

RSPB Black Devon Wetlands

Issue No 1 March 2016

Welcome to RSPB Black Devon Wetlands

In June 2015, the RSPB signed a 21 year lease with Clackmannanshire council for Black Devon Wetlands.

Located to the south east of Alloa, the site is made up of 42ha of tranquil wetland grassland.

Hone to some fantastic wildlife, you might catch a glimpse of the stunning short-eared owl or the colourful shelduck and maybe if you are very lucky, the secretive snipe.

In conjunction with the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, 2016 will see a whirlwind of activity on the site as we get underway with habitat management and put access infrastructure in place to make it a great place to go to see wildlife up close within the Inner Forth.

Our plans include creating a visitor zone with new paths, viewing areas and signage as well as somewhere to sit quietly to enjoy the wildlife. There will of course be plenty of work carried out to make the site as good as we can for the wildlife found in the Inner Forth.

While it appears that not much has happened on the ground so far, we have installed 4369m of new stock fencing and removed some old fencing. This allows us to open up larger areas to graze in the future.



Dabbling shelducks, just some of the fantastic wildlife you can see at RSPB Black Devon Wetlands

Photo credit:
David Palmar

If you have any questions or comments about RSPB Black Devon Wetlands then please do contact the RSPB Skinflats office on 01324 832853 or email Allison.leonard@rspb.org.uk



Black Devon Wetlands Panorama Photo credit: David Palmar

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How to find RSPB Black Devon Wetlands

The best way to access the reserve is on foot....you can get to the reserve via the footpath at the end of Riverside View in Alloa (FK10 1BZ).

There is currently no vehicle access to the reserve or any designated parking.

Alternatively, you can access the reserve via public transport. Alloa train station is 2.5km away or take the bus (Tillicoultry to Glenochil route (C2), the nearest bus stop is on Bowhouse road, adjacent to Riverside view.

Events at RSPB Black Devon Wetlands

Just because we don't have any infrastructure in place yet doesn't mean we are not getting out there showing people the site. In October, David Anderson, our Inner Forth Futurescapes officer, held two events, in conjunction with the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, showing people birds such as goldeneye, tufted ducks and mute swans.

The 'Family Wildlife Adventure' saw 17 people out on the reserve helping David make new feeders for the birds and the 'Evening Wildlife Walk' was just as popular.

The 'Introducing RSPB Black Devon Wetlands' event at the start of February was also a great success. The first guided walk of the day saw 12 people visit the wetlands with David to see what was about. Sadly the weather didn't play ball for the afternoon guided walk but a hardy few did brave the torrential rain to see the pools.

Our next event on the reserve will be **'Dawn Chorus Day Fun for Families'** on May 1st, starting at 6am.

For more information on this event and to book or to find more information about the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative go to

<http://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/>



Visitors to the reserve enjoying the 'Evening Wildlife walk'
Photo credit: Paul Barclay

RSPB Black Devon Wetlands Team

You will find one or more of us on the reserve over the next few months so if you are out and about and see us then please do come and say hello.

We would love to hear what you think about the reserve and if you have any suggestions for improving the site.

We are:

Allison Leonard- Forth Reserves Warden
Yvonne Boles – Senior Conservation Officer
David Anderson – Inner Forth Futurescapes Officer

We can all be contacted via the RSPB Skinflats office, details are below.

Further information

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The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.

The RSPB is a member of BirdLife International, a partnership of conservation organisations working to give nature a home around the world.

