

## Minutes of Barry Buddon Training Centre Conservation Group Meeting Oct 2018

The second and last Barry Buddon Training Centre (BBTC) Conservation Group Meeting of 2018 was held on 10th October 2018. The key matters arising are summarised below:-

### Illegal Vehicles Accessing the Training Centre

Police Scotland reported there had been a significant drop in the number of illegal vehicles accessing the area since the last meeting in April 2018. There were a number of reasons for this but the single most important one was the fact that they had identified the principal offender. They warned however no one should be complacent and a high degree of vigilance must be maintained and the public were asked to report any vehicular activity within the Training Centre to the 24 hour Operations Room Tel No 0131 310 3426.

### Woodland Management Plan

A Woodland Plan is to be introduced and will be discussed by interested parties in a few weeks time. There are no current plans for planting, only maintaining the existing trees on site.

The condition of 'Old Wood' was discussed and the decision taken that despite its age it will stay for the foreseeable future on account of its operational use to the BBTC. It will however be subject to regular inspections to monitor the deadfall.

### Cattle Grazing and Scrub Clearance.

An increasing number of Highland Cattle have been utilised for grazing and clearance purposes. This operation necessitates identifying grazing areas and fencing them off before the cattle are introduced. It has proved to be a highly successful operation, benefitting both the Training Centre and Grazier alike, now in its 2nd year.

### Ornithology

#### SKYLARK



The first full bird survey undertaken at Barry Buddon was carried out on 9th June 2018. The whole site was covered except for the Woodland area. A total of 63 different species were recorded. Of these 75 Skylarks and 72 Meadow Pipets (in pairs) were seen.

#### MEADOW PIPE T



## STARLING

Starlings were the largest group of birds identified whilst a number of Black Caps were also recorded. These latter birds were until recently regarded as migrants, now however an increasing number are wintering in the UK.



## BLACK CAP (MALE)



Discussion took place whether in future there should be two surveys annually, one in the spring and the second in the autumn. A decision on the proposal is still awaited. It is hoped an article listing the full results of the survey will appear in the 2019 edition of the 'Sanctuary Magazine', The Ministry of Defence (MOD) Sustainability Magazine, produced and published annually by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation responsible for managing and developing the MOD's estate. Readers can easily access the 'Sanctuary Magazine' by simply typing its name into their website search engines. (Incidentally this year's edition includes an article on the 'Archaeological Investigations into the World War One Training trenches at Barry Buddon' which can be found on page 58.)

## Toads and Amphibians

In excess of 50 toad ladders had now been installed around the camp. An article on these species has also been sent to Sanctuary Magazine for publication next year.

## Invertebrates

It was now estimated there are 200+ new micro moths and flies on the area, including one believed to be a 'hybrid' (male/female). During the summer a Wharf Borer Beetle was seen. These are not common in Scotland and the last sighting was reported to have been in 1903.



## WHARF BORER BEETLE

### Seagreen Offshore Wind Farm Project

It is understood the offshore wind farm project is back on track. BBTC has been advised that the proposed pipeline route bringing the electricity power cables ashore will cross the Training Centre boundary. It will not however transgress any of those areas within the Training Centre classified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. It was explained the route the pipeline would follow crosses the railway line and runs along the border of the golf course.

The next Barry Buddon Conservation Day will be held on the 8th September 2019. Further details will be published nearer the date.