

Easter Inch Moss & Seafield Law



Images: Easter Inch Moss (left); View from Seafield Law (right)

Designated in 2007 as West Lothian's first Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Easter Inch Moss and Seafield Law is a 143 hectare site situated between Blackburn and Seafield. This ecologically valuable area combines both a peat bog and a oil shale bing that has been restructured like a natural hill.

Easter Inch Moss (EIM)

Easter Inch Moss is a site recovering from years of commercial peat extraction and drainage. Like many peat bogs in Scotland, it is a shadow of its original unblemished state. These precious habitats possess vital carbon storage properties that help to tackle climate change. However, when damaged, carbon dioxide is leaked back into the atmosphere and this exacerbates the greenhouse gas effect responsible for climate change. At EIM, West Lothian Council and the management group are working hard to restore the bog thanks to funding from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). These efforts, which encompass raising water levels by constructing dams and removing birch scrub, will ensure that the wildlife value and ecosystem services provided by EIM are enhanced and preserved. Cycle Route 75 provides easy access through the whole of the LNR. This semi-natural expanse of land is ideal for a range of leisure activities such as walking, cycling and running.

Seafield Law

To the east of Easter Inch Moss is the Seafield Law area of the LNR. A creative land redevelopment venture during the 1990's saw West Lothian Council transform an unattractive oil shale bing into this impressive landmark and pleasant landscaped environment. From the summit of the Law, great views can be had over Easter Inch Moss and of the surrounding landscape. Seafield Law is now a location which is valued for recreation. This successful project was recognized in the 1998 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning.

Wildlife

Bogs have a unique accumulation of species which make them extremely significant for conserving biodiversity. With around 140 variety of plants documented, 11 of which local rarities, Easter Inch Moss is no different. Teeming with animals, the area is also home to birds like the distinctive Reed Bunting and the elusive Short-eared Owl. The rare Pearl-Boarded Fritillary Butterfly inhabits the region whilst the Great Crested Newt can be found within some ponds. Brown Hare appear in the open areas and Roe Deer often take cover in the woodlands. Seafield Law is less abundant with wildlife due to its more recent creation, but it will colonise with flora and fauna given time.



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Information

- Free entry

Grid Ref: NT032700

Map: OS Landranger 65



Signage



National Cycle Route 75

Facilities & Access

- Free parking at the Seafield entrance, down a side road from the main road.
- Signposts, dog waste bins and a resting bench on the Seafield Law route.
- Closest public toilet in Blackburn outside the Mill Centre on Ash Grove.
- Refreshments available from a variety of small shops in Blackburn and Seafield.
- National Cycle Route 75 runs through site and offers a wide, flat surfaced footpath.
- Access to the Seafield Law summit is via steep unsurfaced footpaths.
- The peat bog terrain can be dangerous in sections due to the uneven and wet ground conditions.

Travel

Easter Inch Moss and Seafield Law LNR can be accessed via the A705 road that links Whitburn, Blackburn, Seafield and Livingston (from west to east). The Seafield car park is located down a side road from the main road and near the small greenspace and play park area at the centre of the village. There are several bus stops situated along the main road in Seafield. Blackburn and Seafield have no train station, Bathgate provides the closest service around two miles to the north of the site.

Easter Inch Moss & Seafield Law Map



Key			
	Road		Woodland
	Surfaced Footpath		Scattered Trees
	Unsurfaced Footpath		Grassland
	Car Park		Scrub
	Site Boundary		Peat Bog
	Spoil		Pond
	Access Point		Viewpoint



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Wetland area



Sphagnum Moss



Seafield Law footpath



View from Seafield Law