

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

LIVINGSTON SKATE PARK

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide the panel with an update on the Livingston Skate Park.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is suggested that the panel notes the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The Council is required to demonstrate Best Value through a structured framework for the management of its assets.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	Not applicable
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 12 – We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations. Outcome 14 – We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production. Outcome 15 – Our public services are high quality, continually improving and efficient.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Other consultations	Community Regeneration

Planning
Public Art
CLD Youth Services

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

Livingston skate park was built in 1981. It was one of the first of its kind in the UK and took its design concept from the skatepark and skateboarding community in the United States.

The park was well received internationally at the time of its construction and was the subject of a BBC documentary.

The skate park was extended in 2013 and is one of 12 skateparks in West Lothian. In its current guise, it is an open space asset and is freely available to use. The facility is open all year round and is an unsupervised asset subjected to a 10 days inspection cycle in line with all play assets in the local authority area.

A report was requested that covered the following areas in relation to the Livingston skatepark:

- Build on the work already initiated by CLD Youth Services and Community Regeneration Officers, in particular, consolidating and expanding the present focus group of skatepark users;
- Draw up a plan for the longer-term conservation, restoration and improvement of the Livi Skate Park, considering the views of all stakeholders and taking due cognisance of good practice in skate park design as evidenced by Inverness;
- Provide approximate costs for the implementation of a longer-term conservation, restoration and improvement plan;
- Investigate the possibilities of historic status for Livi Skate Park;

D2 Historical Value / Status

The former Livingston Development Corporation (LDC) designed and constructed the initial skate park at Almondvale in Livingston town centre in the early 1980's. It had been extended several times. It is recognised as of national quality and attracts many skaters from around the country and even from abroad. There has been a call to investigate the possibilities in recognising the innovative creation and design by LDC of the Livingston Skate Park and submitting it to Historic Environment Scotland to consider Listing the site.

It has been pointed out that the Rom skatepark in Hornchurch, East London, has Grade II listed status under the English system. It was built in 1978, and designed by Adrian Rolt of G-Force and modelled on skateparks in California. It is the most completely preserved purpose-built skatepark in England and the first skatepark in Europe to achieve listed status and the second such structure worldwide

English Heritage, indicate "Rom is the "best" example of a small number of skate parks that survived from the 1970s". After a fire in 2018 it closed, but has reopened with facilities including: toilets, parking (40+ spaces), an outdoor spectators' area and indoor Café / seating area and Shop. Skateboarding and BMX freestyle sports make their debut at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) undertake consideration of listing buildings and structures via submission of a request for designation form. This has been completed and lodged with HES in November 2021. HES then undertake research into the structure and a site visit. Special architectural or historic issues are taken into consideration by HES. However, it may take 6 months or more for HES to reach a decision about Listing the Skate Park at Almondvale.

D3 Current Service Provision

West Lothian Council has in excess of 300 Play assets ranging from small toddler type play areas to large destination play areas such as Polkemmet, Eliburn and Beecraigs. In addition to play parks the area also has circa 80 play assets such as Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), skateparks, pump tracks, ballcourts and kick pitches. In terms of skateparks, Livingston skate park is one of 12 skateparks.

Currently in the fourth year of the 10-year capital programme running to 2027/28, the aim of the programme is to ensure, as far as possible, that all play facilities remain in a "fit for purpose" condition through the duration of the programme.

This involves the review of facilities and the targeting of funding aimed at ensuring all safety related issues are dealt with and that repairs are carried out to maintain the use of facilities going forward.

In relation to skateparks, there is no specific budget for Livingston skatepark. Budget does exist within the capital programme for all facilities within this open space asset category group and is allocated to these assets based on a number of factors including:

- The outcome of the independent inspection of play assets.
- The outcome of the recommendations of the cyclical, 10-day inspections.
- The review of the assets, carried out towards the end of the expected lifespan of the asset informed by inspection updates.

Whilst there is no specific plan to upgrade this asset, minor repairs to maintain the asset in a fit for purpose condition have been identified via the independent inspection report. The current capital programme will maintain the asset in a fit for purpose condition and allocate suitable funding to do this as and when required but with due cognisance of the condition of other assets. Any plans developed beyond this would have to be costed and a request made for additional funding either through a grant specific request or the internal capital funding mechanisms.

