



Springfield Mill is patrolled and managed by Midlothian Ranger Service. Please act responsibly and do not damage or remove any plants or animals. Please do not drop any litter and clean up after your dog. Thank you.

Midlothian Ranger Service
Vogie Country Park, Gorebridge,
Midlothian EH23 4NU.
Tel. 01875 821990

PLEASE REMEMBER

- No Firearms
- No Fires
- No Swimming
- No Litter



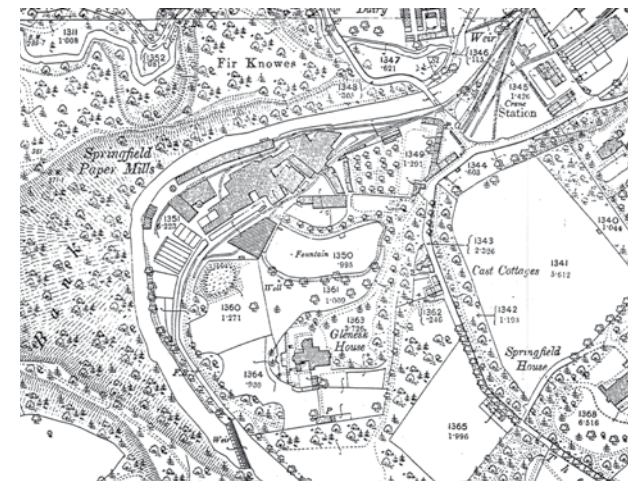
Translations and larger format can be provided on request contact 0131 270 7500

Illustrations by Heather Christie and production by Midlothian Council. 2009



Photo from the Bryce Collection, Midlothian Local Studies

Springfield Mill dates from 1742 and was one in a series of paper mills stretching along the River North Esk from Penicuik to Lasswade. In the nineteenth century the mill exchanged hands many times. In 1866 William Tod Jnr. bought it and undertook extensive alterations and improvements. The mill closed in the late 1960s and was inherited by Midlothian District Council in 1975. Over the years, the site became more derelict and overgrown and in 1999 the Springfield Mill Action Group (SMAG) was formed to raise awareness of the site's wildlife value. Site restoration was completed in 2009 by Midlothian Council working in close association with SMAG. Seasonal ponds, a wildflower meadow and new wooded areas were created for wildlife and new paths formed to improve public access. The project was funded by Midlothian Council, Springfield Mill Action Group, Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) and Scottish Natural Heritage.



