

# Join us and help protect Scotland's wildlife.

Membership gives you FREE entry to all our visitor centres and a discount for our many exciting events throughout the year. You will also receive our magazine, *Scottish Wildlife*, to help you keep up-to-date. Memberships start from £33.00 per adult (concession £18.00).

For more information, contact us on **0131 312 7765** or email **membership@swt.org.uk**  
You can also join online at **scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk**



## Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre & Wildlife Reserve

Breathtaking woodland walks along the River Clyde gorge and a visitor centre guarantees a fantastic day out.

- **New Lanark, Lanarkshire ML11 9DB**
- tel: 01555 665262
- email: fallsofclde@swt.org.uk



## Loch of the Lowes Visitor Centre & Wildlife Reserve

Each spring, ospreys arrive and the observation hide offers stunning views of the eyrie. The visitor centre ensures a truly unforgettable experience.

- **Dunkeld, Perthshire PH8 0HH**
- tel: 01350 727337
- email: lochofthelowes@swt.org.uk



## Montrose Basin Visitor Centre & Wildlife Reserve

Each winter, migratory birds arrive en masse. The interactive display explains the wildlife of the Basin.

- **Rossie Braes, Montrose, Angus DD10 9TJ**
- tel: 01674 676336
- email: montrosebasin@swt.org.uk

## Scottish Wildlife Trust

Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6NF  
• tel: 0131 312 7765 • fax: 0131 312 8705 • email: enquiries@swt.org.uk

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (register number SC040247) having its registered office at Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6NF. It is also a Scottish registered charity (charity number SC005792)



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# Watching wildlife in the Irvine Greenspaces



Protecting **Scotland's wildlife** for the future  
**scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk**

## Irvine Greenspaces



The Scottish Wildlife Trust received nine wildlife-rich sites from the Irvine Development Corporation in 1996. While all Irvine Greenspaces have significant wildlife interest they also provide a valuable resource to local communities and can be easily accessed by foot or cycle.

### Invertebrates

Invertebrates thrive on dead wood. This is why timber at Lawthorn Wood and Perceton Wood is left to rot. Dragonflies zip about on all the reserves that have some open water. Oldhall Ponds is particularly good for all kinds of invertebrates, especially beetles. Gales Marsh and Shewalton Sandpits are the ones to visit for butterflies and moths such as the common blue butterfly and six-spot burnet moth.



Four-spotted chaser

### Birds

Up to 20 whooper swans have been seen at Oldhall Ponds in winter and little grebe are known to breed on the reserve. Garnock Floods is frequented by shoveler, wigeon, teal, goldeneye and tufted duck in winter. Garganey has also been seen in spring. It is a good site for waders. Shewalton Wood is a roosting and hunting ground for kestrels, buzzards, sparrowhawks and owls. Corsehillmuir Wood is alive with common songbirds in spring.



Goldeneye (male)

### Mammal



Otter

Large numbers of voles and mice can be found in the grassy expanse in the middle of Shewalton Wood. These in turn attract predators such as foxes, stoats and weasels. At Shewalton Wood and Corsehillmuir Wood there is every chance of seeing roe deer. Otters have also been spotted on the rivers at Garnock Floods and Shewalton Sandpits. Bats swoop up and down the paths at Sourlie Wood and Shewalton Wood.

### Plantlife

In spring, bluebells can be enjoyed at Perceton Wood and Lawthorn Wood. In summer, the meadow at Gales Marsh is rich in wildflowers such as sheep's-bit, common spotted-orchid and kidney vetch. Shewalton Sandpits has many unusual plants including fir clubmoss and sundew. The locally uncommon water figwort grows in large numbers at Shewalton Wood and Sourlie Wood.



Sundew

### Reptiles and amphibians

Lizards have been seen at Shewalton Sandpits. They like sandy places for basking and hunting for spiders. There are adders at Shewalton Wood but you are unlikely to chance upon one on the path. The pond and marsh areas of Sourlie Wood are home to newts. Frogs have been found throughout the Irvine Greenspaces.



Adder



# Irvine Greenspaces

## Corsehillmuir Wood

has a dense canopy of birch, ash, alder and willow. You can enjoy birdlife, flowers and fresh new ferns in the spring. Mushrooms and toadstools pepper the woodland floor in autumn. A surfaced path takes you around the perimeter of the wood and connects with nearby Eglinton Country Park.



## Garnock Floods

is a riverside pasture with pools. This is an excellent reserve for birdwatching, especially winter wildfowl. Cattle grazing prevents the pools being swamped by plants and maintains the muddy fringes favoured by wading birds.



## Shewalton Sandpits

is a former sand and gravel works beside the River Irvine. Woodland and scrub now cloak many of the original mounds and hollows providing safe cover for birds and mammals. Areas of water, bare sand and marsh are deliberately maintained to allow special plants and insects to flourish. Quiet, grassy paths take you around the pond and to the river.



