

**From:** [Andrew Law](#)  
**To:** [@lauristonfarm.org](#)  
**Cc:** [Outdoor Access](#); [Thomas McManmon](#); [Caroline Paterson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Lauriston Farm.  
**Date:** 27 December 2023 11:58:22  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Morning all,

I'd be happy to look into this, I'm back from holiday the week beginning the 15<sup>th</sup> of January – current availability is:

16<sup>th</sup> PM, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> AM, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Let me know when suits and we can arrange a site meeting or teams call if you have digital plans available.

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

**Andrew Law MSc MECC**

Natural Heritage Officer | Forestry & Natural Heritage | City of Edinburgh Council  
Hermitage of Braid, 69a Braid Road, Edinburgh EH10 6JF

[Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Mob: [REDACTED]

**Compressed Hours; I do not work on Wednesday afternoons.**

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**From:** Outdoor Access

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:12 AM

**To:** Andrew Law ; Thomas McManmon

**Subject:** FW: Lauriston Farm.

Andrew, Tommy,

Do either of you have capacity to take this forward?

Kind Regards,

Caroline

Caroline Paterson | Natural Heritage Officer | City of Edinburgh Council | Forestry and Natural Heritage | Hermitage of Braid | 69a Braid Road | Edinburgh | EH10 6JF | [REDACTED]

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Follow us on Facebook and Twitter [@EdinOutdoors](#)

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**From:** [REDACTED] [@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:@lauristonfarm.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2023 11:28 AM

**To:** Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Lauriston Farm.



External email >



First time sender >

To whom it concerns

I think you may be familiar with Lauriston Farm but just incase, check out our website here:

<https://www.lauristonfarm.scot/>

I'd like to catch up over a couple of things.

One will be very familiar - issues with dog walkers.

The second is to do with our planned access to the farm. In general as a community farm we need it to be as accessible as possible and we have plans in place to make that happen. One major piece of work is setting up a project with Paths For All and they have suggested we chat with you ahead of that.

Can we arrange to meet at the farm in January?

Best wishes



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**Farm Co-ordinator for Edinburgh Agroecology Co-op**

I work 4 days a week for the farm (usually Monday-Thursday)



[www.lauristonfarm.scot](http://www.lauristonfarm.scot) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X/Twitter](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Outdoor Access](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Local Access Forum - Lauriston Farm - Gates and Signage  
**Date:** 25 February 2026 14:34:01  
**Attachments:** [shield-advisory.png](#)  
[chevron-light.png](#)

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 External email >

Hi Andrew,

Thanks so much for popping out and for your time.

I'm sorry but was there an attachment or a link to follow as I can't see where the old copy of the rules are. I would like to go through them to try and work out our fit (accepting that they are due to change).

Please do keep me posted with any feedback from the Local Access Forum and if they have any further suggestions. As discussed, I'll chat to the team about the presence of community officers.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 25 Feb 2026 at 14:24, Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I've had a look at our asset atlas and (I THINK) the farm would come under CEC Park Management regulations as it still sits within our remit under City Development. I will still bring it up at the Local Access Forum for discussion, but I believe you will be covered under the park Management Rules when in force.

Here is a copy of the previous PMRs, so you have something to go from but, as noted in our meeting, the new rules will be engaging more with control of dogs.

My suggestion is still to open communications with the community enforcement teams of the police in the meantime.

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

**Andrew Law** MSc MECC

He/Him

Access Officer | Parks and Open Space | City of Edinburgh Council

[Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Mob: [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@lauristonfarm.org)>  
**Sent:** 25 February 2026 10:42  
**To:** Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Local Access Forum - Lauriston Farm - Gates and Signage

Thanks [REDACTED] See you later.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 25 Feb 2026 at 10:37, Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)> wrote:

Sounds good. See you at 12.15

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

**Andrew Law MSc MECC**

Access Officer | Parks and Open Spaces | City of Edinburgh Council

Email: [Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@lauristonfarm.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026 10:34 am  
**To:** Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Local Access Forum - Lauriston Farm - Gates and Signage

Hi Andrew.

