

The History of Murton Trust

Murton is a Scottish charitable organisation with a dual educational and environmental purpose. We manage a thriving nature reserve, visitor farm and tea room providing a unique environment in which children, young people and adults can learn and develop skills for life. We are particularly focussed on assisting schools, colleges and other organisations, to deliver their academic curriculum; and furthering our partnerships with local schools to offer training in land-based skills training.

Our land is managed by a small team of staff, volunteers and school students. If you would like further information on the Trust, the reserve, or need any assistance then please contact us in the Steading Office.

Murton Trust was established in 2001 at the conclusion of 12 years of sand and gravel quarrying. The Trust is named after Murton Farm. The farm covered the area that is now the nature reserve and visitor farm. In the late 1960's, the two founding Trustees who lived in an adjoining property bought the farm. The land was then leased and farmed until Aggregate Industries began quarrying in the late 1980s. It was agreed at the end of the sand and gravel extraction that the whole area would be restored to the highest environmental standard. After the completion of extraction the Trust and Aggregate Industries worked



in partnership to ensure the land was given the best opportunity to evolve into a reserve where nature not merely survives, but thrives.

Nature Reserve

Whatever the season, enjoy a stroll or a brisk walk around our trail, passing delightful lochs and wetlands. Access to our nature reserve is free. Our well maintained network of paths provides walks that everyone can enjoy and there are plenty of benches to have a rest, or just to sit and contemplate the sheer beauty and tranquillity of the place.

Our lochs and wetlands are home to many varieties of birds and wildfowl, including protected species such as the little ringed plover. Many other species pass through the reserve. There are three hides from where you can watch our resident and visiting birds, so be sure to bring your binoculars. We are proud to have been pioneers in the design of nesting facilities for sand martins and it is always a special time for us in April when these lovely birds arrive back at the Reserve from their winter travels. Be sure to take time to watch them darting around in the sky above the sand martin area.



During the summer months you will find a riot of wildflowers throughout the reserve, including an extensive wildflower meadow which we planted in 2003. As you can imagine, with so many flowers, numerous bumble bees and butterflies are also among our visitors together with a fascinating variety of insects for you to find.

As the seasons change there is always something new to see at Murton Nature Reserve. Many school children come here to learn about the seasons and maybe it is a place for you to really feel in tune with nature's changes.



Murton Trust For Education and the Environment - SC031554

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