

Caring for Trottick

Volunteers have often helped out with the management of the reserve over the years. They help with anything from litter picking to path maintenance and wildlife surveys.

Local volunteers find that volunteering at the reserve gives them a great sense of achievement, helps them to meet other local people and allows them to have their say in what's done here.

The Countryside Ranger Service organises many volunteer afternoons where there are activities to suit all abilities and all tools and training are provided.

If you would like to lend a hand please contact us or follow us on Facebook to find out when our next session is.



Access at Trottick



The reserve is used by many people. To ensure good relations between everyone and that the reserve remains a great place for both people and wildlife we would like to remind people of the following points:

- Please respect other users.
- Keep your dog under control.
- Please pick up your dog's mess and put it in the bin.
- There is one litter bin onsite at the Claverhouse Rd entrance; if you do not pass this please take all your litter home.
- No fishing is allowed on the reserve.



Green Flag

Trottick Mill Ponds Local Nature Reserve has been awarded a Green Flag® for a number of years. This Scheme recognises and rewards the best green spaces in the country. Each site is independently judged on a regular basis to ensure it maintains this standard.

How to find Trottick Mill Ponds Local Nature Reserve



By Foot or bicycle...

The reserve can be accessed on foot at the 4 main points marked on the map at Old Claverhouse Rd, William Fitzgerald Way, Millburn Gardens and Mansion Drive. The Green Circular Cycle Route goes through the reserve. Maps and more information can be obtained online at <http://www.dundeetravelinfo.com/cycle.asp> or contact the Access Office on 01382 433748.

By Car

Situated off Claverhouse Rd which runs between Old Glamis Rd to the west and Forfar Rd to the east. Turn onto Barns of Claverhouse Rd then left onto Old Claverhouse Rd.

By Bus

National Express Dundee buses 18 and 19 depart from stop 3, Albert Square, in the city centre and take around 20 minutes to get to Claverhouse Rd.

Contact Us

Dundee Countryside Ranger Service
Courtyard Office, Camperdown House
Camperdown Country Park, Dundee, DD2 4TF

Tel: 01382 431848

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Trottick Mill Ponds

Local Nature Reserve



Historical Trottick

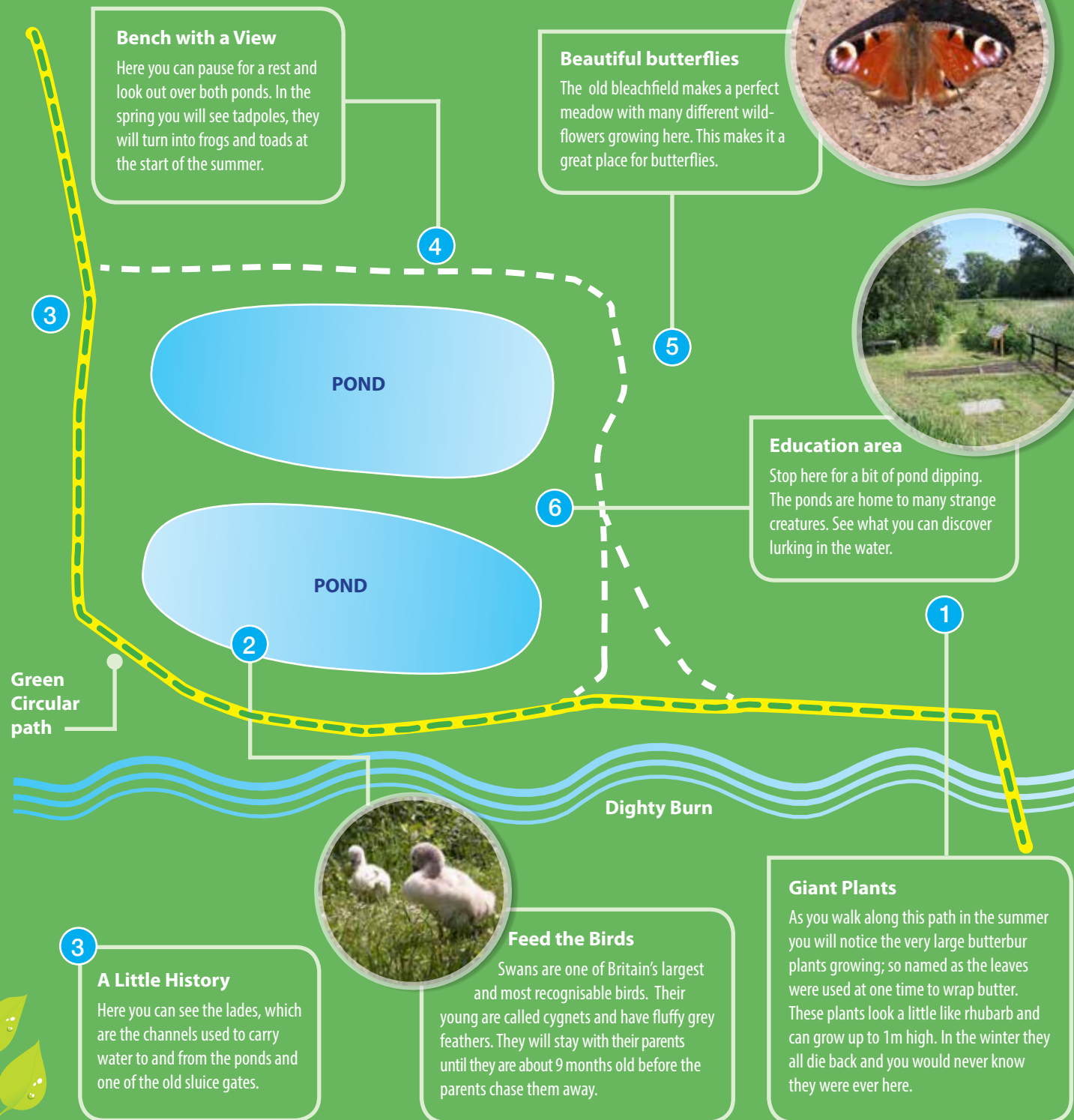
You may notice some structures around the reserve that provide clues about its history.