I have a meeting until 12 but free after that. If you'd like to pop along today, I can meet you at the community cabin - it is located through the gate, at the back of the Toby Carvery (Lauriston Farm Road). It'll take me 10 mins to get there so, 12:15ish? Or happy to wait until the other dates I mentioned if it is easier.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 25 Feb 2026 at 08:31, Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)> wrote:

Morning [REDACTED]

I'm available this morning from 10 until 1pm if there is a time in there

which suits. Let me know.

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

**Andrew Law MSc MECC**

Access Officer | Parks and Open Spaces | City of Edinburgh Council

Email: [Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@lauristonfarm.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026 5:54:40 PM

**To:** Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Local Access Forum - Lauriston Farm - Gates and Signage

Hi Andrew,

Many thanks for getting in touch and apologies for the delay in my response. I was away last week and just catching up.

The issues we have with dog walkers continues, along with some vandalism. It would be good to meet you and to discuss.

It might be too late notice but I am free tomorrow if you are still available. Alternatively, I am free between 14:00 - 16:00 on 4th March or between 12:30 - 3:00 on 6th March. Please let me know which if these works best for you to visit.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

On Thu, 19 Feb 2026 at 17:33, Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)> wrote:

Good afternoon all,

I just wanted to touch base with this case. I'm the new Access Officer for Edinburgh, picking up from Martin and then Steven covering some of the issues.

If this is still an ongoing issue, let me know and perhaps we can et something in the diary for a meeting, teams or in person. My current availability for the next 2 weeks if others have within that timeframe:

23<sup>rd</sup> all day

24<sup>th</sup> all day after 11.30am

25<sup>th</sup> pm

2<sup>nd</sup> March all day

4<sup>th</sup> pm

5<sup>th</sup> am

6<sup>th</sup> all day

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

**Andrew Law** MSc MECC

He/Him

Access Officer | Parks and Open Space | City of Edinburgh Council

[OutdoorAccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:OutdoorAccess@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Mob: [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@lauristonfarm.org)>

**Sent:** 28 January 2025 13:56

**To:** [REDACTED] <[ecological007@gmail.com](mailto:ecological007@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Steven Cuthill <[Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk)>; Lauriston Farm <[comms@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:comms@lauristonfarm.org)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@lauristonfarm.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Local Access Forum - Lauriston Farm - Gates and Signage

Thanks for sharing [REDACTED]. And hi Steven. Nice to meet you and thanks for getting in touch.

I don't think I will make the meeting on Friday (if I am able, I won't know until the last minute) but it would be great to have a catch up online if [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] are not to attend either. I am also copying in our colleague [REDACTED] who largely coordinates site maintenance and development, in case he is free on Friday to join the meeting.

I look forward to future discussions.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

On Tue, 28 Jan 2025 at 12:43, [REDACTED] <[ecological007@gmail.com](mailto:ecological007@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello Steven

Thanks so much for getting in touch. I am not sure if I can manage Friday's

meeting - depends on other commitments - but I have cc'd [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] into this email as they may be available. We would certainly like to resume the dialogue with you!

The main issue we have is the very large number of dogs on site including professional dog walking companies. We consider this to be disturbing wildlife and have tried to create designated footpaths and routes through the farm - largely unsuccessful! We have also fenced off fields as we were proposing to have cattle on site but fences have been vandalised within days of installation. We would welcome a discussion with you about the issues we face and any advice would be very welcome!

I'll let you know if I can make it on Friday or if either Gill or Kate are able to attend. If not perhaps we could arrange a catch up with you online - or at the farm - you would be very welcome to visit.

All best

[REDACTED]

On Mon, 27 Jan 2025 at 14:32, Steven Cuthill  
<[Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you do not mind me contacting you.