D4 Community Consultation

A comprehensive draft report in relation to efforts to consult with interested skater groups by both Community Regeneration and CLD Youth Services is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

This report provides an update on the holistic vision for skateboarding in West Lothian including:

- the development of an exhibition celebrating skateboarding in West Lothian
- the potential for the development of an indoor skating facility
- the development of public art around the sport
- the conservation of the Livingston park into the future

The success of these aspirations is predicated upon the establishment and maintenance of a group from the skater community to take the issues forward and oversee and develop their aspirations. Both Community Regeneration and CLD Youth Services continue to pursue this dialogue and finalise the action plan section of the report to create a final version. These actions will provide the framework for actions going forward.

D5 The Next Steps

Given the aspirations of the council to investigate the viability of listing the skate park for future generations, the timelines of any bid and the potential for conditions relating to any listing by HES the following steps are envisaged:

- Application for Historic status submitted and taken to a conclusion taking due cognisance / consideration of any conditions attached to a successful bid. Bid being submitted in November / December 2021 by Planning colleagues.
- Continued development of a user group to inform future plans in a coherent and agreed manner. This work will be continued by Community Regeneration colleagues.
- Once both are established, the appointment of a specialist skateboard contractor to develop a conservation plan in conjunction with the user community.
- Establishment of suitable funding to ensure the long term viability of the asset based on the outcome and aspirations of the interested parties.

E. CONCLUSION

Livingston Skate Park remains iconic in the eyes of the skateboarding community. The steps highlighted in D5 will support the continued preservation of the facility going forward.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Nil

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 - Report by Community Regeneration "Livingston Skatepark Progress Report dated September 2021"

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Jim Jack, Head of Operational Services

Date: 17th November 2021

Livingston Skatepark Progress Report

September 2021

*Compiled by Lesley Keirnan (Community Regeneration)
and Brendan Moohan (CLD Youth Services)*

Livingston skate park was opened in 1981 by the head of the Scottish Sports Council Peter Heatley ironically at a time when skate parks were beginning to lose their appeal.

The idea for a skate park in Livingston was conceived by Kenny Omond after a work trip to California in 1976. While there, he picked up a copy of Skateboarder magazine which had a picture of Waldo Autry doing a carve on the vert of a swimming pool and immediately purchased a set of trucks and wheels for himself and so began his lifelong association with skateboarding.

Kenny inspired from his California experience, approached the Livingston Development Corporation, where he remembers delivering the line, "how would you like to be the first place in the UK with a Skatepark?". In 1977 The Scottish Sports Council organised a seminar at Meadowbank to discuss the direction of Scottish Skateboarding. In attendance was Iain Urquhart an architect for L.D.C, along with his wife Dee Urquhart. Things quickly rolled on from there and together Iain, Dee and Kenny set up the Scottish Skateboard Association. Iain through his experience as a rock climber, could see the power formal organisations can have in convincing local authorities. In 1978/79 Iain and Dee self-funded a stateside 'pilgrimage' to several of California's Skateparks, also taking in what parks had been built here in the UK. It took three years to finalise the plans for the park.

About the construction and build

Iain Urquhart produced three sets of plans for the Skate Park. Phase one was the 'fantasy park' and phase three was the plans upon which the park is based. The final plans included a huge 80 foot by 60 foot California style carving reservoir with contoured banking and a freestyle area. Two interlocking bowls called the Double Bowl with one deep and one shallow, this was inspired by the Dog Pool from California's Marina Del Ray Skatepark. A location that initially inspired Kenny Omond's passion for a Scottish Skatepark back in 1976. The range of lines available to a skater of any ability was infinite. The deep end of the half-pipe is the same depth as the big bowl and 22 feet long with an easy roll-in at one end. The initial plan was for a commercial venture, which would include a shop. This would be a similar model to Scotland's premier Skatepark at Glasgow's Kelvingrove park. Kelvingrove played a huge part in the formative years of Scotland's Skateboarding culture. The park closed soon after Livingston was opened. Livingston had many unique factors that cemented its place in Skatepark history: it was open 24 hours a day, open 365 days of the year and most importantly free for all to use.

