



**‘Moving Forward Together’
The strategy for water activities across
South East Scotland Scout Region**

October 2018

Contents

Summary of actions arising from the report

1. Introduction
2. The work of the Water Activities Strategy Group
3. Current water activities used by members of South East Scotland Scouts
 - 3.1 Longcraig Scout Centre
 - 3.2 Services provided by Scouts at other sites in South East Scotland
 - 3.3 Services provided by Scouts at other sites in Scotland
 - 3.4 Other organisations' facilities
 - 3.5 Commercial providers
4. Future developments
 - 4.1 Increasing the confidence of leaders to take part in or organise water activities
 - 4.2 Developments at Longcraig Scout Centre
 - 4.3 Development of services provided by Scout leaders in South East Scotland
 - 4.4 Greater use of other organisations' facilities
 - 4.5 Increase in number of leaders able to run water activities
 - 4.6 Grant funding
 - 4.7 Other ideas that might be developed
 - 4.8 Ideas considered as not being practical
5. Conclusion
6. Glossary
7. Appendices
 1. Membership of the Working Group and subgroups
 2. Scout Groups actively involved in providing water activities
 3. Statutory and Governance matters



1. Summary of actions arising from the report

1. *More and better information*

Appoint a Regional Adviser for water activities to lead on:

1.1 Compiling information about other organisations' facilities and locations where water activities can be provided and making the information widely available, eg on South East Scotland Scouts website.

1.2 Providing more publicity and outreach about water activities, for example by regular articles in South East Scotland Scouts newsletter, and roadshows in the winter months.

2. *New methods of service provision*

Set up a Working Group In the autumn 2018 - spring 2019, with members drawn from across South East Scotland Scouts and Longcraig Active Support Unit to:

2.1. Produce a 5 year development plan and feasibility study for Longcraig Scout Centre, which is realistic about the ability to develop ideas for 2019 - 2024, bearing in mind the need to attract more volunteer supporters and instructors to organise and provide these services. This Working Group should be led by an independent person. This report should be submitted to the Regional Executive Committee by June 2019.

2.2 Undertake more research about the possibilities of developing alternative methods of service provision across the Region, assessing the willingness of leaders to be involved in these possibilities and the practicalities of providing these services.

2.3 Support the development of partnerships with other organisations such as local sailing/kayak clubs, for example Cramond Boat Club.

3. *Support leaders to undertake or organise more water activities*

The Regional Adviser for water activities should be the lead person to:

3.1 Publicise that we have a number of Regional Assessors and who they are, for example in the South East Scotland Scouts' monthly Regional newsletter.

3.2 Support leaders to obtain permits, eg through financial assistance, proving advice on funding sources, advice from Regional Assessors, holding workshops about obtaining a permit.

3.3 Explore the possibility of establishing a structured programme to support the development of skills for new and existing instructors of water activities. This would include the provision of training courses to cover the necessary steps in reaching permit assessments and supporting them in gaining the necessary logged hours required for permits.

3.4 Develop ways to address some leaders' reluctance to involve themselves and the members of their sections in water activities.

1. Introduction

On 5 December 2017, the South East Scotland Regional Executive Committee agreed to reverse its earlier decision to close Longcraig Scout Centre and to set up a Working Group to develop a water activities strategy. Membership of the Working Group would include leaders, members of Longcraig Active Support Unit, and representatives from user groups and other relevant organisations.

The decision to close the Centre had been made on financial grounds, particularly the cost of a new septic tank. When these costs were reviewed, it was agreed that it would be possible to keep the Centre open. Members of the Regional Leadership team and the Longcraig Active Support Unit (ASU) worked together in the first part of 2018 to produce an operational plan for the Centre which demonstrated its viability. In addition, ASU members – chiefly Fraser Simon – were able to introduce an online booking system, for the first time at either Longcraig or Bonaly Outdoor Centre. It has been extremely well received by the Centres users.

There was a widespread perception that the Centre was operating on a semi-autonomous basis, rather than being well integrated into South East Scotland Scouts. The Committee therefore wanted to know how the Region could promote and support access to safe and affordable water activities in support of the Scout programme, as defined by the Scout Association.

This report summarises the work undertaken by the Water Activities Strategy Group (WASG) in relation to future water activities for members of South East Scotland Scouts, and makes recommendations for the way forward.

It is unfortunate that the work looking at future water activities in South East Scotland has had to be carried out during the period when the members of Longcraig Active Support Unit are at their busiest preparing for the opening of the Centre for the summer season and organising activities. For this reason, the report is not as detailed as was anticipated, but it does cover the main concerns of the Regional Executive Committee.

We wish to thank everybody who assisted in developing the strategy – their names are given in Appendix 1. In particular, we wish to thank Malcolm Leckie, Ian Harrower, Fraser Simon and Neil Gowans from the ASU, Neil Kirk, Regional Activities Manager and Paul Rogers, 82nd Craigmmond Sea Scouts.



2. The work of the Water Activities Strategy Group

The Strategy Group was tasked to:

1. Carry out a review and make recommendations for the provision of sustainable and affordable water activities in South East Region in order to meet programme requirements for all Scouting ages and provide the best platform to allow young people to take part in water activities in a safe but challenging manner. To submit a report to the Regional Executive Committee by 30 June 2018.
2. Develop an operational plan containing recommendations about the provision of water activities at Longcraig Water Activities Centre and submit it to the Regional Executive Committee by 31 March 2018. This has been done and approved by the Committee.
3. Ensure that the values of Scouting are put at the forefront of all proposals so that Longcraig Scout Centre will be perceived to be an integral part of Scouting activities in the South East Region. Its activities should also be consistent with the South East Scotland Regional Strategy 2018-23 which is currently being developed.

