

OPERATIONS AND PROTECTIVE SERVICE
MINUTE OF MEETING

Location: Oldmachar Academy

Meeting Date: 14th May 2018

Subject: Scotstown Moor LNR and Donmouth LNR Management Committee

Present: Fran Small, Alexis Darg,

Also Present: Ian Talboys, ACC Countryside Officer,

Apologies: Margaret Main Catherine Wilkinson

No	Item	Action by
2.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting Agreed</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising Deer warning signs are now in place on The Esplanade near the Ellon Road Bridge and by the Kings Links golf course The Donmouth bird hide graffiti had been removed but there had been more. The potholes had been repaired at Scotstown Moor car park</p>	
4.	<p>Works Carried Out/Rangers Report The Donmouth birdhide had been vandalised with a floor support beam being burnt away along with damage to the floor boards as well. Repairs were awaited. There was ongoing work by the Flooding Team and Engineers to come up with a plan to minimise landslips on the north side of the Don downstream of the Ellon Road bridge. Some ground investigation were being planned to research the soil/rock structure. This would involve boreholes at the foot of the bank and at the top. The wire fence along Donmouth Road had been replaced with a wooden post and wire fence. There had been public events at both sites which had been well supported, along with volunteer days at Scotstown Moor undertaking gorse clearing and opening up pools for dragonflies at the north of the reserve. There had been a lot of volunteer groups from various organisations helping with gorse clearing at Scotstown Moor making a big impression on the SSSI area in the main. IT outlined the new structure of the Council and where the Countryside Ranger Service and Environmental Services were going to be. These changes were likely to have minimal impact at the Countryside Ranger Service level.</p>	
5	<p>Harbour Seal Research Project This project was still ongoing with monitoring of individual seals at the haul out at Donmouth through direct observation and tagging.</p>	
6	<p>Land ownership issue (Scotstown Moor)</p>	

No update on this apart from confirmation that St Machar's Kirk Session had not sold any of the land.

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Future Work Programme

Events Programme: IT handed out the summer events leaflet to the Committee and reminded the group that it was also available on the Council website. IT asked for suggestions for future events. If anyone had any suggestions for events to let IT know.

Gorse Cutting: The work to manage the gorse at Scotstown Moor will be continuing over the winter, mainly within the SSSI area. An SNH officer had visited the SSSI in December 2017 to assess the state of the SSSI and to make any recommendations to keep the area to the requirements of the designation. No report has been received to date. The report will influence future gorse cutting areas.

Opening up wetland areas: The work to extend the wetland pools to the north of Scotstown Moor has been going well and attracting more dragonflies and damselflies. More areas will be opened up over the winter.

Deer Plan Work on implementing this plan is underway. All land managers with wild deer on their land have a duty to manage deer at a sustainable level. IT had been surveying areas to assess the roe deer impact on Scotstown Moor and Donmouth and other areas of the City over the autumn and winter.

Coastal Erosion: See item 4.

Invasive Non-Native Species: IT outlined the work still being undertaken to control Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed across the City. Most of the Japanese knotweed that was on the Don at Donmouth has been eradicated but there are issues with Himalayan balsam that is colonising some areas. The knotweed and giant hogweed will be sprayed by the Countryside Rangers. The Himalayan balsam is most effectively managed by pulling it up or breaking the stems before it flowers as it is an annual plant. Volunteers will be helping to clear this species. Some Japanese knotweed has been identified along Scotstown Road near the reserve car park which is due to be sprayed later in the year. Giant hogweed has been an issue along the Sheilhill Road near Scotstown Moor which is now being managed collaboratively by the housing developers, private landowners and the Council through coordination by SNH. Most of the hogweed is on non-council owned land so is not the responsibility of the Council.

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AOCB
None

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Date and Location of Next Meetings 15th August 7pm meet at Donmouth Rd car park, Scotstown Moor 10th September meet at Scotstown Moor car park

Monday 19th November 2018 7:30pm at Oldmachar Academy