

Highland Wildlife Park constructs a "Wolf Territory" in the city. From zoolex web site -- <http://www.highlandwildlifepark.org>



The Highland Wildlife Park is located in Kincaig, Kingussie, Inverness-shire, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain. The animals featured in this exhibit are 12 individual wolves, *Canis lupus*, Family Canidae

Description:

The Highland Wildlife Park specializes in Scottish wildlife, of the past and present. Wolf Territory tells the truth about wolves which became extinct in the wild here in 1743 when the last wild wolf in Scotland was killed. A raised walkway takes visitors right into the heart of the enclosure. Here they can observe a wolf pack in the natural landscape of the Scottish Highlands. The fence was developed by park staff. The vertical mesh was woven on a frame by local producers. The poles holding the electric wires are made from Iron Wood, an Australian eucalypt which does not burn. The wires form an angle to prevent wolves from approaching the mesh fence. The bent poles also hold a horizontal mesh that prevents burrowing underneath the fence. However, there is no pressure on the fence from the wolves except when a member of the pack is expelled for some reason and tries to escape. A small part of the enclosure is used for moving the pack from the main enclosure for maintenance.

Size:

Space allocation in square meters: 14,500

Costs: GBP 40,000 including % for design.

Opening date: October, 1997

Design: Began September, 1995

Construction: Began June, 1997

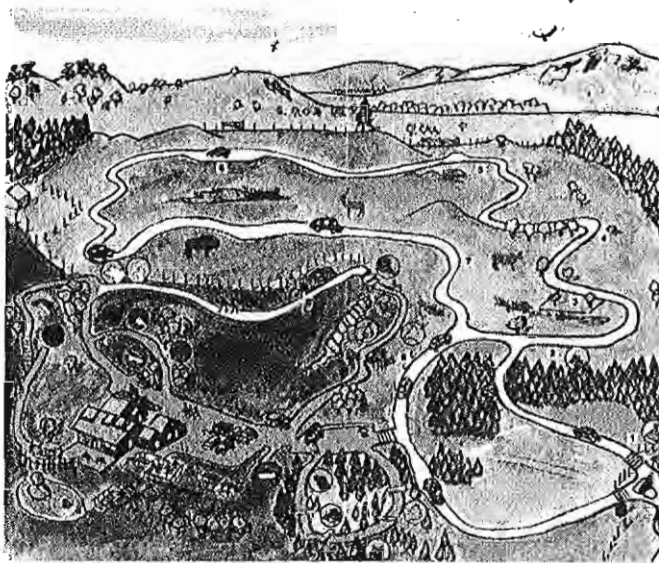
Local conditions: climatic diagram for the closest weather station.

Plants:

The native vegetation of the highlands was preserved and serves as a natural habitat for the wolves.

Features dedicated to animals:

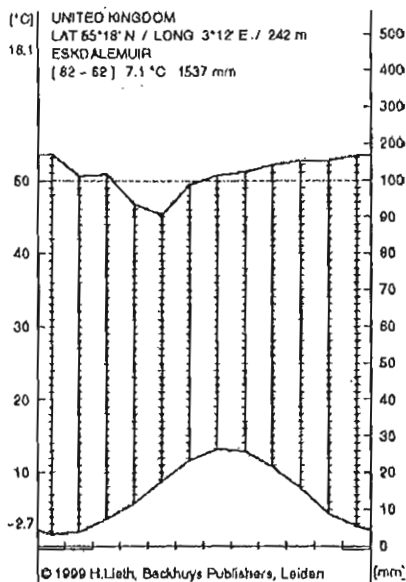
Carcasses are occasionally hung from a tree to provide enrichment. Also, a series of feeding puzzles have been developed for the wolves. These puzzles consisted of six wire cages,



In the wild, wolves were known to live in packs of up to 36 individuals. Photo by Monika Fibey.



The landscape provides for burrowing caves where the wolves have their young and for sandy places for sun bathing. Photo by Monika Fibey.



The exhibit includes large rocks that serve as vantage points for the animals. Photo by Monika Fibey.



which were covered in vegetation and had different sized holes cut in them to give the wolves a variety of access to the food. Food such as whole, gutted, rabbits or fish could be inserted into the puzzles by using a large plastic pipe from outside the fence. The landscape provides for burrowing caves, sandy places for sun bathing, a little pond and big rocks which serve as vantage points. From here, the wolves can overlook a large part of the park and observe reindeer, deer, bison and Przewalski's horses. There are moments when all of them forget the confining fences, the wolves displaying lurking and hunting behaviors while their potential prey tests the wind, threatens, or flees to a different place.

