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Memberships from just £18.00 for concessions (£30.00 adults)*.

Contact us on 0131 312 7765 or membership@swt.org.uk or visit www.swt.org.uk to join online.

Johnston Terrace Wildlife Reserve Edinburgh

• tel: 0131 312 7765 • email: enquiries@swt.org.uk

Opening times

Access to this reserve is only on open days (see www.swt.org.uk for more details). Please contact SWT for access outwith these open days.

Location

Situated at the top of the Patrick Geddes steps (Castle Wynd South) which run between Johnston Terrace and The Grassmarket.

Parking

Metered street parking on Johnston Terrace.

Other nearby reserves

Bawsinch and Duddingston, City of Edinburgh
Red Moss of Balerno, City of Edinburgh

Take care

Please abide by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code when visiting this reserve.

For your own safety, please take note of any on-site instructions.

Please take your litter home.

**breathing
places**

bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces



LOTTERY FUNDED

Photography: Niall Benvie, AD Johnson, Alan Price, Mike Read, Stephen Shaw, Darin Smith

*Membership rates are correct at time of print: 2008

Scottish Wildlife Trust

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Scottish Wildlife Trust is a registered charity (No. SC005792)

Johnston Terrace Wildlife Reserve



Protecting Scotland's wildlife for the future
www.swt.org.uk



Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre & Wildlife Reserve, New Lanark

tel: 01555 665262

email: fallsoclyde@swt.org.uk

On the edge of the World Heritage site of New Lanark, breathtaking ancient woodlands line a series of spectacular waterfalls. Meet the resident bats, badgers and peregrines.



Loch of the Lowes Visitor Centre & Wildlife Reserve, Dunkeld

tel: 01350 727337

email: lochofthelowes@swt.org.uk

Each spring, ospreys arrive to breed at the eyrie on the loch's edge. The displays in the centre tell their story of the reserve and its wildlife including red squirrels.



Montrose Basin Visitor Centre & Wildlife Reserve, Montrose

tel: 01674 676336

email: montrosebasin@swt.org.uk

The Basin is a favourite destination for many birds from eider ducks to pink-footed geese. Interactive displays bring the history and creatures that live there to life.

Johnston Terrace

Urban wildlife in the heart of Edinburgh

Johnston Terrace

is SWT's smallest wildlife reserve at only 0.07 hectares. Situated in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town and overlooked by the magnificent Edinburgh Castle, this reserve is one of our most urban sites.



SWT began creating a place for wildlife here in 1982. Lots of hard work by volunteers, trainees and staff planting trees, shrubs, wildflowers, digging ponds and removing rubbish has transformed a once derelict piece of land into an attractive place for wildlife and people.

Part of the reserve was the site of a Gaelic chapel (see stone plaque on Johnston Terrace above the reserve). In the 19th Century 27 "March Stones" were placed to mark the boundary of Edinburgh Castle, three of these were - and still are - within the reserve. Each stone is made of sandstone and engraved with W D for War Department plus a roman numeral; those in Johnston Terrace are numbered XIV, XV and XVI.



In the early 20th Century the garden became associated with Sir Patrick Geddes (1854–1932) who identified a number of greenspaces in the Old Town which could be used to help people connect with nature. Geddes saw the need for such areas in the city whilst living in the centre of Edinburgh and



working at Edinburgh University as a zoology lecturer. Local children from the nearby Castlehill School grew and tended a variety of vegetables and fruit trees. The steps down from Johnston Terrace have been named in Geddes' honour.



During World War II the site was covered in concrete and Nissan Huts were built and afterwards it became a popular adventure playground.

By the time SWT moved their offices to 25 Johnston Terrace in 1982, the site was derelict and work started on improving the garden. Since then a lot of the concrete has been broken up, two ponds and a wildflower meadow created, a stone wall built, and a hedge and some trees planted. More recently an area has been created by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust within the garden to show how gardeners can attract bumblebees to their own gardens.



The habitat at Johnston Terrace is varied and includes areas of hedgerow, trees, pond and grassland. These habitats encourage a wealth of wildlife.

Species to spot

- **Frogs**
- **Insects** e.g. hoverflies, bumblebees, butterflies, moths
- **Birds** e.g. grey heron, robin, chaffinch, blue tit, great tit, blackbird, dunnock, greenfinch
- **Plants** e.g. cowslip (*Primula veris*), red campion (*Silene dioica*), wild teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), meadow crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*), viper's-bugloss, (*Echium vulgare*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
- **Trees/shrubs** e.g. silver birch, blackthorn, hazel, hawthorn, elder, rowan



Wildlife gardening

There are a number of ways you can encourage wildlife to your own garden. Below are a few ideas.

- Provide food for butterflies and bees by planting nectar-rich plants such as primrose
- Provide nesting and roosting sites for birds by planting climbing plants such as honeysuckle
- Provide a safe living space for wildlife by growing a hawthorn or blackthorn hedge
- Create a meadow
- Leave a pile of logs in a shady corner to feed and shelter beetle larvae and frogs, toads and slow worms
- Leave nettles for caterpillars
- Don't be too tidy
- Go organic and peat-free
- Provide water e.g. a bird bath or pond