Rainbow Construction Ltd carried out the work on the 'Sports Landscape' a concept by Iain Urquhart, to encompass a variety of Sporting activities in one outdoor location: Canoeing, Rock Climbing, a keep fit track and a Skatepark. This would appeal to a larger section of Livingston residents and gave the SSA more leverage to convince the LDC to build a state of the art Skatepark. The project was funded jointly by the Livingston Development Corporation and the Scottish Sports Council for a cost of £50,000.

Sources

https://sidewalkmag.com/features/interviews/livingston_carved_in_stone_unedited.html

<https://archives.westlothian.gov.uk/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Persons&id=DS%2FUK%2F25>

<https://sidewalkmag.com/skateboard-news/concrete-dinosaurs-part-3-livingston-skatepark.html>

Background Information 2020

CLD Youth Services and Community Regeneration began some exploratory work around the skatepark in response to:

- Dedridge regeneration community findings of affordable, accessible, family, local, youth activities
- SIMD and Scotpho data on health and physical activity
- The increase in peripheral skateparks within villages of West Lothian as a response to young people and communities
- BBC recent documentary on Livingston skatepark
- Understand the complexities arising within and between the skating community and council
- Repairs that require to be undertaken within the park itself to comply with council H&S requirements
- Exploring ways to bring increased footfall and spend into Livingston.
- Skateboarding becoming an Olympic sport
- 40th anniversary of the skatepark impending the following year
- Livingston's 60th celebratory anniversary

Initial Engagement - Autumn 2020

CLD Youth Services and Community Regeneration undertook a two-day initial consultation at the skatepark to scope:

- Who uses the park?
- How it is being used and when?
- And to find out skaters' thoughts on the park

Within this period, we spoke to over 30 skaters and BMX bikers throughout the 2-day period, including original skaters and the skateparks founder's family.

The diversity of users includes:

- Two and even three generations of families continue using the skatepark
- Many older skaters are yearly returners on holiday with their children from as far as Kent, Glasgow, Aberdeen.
- At different times of the day different 'demographics' of the community use the facility effortlessly:
 - early morning keen local and far travelled experienced skaters
 - mid-morning families and children from the ages of three, mixed with primary aged and some youths – skaters and BMX riders and some adults
 - mid-afternoon to late evening – youths, adults' skaters and BMX riders

Through this period, we gathered email addresses of local users that would be interested in exploring the skatepark further, during discussions we learned and acknowledged there was some friction within the community itself with a crowdfunding group to resurface the park and a petition ongoing to stop this process.

All were interested in preserving the park and ensuring it was fit for purpose for now and the future. Many felt they had previously been let down by the council and were a forgotten community. Much upset still resonated with park users at the last additions to the park which are not viewed as fit for purpose.

Initial 2-day Consultation Feedback 2020

Some of the feedback from the skating community include;

- The latest addition of full pipe is the area that concern and disappoints skaters: The full pipe although the only one of its kind and based on the American skateparks full pipe is not wide enough to be 'fit for purpose' and 'compromises' the skaters experience. Hence it is mainly underused to this day and utilised as an area to hang out and/or stay dry. This newly developed area was within the skater's views, supposed to extend to the furthest corners of the grass areas and without consultation was reduced in size and compromise to the park - now a safety issue in itself for those that attempt to use it.
- The preservation and integrity of the oldest part of the park, building on its heritage, patina – being the 'pull' for many a skater to return- Yet concern, at the same time, how to repair and keep the skatepark fit for purpose

Working Group

The officers initially emailed all who had left contact details to organise: a safe space for discussion and dialogue. A small group of around 5 skaters regularly undertook some developmental exploratory work between the period of Sept 2020– February 2021. These 5 skaters fed back into the wider skating community.

Within this period, the working group (skaters and Officers):

- Working with Howden Park Centre and WL Community Arts securing funding for an arts project that would result in an exhibition celebrating the Livingston skateparks 40th anniversary, history and culture- including a community arts project which will result in some art pieces adorning the skatepark.
- Put together ideas to develop the park and make it safer through signage for flow, bins and suggested areas to develop.
- Drew up a list of preferred contractors and research into other exemplar skateparks.
- Look at the potential to re develop an old indoor Crofthead Dutch Barn area from the skating community's history and past.
- Looking for a long-term venue that could house the impending Skating community's exhibition.
- Discussed challenging behaviour between groups.
- Withdrew the petition against the crowdfunding

Inspiration of Exemplar of Design

The skaters researched skateparks they considered exemplar by design and construction. The skaters gave WLC Open Space officers information on preferred contractors. They highlighted the issues within the full pipe extension. This example is shown in Appendix 1.



