



Dunbar Community Woodland Group's Tree Quest

Dunbar Community Woodland Group (D.C.W.G.) is a Registered Charity. Membership is open to anyone and everyone.

The Group's activities include organising events, fundraising and liaison with organisations such as the Forestry Commission to ensure the woods are looked after properly.

Sustaining Dunbar is for everyone living or working in the Dunbar and East Linton ward of East Lothian. It provides a network to enable people to get together with others who share similar interests and want to work together to start building a sustainable, low-carbon community which is resilient enough to cope with the challenges which we face from climate change, peak oil and global economic instability.

Design and illustration by Heather Christie



Dunbar Community Woodland Group

Our aims

- To manage Lochend Woods as a community resource for the benefit of everyone in Dunbar.
- Maximise potential for educational and recreational use, and to value wildlife.
- Encourage all who use the woods to treat them with respect, to clear litter and to discourage damage to the trees and wildlife habitats.
- To steward the environment, and maintain pathways and waterways.

We are always looking for new members. So if you are interested in conservation of woodlands and wildlife, then support this important community initiative and influence the development of the woodland by JOINING US!

Membership fees are nominal; see www.dunbarwoods.org for details



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba



dunbarwoods.org
www.sustainingdunbar.org

Places to go and things to see and do in Lochend woods

Woodland fun!

What can you do in the woods? As you follow the tree quest trail on our map overleaf, look out for the trees below and tick them off as you spot them. You might even spot the birds too..

...or you could try our activity ideas, or use what Dunbar school children say what they've enjoyed doing to give you some inspiration!

On the tree trail

Sycamore

One of the most common trees here - they are very good at spreading seed with their 'helicopter' seed cases - often to places they are not wanted!



We hope to replace some of them with other native trees over time.

"I enjoyed making houses for my teddies in Lochend Woods." (Mia Thompson, P1)



Scots Pine

The needles grow in pairs and the trunks are grey at the bottom and turn reddish near the top. The cones fall from the tree closed tight, but will open out to release their seeds as they dry out.



LEAF RUBBINGS. Place a piece of paper over a leaf and rub the side of a crayon over to make a beautifully textured leaf picture.

Beech

Tall straight greyish trunks, shiny veined leaves and shiny pointy brown twigs make beech trees easy to spot. Look for the small beechnuts in autumn. Young beech trees (and



beech hedges) keep their brown leaves over winter.

LEAF PRESSING. Collect leaves and then press them into an old book or scrapbook. Make your own Lochend Woods collection!

Yew

This is a legendary tree - it lives for hundreds if not thousands of years and is often found in church grounds or graveyards, and like these ones, in the grounds of large mansion houses. Birds eat the berries - but the tree is poisonous to humans.



"My favourite thing about Lochend Woods is the fallen down tree. I liked going inside it." (Danny Brunton, P2)



Ash

These common trees are easy to spot in winter - look for black buds. In the summer, they have pairs of large-ish toothy leaflets. The wood was traditionally used for making weapons, like bows and arrows because it is strong and flexible. Now it's used for things like oars, cricket bats and furniture.

"My favourite thing about going to the woods was making things from trees. I made a play park for the animal toys." (Ruaridh Paige, P2)

Woodland song

Robin

Although robins seem friendly to us, they are very territorial and will chase other intruders from their 'patch'. You can hear their song all year round.



WILDLIFE SPOTTER. Find a quiet part of the woods and be as still and as quiet as you can. Birds and wildlife will magically appear!

Mistle Thrush

Its brown spotted chest makes this an easy bird to spot, but look high up as they like to perch near the top of trees. Listen for a whistling call as it perches, or a rattling call as it flies.



"My favourite thing about Lochend Woods is making shelters." (Lewis Peacock, P2)

Blackbird

One of the most beautiful, tuneful calls in the woodland. The male is easily identified by its glossy black coat and bright yellow beak. The female is the same size and shape, but dull brown all over. They are often found on the ground foraging for insects, worms or berries.



Lochend Woods *Tree Quest*

Ownership of the Lochend Woods was passed to the community of Dunbar on 26 April 2007. The Woodland Group are working towards improving the woods - for trees, for wildlife and for people. Get to know your woods using this map, it's trees, wildlife and the places the paths can take you.

Woodland future

The Learning Wood is a joint project with Dunbar Community Woodland Group and Scottish Native Woods. 600 baby trees (30 different native species) were planted in 2011. As the little trees grow and mature, they will become a valuable educational resource. The group will also be planting more specimen trees in the GATHERING SPACE, such as monkey puzzle, copper beech, Canadian maple, birch and more rowan.

Trim trail

Woodlands are great places to exercise and the trim trail is suitable for anything from a leisurely stroll, which will take around twenty minutes to a speedy off-road run - how quickly can you do it? Can you improve on your best time?

There are plans to install exercise stations along this route, so you can become even fitter!

Tree quest trail

This trail shows you the best of the woodland, including the garden of the now ruined Lochend House, which burnt down in 1859. 'Carriage Drive' follows the original main route into the house. As you head east past the garden, look out for the remains of the 18th century low garden gate.

The woods you see now were replanted after the original woodland was chopped down during World War II. The outline still follows the original boundary line, as shown on maps dating back to 1832. Sycamore predominates, mixed with Ash, Beech, Elm, Larch, Pine and Spruce.

Look out for some of the historic trees on the estate. In front of the remains of Lochend House (south of Kellie Road) is the main garden of the house. There you can find some specimen trees, including walnut, yew and cedar. There are also several other yew trees scattered through the woods.