Main Working Group

It met in February and March 2018 to develop the Longcraig operational plan and then several times later to finalise the overall strategy. Most of the work to develop the plan and the strategy was done in the sub-groups.

The membership of the main Working Group is set out in Appendix 1.

Three subgroups were set up:

- to develop the operational plan for Longcraig Scout Centre for 2018-19
- to consider current and future provision of water activities in South East Scotland
- to make recommendations on improving the role and support of the ASU and instructors

The membership of these subgroups is set out in Appendix 1.

Focus Groups for both Longcraig and Regional activities were also set up:

- Focus group of young people, ie the Regional Youth Advisory Group (RYAG)
- Focus group of current users, ie adult leaders
- Focus group of users and leaders who no longer go to Longcraig.

Online survey

A survey was sent out across the Region to ascertain the extent of water activities in the Region, the level of usage, and the activities which people would like to see developed. The results of the survey were fed into the sub-groups and the Working Group. We wish to thank Alan Horberry, ASU, for the detailed work he did on the survey.

The output of all this activity have been incorporated into this report. However, it is recommended that people undertaking more work on implementing the recommended actions or wanting more details such as classifications of waters, the Scout permit scheme, national qualifications, rules about boats, etc, consult the Activities Subgroup report.

3. Current water activities across South East Scotland

As a result of the research carried out by the Activities Subgroup the following were recorded as being used by Groups in the Region:

1. Longcraig Scout Centre
2. Services provided by Scouts at other sites in South East Scotland
3. Centres outwith South East Scotland
4. Other organisations' facilities
5. Commercial facilities

3.1 Longcraig Scout Centre

South East Scotland Scouts is in a unique position within Scotland in that it has an existing facility, Longcraig Scout Centre. It provides a significant number of opportunities for young people to enjoy water activities, and it does so by using the volunteer-led model.

Longcraig's major aim is to encourage young people to try water based adventurous activities, in a risk managed environment, and give them opportunities to develop their potential. It achieves this by being inclusive and open to all (where safe and practical) and also delivering sessions to allow young people to achieve badges related to water activities.

Water activities at Longcraig Scout Centre

Longcraig Scout Centre provides a very wide range of water activities, mainly of taster sessions for Scout and Guide groups for 24-30 people per session:

- Kayaking: 12-18 young people and adults per session
- Rafting: 18 per session
- Sailing (crewed): 12-15 per session
- Sailing (single handed): 12 per session
- Sailing (Drascombe Longboats): 18 per session
- Power boating
- Stand-up paddle boarding
- On shore activities such as theoretical navigational instruction

These numbers are based upon the 2018 capacity and resource levels, and should not be seen as absolute maximum or minimum. Longcraig ASU currently has a membership of about 46 members some of who act as instructors and others as support staff. The availability of the ASU members has a direct impact on which activities can be organised and when.

Longcraig Scout Centre's target was to deliver these services to least 960 participants in 2018. The actual number was 1002. It did so largely in the summer season of May to September. Longcraig's pricing strategy is based on a fixed charge for a 2-hour session. Currently the charge is £12.50 per session, per participant, which is a competitive when compared to other local providers.

In 2018 it continued to offer activities to all sections, including Cubs and Brownies, to support relevant Scout and Girlguiding badge programmes. It is planning to develop activities for Beavers and Rainbows.

The activities are provided in 2-hour sessions:

- 19:00 – 21:00 during weekday evenings;
- 10:00 – 12:00 during weekend mornings;
- 14:00 – 16:00 during weekend afternoons.

Other timings and arrangements can be made for specific user groups or events with some forward planning. The availability of sessions is determined by the tides. Typically, about 2 – 3 possible session time are unavailable every fortnight. This compares very favourably with other coastal water activity establishments. However, both tides and weather can have an impact on the operational availability of activities at Longcraig. This is often more of a ‘risk’ consideration than an absolute inability to operate. The maximum number of participants in a normal session in 2018 was 24 participants on a weekday and 30 at a weekend.

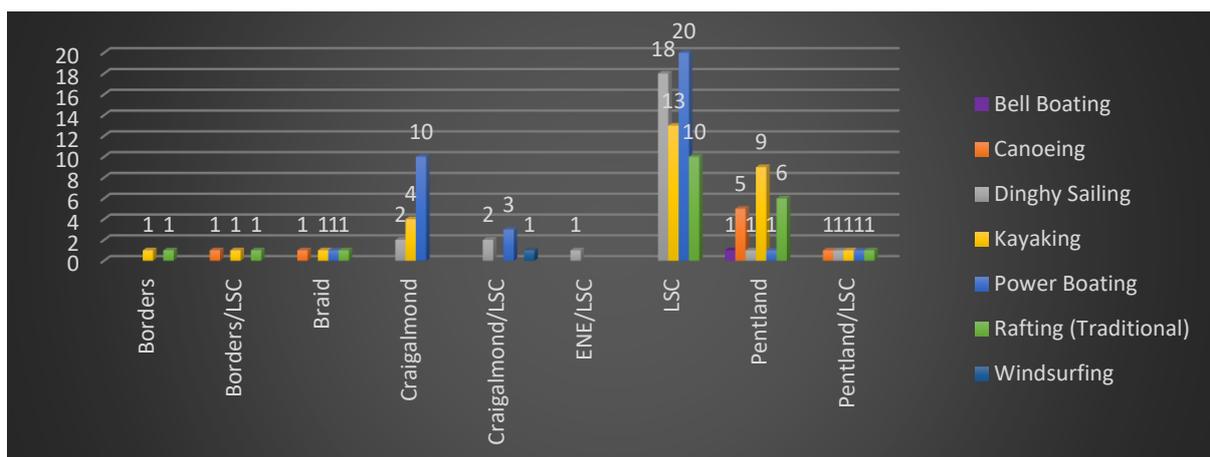
Longcraig can provide customised sessions for larger groups when asked to support badges, camps and other activities. Longcraig has also hosted several events such as the Scottish Scout Regatta, Herring Cup, Scots Camp, Festival Camp, Chief Scout’s visit and various District events as well as large groups camping at Bonaly or Fordell Firs.