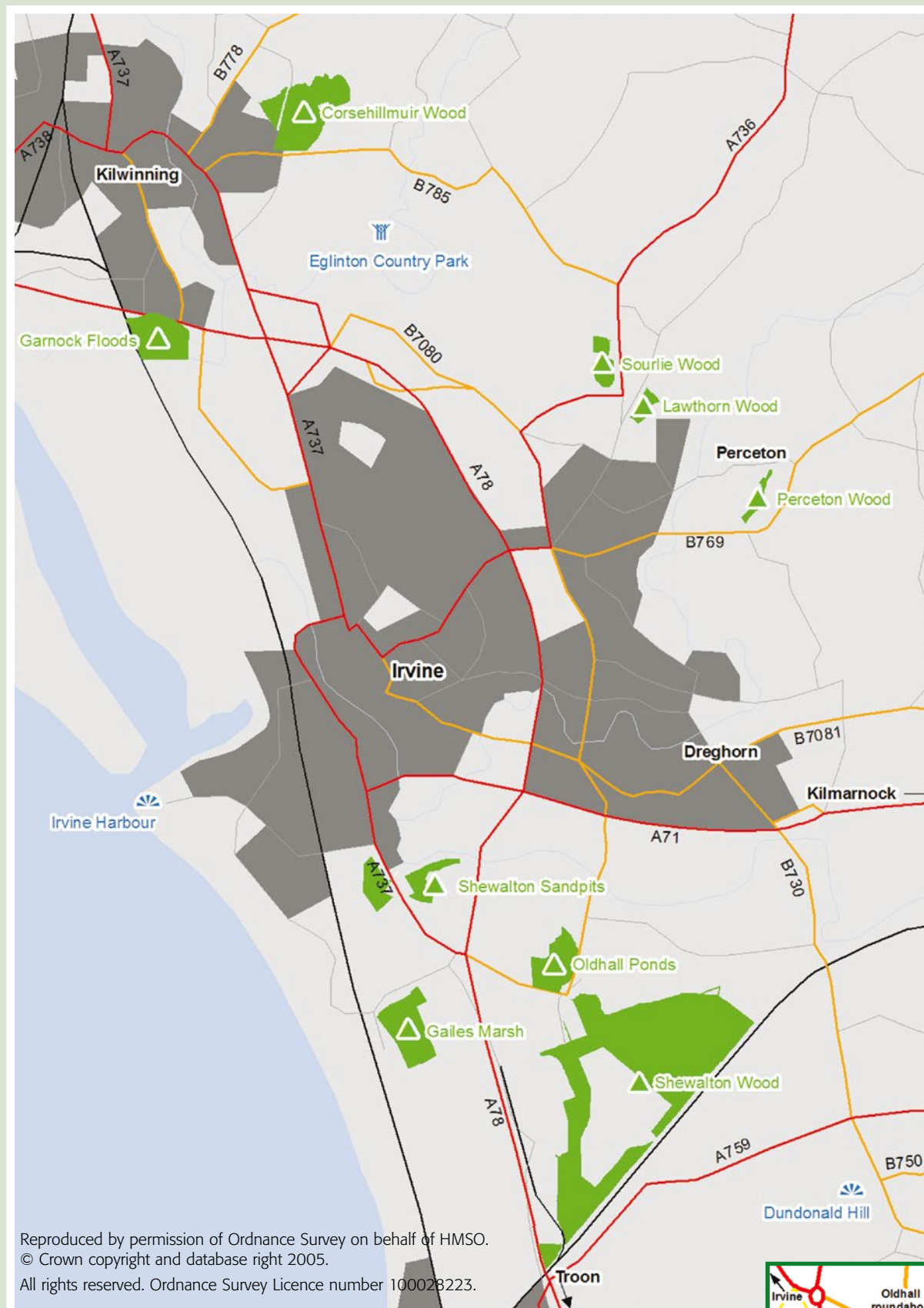
## Gailes Marsh

has grassland, heath and marsh sheltered by trees. Horses graze here in winter to suppress competitive grasses and allow a profusion of wild plants to flower in summer.

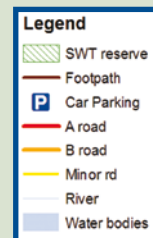


These are just a selection of the Scottish Wildlife Trust's reserves. To find out about our other reserves, please visit our website at [scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Volunteers can get involved in managing and monitoring the Irvine Greenspaces. If you are interested in taking part, please contact us on 01294 279 376 or email [enquiries@swt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@swt.org.uk)



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## Sourlie Wood

is a former coal yard on which attractive native woodland has developed. The presence of a large pond adds more wildlife to the mix. A cycle track passes through the reserve linking it with the nearby settlement and adjacent Eglinton Country Park.



## Lawthorn Wood

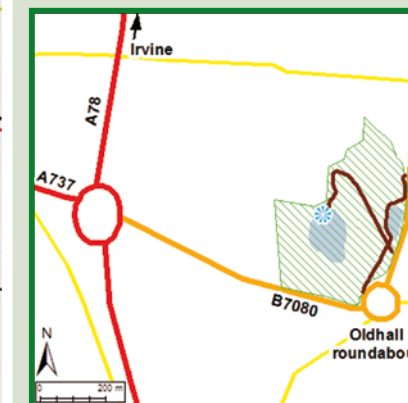
is a small but prominent feature on the edge of Irvine. Formerly an elmwood, the canopy is now mostly composed of tall ash trees with elm and hawthorn present in the understorey. The ground can be wet so the path is in the form of a boardwalk.

## Perceton Wood

is a long-established deciduous plantation near Perceton House. It typifies old estate grounds by the presence of horse chestnut, beech, lime and sycamore.

## Oldhall Ponds

is a mixed woodland and grassland site with two ponds. There is a viewpoint overlooking the large pond which is perfect for birdwatching.



## Shewalton Wood

is over 100 hectares of woodland, grassland, pond and marsh. The long woodland belts beside open grassland provides plenty of "edge habitat" known to be attractive to many species. Five kilometres of well-surfaced path, including a section of the National Cycle Network, take you through the range of habitats present.