I am picking up matters raised with Martin Duncan before he left over issues with Lauriston Farm gates and signage and referral to the Local Access Forum (LAF). The LAF has not met since the pandemic. The first meeting is this coming Friday afternoon, 31 January. Apologies for the late notice, but I thought I would add the matter to the agenda as it appears outstanding.

My understanding is that there were ongoing issues of disturbance of wildlife and in order to take stronger actions in future this would need backing of the LAF.

I am happy to feed back any comments you may have or indeed, if you are available on Friday (and I appreciate the very short notice), you can join us via MS Teams. If the matter has since resolved, then do let me know that too.

Regards,

Steven

Steven Cuthill | Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services Manager |  
Place | The City of Edinburgh Council | Neighbourhood Environmental Services  
| Level 2.1 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG | Direct  
Dial 0131 [REDACTED] | [steven.cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:steven.cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
| [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) |

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Outdoor Access](#)  
**Cc:** [Comms at Lauriston Farm](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting About Lauriston Farm - Access  
**Date:** 24 March 2026 16:03:15  
**Attachments:** [shield-advisory.png](#)  
[chevron-light.png](#)

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 External email >

Many thanks Andrew. As we discussed, we'd prefer not to involve the police in so far as possible and so are always keen to find other ways of deterring anti-social behaviour and vandalism. But I would be interested to hear of infrastructure examples which have been used successfully elsewhere.

I look forward to hearing further from you.

Many thanks and all the best,  
[REDACTED]

On Mon, 23 Mar 2026 at 11:17, Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)> wrote:

Hi folks,

I've had an update from our street enforcement team and they have noted the below to my questions.

From their answers, it looks like they can help with the dogs issues and fly-tipping which we discussed the challenges around, but not with the management rules when they come in to force. My understanding now is that you will have to fall back on common law for issues which are not covered by our enforcement teams.

For the other issues we discussed around vandalism and damages, it looks like these are police matter and should be reported as such. I'm aware that often police may not respond to single issues often unless they are emergencies, however I have found that working with the community policing teams and submitting every report will build up a portfolio of wrongdoing which can then be leveraged to increase presence.

I hope this is helpful going forward and I'm happy to help to interface with yourselves and the street enforcement team, but I have noted a contact in the Street Enforcement [StreetEnforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:StreetEnforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk) team below as a start.

From our discussion around possible infrastructure improvements, I'm going to have a chat with some teams around what infrastructure they use and accessible infrastructure for users which may still dissuade irresponsible dog walkers, and I will get back to you in due time with that.

All the best

Good Morning Andrew,

Thank you for contacting us regarding the above issue.

Control of dogs legislation is used where a dog has been dangerously out of control and has caused reasonable fear and/or alarm. You have stated that there is an issue with control of dogs. Can you please provide some more information in relation to this?

I have copied the questions from your query below and I have provided a response.

- Are we in a position to have street enforcement patrol the

area with an increased presence – If there has been an incident that requires to be investigated, we can increase patrols in the area.

- Can the team hand out fines whilst CEC's management rules are

not currently enforceable – No, the only fine (or FPN) we could issue would be if someone fails to pick up after their dog under the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003

- Does the Farm come under land within our remit to enforce

from a street enforcement point of view, or would it be a direct

community police matter, or both? – Again, it would depend on what requires to be enforced. We cannot enforce park rules as these do not fall within our remit.

- Finally, what are the limits of street enforcement powers –

I'm aware the control of dogs act and our management rules, can you

enforce any other acts generally, such as the land reform scotland

act 2003? – No, the only legislation we can enforce would be COD (If merited), dog fouling, fly-tipping or abandoned vehicles/bikes.

