

Scottish Wildlife in the West

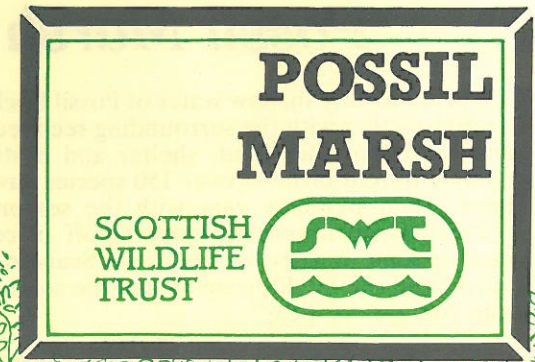
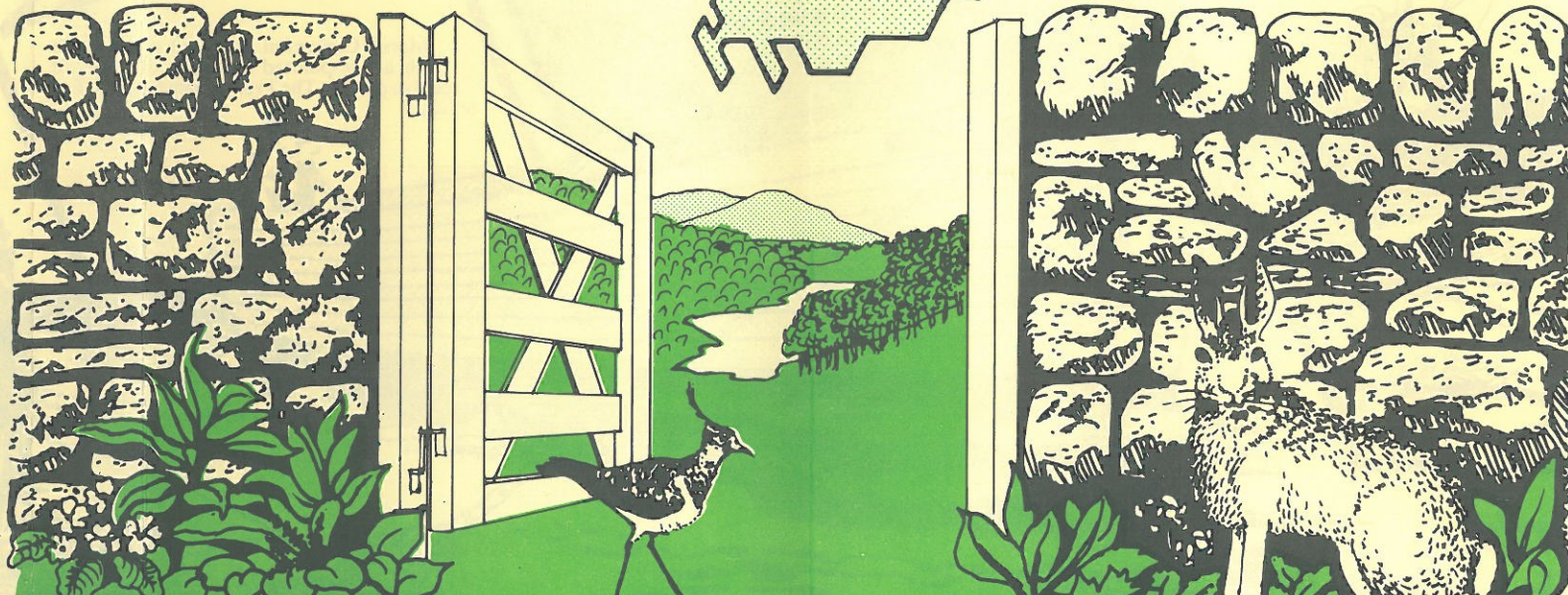
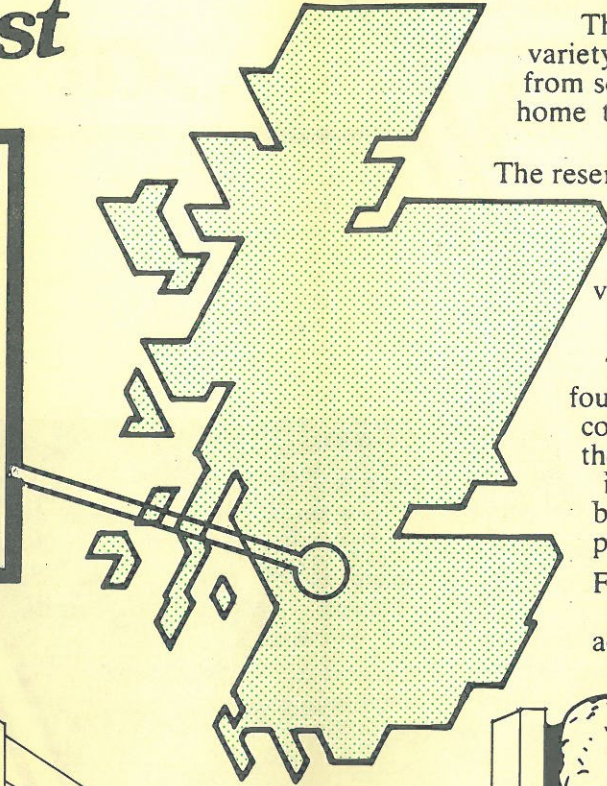
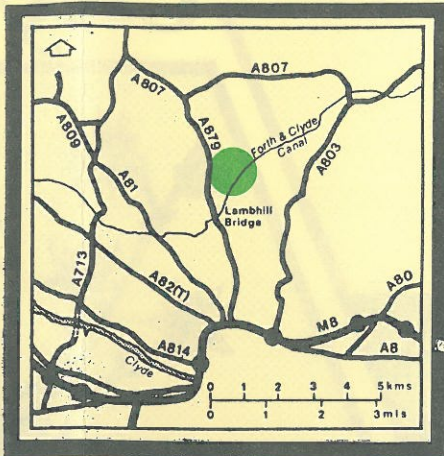
This reserve is one of over 75 which are managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