Heritage Status

Further community engagement at the skatepark in September confirmed that some of the skaters had undertaken some research into Heritage status. The skaters feel this would help keep the integrity of the first parts of the Livingston Skatepark yet at the same time enable it to be repaired and maintained sympathetically. There is an example (See Appendix 2) of an English skatepark given heritage status. This is an action the skaters would like to pursue.



Signage within Livingston Skatepark

Concerns were raised about the quality and clarity of the signage at the park. Park users view the signage as: Old, unsightly, dated.

The H&S signage is too high up and too far away to read properly.

Present signage within the skatepark.



ggi Yg' bWi X]b['Gca Y' XYUg.

- Street section mainly used area, very tight -collisions happen. Idea - Open it up ever so slightly– extending the concrete section (see photo)
- Parents/guardians with disabilities or those with a buggy - not being able the access the park - Blocked off with boulders
- Parents/families sitting in the bowl picnicking leaving mess
- Parents sitting on the ramps – flat ground table, chairs. Large bench never gets used. Better signage



- Flow lines of skatepark for new users and those unfamiliar with the park

- Areas that need to be kept clear





- Main points for signage at entrances

- Noticeboard for community news

- Updated public bin location suggestions



Community Arts Project & Exhibition September 2021

CLD Community Regeneration, with Howden Park Centre (HPC) and West Lothian Leisure discussed ways they could:

- Support Howden Park Centre and employees through COVID-19 pandemic
- Discuss innovative and creative ideas that community might be interested in. From a community arts perspective look at ideas that could link in with the Dedridge local plan, skaters' initial findings and follow on from the 60th Anniversary of Livingston New Town HPC exhibition - It seemed fitting to celebrate the skateparks 40th anniversary

As a result, WL Leisure sourced and was awarded funding. 7k was set aside for the Gallery/Skateboard project.

It was important that throughout this project that the integrity of the skating community is preserved and that the work has integrity, brings the skating community together, 'speaks to the community' and gives a snap shot of the skating communities history and culture. To ensure this West Lothian Leisure employed local artist Lisa Fleming (a keen skater) to oversee and project manage the community arts project and subsequent art exhibition.

Linking with CLD youths service, young people (with a keen interest in skating) and Chris Young (another local artist and keen Livi skater) through a series of participatory art workshops finally designing and painting an iconic image within the Livingston skatepark to mark its 40th Anniversary.

Lisa has also been gathering Livingston skaters' views, experiences, historical images and artefacts, collaborating with Chris Young to develop an exhibition that celebrates and explores the culture, history, music and graffiti art of Livingston skatepark and the skating community.

Howden Park Centre, Website September 2021

"Working with photographer and artist, Lisa Fleming, who is originally from West Calder and was part of the 'Life is for Livingston- 50 year of New Town Life' project."

Lisa in collaboration with Chris Young, a graffiti artist, and Graham Tate a photographer, also from West Lothian are working with local youth groups from the skateboarding community in West Lothian. In partnership with West Lothian Council's Community Regeneration Team and CLD Youth Services, the project will explore aspects of the skating culture, including the history of the Livingston skatepark, associated music and graffiti artwork. A final exhibition, illustrating the evolution of the skatepark through time and new art works celebrating skate culture, will be installed within Howden Parks' Gallery).

Chris Young – MSCreative, August 2021

"Thanks for giving us the opportunity to research and create artworks and photographic content, around the history of Livingston skatepark. I spent 6 years between 1987-1993 skateboarding at Livi, I grew up in Livingston from 1972 and have seen a lot of changes, not only at the skatepark, but also throughout the town since its inception."

Revisiting the park, its culture and the colourful characters that used it to its full potential, has been fascinating. Lisa has been invaluable in organising the workshops, the photographers and curating the exhibition."

Immediate Repairs Report on Condition of the Park 2021

WLC Open Space officer commissioned a RPII Annual Skatepark Inspection report (appendix 3). This was emailed out to skaters for comments prior to commissioning.

