

Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service – 2013 News Stories

Sustainable Science

30-11-13 and 01-12-13

The rangers had a great time at the Glasgow Science Centre taking part in their 'Meet the Expert' sustainable science day. There were hundreds of school children and members of the public passing through the centre and enjoying the various activities on offer as part of a 'Year of Natural Scotland' themed day. We were in good company with Glasgow Caledonian University and the Peachy Kleen bike company, all fielding questions from keen young scientists. At our station, there were microscopes to look at insects up close and the chance for people to handle real bird wings, antlers and other items found in nature. It was great seeing everyone and we are looking forward to the next 'Meet the Expert' day. Thanks GSC for putting on another great event.

Spooktastic

30-10-13

This year's Halloween event was bigger than ever with something like 130 people passing through the doors of the visitor centre, entering into a strange and unearthly world and then braving the 'spooky walk' into site. The visitor centre had been transformed into a macabre dungeon of spookiness with the hub forming the centre of activities, being filled with Halloween games including a Frankenstein's monster, whose gory blood and guts participants had to delve into for prizes! All the staff at the centre were suitably dressed for the event and outside an eerie trail of light sticks led unsuspecting parents and children out into the darkness of the windfarm where terrifying monsters awaited them complete with spooky and horrifying tales of ghostly occurrences, maniacal bus drivers and malevolent witches.

Participants got into the mood as well, turning up dressed in some spectacular Halloween costumes that even scared the staff and by the end of the night everyone seemed to have had a great time. The rangers were particularly pleased with the spooky walk that had this year resulted in at least 2 criers and a few groups turning back, too afraid to continue!

Scottish Siberian Husky Club Race at Whitelee

30-10-13

Whitelee played host to its first ever Scottish Siberian Husky Club race on the 19th and 20th of November. 33 competitors from as far afield as Morayshire came to the windfarm to run a 3.8km long route through the windfarm in the vicinity of High Alderstocks. Teams ran in a variety of classes including 6-dog, 4-dog, 3-dog and 2-dog, as well as cani-cross where participants run on foot harnessed to a lone dog. The weather was of course changeable during the event with pouring rain on the Saturday and periods of bright sunshine on the Sunday but nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the dogs to run, nor the competitors for that matter who thoroughly enjoyed the event and had high praise for the event organisation and venue. The countryside rangers were on hand for the duration of the event, taking photos, talking to everyone and of course, meeting the

dogs! A collection of photos from the racing will shortly go onto the ranger service Facebook and Flickr pages.

Whitelee Visitor Centre - Winter Opening Times

24-9-13

The Whitelee Visitor Centre will be trial running new winter opening times for 2013/14! The centre, which has closed through the winter in previous years, will be open up until mid December 2013 and reopening earlier in 2014. This is great news for everyone that enjoys a winter wander at the windfarm, allowing visitors access to toilets and a well needed tea or coffee. The new opening times are:

December 2013 - Mondays & Tuesdays: closed

Wednesday - Friday: 10am - 3pm

Saturday - Sunday: 10am - 5pm

2014 - Reopen 5th February (opening times same as December)

1st March (10am - 5pm, 7 days a week)

Sunday 22nd September- 10k event notification

Please be aware there will be a small 10k race event running at Whitelee between 1pm and 4pm on Sunday 22nd September. The race route will utilise part of the Lochgoin circuit but should not adversely affect other access users. Please be aware there may be limited traffic movements in the secondary car park and a small increase in runners on the tracks around the western edge of Lochgoin. For further information, please see the notice board at the main gate or contact the countryside rangers.

View To A Hill

14-9-13

14 hearty hikers and a dog headed through Whitelee on Saturday the 14th, looking to hike through the windfarm taking in 4 of the highest hills in the site, and East Renfrewshire, including Corse Hill, Drumduff Hill, Crook Hill and Blackwood Hill. The weather was glorious with bright sunshine, mild temperatures and light wind. Along the way chat was about the windfarm and its wildlife and the group were treated to the sight of 3 buzzards circling on a thermal near turbine 48, quickly joined by a kestrel that mobbed the party of buzzards. The group made steady progress along the 12 mile route and by the finish were only 15 minutes behind schedule - not bad considering the stops made to take in views, discuss local history or watch wildlife.