Springfield Mill



Kingfisher

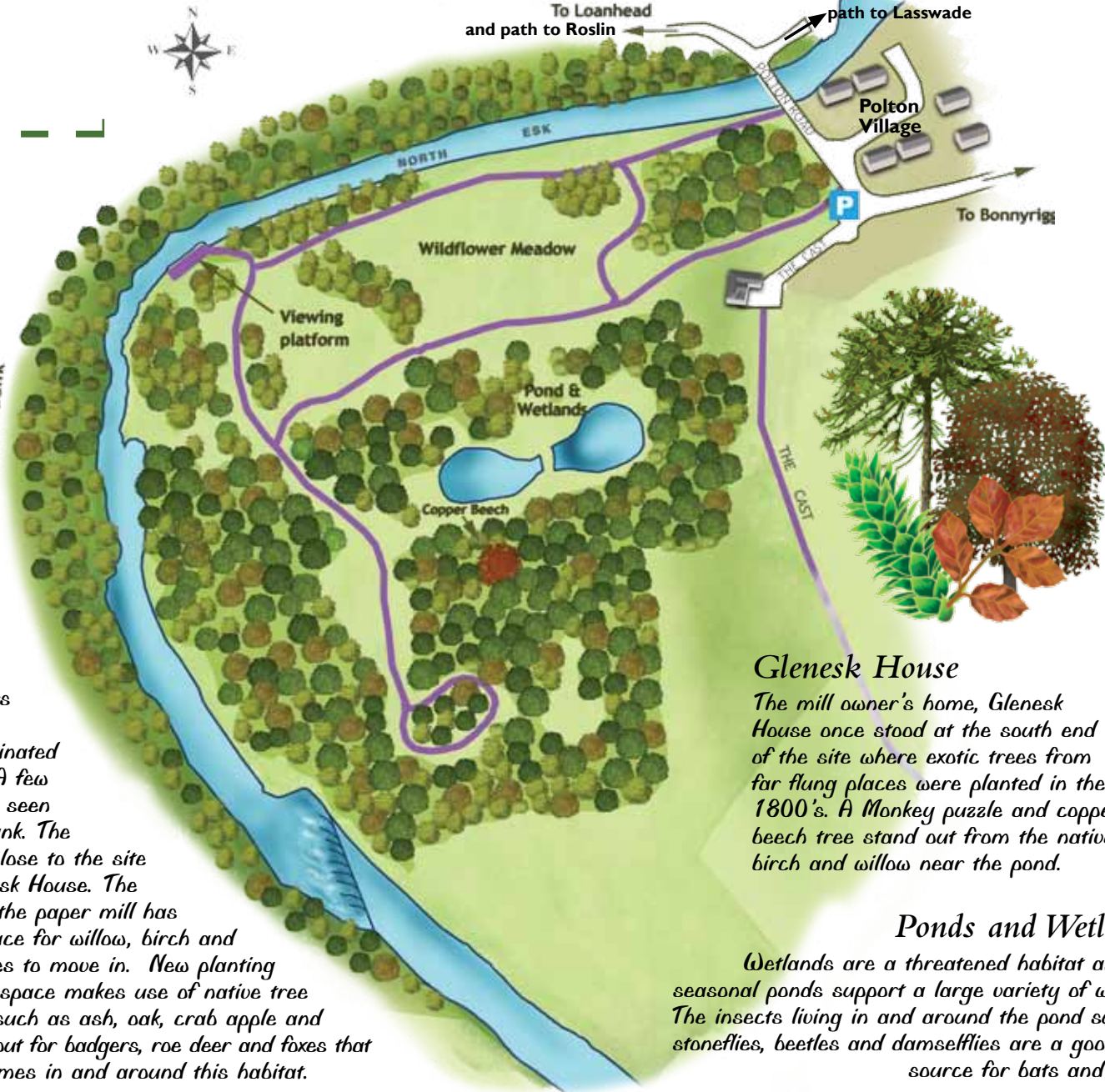


Dipper

Springfield Mill

Sitting deep in the North Esk Valley, Springfield Mill is the site of an old paper mill, which has been demolished and the site restored for wildlife to inhabit and people to enjoy.

Scale
100m

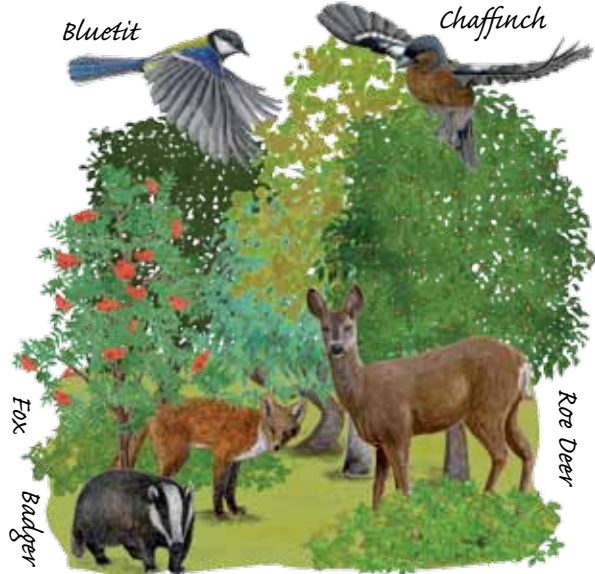


Geomorphology and the River

Over the past 10,000 years, the River North Esk has carved a steep sided valley and formed a flood plain where Springfield Mill once stood. The river was used to power the water wheels at the paper mill and during this time the water became heavily polluted. Today the river is much cleaner, wildlife has returned and it is home once again to kingfishers, dippers and otters.

Bluetit

Chaffinch



Fox

Roe Deer

Woodland

Around 4,000 years ago Midlothian's landscape was dominated by oak woodlands. A few mature oaks can be seen sitting on Hewan Bank. The Copper Beech lies close to the site of the former Glenesk House. The waste mound from the paper mill has created an ideal place for willow, birch and other pioneer species to move in. New planting in the central open space makes use of native tree and shrub species such as ash, oak, crab apple and bird cherry. Watch out for badgers, roe deer and foxes that have made their homes in and around this habitat.

Ox Eye Daisy

Sand Martin



Vipers Bugloss

Peacock Butterfly

Birds foot Trefoil

Wildflower Meadow

A meadow has been sown, which is mowed in September to encourage wildflower diversity. Bees are an early visitor to feed on nectar and are joined later in the year by a variety of butterflies. Throughout each summer sand martins can be seen swooping from Hewan Bank to catch flies.

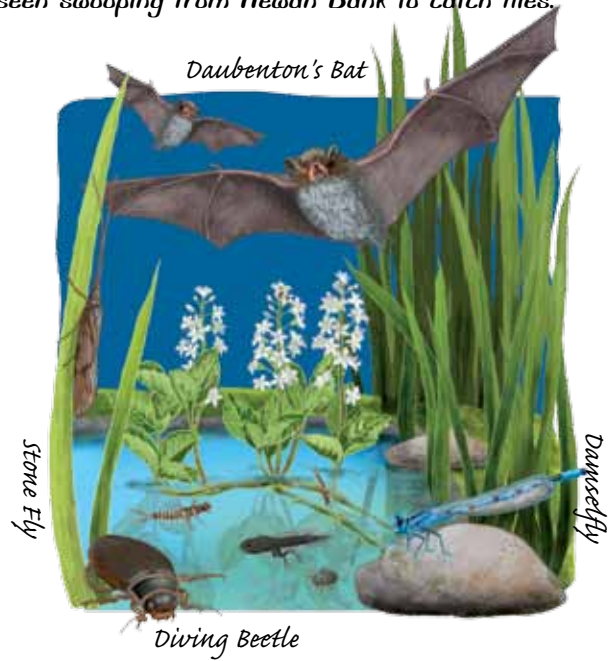
Glenesk House

The mill owner's home, Glenesk House once stood at the south end of the site where exotic trees from far flung places were planted in the 1800's. A Monkey puzzle and copper beech tree stand out from the native birch and willow near the pond.

Ponds and Wetlands

Wetlands are a threatened habitat and the seasonal ponds support a large variety of wildlife. The insects living in and around the pond such as stoneflies, beetles and damselflies are a good food source for bats and birds.

Daubenton's Bat



Stone Fly

Diving Beetle

Damselfly