Those Scout Groups who have leaders with the relevant Scout Adventurous Activity permits may also run their own activities at the Centre if they have they own or can make arrangements to borrow or hire suitable equipment.

In addition, as a recognised RYA Training centre, Longcraig is able to offer courses and certification in sailing and power boating. The BCU coaches at Longcraig can provide training and certification in paddle sports.

Longcraig offers more opportunities for water activities than can be provided by Districts alone – see Table 1.

Table 1: Range of activities provided by the Districts and Longcraig

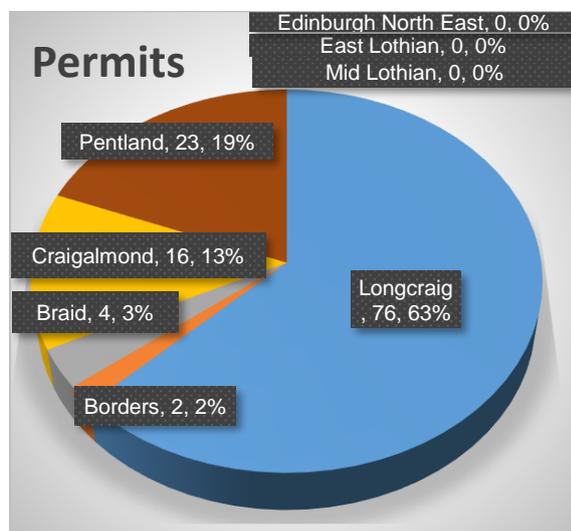


Water Activity permits

Permits are needed for all water activities, except swimming, on class B1, B2, B3 and A waters, and for all motorised water activities and SCUBA activities on class C waters. Longcraig can offer more opportunities because it has a large number of instructors with water activity. In fact, 56% of all the water activity permits in Scotland registered on Compass are shown to be held by adults in South East Scotland Scouts. Longcraig's volunteer base is almost equally split between those adults who also volunteer elsewhere in Scouting and those volunteering solely at Longcraig.

Longcraig provides South East Scotland Scouts with its four Regional Assessors for awarding permits for water-based activities, covering dinghy sailing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, windsurfing and powerboating. The conclusion is that Longcraig is a significant contributor to not only providing activities but also supporting leaders to gain permits in order to provide activities for young people.

Table 2: Permits across South East Scotland Region



Water activities survey about usage at Longcraig Scout Centre

A survey was carried out with members across the Region and its results can be summarised as follows:

- The booking experience run by the Regional office to date has been average, and many respondents expressed poor experiences
- 75% of respondents rated their activity experience at Longcraig favourably. Over 50% rated it as Excellent
- Longcraig shore facilities are rated Good
- Longcraig afloat equipment as Excellent or Good
- Longcraig safety is rated as Excellent
- An on-line booking system and deposit up front followed by balance is overwhelmingly the favoured way of booking
- 82% of respondents thought that the Longcraig price point looks about right.
- There are clearly water activities going on at locations other than Longcraig, but the extent of these was not shown in the survey

The concluding comments made by Alan Horberry, ASU, who carried out the extensive survey was that 'The results are encouraging and give a solid foundation and direction to and for activities at Longcraig. The subjective comments also reinforce this. However, there can be no shying away from the less positive comments. These need to be considered and addressed in order to overcome what respondents see as negatives and also as an improvement tool. Some of the comments are clearly a lack of understanding about Longcraig and some appear to be based on historical stereotypes. These should be addressed in a joined-up way by both Longcraig and Regional staff. Such surveys are useful but must be used a part of a continuous improvement cycle'. Alan went on to say: 'In this regard the following should be considered:

- Devising an agreed planning tool for Longcraig
- Capturing more contact details for users in order to undertake similar surveys annually
- Devising an action plan to address the less positive areas indicated in the response
- Considering the communications messages that are required to promote Longcraig.

However, one key consistent message coming out of the survey is that respondents found that the afloat equipment was good, and safety was positive. This provides an excellent foundation to build upon. If Longcraig capitalises on that, then it can continue to provide adventurous activities in as safe a manner as possible.'

Longcraig Scout Centre as a 'Centre of Excellence'

Longcraig ASU members are clear that they wish to the Centre to be seen and promoted as a Centre of Excellence whose aim is to encourage young people to try water based adventurous activities, in a risk managed environment, and give them opportunities to develop their potential. The Centre facilitates this by:

- Providing training opportunities for adults and young people to achieve National Governing Body certification, such as Royal Yachting Association [RYA] sailing/powerboat or British Canoe Union [BCU] kayaking/canoeing
- Providing a personal development route and mechanism for young people to become qualified and therefore able to help deliver training and activities to other young people
- Providing an environment to assess adult and youth members for Scout activity permits
- Being a source of expertise to advise and help leaders in groups provide activities in their own environment.
- Providing opportunities for candidates wanting to obtain Adventurous Activity permits to gain experience in a controlled environment in order to develop their own log books necessary to approach the next level of permit assessment.