Kind Regards

**Elaine Newton**

Street Enforcement Officer / West Team / Network & Environmental Enforcement Services / The City of Edinburgh Council

Bankhead Roads Depot / 14 Bankhead Avenue / Edinburgh / EH11 4HD

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

**Andrew Law MSc MECC**

He/Him

Access Officer | Parks and Open Space | City of Edinburgh Council

[OutdoorAccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:OutdoorAccess@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Mob: [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]@lauristonfarm.org>

**Sent:** 27 February 2026 14:40

**To:** Comms at Lauriston Farm <[comms@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:comms@lauristonfarm.org)>

**Cc:** Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Meeting About Lauriston Farm - Access

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for the email and apologies! I hadn't registered that others were cc'd into Andrews original email so replied directly. I explained the current situation and we met at the farm on Wednesday this week, to discuss.

Andrew and I will continue discussions as and when information is available but for now it seems there are relatively few opportunities to address the issues, other than what we have been doing (signage etc).

I can bring Andrews suggestions to the next team meeting, where time permits for discussing this more fully.

Apologies again for missing folk in my reply to Andrew.

All the best,

Gill

On Fri, 27 Feb 2026 at 14:02, Comms at Lauriston Farm <[comms@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:comms@lauristonfarm.org)> wrote:

Hello Andrew,

I just wanted to message, in case colleagues have not been able to reply - [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] we haven't been able to discuss potential meeting dates. We have put in place more pathways and signage, but there are ongoing issues with people not following the Access Code on the land, especially with dogs. I don't know if those dates for a meeting next week will be possible but wanted to thank you for the offer and say we have seen it and will get back to you ASAP

With all best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Comms Co-ordinator for Edinburgh Agroecology Co-op**

I work part-time for the farm, please be aware there may be some days between responses to emails



[www.lauristonfarm.scot](http://www.lauristonfarm.scot) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

On Thu, 19 Feb 2026 at 17:33, Outdoor Access <[outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk)> wrote:

Good afternoon all,

I just wanted to touch base with this case. I'm the new Access Officer for Edinburgh, picking up from Martin and then Steven covering some of the issues.

If this is still an ongoing issue, let me know and perhaps we can set something in the diary for a meeting, teams or in person. My current availability for the next 2 weeks if others have within that timeframe:

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25<sup>th</sup> pm

2<sup>nd</sup> March all day

4<sup>th</sup> pm

5<sup>th</sup> am

6<sup>th</sup> all day

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

**Andrew Law MSc MECC**

He/Him

Access Officer | Parks and Open Space | City of Edinburgh Council

[OutdoorAccess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:OutdoorAccess@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Mob: [REDACTED]



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---

**From:** [REDACTED]@lauristonfarm.org>

**Sent:** 28 January 2025 13:56

**To:** [REDACTED]ecological007@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Steven Cuthill <[Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk)>; Lauriston Farm <[comms@lauristonfarm.org](mailto:comms@lauristonfarm.org)>; [REDACTED]@lauristonfarm.org>

**Subject:** Re: Local Access Forum - Lauriston Farm - Gates and Signage

Thanks for sharing [REDACTED] And hi Steven. Nice to meet you and thanks for getting in touch.

I don't think I will make the meeting on Friday (if I am able, I won't know until the last minute) but it would be great to have a catch up online if [REDACTED] are not to attend either. I am also copying in our colleague [REDACTED] who largely coordinates site maintenance and development, in case he is free on Friday to join the meeting.

I look forward to future discussions.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

On Tue, 28 Jan 2025 at 12:43, [REDACTED] <[ecological007@gmail.com](mailto:ecological007@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello Steven

Thanks so much for getting in touch. I am not sure if I can manage Friday's meeting - depends on other commitments - but I have cc'd Gill and Kate into this email as they may be available. We would certainly like to resume the dialogue with you!

The main issue we have is the very large number of dogs on site including professional dog walking companies. We consider this to be disturbing wildlife and have tried to create designated footpaths and routes through the farm - largely unsuccessful! We have also fenced off fields as we were proposing to have cattle on site but fences have been vandalised within days of installation. We would welcome a discussion with you about the issues we face and any advice would be very welcome!

