

The rail network that used to transport coal, now creates the network of paths used for recreation around Townhill today.

Townhill Country Park is an integral part of Townhill Village. The loch, woodland, park and associated paths were designated a Country Park in 1992 by the Countryside Commission for Scotland.

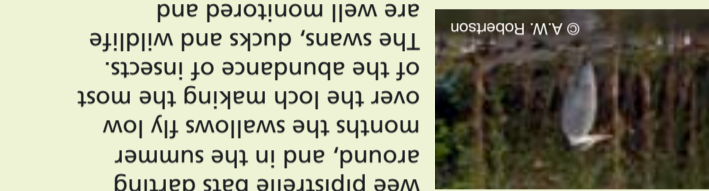
The Country Park grew from mining roots. The area saw mining in its different forms, including the practice of digging shallow coal heuges for the 'Black Stane' as a source of free fuel. This was common practice, until 1291, when the monks of the Abbey in Dunfermline were granted a charter and all the revenue belonged to them. The monastic community moved on, but coal mining remained a notable feature of industrial Fife. Mining ceased with the closure of the Muircockhall Colliery in 1970, after a working life of over a century.



Townhill Country Park



On the southern edge of Town Loch is the Country Park Centre, also the base for the Countryside Ranger and the Scottish Water Skiing Association. The centre was opened in 1992 by Prince Edward. To find out more about water skiing, see contact details.



The Loch is a popular place for walkers and recreational pursuits. The path around the Loch is a tarmac surface, and approximately one mile long, it is an excellent path for all. The surrounding areas are fantastic for fauna and flora. There is normally a breeding pair of swans, and ducks such as mallard and tufted duck. Look out for a heron or two standing in the shallows searching for their next meal. Take a stroll in the evening and you'll be sure to see a few wee pipistrelle bats darting around, and in the summer months the swallows fly low over the loch making the most of the abundance of insects. The swans, ducks and wildlife are well monitored and looked after by regular users of the Loch and Ranger Service.



Town Loch



Acknowledgement of thanks to:
 Alan Robertson, local photographer
 Alan Grieve, local artist
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Text and photographs: Lynn Strachan



The Country Park is managed by Fife Council in partnership with Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

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Townhill Muir was designated a Wildlife Site in 1988. The Muir is great for wildlife; buzzards, kestrels and deer are regularly reported being seen here. The heather is at its best in August and the site boasts fantastic views.

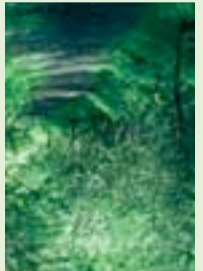
Townhill Muir



The woodland is used extensively for formal and informal recreational pursuits, and boasts a good network of paths. In the past few years the woodland has become a good focus for volunteers and groups seeking to learn new skills or just to experience the freedom of the woodland.



Townhill Wood is a long established woodland of semi-natural origin, it covers an area of 39.5 hectares. Although there has been woodland in Townhill for centuries, the majority of the trees standing today were planted between 1914 and 1939.



Townhill Wood

Wildflower Meadow



The wildflower meadow is opposite the Centre and has a grass path mown around it to allow visitor access. This is a fantastic site for biodiversity. The wildflower meadow is a great habitat for butterflies and bees, for voles and field mice to hide out in, along with frogs, toads and many other species of fauna and flora. Look out for cuckoo flower in the spring and yarrow in the summer. Yarrow was known to be used as a love charm and the leaves have also been used to make a calming cup of herbal tea.



Village Park

The village park has facilities for cricket, football and tennis, as well as a popular swing park. The park also has a memorial garden in memory of the late Billy Liddell, a Liverpool football player from Townhill Village.



TOWNHILL Country Park

Townhill Country Park is located only one and a half miles north of Dunfermline, at Townhill Village

TOWNHILL Country Park



KEY	
	Main Footpaths
	Roads and walking access to green space
	Townhill Village
	Farmland

Approx. Scale
250 metres