New Bug Found

4-9-13

The Whitelee rangers made a chance discovery while out carrying out some vegetation surveys on Wednesday the 4th of September. A lone Ichneumon wasp (also known as a parasitic wasp) was found crawling around the entrance to an animal refuge. Called Protichneumon pisorius these lovely little wasps are quite striking but have a rather curious and macabre lifestyle - the adults lay their eggs into the larvae of other (host) animals, most likely caterpillars of moths or butterflies, where the larvae of the wasp develops inside the host animal and ultimately kills it. Not the nicest tale ever but an interesting find for the windfarm none the less. For a photo of the wasp please see the Whitelee rangers Facebook page.

Free Microchipping from the Dogs Trust

27-8-13

The Whitelee Ranger Service are pleased to announce that the Dogs Trust will be visiting Whitelee in October and offering free microchipping for dogs. The Dogs Trust will be sharing some gazebo space with the countryside rangers to offer this amazing free service while the rangers will be there to answer queries about access/dog walking, the best places to walk your dog in Whitelee etc. and provide some fun activities. More information will be announced closer to the time but put in your diary - free dog microchipping from the Dog Trust - Sunday 27th October from 10am till 4pm.

While on the subject of dogs - can we please remind dog owners to bag and bin dog waste! Free waste bags can be found at the entrance to the windfarm at both the visitor centre and Ardochrig entrances.

Explosion of Small Tortoiseshells

Visitors to Whitelee have been treated to a explosion of Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) butterflies in the past week with numbers of these attractive insects soaring, no doubt in response to the better weather. Look to any stands of Thistle's and you're sure to see one.

Whitelee Extension Open for Access

25-7-13

The Whitelee extension area is now open to public access with the Construction & Design Management (CDM) restrictions lifted. There is currently still signage in place at entry points to the extension advising that the area is still under CDM restrictions, but these should be removed on Friday 26-7-13. The extension adds a further 75 turbines to the windfarm taking the total to 215, increasing the generation capacity of the site to 539MW spread over an area of 78 kilometres or roughly 30 miles square, and all open to public access under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The extension will add 34 kilometres or 21 miles of windfarm tracks as well as an additional 10 kilometres / 6 miles of upgraded forest track to the site meaning there are roughly 99 miles of tracks and trails open for walking, cycling, horse riding and exploring!

Bush-craft B+B

25-7-13

A clearing in Whitelee forest near Carrot played host to our Bush-craft B+B event over the weekend of 20th and 21st of July, taking in what might have been the best of the amazing weather felt over Scotland the past few weeks. This was a re-run of the event after the first scheduled event had to be cancelled due to lightning being forecast. 22 people made it along on the Saturday to build bivouacs from natural materials provided by the rangers. After a frenetic build, 9 shelters/dens had been constructed in a variety of styles from simple one man shelters to 3 person lean-to's. At this point some families headed home while those that remained were provided a raised fire platform to get on with the important business of cooking some dinner - kebabs and a variety of instant noodles were the order of the day! 4 families opted to stay out for the night in their shelters alongside the countryside rangers, on what was a lovely clear and mild evening. The evening was filled with some frisbee fun, good chat around the campfire and once night fell - a bit of moon gazing through a telescope.

After a good nights rest, the morning of the 21st was cooler than expected, and a bit of a relief from the hot weather. After some breakfast and a tidy up, the temperatures rose and the remaining group got the chance to try a number of bush-craft fire lightning techniques such as friction fire lighting and the use of flint and steel and firesteels with everyone managing to produce fire using one of the methods. Camp was struck around noon with everyone heading home happy, albeit a bit exhausted - including the rangers who headed off for a well earned rest!

New Threshold Interpretation Panel

3-7-13

The Whitelee Access Project oversaw the installation of a fabulous new interpretation panel at the entrance to the windfarm yesterday. The panel, with canopy included to keep dry during the occasional Whitelee shower, was designed and commissioned by the access project and includes a fabulous new map of the windfarm, including the new extension area, intended to help visitors to the site not only get their bearings, but take in the sheer size of the site. Included alongside the map are a number of illustrations of wildlife species that can be found in the windfarm with some helpful information on them. There's also a new notice board included where the ranger service will post events news, wildlife sightings and other useful information.

Whitelee Wheelie Report

The First Person to Cycle The Entire Whitelee Wind Farm In An Epic One Day Adventure!

