

News from Friends of Barry Buddon

The aim of the Friends of Barry Buddon section within Carnoustie Community Development Trust is to establish closer ties between the CCDT and the Barry Buddon Training Centre, offering assistance where we can and hopefully providing an opportunity for Carnoustie residents to be able to participate in and enjoy some of the conservation activities, as well as learning more about the flora fauna and wildlife that abound on the training area.

In addition to its primary role of controlling training and safety on the training area, Headquarters Barry Buddon Training Centre is heavily involved in all aspects of conservation found on this historic and unique site. Most of the training area is classified a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and an EU Special Area of Conservation (SAC), as well as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds under the European Birds Directive. To monitor, manage and deliver its conservation responsibilities the Training and Safety Officer in charge holds a twice yearly Conservation Group meeting attended by:- local facilities management and support staff, representatives of Scottish Natural Heritage, the MOD Defence Infrastructure Organisation, representatives of local club branches from the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Scottish Ornithological Club, the Arbroath and Dundee Bird Club, Dundee Naturalists Society, the Monifieth Rotary and Eco Groups and the Carnoustie Community Development Trust.

Access to the Training Area

The Ranges and Danger Areas are closed to the public during periods of live firing. Details of the monthly Live Firing Schedules are published each month in advance on the Carnoustie Community Development Trust Website and on its Facebook page. They can also be found in the Carnoustie Library and are publicised in the local press. When firing is not taking place the public can access the training area's metalled roads, but on foot, horseback and bicycle only. You can also walk along the beaches when the flags are down and red lights extinguished. Further access to the area is not possible because of an unexploded ordnance risk.

Regrettably, there has been a worrying and unacceptable increase in the number of reported instances of non-compliance with these access rules. Members of the public have been seen wandering off metalled roads, thereby endangering themselves as well as disturbing protected wildlife and damaging rare flora. Of particular concern has been the numerous sightings of motorcycles and private vehicles being driven into and across the training area. Such blatant disregard of the rules needs to be combated if the majority of law abiding citizens are to continue to enjoy safe access to BBTC. To this end, members of the public are asked to keep an eye open for instances of improper activity and, where possible, report the incident to the BBTC 24 hour Operations Room whose Contact No is 0131 310 3426. A photograph or vehicle registration numbers of relevant vehicles would be appreciated by the Operations room if available.

Conservation -

Ornithology

At the 2017 Open Nature Day in June around 60 species of birds were recorded. More recently a 'Richards Pipet' has been spotted which is believed to be a new species of bird for Barry Buddon. One 'watcher' has reported that up to September this year he had recorded a total of 134 different species. Shore nesting birds include terns on the beaches, and shell duck in old rabbit burrows. In summer months, abundant skylarks, meadow pipits, linnets and stonechats use the dunes as shelter

or nest sites. In winter, passage birds like fieldfares and redwings feed on the plentiful sea buckthorn berries.

Mammals

Deer have been sighted recently for the first time in over 3 months. Generally mammals are restricted by the lack of cover, although the terrain is suited to rabbits which play an important role in maintaining the short turf and thereby the diverse range of plant species. Maintaining naturally-balanced numbers, not just of rabbits but of voles, mice and even the occasional brown hare, is down to predators like foxes, weasels, stoats and birds of prey.

Butterflies

There are various species of butterfly and moth frequenting Barry Buddon. The Small Blue Butterfly is one of the rarest butterflies found, which is successfully breeding on the site. Due to its decline elsewhere in Angus this now makes BBTC even more significant regarding this particular species.

Amphibians, Reptiles and Invertebrates

Many different species of amphibians and reptiles can also be found on the warm, dry habitat and around the area's pools and marshes. In addition, from an invertebrates perspective, there are over 200 plus species of moth and flies on the area, including a recently discovered rare fly which is thought to be a hybrid (male/female).

Future Events

The next Open Nature Day is currently scheduled for Sunday 19 August 2018.

Further details of attendance and timings for this fascinating event will be published on the Friends of Barry Buddon forum nearer the time.