Taking into consideration the skaters' suggestions for contractors, and as there is only a single specialised skatepark supplier on our Scotland Excel Play Framework Lot 4 - Design, Supply and Installation of Wheeled Sports Areas, and that the Open space can't directly award to one contractor - to create the competition the Open Space officer will invite four other general or specialist suppliers from Public Contracts Scotland. Two of the skater's recommended contractor choices are on the registered of Public Contracts Scotland.

Crofthead Farm Community Education Complex

Discussions were undertaken with Crofthead management committee on:

1. An outdoor covered area in the Dutch barns that was by the skaters in the late 80s
2. and a permanent house for the skateboarding exhibition

Dutch barns

Crofthead management committee were very supportive of the idea of an outdoor covered skating facility. The building at this time was being used as storage for West Lothian Bike lending library. At this time the management committee applied for the Dedridge quota of the 20-21 SG Capital Town Centre funding to upgrade the Dutch barns. As part of the process the committee immediately requested building, electrical and asbestos reports of the building. The reports were not favourable and found to cost more to rebuild, restore than the Town Centre fund allocation. As a result of the reports the building was found unsafe and closed down and the bike leaning library sought and was awarded additional storage through the TC fund process. The cost of a rebuild costing more than the Town Centre budget enabled. Although supportive of the idea and after exhausting all avenues the committee decided that they could not peruse this presently.

Permanent home for the Skating exhibition

Through discussions with Crofthead Management Committee they are in initial agreement to house the exhibitions permanently. With the closure of the Lanthorn Community Education Complex through roof repairs and relocation of some organisations and services within Crofthead this may have an implication on this in the short term.

Livingston Skatepark and Skating Community - Action Plan 2020 – 2025

Key Issues / Needs Identified:

positive life experiences for children and YP, affordable, accessible activities for children and YP, economic spend, heritage and culture

Current Position:

Undertaking a site visit and on consultation with users:

- 1) Upgrading required of some areas of the skatepark,
- 2) Litter and rubbish, poor signage, bins relocation/positioning
- 3) Understanding of inexperienced and new skaters of health and safety in regards to usage, and poor signage
- 4) Unexplored possibilities related to cultural heritage of Livingston skating community
- 5) No Affordable indoor facility for winter skating and learning opportunities
- 6) Potential for Increasing Visitors stay and spend in Livingston
- 7) Poor previous consultation with skaters on phase two of the park
- 8) Distrust between skating community and council

Baseline evidence and measures :

Short Term Outcomes:

- Upgrade of current skate park including signage and bins in consultation with Livingston Skaters,
- Exhibition on history of Livingston skatepark

Medium Term Outcomes:

- Indoor facility for winter use and learning programmes
- Heritage status

Long Term Outcomes:

- A skatepark that is exemplar in design and quality for present and future generations.
- A vibrant and exciting skating community that encourages and supports young skaters build their skills and confidence.
- A Livingston cultural skating heritage where visitors want to visit, spend time, try out and spend money
- Indoor facility that is accessible and affordable for children, families and young people and create positive learning experiences for all

How this fit into: The Local Outcome Improvement Plan:

We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities. We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.

WLCPP Anti-poverty strategy 2018-23 'Taking Action for Change :

- Targeting services to reduce inequalities
- Shifting resources upstream to deliver preventable measures
- Ensuring that we obtain the maximum impact for our expenditure

Where it links Dedridge Regeneration plan priorities :

- Early intervention and prevention—positive life experiences of children and YP , learning opportunities
- Mental health and well-being—getting active, isolation, depression,
- Poverty income deprivation & employability - affordable and accessible activities , bringing footfall and spend into WL,
- Community capacity and cohesion— communities working together, building assets fit for present and future, celebrating Livingston's culture and heritage

Outcome required :	What do we need to do :	How are we going to do it :	Who is going to do it :	Timeframe	How will we know we are succeeding? outcome indicator/outputs
Skatepark is: · fit for current and future use · what skaters want and are happy with · encourages locals and visitors alike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with skaters Site visit 	Site visit and talk to users, gather views, find out who uses it		Dec 2020-21	Skaters meeting regularly and undertaking actions Unit 101 in The centre potential for a base
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring skaters together 		Skaters	Sept - 2021	
A skatepark that is exemplar in design and quality for present and future generations.	Identify areas of concern	Ares of the skatepark concrete Bins placement Signage Etiquette Safety and how to skate		Dec 2020-21	Bins and signage, health and safety and skatepark flow in place and adhered to