Longcraig is a recognised RYA training centre providing training in sailing and powerboating to nationally agreed standards. The RYA inspects the facility annually, and this gives confidence that the quality of the service is maintained and that it is rated by knowledgeable people outside of Scouting.

3. 2 Services provided by Scouts at other centres in South East Scotland

There are no other Scout facilities equivalent to Longcraig Centre in South East Scotland. However, there are a number of Scout Groups that exist within the Region that provide water activities. These are listed in Appendix 2. Some are Sea Scout Groups, some are land-based Scouts. These activities are not necessarily available to other Scouts to utilise, but they do provide experience and training for a number of Scout members within these groups.

3.3 Services provided by Scouts at other sites in Scotland

There are several other Scout centres which offer high quality activities, but all involve travelling, although this is much less so for Scouts in the Borders travelling to some centres such as Hawkhirst in Northumberland. Good reports have been received by Scouts members using these centres:

- Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre: <http://www.lochgoilhead.org.uk>
- Canoeing facilities at Girlguiding's Netherurd Centre, Borders: <http://www.netherurd.co.uk/>
- Canoeing at Auchengillan, Clyde Region's Outdoor Centre: www.auchengillan.com
- Hawkhirst Scout Centre, Northumberland: <https://www.scoutadventures.org.uk/centre/hawkhirst>
- Great Tower Scout Centre, Cumbria: activities are provided to residents only: <https://www.scoutadventures.org.uk/centre/great-tower>

3.4 Other organisations' facilities and locations

There are many other centres and locations where Scouts can learn about or develop their skills on the water:

- Cramond Boat Club - 82nd Craigmmond Scouts are affiliate members and have the use of the boat park and changing facilities.
- St Mary's Loch RYA Sailing Centre, Selkirk, Borders, www.stmlsc.org.uk
- Dunbar Sailing Club, <https://www.dunbarsailingclub.co.uk/>
- Bridge 8 Hub, <http://www.bridge8hub.co.uk/> - hires kayaks but does not appear to be operational at the moment. Self-instruct for £15 per half day
- Lagoon facilities in Musselburgh, <https://leapsports.org/EdinburghKayakClub>
- Private coastal clubs in Eyemouth and other Borders towns
- Whiteadder – local authority centre based on a reservoir, but now closed
- River Tweed
- Union Canal - unregulated for Scouts but Guides require permits
- Linlithgow Loch - no water sports facilities but are large boats for hire
- East Lothian Yacht Club – a private club, <http://www.elyc.org.uk>
- Kielder Water Activities Centre, Northumberland, <http://www.visitkielder.com/>
- Canty Bay, East Lothian, no facilities – activities often associated with the residential accommodation at Canty Bay

3.5 Commercial providers

There are a considerable number of other centres and locations where Scouts can learn about or develop their water skills and they are set out in Table 3. They are currently being used by those Groups which:

- Cannot get to Longcraig easily or wish to take advantage of activities closer to their meeting location or at a time better suited to their volunteers
- Wish to make use of non-tidal and/or freshwater and a wider range of times than can be offered by Longcraig
- Do not know about Longcraig
- Are not returning to Longcraig for various reasons, such as difficulty in getting slots or difficulties with the previous booking system.

There is, currently, no data regarding Scout Group use of commercial providers of water Activities in South East Scotland Region.

Table 3: Comparative analysis of commercial and other providers

	Sailing	Kayaking	Canoeing	SUP	Powerboat	Windsurfing	Rafting	Maximum Group size	Operating Times	Cost per Session	NGB Courses
Port Edgar 0131 319 1820 bookings@portedgarwatersports.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		20+	April-October	£12.37-£16.35 2 hours	RYA
Bridge 8 Hub 07808 534028 sean@bridge8hub.co.uk		✓	✓	✓			✓	100	All Year	£15pp 3 hour session	SCA
MY Adventure 0131 629 3065 info@myadventure.org.uk		✓	✓					20+		£25pp 2 hours	SCA
Biggar Adventure 07834 871575 craig@biggaradventure.co.uk			✓								
Epic Ventures 07929 459 613 info@epic-ventures.com			✓					56	April-Oct	£10-£15 2 hrs	SCA
Wiston Lodge 01899 850228 info@wistonlodge.co.uk		✓	✓				✓	24	1 st April-31 st October	£10-£15pp 2 hour session	SCA
Scottish Outdoor Education Centres 01899 221115 info@soec.org.uk		✓	✓								
Netherurd House 01968 682 208 bookings@netherurd.co.uk		✓	✓							£11.00-£15.00 2 hours	No
Venturing Out 01875440247 enquiries@venturingout.org.uk		✓	✓								
In2venture info@in2venture.com		✓	✓								
Low Port 01506 340720 lowport.centre@westlothian.gov.uk	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	30-50	1 st April-31 st October	£20 Half day or evening	RYA SCA
Elie Watersports 01333 330 962 angus@eliewatersports.com	✓	✓				✓			Seasonal	£10-£15 per hour	RYA
Strathclyde Country Park 01698 402060 countryside@northlan.gov.uk	✓	✓	✓						Seasonal		
East Neuk Outdoors 01333 310370 info@eastneukoutdoors.co.uk		✓	✓					20 +	Seasonal	£15 Half day	SCA
SAS Adventures 01786 340 500 info@sasadventures.co.uk		✓	✓								
Lochore Meadows 01592 583343 LochoreMeadows.General@fife.gov.uk	✓	✓	✓					20 +	Seasonal	£8-£10 2 hours	RYA SCA