Features dedicated to visitors:

The raised walkway and tower are user friendly for handicapped visitors and small children. Wheelchair users were involved in the construction to guarantee usability. A wooden wolf sculpture on the tower was sponsored by Nicholas Evans, a famous author of books on wolves.

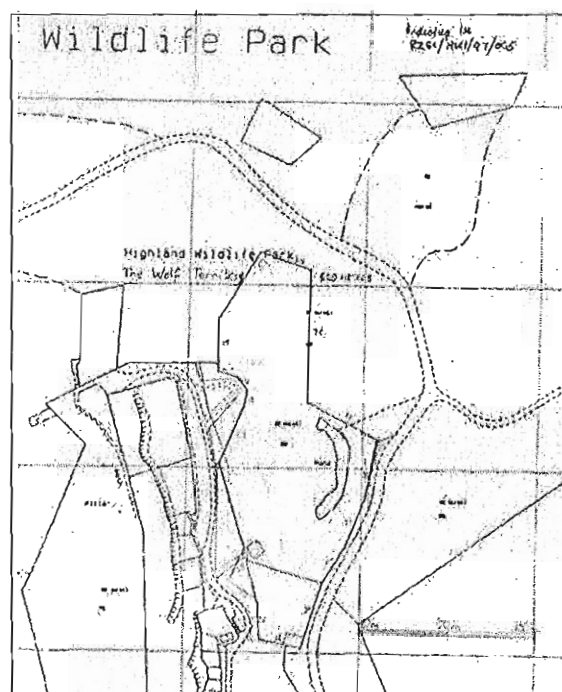
Interpretation:

A very important role of the wildlife park is providing a positive image of wolves to visitors. An interpretation panel has been installed in the viewing tower, which is of an innovative design. The graphics were sandblasted into slate. One part is tactile, with a full sized paw pad and a wolf portrait, which can be transferred to paper like a brass



The Viewing Tower rises above the wolf exhibit.

The exhibit was designed by zoo's staff.



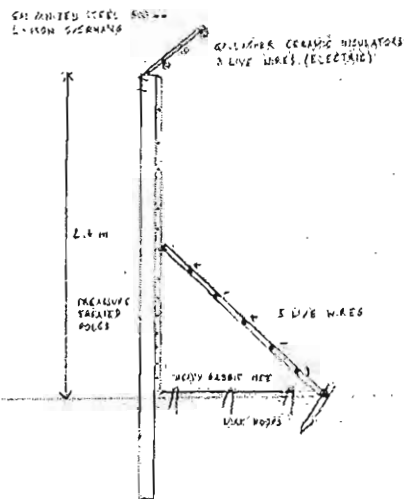
rubbing. Keeper talks are held for visitors.

Conservation:

There has been much talk recently about reintroducing wolves to Scotland, but a great deal of work in habitat restoration, education, and the strengthening of legislation to protect wildlife, must be undertaken first.

Whether and when this reintroduction will take place is unclear, in the meantime the Highland Wildlife Park's WOLF TERRITORY provides a unique opportunity to see these fascinating creatures at close hand.

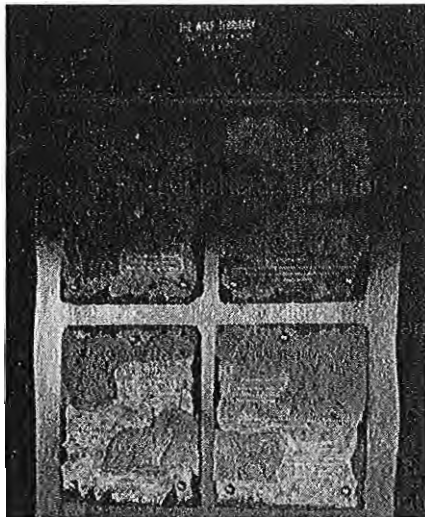
One area of the exhibit allows for the separation of individuals from the group when needed. Fibey 2002.



The fence was developed by the park's staff for this exhibit. Usher-Smith 1997.



A lower window allows children and wheelchair users a comfortable view.



One goal of Interpretation is to convey a positive image of wolves. Fibey 2002.

A raised walkway that cuts through. Fibey 2002.