Outcome required :	What do we need to do :	How are we going to do it :	Who is going to do it :	Timeframe	How will we know we are succeeding? outcome indicator/outputs
An indoor facility that is affordable and accessible for children and young people and that offers positive learning experiences	Speak with Crofthead CEC management committee, Dedridge Reg group, Bike lending library to gather views	Speak, email - with partners	Community Regeneration	Sept – Oct 2020	Partners supportive of the idea
	Research into the suitability of the barn for development	Source any building reports of the barn	Com Reg	October 2020	Reports in place
		Discuss with wider Crofthead CEC reports and possible developments		November 2020	Decision made on viability of the building. Building reports unfavourable – building earmarked for demolition
	Explore whether we can house the exhibition within Crofthead CEC permanently	Discuss with Crofthead and Howden Park Centre	Com Reg	November 2020	In principle agreed

Outcome required :	What do we need to do :	How are we going to do it :	Who is going to do it :	Timeframe	How will we know we are succeeding? outcome indicator/outputs
A celebratory cultural and heritage experience of skating in Livingston that brings visitors to spend time and money in the facilities	Source and contact potential partners	Develop links with HPC, CLD YS, Skaters, archives sports Crofthead CEC management committee, Dedridge Reg	Com Reg	Sept 2020	Partners on board with initial idea
	Secure funding for initial skaters' exhibition	Secure funding for initial skaters' exhibition	HPC/Com Reg	Oct 2020	7k Funding secured for an exhibition and community arts programme
	Bigger pool of skaters involved in the exhibition	Skaters to think of links and who should be involved in the history of Livingston skating community. Contact info collated and agreed	CLD YS/Skaters/ Artists	June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pool of skaters agreed and working on the exhibition Artists and
	Organise artists, contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists and contracts out to tender Artists and contracts awarded 	CLD YS/HPC/ Archives	Oct—Nov 2020	Artists and contracts in place, sessions agreed and development work commenced
	Organise artists, contracts		Com Reg	November 2020	In principle agreed
	Agree on sessions, Artwork, Visuals developed	Agreed sessions, all working together on pieces towards the exhibition	CLD YS/Artists/HPC	Dec— March 2021	Exhibition at HPC
	Find a permanent home for the exhibition and gauge interest from no's visitors	Approach made with Crofthead CEA	Com reg, HPC, Crofthead CEA	Oct— April 2022	Exhibition housed at Crofthead CEC

Outcome required :	What do we need to do :	How are we going to do it :	Who is going to do it :	Timeframe	How will we know we are succeeding? outcome indicator/outputs
A vibrant and exciting skating community that encourages and supports young skaters build their skills and confidence.	Develop key learning sessions				

Appendix 1 – Exemplar Design

Inverness Skatepark

Inverness Skatepark is located in the Bught Park the skate park built by Concreate Skateparks is a major new leisure facility built at a cost of £455,000. One of the best in in Scotland, the park covers an area of 1200 square metres and has something for every level of rider. The skate park has more than 10 features. The huge bowl has three grindable surfaces and ends in nine-foot pool bowl. The tail of the Nessie head is part of a 50-metre jump section, and a fully ride-able coloured 'thistle' is part of the extensive street section.



Appendix 2 - Heritage status

Why Has Historic England Listed a Skatepark?

The Rom Skatepark
Hornchurch, East London

Listed: 2014

Grade: II

NHLE entry: [Listing details for the Rom Skatepark](#)

Listed by Historic England under our former name of English Heritage.

The Rom Skatepark in Hornchurch, East London is the first skatepark in England to receive national listed status. This is a milestone in the history of skateboarding and in the designation of sporting buildings, as its Grade II protection reflects the sport's cultural legacy as well as the Rom's status as a 1970s prototype skatepark.



“Surf culture to skate culture

The Rom Skatepark is the most completely preserved of a small number of purpose-built skateparks to survive from the early years of British skateboarding. The sport originated in the surf culture of southern California in the 1950s and 1960s, when surfers adapted the primitive scooters fashioned by local children from roller-skate wheels and wooden boards to create sophisticated wheeled surfboards.