Analysis

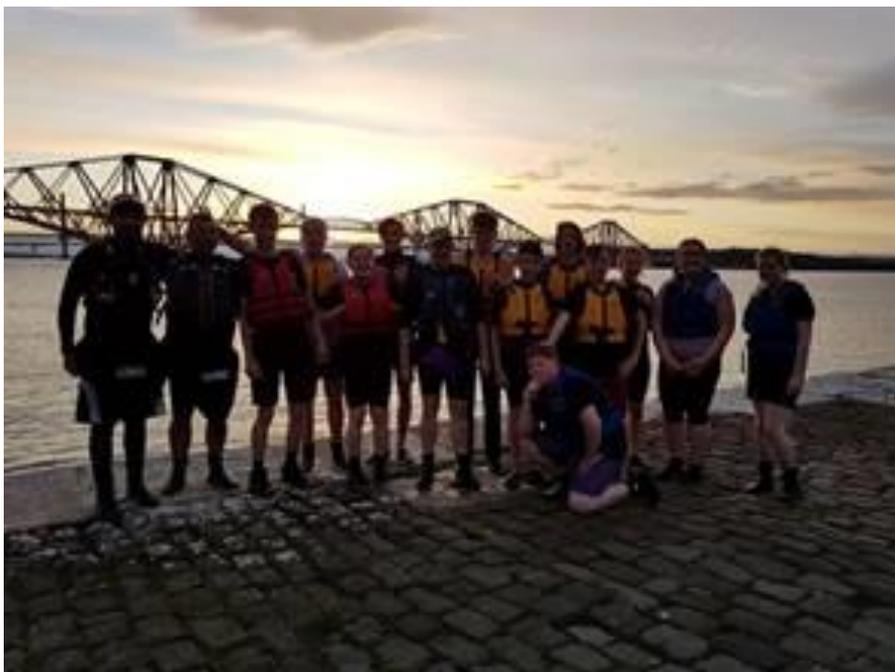
There are very many opportunities for members of South East Scotland Scouts to undertake water based activities. It was clear from all those involved in developing the strategy that there was a considerable lack of knowledge about these opportunities. One member of the Working Group who came from a Group at some distance from Longcraig said he had never known about it or that it was a service provided by the Region.

One of the key issues to emerge from the Working Group was that the Region does not need to directly provide more water activities – instead it needs to spread information about water activities currently available. This is discussed in the next section of the report.

We also need to look at why some leaders find it difficult to engage in water activities. This can be for a range of reasons such as:

- Never having thought about doing water activities
- Not having any personal experience of water activities
- Fear of looking inadequate or incompetent to young people
- Concerns about costs
- Travelling times
- Difficulty of getting young people to a location different from their usual meeting place
- Not wanting to get wet
- Fear of being thrown in the water
- Having to change into appropriate clothing which they may think they do not have.

Promoting water activities will need us to address these issues through positive and systematic education and outreach programmes.



4. Future developments

In considering future direction, the group looked to the Regional Strategy paper to identify the program requirements:

Our Aims

The South East Scotland Scouts' Regional Strategy 2018-23 has been developed in line with the National Scout Strategy and sets out how we aim to make a real improvement in:

1. our leadership capacity and expertise: **People**
2. opportunities for young people to have more adventurous activities: **Programme**
3. the way our communities perceive us by creating effective partnerships: **Perception**
4. our governance and the Regional staff functions: **Performance**

This Water Activities Strategy helps deliver to the “**Programme**” aim as well as contribute and support to the other three aims.

Future developments for increasing the opportunities and ability of young people to have access to water activities include:

- Increasing the confidence of leaders to take part in or organise water activities
- Developments at Longcraig
- Development of services provided by Scout leaders in South East Scotland
- Promoting greater opportunities to participate in water activities
- Increase in number of leaders able to run water activities
- Information about grant funding

4.1 Increasing the confidence of leaders to take part in or organise water activities

In Longcraig's user data for 2016/2017 data, only 26 separate Scout Groups made use of Longcraig, out of a Regional total of about 100 Groups. Assuming even 13 Groups participated elsewhere, this means that only one third of Groups across the Region did any water activities at all.

A key element of the Strategy must be to encourage all Groups to enable their members to have a water activity experience at some stage. This includes even Beavers now that their programme includes an element of water activities.

We know from feedback by leaders to the instructors at Longcraig and from general discussions that some of the noted reasons why Scout Groups do not do more water activities are:

- Leaders are aware of their own lack of knowledge and experience about these activities
- They are reluctant to do these activities disliking getting wet and cold, and fearing falling in the water
- Concerns about managing young people in a risky environment
- Difficulties in organising activities through the Region's booking system
- Lack of knowledge about venues e.g. one leader from the Borders who is on the WASG said he had never known about Longcraig

- Concerns about costs and difficulties of getting to appropriate venues

Tacking these perceived obstacles will need a variety of actions such as:

- Increased publicity detailing locations, timing and costs
- More outreach by Longcraig's and other leaders about the value of water activities and the ease with which leaders can organise these activities at centres
- Publicising the fact that the risks are managed at centres by well qualified staff and that the leaders do not need to do anything except arrange for the young people to be taken to and from the centres.

Action:

- ❖ Undertake more publicity and outreach about water activities, for example by regular articles in South East Scotland Scouts newsletter, roadshows in the winter months; District AGMs; camps and events; appropriate training courses; Adult Appointments Committee packs.