I'll let you know if I can make it on Friday or if either Gill or Kate are able to attend. If not perhaps we could arrange a catch up with you online - or at the farm - you would be very welcome to visit.

All best

[REDACTED]

On Mon, 27 Jan 2025 at 14:32, Steven Cuthill <[Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you do not mind me contacting you.

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My understanding is that there were ongoing issues of disturbance of wildlife and in order to take stronger actions in future this would need backing of the LAF.

I am happy to feed back any comments you may have or indeed, if you are available on Friday (and I appreciate the very short notice), you can join us via MS Teams. If the matter has since resolved, then do let me know that too.

Regards,

Steven

Steven Cuthill | Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services Manager | Place | The City of Edinburgh Council | Neighbourhood Environmental Services | Level 2.1 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG | Direct Dial 0131 [REDACTED] | [steven.cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:steven.cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk) | [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) |

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**From:** [Martin Duncan](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Outdoor Access Code breaches in Silverknowes  
**Date:** 16 March 2023 17:34:00  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[Papers 2023 - Updated guidance on access and wildlife disturbance - 8 February 2023 \(A3908681\) \(A3909973\).pdf](#)

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Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for not replying sooner.

We discussed the impact of dogs on wildlife, including the chasing of roe deer, damage that has been done to fences since they were installed and also the signage and locked gates which you highlighted – all in the context of the latest National Access Forum guidance on access and wildlife disturbance (attached for your information).

The change of use from farmland to alternative use as allotments and market gardening has resulted in some of the farm area now not being available for public access. Paths which are currently subject to erosion and compaction due to high levels of use are being addressed through the establishment of formal paths with funding from Paths for All.

As you will know, access rights must be exercised responsibly and there are several examples of where this is not the case. I noted that amphibian ponds created with funding from the Nature Restoration Fund are regularly used by dogs and as such water quality is poor and no vegetation has established. Following the cessation of historic grazing, disturbance resulted in species such as curlew, redshank, godwit and other coastal birds plus geese now no longer using the fields to roost and feed. I was told that more recently through information sharing, signage, and ultimately fencing geese and good numbers of curlew have returned.

With regard to your points 7 & 8 below, it was agreed that locks would be removed from these gates and signage modified to reflect the impact of disturbance on biodiversity. Messaging would be changed to that which is advisory rather than directive. The strip of land lying to the north and west of area 8 was not intended to form a perimeter path, but it is now being used as such. It was accepted that this is likely to remain the case and the fence at the south western corner would be left open to allow a circular passage to be made – though it is still the intention to graze with cattle all of the land which lies to the north of the site (including that not currently fenced to the west of area 8) on a seasonal basis.

I hope that with an improved path network and better information signage the situation at Lauriston will improve for all users of the site as well as the wildlife, but if you feel there are still problems in the future please don't hesitate to get back in touch.

Regards,  
Martin

Martin Duncan  
Access Officer

Forestry & Natural Heritage | Hermitage of Braid | 69A Braid Road | Edinburgh | EH10 6JF | Tel 0131 [REDACTED] | [martin.duncan@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:martin.duncan@edinburgh.gov.uk) |

Compressed Hours; I do not work beyond 11.45 on a Friday



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**From:** [REDACTED].com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 12, 2023 5:40 PM  
**To:** Martin Duncan <Martin.Duncan@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Outdoor Access Code breaches in Silverknowes

Hi Martin

[REDACTED] from Lauriston Farm has let me know that you've visited the site on 21 February. Could I get an update on what you've observed and discussed with them, please?

Many thanks.

Best wishes



----- Original Message -----

On Thursday, February 16th, 2023 at 17:31, Martin Duncan <[Martin.Duncan@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Martin.Duncan@edinburgh.gov.uk)> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]

apologies for not replying before now. You are correct, I have a meeting arranged next week on site with the farm managers at Lauriston.