At first, skateboarders confined themselves to public streets, but from the mid-1960s, spaces like swimming pools and the vast concrete spillways and drainage features along the California coast were colonised. These structures influenced the design of the early purpose-built skateparks, built in ever-increasing numbers during the worldwide skateboarding craze of the mid-1970s.

Skateboarding reaches the UK

This trend reached the UK in 1977. That year saw the opening of the UK's first commercial skatepark, Skate City, on the South Bank of the Thames. Scores of similar venues then opened across the country; the best technical examples were designed by Adrian Rolt of G-Force and built by Skate Park Construction Ltd.

The parks were created from shotcrete (pressurised concrete) and employed standardised elements inspired by the Californian prototypes. The 8,000-square-metre Rom Skatepark was opened in August 1978. The park's central 4,000 square metres is surfaced in shotcrete with a series of bowls and hollows let into it. The main features include a twin-lobed bowl that resembles a Californian keyhole swimming pool, six interlinked bowls ('moguls'), a half-pipe, a freestyle area, and slalom and snake runs.

Skateboarding declined sharply in popularity in the early 1980s, and of the G-Force parks, only the one in Hornchurch and the Solid Surf in Harrow now survive in anything like their original form.

The Rom Skatepark raised interesting questions for English Heritage [now Historic England]. What type of designation would be appropriate, given that this is a concrete surface and not a building? And how can heritage protection respond to the values that become attached to cultural and sporting sites, where the physical fabric of structures often takes second place to a venue's status as 'hallowed ground'?

Skateboarding in England has always reached past the technicalities of the sport and is connected to the tastes in fashion and music of contemporary youth and their social attitudes. The decision to list the Rom

lay in its key importance as an icon of the British skateboard scene, one whose design has influenced the building of new skateparks since the millennium.

Although skateboarding remains a very public form of athletic display, with the street used as a public arena, its development goes hand in hand with that of its facilities and equipment. It can be argued that the full range of skateboarding skills and techniques would never have been devised without purpose-built venues like the Rom. As it is very unlikely that many more skateparks will be listed, recognising the Rom's importance as the single outstanding example of its type will help to preserve the legacy of one of the most distinctive and enduring strands of modern British youth culture.”



RPII ANNUAL SKATE PARK INSPECTION REPORT









ALMONDVALE
SKATE PARK,
WEST LOTHIAN
5th May 2021

This inspection was carried out by James Busby RPII Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Busby'.

Site Name: **Almondale Skate Park, West Lothian**Date: **05/05/21**

Item No.	Item Description	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 14974 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Action	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 14974	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
1	 <p>Item: Bowl 1 Manufacturer: Unknown Label: No Surfacing: Concrete</p>	5	N	L	     <p>Repair 4 linear meters of cracks.</p> <p>Repair damaged areas approximately 1m².</p> <p>Trim bolts at steel plate.</p>	2	Y	L	N/A	5
Overall Mean Score =		-								

*** Priority Action**




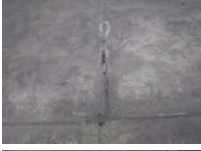



- 1 Action Immediately (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 1 month
- 3 Action within 3 months
- 4 Action within 9 months
- 5 Monitor

***Quality Score**

- Good = 10
- Fair = 5
- Poor = 2

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Site Name: **Almondale Skate Park, West Lothian**Date: **05/05/21**

Item No.	Item Description	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 14974 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Action	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 14974	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
2		5	N	M		2	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: Large Bowl Manufacturer: Unknown Label: No Surfacing: Concrete				    					
					Level concrete patches – surface levels difference greater than 3mm.					