4.2 Developments at Longcraig Scout Centre

There are a number of areas which the Longcraig ASU recognise need development, and they are very willing to implement them. However, they come with factors such as associated expense and increased insurance costs. These are noted here for future exploration and costing:

- Be able, where practical, to allow equipment to be hired by groups with suitably permitted leaders so they may run activities at a camp
- Activities suitable for Beavers in line with their needs and badge work requirements
- On-shore activities - the main driver behind these sessions is to address areas where it is difficult to deliver water activities (Beavers, Cubs) or as a tool to increase awareness of Longcraig and its activities. On-shore activities play an integral part in providing an understanding of water safety, seamanship, respect for the marine environment and its flora and fauna
- Knotting, possibly as a part of elementary pioneering, for example using ropes and poles to build a basic catapult or ballista to launch projectiles into the bay
- Practical talks and demonstrations of water safety, planning, personal safety equipment and appropriate clothing. These can be aimed at gaining specific badges, such as the Cubs' Personal Safety Activity Badge with its reference to the Water Safety Code.
- Building an infrastructure to support the 'Centre of Excellence' label in terms of quality of the facility and number of participants
- Offer activity weekends at a location of Groups' choosing
- Develop links with Explorer groups as a means to provide youth led activities for all.
- The provision of equipment at Longcraig to support groups who have permits and experience should be considered
- The ASU can provide sessions to large groups visiting Bonaly if planned and arranged in advance, e.g. for summer camps. The ASU can continue to implement the reciprocal arrangement whereby they can also promote the Bonaly Outdoor Centre to groups using Longcraig.

Developments at Longcraig will need to be undertaken with regard to several factors such as the limitations imposed by the tides, and issues around attracting, training and maintaining volunteers, both instructors and supporters. This has been addressed by the Longcraig's operational plan and now needs to be put into action in a positive and enthusiastic way.

The question of paid instructors was discussed by the WASG. Girlguiding has outsourced the delivery of their activities at Netherurd Centre to a commercial organisation. However, that these options are not currently possible at Longcraig because of the conditions of the lease with the Dalmeny estate.

The Working Group members were clear that Longcraig Scout Centre's primary focus was not to make a profit, but to provide good services and facilities to young people. However, it should not operate at a loss unless this is approved for specific reasons by the Regional Executive Committee in advance.

Girlguiding are considering the need to appoint a Water Sports Adviser as a top priority. They will be reviewing their own strategies but were happy to support the current Scout Programme.

The Working Group agreed that it would be necessary to have someone in South East Scotland Scouts who could take responsibility for developing water activities and that this should be a Regional Adviser.

Promote existing Scout facilities

It was recognised that Longcraig and other Scout water activity providers may not be widely known about. It was felt that it was incumbent on the Regional team to ensure sufficient emphasis was being placed on the promotion of Longcraig as a training resource and activities provider as well as ensuring other Scout centres were also known about in the event they fitted in better with program delivery.

Actions:

- ❖ South East Scotland Scouts should take responsibility for developing water activities by appointing a Regional Adviser.
- ❖ In the autumn 2018 - spring 2019, Longcraig ASU and SE Scotland Scouts should set up a working group to produce a 5 year development plan and feasibility study for the Centre. It should be realistic about the ability to develop these ideas, bearing in mind the need to attract more volunteer supporters and volunteer instructors to organise and provide these services.
- ❖ Promote Longcraig through Districts and Groups to ensure wider knowledge of the opportunities available there.

4.3 Development of services provided by Scout leaders in South East Scotland

There are a number of sites across South East Scotland where water activities are being organised by Scout leaders, for example on canals. Many ideas have been put forward at various times about how this could be developed, for example:

- By having lock-up facilities for equipment such as canoes, paddles and life jackets spread across SE Scotland.
- Transporting equipment from Longcraig to other places where water activities could take place eg on canals or lochs eg St Mary's Loch.

All of these ideas have significant management and logistic problems, for example it is not really viable for Longcraig instructors, who are all volunteers, to transport canoes or sailing boats to the Borders when there are very good facilities at Hawkhurst Centre in Kielder, which is nearer the

Borders' groups than Longcraig. There are also the issues of insurance, maintenance and security of equipment stored in lock-up facilities, as break ins have been reported in some of these settings.

Actions:

- ❖ Undertake more research about the practicalities of these potential developments.
- ❖ Any infrastructure development at Bonaly Outdoor Centre should consider if there is a market for providing sample water-based activities (subject to being cost effective) on the site.

4.4 Greater use of other organisations' facilities

Groups already use other organisations' facilities, for example Netherurd, the Girlguiding centre in the Borders, or Cramond Boat Club. This can be either on the basis of sessions paid for by Groups or a partnership basis, such as the one developed by the Cramond Scout Group and the Cramond Boat Club. We recommend that much more use should be made of this partnership model and model partnership agreements developed.

Information could be provided by South East Scotland Scouts in the form of an on-line list of services and contact details. It is not the responsibility of South East Scotland Scouts to promote the use of other organisations' facilities as such, but it is a reasonable function for it to have information about other centres readily available so that leaders are aware there are options and what they are.

Actions:

- ❖ Compile information about other organisations' facilities and make it available on South East Scotland Scouts' website and other outlets such as Girlguiding newsletters about where alternative water activities can be provided
- ❖ Undertake more research about the possibility of partnerships with other organisations such as Cramond Boat Club.

Groups also already use commercial facilities, for example at Port Edgar. This centre offers services at approximately similar costs and can do so more frequently because it is less affected by tides.

Information could be provided by the South East Scotland Scouts in the form of an on-line list of services and contact details. It is not the responsibility of the SES Scouts to promote the use of commercial facilities as such, but it is a reasonable function for it to have information about other centres so that leaders are aware there are options and what they are.

