Events
- Number of recreational events: 36
- Number of participants in recreational events: 3,356

### Estate Management
- Number of site inspections carried out: 58
- Number of corrective actions following site inspections:
  - The City of Edinburgh Council: 30
  - Mid Lothian Council: 25
  - West Lothian Council: 10

### Length of Path Maintained
- Approx 4 km of active management
- Bird Hide Path: 260 m
- Harlaw ditch maintenance: 30 m
- Drains on Ridge: 1 km
- Maidens Cleuch Drain works: 2.5 km
- Green Cleuch Scree Slope works: 50 m
- Threipmuir car park to Easter Bavelaw: 200 m of repairs approx.
- Pothole repairs on Harlaw access road: 28 m² of tarmac laid approx.
- Vegetation cut back from paths at Torduff
- Removal of unsafe bridge at Daisy Dell
- Access gap in wall by Threipmuir arranged
- Ditches cleared

### Woodland Managed
- Total area of woodland managed: 48.7 ha
- Redford: 1.7 ha
- Harlaw access path: 1.3 ha
- Harlaw reservoir woodlands: 7 ha
- Clubbiedean reservoir: 3.6 ha
- WHW, Sanctuary wood and Deanburn gorge: 17.1 ha
- Bonaly reservoir: 11.0 ha approx.
- Flotterstone: 7 ha approx.
- Minor repairs only, e.g. replacement of damaged or missing waymarking discs. No new signage installed.

### Volunteering
- 29 Voluntary rangers
- 12 Community groups
- 138 Volunteer days (828 hrs)

### Events
- 24 Events
- 12 Schools/colleges
- 11 Surveys
- 10 Conservation groups
- 302 Participants
- 268 Participants
- 32 Participants
- 88 Participants

### Communications
- Number of leaflets and visitor guides uplifted by visitors:
  - Discover the Pentland Hills Regional Park: 12,615
  - Cycling in the Pentland Hills Regional Park: 1,357
  - Horse riding in the Pentland Hills Regional Park: 291
  - How to get to the Pentland Hills Regional Park by bus: 885
  - Enjoy the Pentland Hills Regional Park: 4,500
  - Great Glen Mystery Walk: 1,751
  - Harlaw Biodiversity Trail: 500
  - Regional Park website visitors: 85,852
- Number of Joint Committee Meetings: 2 per year
- Number of Consultative Forum Meetings: 2 per year
- Average attendance at Consultative Forum: 24

### Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
Scottish Outdoor Access Code
- Number of access enquiries managed: 10
Regional Park

People

Joint Committee

Joint Committee Members
Met on 26 July 2012
Met on 25 January 2013

Joint Committee Members
The City of Edinburgh Council
The City of Edinburgh Council
The City of Edinburgh Council
Midlothian Council
Midlothian Council
Midlothian Council
West Lothian Council
Scottish Water
Scottish Natural Heritage

Councillor Bill Henderson (Chair)
Councillor Dominic Heslop
Councillor David Walker
Councillor Lisa Beattie
Councillor Jim Bryant
Councillor Russell Imrie
Councillor Frank Tonner
Allan Fail
John O’Keefe

Regional Park Management Group

The City of Edinburgh Council
West Lothian Council
Midlothian Council
Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Water
Pentland Hills Regional Park

Mr Keith Logie (Chair)
Mr Chris Alcorn
Mr James Kinch
Ms Janice Winning
Mr Allan Fail
Mr Alan McGregor

Staff Members

Alan McGregor
Jenny Hargreaves
Susan Falconer
Susan Dickson
Martin Duncan
Victor Partridge
Lee Rankin
David Kyles
Paula Bell
Caroline Paterson
Velda Weir
Gwen Stewart
Jessica Morgado
Sara Rasmusson
William Linnard
Mike Wyzgowski

Natural Heritage and Regional Park Manager
Senior Natural Heritage Officer (Estate management)
Senior Natural Heritage Officer (Nature conservation and volunteering)
Senior Natural Heritage Officer (Communication and Visitor Experience)
Natural Heritage Officer and Access Officer (CEC Access (50%), woodland)
Natural Heritage Officer (Biodiversity, volunteering)
Natural Heritage Officer (Estate, paths and infrastructure)
Natural Heritage Officer (Estate, Landscape and conservation)
Natural Heritage Officer (Interpretation and communication)
Natural Heritage Officer (SOAC and signage)
Natural Heritage Officer (Recreation, community engagement)
Administration Officer
Natural Heritage Officer (Volunteering, maternity leave)
Natural Heritage Officer (Maternity cover Oct/Mar)
Temp Assistant Estate Worker (Oct/Dec)
Temp Assistant Estate Worker (Feb/present)

Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum

Met on 24 August 2012
Met on 22 February 2013
Average number of people attending 24

Consultative Forum Members

Pentland Produce
Balerno Village Trust
Angling
Balerno Community Council
Farmers
Kirknewton Community Council
SportScotland
West Lothian Council
Colinton Community Council
British Horse Society
Currie Community Council
Cycling
Historic Scotland
Damhead Community Council
Ramblers
East Calder Community Council
Fairmilehead Community Council
Harrperring
Scottish Government Rural & Environment Directorate
Hill Runners
Midlothian Council
Scottish Natural Heritage
West Calder & Harburn Com Council
Orienteering
Friends of Pentlands
Juniper Green Community Council
The City of Edinburgh Council
Scottish Wildlife Trust
MOD
Landowning
Penicuik Community Council
Cycling
VisitScotland
West Linton Community Council

Alex Moir
Allan Laing
Arthur Howes
Hugh Watt
Bob Barr
Caroline Garrard
Campbell Gerrard
Chris Alcorn
Bruce Rae
Constance Newbold
Graham Dane
James Hunter
Deirdre Cameron
Natalie Frankish
Euan Scroggie
Alan Wright
Norman Tinlin
Graham Hamilton
Helen E Jones
J Blair Fish
James Kinch
John O’Keefe
John Smith
Janet Clark
John Stirling
Neil Ingram
Keith Logie
Ken Knowles
Maj, Kim Torp Petersen
Scott Patterson
Derek Cosens
Peter Reekie
S Feltoe
Graham Tulloch