Trottick Mill Ponds were created over 200 years ago. They provided a constant and reliable supply of water to Claverhouse Bleachworks. The bleachworks was a linen finishing mill where the cloth was softened and bleached to make it white so it was suitable for use as sails and clothing.

The water that fills the ponds comes from The Dighty. At one time the river was used to supply water to over 30 mills. This meant that when a mill upstream was using the water, not enough would reach Claverhouse Bleachworks, until the ponds were created.

Sluice gates were installed to control the flow of water and they are still used today to maintain circulation of water in the ponds. The water from the Dighty would be pushed into narrow channels called lades. Lades carried the water into the ponds and to the water wheel. The sluice gates were also able to control the speed of the water wheel.

To the east of the ponds is the bleachfield meadow. This bleachfield is where the linen that had just been treated with chemicals in order to bleach it was laid out to dry and lighten in the sun.



Bench with a View

Here you can pause for a rest and look out over both ponds. In the spring you will see tadpoles, they will turn into frogs and toads at the start of the summer.

Beautiful butterflies

The old bleachfield makes a perfect meadow with many different wildflowers growing here. This makes it a great place for butterflies.



Education area

Stop here for a bit of pond dipping. The ponds are home to many strange creatures. See what you can discover lurking in the water.



Giant Plants

As you walk along this path in the summer you will notice the very large butterbur plants growing; so named as the leaves were used at one time to wrap butter. These plants look a little like rhubarb and can grow up to 1m high. In the winter they all die back and you would never know they were ever here.

Feed the Birds

Swans are one of Britain's largest and most recognisable birds. Their young are called cygnets and have fluffy grey feathers. They will stay with their parents until they are about 9 months old before the parents chase them away.



A Little History

Here you can see the lades, which are the channels used to carry water to and from the ponds and one of the old sluice gates.

Natural Trottick

Local Nature Reserves are areas of land designated by Local Authorities as being important as a local natural heritage resource. Trottick is full of wildlife for people to enjoy!

Many different birds make their homes here. You will often see the heron standing still like a statue with long legs and a long neck at the edge of the ponds or river. They do this when they are watching fish or frogs to catch.

The ponds are busy 24 hours a day. During the summer, in the evening once most of the birds are roosting, bats can be seen giving aerial displays over and around the ponds.

There are many different types of wildflowers here at all times during the year. Look out for wild garlic in the spring. This beautiful white flower, sometime called ramsons, has a distinctive garlic smell especially when stepped on.