If the use of activities is more widely spread among external and commercial providers, this may reduce the activity level at Longcraig and therefore the anticipated income. This in turn could lead to a belief that the Centre is non-viable due to a reduction in activity level. This needs to be considered by the Regional Executive Committee and guarded against by the active promotion of the value of Longcraig as a Scout Centre.

Action:

- ❖ Compile information and make it available on South East Scotland Scouts' website about where alternative water activities can be provided.

4.5 Increase in number of leaders able to run water activities

South East Scotland Scouts needs to promote the idea that the leaders can readily obtain permits to run water activities. We have four Regional Assessors who can assist leaders to obtain permits for:

- Powerboating (including safety)
- Kayaking (sea and inland)
- Traditional Rafting
- Dinghy sailing.

The main problem for leaders is the time, effort and cost required to get and maintain permits. In order to obtain a permit, leaders need to be assessed in 4 areas:

- **Technical Competence** – This looks at the specific technical skills required to run the activity. It is usually assessed through a practical assessment although other evidence such as logged experience and other qualifications held is taken into consideration.
- **Scout Association Rules** – This checks whether the applicant is aware of the activity Rules and how they affect the activity within Scouting.
- **Safeguarding** - This will be carried out by the Commissioner or their nominee and ensures that the necessary personal enquiry checks have been carried out and the appropriate safeguarding training (Module 1) has taken place.
- **Personal Suitability** – This is to check the applicant is suitable in terms of attitude, health for the activity involved and to be able to lead an adventurous activity for young people.

However, it has to be said that many leaders do not want the extra volunteering work and cost involved in obtaining permits, if there are sufficient permit holders and/or centres offering water-based activities to enable them to organise water activities without themselves having to be permit holders. The limited number of places where people can be trained that are not commercial is a factor. Commercial training is expensive and although funding is available, there is a lead time for it to be granted and it is also limited.

Nevertheless, by making the process more easily understood and easier to undertake, it may be possible to facilitate more leaders to apply for and gain a permit.

Actions:

- ❖ Publicise the fact that we have a number of Regional Assessors and who they are, eg in the South East Scotland Scouts' monthly newsletter
- ❖ Find out if more people are interested in having permits and would like support to do so
- ❖ Implement ways of supporting them, eg by holding a workshop(s) about obtaining a permit, financial assistance, providing advice on funding sources and advice from Regional Assessors.
- ❖ Explore the possibility of establishing a structured program to support development of skills of new and existing water activities instructors.

4.6 Grant funding

South East Scotland Scouts should provide more information to Groups about funding possibilities such as:

- Large Grants: The Big Lottery; Scottish Education Department; Local Authority Funding; CORRA Foundation
- Smaller Grants: Bell's Nautical Trust; Awards for All; Scouts SHQ Development Fund; UK Scouts HQ development Fund; Trinity House Fund; Hedley Foundation; Sunley Foundation; Youthlink Scotland; Staff work contacts and sponsorship.

4.7 Other ideas that might be developed

- ✚ Towing - It was noted that the current driving licence requirements may reduce the number of drivers able to tow due to the need to complete an additional test. If there was agreement to provide equipment from Longcraig at different locations, then consideration could be given to how the South East Scotland Scouts best supports people to get the correct licence and provision of tow bars.
- ✚ Virtual Centre - The setting up of a “virtual activity centre” should be investigated. This would provide equipment for hire but have sufficient resources to provide storage and basic maintenance.
- ✚ We could actively look outside the Scouting family to see if there are additional instructors and supporters to provide activities as ASU members either at Longcraig or a District.
- ✚ Provision of some sort of water activities at Bonaly – some ideas suggested (but not costed or investigated) are:
 - Pond for kayaking
 - Model boating on a pond to help skills training
- ✚ More activities at Longcraig such as:
 - Canoeing using Canadian canoes
 - Water skiing
 - Wakeboarding
- ✚ Monitor new activities coming on the market

4.8 Ideas considered as not practical

The following ideas which were suggested as additional “water” activities are noted here for the record and the reasons given about why they were discounted:

- Coasteering: This is classified as a land activity and needs the minimum qualification required by instructor to hold a MTUK Mountain Instructor Award (MIA).
- Gorge Walking: This is classified as a land activity and requires the minimum qualification required by instructor to hold a MTUK Mountain Instructor Award (MIA).
- Land Yachting: This is classified as a land activity and no permit or qualifications are required to run this for a Scout Activity.



5 Conclusion

As stated at the start of this report, the Water Activities Strategy Group (WASG) was tasked to undertake two actions:

1. **Carry out a review and make recommendations for the provision of sustainable and affordable water activities in South East Region** in order to meet programme requirements for all Scouting ages and provide the best platform to allow young people to take part in water activities in a safe but challenging manner, especially the water sports awards and badges specified in the youth programmes for all age ranges of both the Scout Association and Girlguiding.
2. **Ensure that the values of Scouting are put at the forefront of all proposals** so that Longcraig Scout Centre will be perceived to be an integral part of Scouting activities in the South East Region and not (incorrectly) as a semi-autonomous sailing centre, as is currently the case in some people's minds.

When setting up the Water Activities Strategy Group, the Regional Executive Committee also wanted to understand more about:

3. **The added value of activities at Longcraig Scout Centre** such as enabling leaders to gain qualifications, and providing adventurous activities, for example sailing under the Forth bridges and being a RYA Training Centre.
4. **The views of the Longcraig Scout Centre ASU** members and whether they saw themselves as an integral part of South East Scotland Scouts.