I will revert to you following this site meeting and if required, discussion with internal colleagues.

Kind regards,

Martin

Martin Duncan  
Access Officer

Forestry & Natural Heritage | Hermitage of Braid | 69A Braid Road | Edinburgh |

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Compressed Hours; I do not work beyond 11.45 on a Friday



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**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@protonmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@protonmail.com)>  
**Sent:** 12 February 2023 16:22  
**To:** Martin Duncan <[Martin.Duncan@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Martin.Duncan@edinburgh.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Outdoor Access Code breaches in Silverknowes

Dear Martin

I heard back from the Lauriston Farm who told me that my letter to you prompted you to arrange a site visit. I'd be grateful for an update on this case.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

On Saturday, February 4th, 2023 at 19:30, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\].com](mailto:[REDACTED].com)> wrote:

Dear Martin, Outdoor Access Officer for Edinburgh Council

I'm writing to bring to your attention the multiple breaches of the Outdoor Access Code by Edinburgh Agroecology Co-op CIC that is currently renting a 100-acre plot of land between Lauriston Castle and Silverknowes Beach in north Edinburgh.

The lease on the land was taken by the organisation to set up a food growing farm. In the plans submitted to Edinburgh council, the area was divided into several specialised use sectors. Fences, sometimes with barbed wire, were installed around several of these areas. I'll outline the specific breaches of the code below.

The land is a popular walking area, with lovely views of the Firth of Forth. Local people use it for their daily recreation. But tensions are running high. From what I could gather from chatting to other users of the space, the local community feels pushed to walk only on narrow fenced off corridors, while the tenants have exclusive use of large parts of the field. Recently, gaps have appeared at several points of the barbed wire fence, which I believe were made by a disgruntled member of the public.

Can you please investigate at your earliest convenience? Feel free to contact me. I will be happy to take you around the area and show you the problematic locations.

Attached is a map with marked areas.

Area 1: This is a space designated for allotments. Currently only around 10% of the area is used for food growing. The rest is an uncultivated field. The plans submitted to the council outlined the area will be protected from wildlife with a deer fence. But the gates to the area are padlocked and the public doesn't have access to the area.

Areas 2 and 3: The areas were reserved for food growing (2) and field crops (3) but both have been recently re-designated as reserved for wildlife and enclosed with a barbed wire. The gates are padlocked and the public is prevented from accessing the land.

Areas 4, 5 and 6: Area 4 was originally intended for field crops, area 5 for woodland and area 6 for a market garden. The areas are now joined together and enclosed with the a high deer fence and the gates are padlocked. Only around 5% of the fenced off area is used for food growing. The rest is uncultivated land, but the public has no access to it.

Area 7: Area is intended as a wildlife sanctuary. The gates are locked and the public has no access to it. While the cause is commendable and the public is, I feel, prepared to keep off some of the ground to give room to wildlife, the tenant nevertheless have no authority to keep the public off the ground and to informally designate a place as wildlife-use only. This would set a dangerous precedent.

Problematic point 8: When the areas were enclosed, a narrow public path was installed around them, leading from the east side of area 2, to north and west sides of area 7, west side of area 3, and ending in location marked with 8. No gate to exit the path was provided by the tenants — the path is a dead end. Recently a hole in the barbed wire fence was cut out by a member of the public, most likely to remedy the lack of access.

The paths are unkept. The paths become very muddy in the wet weather season and are a safety hazard. I know of several elderly people who have had a fall on the mud.

I understand the 25-year lease between the organisation and the council is subject to the tenant's respect for public access rights. I believe these are currently violated so this issue also has further legal and governance implications.

I will send a copy of this complaint to the Edinburgh Agroecology Group, to make them aware, and to the council general complaint's address.

Best wishes