*** Priority Action**

- 1 Action Immediately (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 1 month
- 3 Action within 3 months
- 4 Action within 9 months
- 5 Monitor


***Quality Score**

- Good = 10
- Fair = 5
- Poor = 2

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Site Name: **Almondale Skate Park, West Lothian**

Date: **05/05/21**

						Repair damage to purple wall.					
Overall Mean Score =		-									

*** Priority Action**







- 1 Action Immediately (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 1 month
- 3 Action within 3 months
- 4 Action within 9 months
- 5 Monitor

***Quality Score**

- Good = 10
Fair = 5
Poor = 2

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Site Name: **Almondale Skate Park, West Lothian**Date: **05/05/21**

Item No.	Item Description	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 14974 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Action	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 14974	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
3	 <p>Item: Large Bowl /w Mounds Manufacturer: Unknown Label: No Surfacing: Concrete</p>	5	N	L	     <p>Repair damaged concrete areas at top of transition and transition face.</p>	2	Y	L	N/A	5
Overall Mean Score =		-								

*** Priority Action**



- 1 Action Immediately (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 1 month
- 3 Action within 3 months
- 4 Action within 9 months
- 5 Monitor

***Quality Score**

- Good = 10
Fair = 5
Poor = 2

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Site Name: **Almondale Skate Park, West Lothian**Date: **05/05/21**

Item No.	Item Description	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 14974 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Action	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 14974	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
4	 <p>Item: Grind Rail Manufacturer: Unknown Label: No Surfacing: Concrete</p>	10	Y	L	N/A	5	Y	L	N/A	5
5	 <p>Item: Bank Ramp and Rail Manufacturer: Unknown Label: No Surfacing: Concrete</p>	10	Y	L	N/A	5	Y	L	N/A	5
Overall Mean Score =		-								

*** Priority Action**





- 1 Action Immediately (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 1 month
- 3 Action within 3 months
- 4 Action within 9 months
- 5 Monitor

***Quality Score**

- Good = 10
Fair = 5
Poor = 2

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Site Name: **Almondale Skate Park, West Lothian**Date: **05/05/21**

Item No.	Item Description	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 14974 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Action	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 14974	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
6	 <p>Item: Pimple Mound Manufacturer: Unknown Label: No Surfacing: Concrete</p>	10	Y	L	N/A	5	Y	L	N/A	5
7	 <p>Item: Transition /w Diamond Manufacturer: Unknown Label: No Surfacing: Concrete</p>	8	Y	L	  <p>Repair small holes in concrete at diamond.</p>	3	Y	L	N/A	5
Overall Mean Score =		-								

*** Priority Action**



- 1 Action Immediately (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 1 month
- 3 Action within 3 months
- 4 Action within 9 months
- 5 Monitor

***Quality Score**

- Good = 10
Fair = 5
Poor = 2

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Site Name: **Almondale Skate Park, West Lothian**Date: **05/05/21**

Item No.	Item Description	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 14974 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Action	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 14974	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
8	 <p>Item: Ramp and Ledges Manufacturer: Unknown Label: No Surfacing: Concrete</p>	10	Y	L	N/A	5	Y	L	N/A	5
9	 <p>Item: Ledges Manufacturer: Unknown Label: No Surfacing: Concrete</p>	10	Y	L	N/A	5	Y	L	N/A	5
Overall Mean Score =		-								

*** Priority Action**





- 1 Action Immediately (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 1 month
- 3 Action within 3 months
- 4 Action within 9 months
- 5 Monitor

***Quality Score**

- Good = 10
Fair = 5
Poor = 2

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Site Name: **Almondale Skate Park, West Lothian**Date: **05/05/21**

Item No.	Item Description	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 14974 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Action		Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 14974	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
10		5	N	L		Repair uneven tarmac at join with concrete (beside fence).	2	Y	L	N/A	5
					Repair small holes in concrete beside fence.						
11		10	Y	L	N/A		5	Y	L	N/A	5
Overall Mean Score =		8									

*** Priority Action**





- 1 Action Immediately (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 1 month
- 3 Action within 3 months
- 4 Action within 9 months
- 5 Monitor

***Quality Score**

- Good = 10
Fair = 5
Poor = 2

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Site Name: **Almondale Skate Park, West Lothian**Date: **05/05/21****ANCILLARY STRUCTURES**

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>GENERAL QUALITY CONDITION</u>	<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>RISK ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>PRIORITY</u>
	10	N/A	L	5
Signs				
	10	N/A	L	5
Bins				
	10	N/A	L	5
Seats				
	10	N/A	L	5
Paths				
OVERALL MEAN SCORE:		10		

*** Priority Action**

- 1 Action Immediately (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 1 month
- 3 Action within 3 months
- 4 Action within 9 months
- 5 Monitor

***Quality Score**

- Good = 10
Fair = 5
Poor = 2

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.