The Water Activities Strategy Group concluded that:

1. **There should be sustainable and affordable water activities in South East Region.** The Region should promote the various opportunities for water activities for all young people (regardless of age and location). The Working Group makes many proposals in Section 4 about how this could be done. The recommended 5 year plan for Longcraig will assist the Regional Executive Committee in deciding how to continue to support Longcraig ASU in providing water activities.
2. **The values of Scouting should be put at the forefront of all proposals.** In particular, the water activities at Longcraig Scout Centre do support Scouting values and requirements. Longcraig's aim is clearly stated as being to encourage young people to try water based adventurous activities, in a risk managed environment, and give them opportunities to develop their potential. The ASU members work hard to achieve this by being inclusive and open to all (where safe and practical) and delivering sessions to allow young people to achieve badges related to water activities. It does support Scouting values and requirements.
3. **The added value of activities at Longcraig Scout Centre:** There is added value of activities at Longcraig Scout Centre such as enabling leaders to gain qualifications.
4. **The views of the Longcraig Scout Centre ASU:** There had been concern that some of the ASU wish to remain at a distance from South East Scotland Scouts. This is understandable in view of the recent actions of the Regional Executive Committee in deciding to close the

Centre and the earlier actions in reducing the Centre's level of independence such as having a separate bank account. However, we are now in a different position. The ASU membership is committed to being, and being seen, as an active part of South East Scotland Scouts.

Margery Naylor,
Chair of the Water Activities Strategy Group and Regional Commissioner



6 Glossary

<i>Term</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
AALA	Adventurous Activity Licensing Authority – government backed scheme to license adventurous activity providers.
BCU	British Canoe Union
NGB	National Governing Body
PVG	Protection of Vulnerable Groups (checking system used by organisations to ensure adults have no known reasons not to work with young people and vulnerable adults)
RYA	Royal Yachting Association
SCA	Scottish Canoe Association
Scout Group	In this context a group operating under a district whose members might be one or all of Beavers, Cubs, Explorers and Leaders
SE Scotland Scouts	South East Scotland Scouts – the Regional body that is made up of seven districts that promotes Scouting on behalf of Scottish headquarters.
WASG	Water Activities Strategy Group

Appendix 1: Membership of the WASG groups

Working Group: The members of the main Working Group were:

- Margery Naylor, Regional Commissioner (Chair), and Diane Marshall, Deputy Regional Commissioner, Activities and Events
- Andrew Green and John Bruce, as representatives nominated by the Regional Executive Committee
- Two representatives from Districts: Chris Swaffield (Borders District) and Paul Rogers (Craigalmond District), nominated by District Commissioners
- Two representatives from stakeholder organisations: Neil Gowans, ASU, and Louise Cullun, Girlguiding
- Gillian Fraser, SE Regional Operations Manager, and Neil Kirk, SE Regional Activities Manager
- Malcolm Leckie, Longcraig ASU Manager, and Alan Horberry, Longcraig ASU representative

The Finance and Bookings Subgroup (remit to develop the operational plan for Longcraig 2018)

- John Bruce, Regional Secretary
- Chris Swaffield, Borders District
- Fraser Simon, Longcraig Scout Centre ASU
- Andrew Green, Chair, East Lothian District
- Gillian Fraser, Regional Operations Manager
- Malcolm Leckie, Longcraig Scout Centre ASU Manager
- Ian Harrower, Longcraig Scout Centre ASU
- Alan Horberry, Longcraig Scout Centre ASU
- Margery Naylor (Chair), Regional Commissioner

The Activities Subgroup: membership consisted of:

- Malcolm Leckie (Chair), Longcraig Scout Centre ASU Manager
- Diane Marshall, Deputy Regional Commissioner, Activities and Events
- Neil Kirk, Regional Activities Manager
- Ian Harrower, Longcraig Scout Centre ASU
- David Growden, District Skills Instructor (Borders)
- William Innes, East Lothian District
- Paul Rogers, Craigalmond District, 82 Craigalmond Scouts
- Robert Park, Longcraig Active Support Unit, RYA Principal

Appendix 2: Scout Groups actively involved in providing water activities

82nd Craigalmond: Operates from Cramond Sailing Club and supports the RYA training centre there. Limited water time due to access limitations of River Almond into the Forth Estuary.

- Sailing
- Kayaking
- Powerboating
- Windsurfing

87th Craigalmond

- Sailing
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Powerboating

108th Pentland

- Kayaking

66th Edinburgh North East (Charlotte Chapel)

- Activities at Canty Bay

Appendix 3: Statutory and Governance Matters

There are several steps which are seen as blockers to development which are maybe only misunderstandings.

Adventurous Activity Licensing Agency (AALA)

Only applies to centres that offer commercial activities to youth groups which are not volunteer led (ie schools). Longcraig does not currently have a AALA license, Bonaly also does not as it does not provide any activities covered by the license.

Policy Organisation & Rules (POR)

This is the Scout Association rule book and it defines, along with a series of factsheets, how Scouting should go about its business. The factsheets on activities are key to the safe operation and are subject to regular review and replication.

Risk Assessments

The Scout Association requires risk assessments be completed for all activities. They are there to help protect the leaders but also ensure suitable thought is being given to the activity being planned and the possible risks to the young people. Longcraig has a set of risk assessments covering all activities and these are reviewed at least annually, are available on request and are checked at the annual RYA inspection.

PVG and TSA membership “red tape”

All organisations have a process to join and those involving young people need to ensure their safety and the national scheme for Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) is what the Scout Association uses. A clear articulation of the process and sufficient people to process applications accurately and in timely manner would contribute to a better experience.