These reserves display the entire variety of Scotland's natural heritage from sea coast to mountaintop and are home to all of our most exciting and beautiful wildlife.

The reserves have been established for the protection of wildlife. With care, you can visit many of them and we are developing visitor centres, hides and footpaths to help you see even more.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust was founded in 1964. Our aims are to conserve all forms of wildlife and their habitats for the public benefit in Scotland. We are a voluntary body and a charity, and rely on people like you to help our work.

For further information about our reserves, membership and our activities please write to our office.



Situated only 5kms away from Sauchiehall Street, Possil Marsh was one of Scotland's first Nature Reserves — declared in 1931, designated a Bird Sanctuary 15 years later and gifted to the Scottish Wildlife Trust in 1982 by the former Scottish Society for the Protection of Wild Birds.

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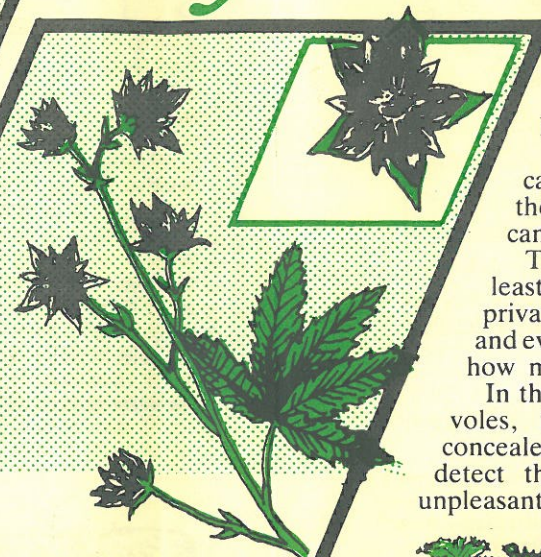
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The stretch of Forth and Clyde Canal next to Possil was completed in 1775 and in its hey-day was busy with passengers and goods plying between the west and east coast. Fast-moving barges pulled by teams of horses and ridden by men in livery carried the Royal Mail. Imagine the sight and sounds of these horses galloping along the towpath.

Marsh Cinquefoil. A plant of wet soils with a five-pointed star-shaped flower of reddish purple. The French name means 'five leaves'.



The other part of the story — what lies hidden in the grassland and scrub. On the grassy embankment next to the canal unusual plants have been found — they were probably accidentally dropped by canal traffic. The damp meadow plants which include at least six different types of orchids conceal a private world of insects, spiders, moths, snails and even leeches. Lift up a leaf or a stone and see how many creatures lie hidden. In the scrub of birch and willow trees, rabbits, voles, foxes and many other mammals are concealed. You may not see them but you can detect their presence — droppings, trails and unpleasant smells.



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