28-6-13

On the midsummer weekend in June 2013, Steve Taylor from Stewarton became the first person ever to cycle round the entire Whitelee site in one day, visiting every one of the 215 turbines in an epic ride that took over 13 hours, clocking up over 100 miles and climbing the height of Ben Nevis through the course of the day.

Steve took on the challenge in celebration of his 60th birthday, having previously celebrated each of his major ten year birthdays with an endurance epic. He ran his first marathon at 20, ran a hundred miles in a day at 30, cycled from Manchester to Glasgow in a day at 40 and kick started the Highland March at 50 before deciding to take on the Whitelee challenge. "My only concern was that someone would nip in and do it before us" was Steve's only worry before the big day.

Able assisted in the Whitelee Wheelie by son Ross, from Irvine, and friend Gordon McBeath from Stewarton, Steve set out from the Visitor Centre in pouring rain at 6am to conquer first the Lochgoin circuit, then the tortuous hills of Ardochrig and finally the fast sweeping trails and gruelling cul-de-sacs of the new Extension.

After it was over, Steve remarked that route planning was key: "Whitelee is such a vast site that even working from the map you fail to get a true sense of the distance between each of the main areas. Reconnaissance is of paramount importance and it's only once you've experienced the layout of the trails that you start to get a real feel for the best route. I love this place: it's a mountain biker's dream; it's as hard or as easy as you want to make it yet you can ride out on two consecutive days and get a completely different perspective of the landscape."

Gordon, who bagged almost 200 turbines before running out of time on what was a very long day in the saddle, has already vowed to return in 2014, determined to finish the job next time around, as indeed has Ross who admitted afterwards that he was "blown away" by his dad's mental strength.

Orienteering at Whitelee

27-6-13

The Whitelee Access Project, including the countryside rangers, have been working with the Clydeside Orienteers to put in place 4 new orienteering courses at the western (visitor centre) end of Whitelee. The 4 courses range in length and difficulty from a beginners course that's 2.4km long and ideal for children, intermediate course at 4.4km, advanced at 6km and culminating in the 10km challenge course.

We are investigating having the maps for the courses printed soon and these will be available free of charge via the Whitelee visitor centre as well as from the Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service. The maps are also available to download from the 'walking, cycling, horse riding' pages of the website. Please see the 'related pages' box for a link to the page.

Boggy Beasties Club

Thanks to everyone that has registered their children for our new Boggy Beasties club - the response has been brilliant. For anyone that has not already registered their children, we regret to say we are now full and cannot take any further bookings.

Spine Road CDM Restrictions Lifted

The access restrictions that have been in place as part of the extension of the windfarm have been lifted! As of Friday 7th June activities covered by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC), such as walking, cycling, horse riding etc. can once again take place along the main Spine Road.

Access restrictions are still in place in the extension area however and members of the public are asked by the windfarm operators to refrain from accessing this area. For further information please see the Scottish Power Renewables website.

Geocache Dash

Yesterdays sunny Geocache Dash event was a great success with experienced and new geocachers coming together to seek out new caches left by the countryside rangers for the event as well as other new caches placed at the windfarm with geocaching aficionados. Children and adults alike, some new to geocaching gave it a go seeking hidden geocache treasure boxes. The weather couldn't have been better and the event turned into a social gathering for new and old geocachers, trading stories before heading out on the search. Our thanks goes to everyone who came along and helped make the day a success.

Tai Chi

6-6-13

Thursday 30th of May's Tai Chi event turned into an afternoon of blissful calm for everyone that took part in this relaxing event. The weather was hot and sunny and the wind was light and everyone had a great session of Tai Chi close to turbine 40, while the blades of the turbine turned slowly in time to the movements.

Outside Now Event Report

28-5-13

Saturday 25th May turned into a busy day for the countryside rangers at Whitelee, not just because of the glorious sunshine that brought visitors to the windfarm, but because of the Outside Now event. This saw lots of visitors try a tandem trike and recumbent bike for the first time, some while having a go at some cycle games that were laid out around turbine 40. A group of horse riders headed 'off piste' around Dunwan Hill and intrepid orienteers tried out the new orienteering course. There was even a mini disc (frisbee) golf game! Everyone who came along had fun - and the rangers even managed to get some time to try the bikes for themselves...after a bit of a wait!

Outside Now Update - Horse Trek Instruction

We're excited to announce that riders can bring their horses to our Outside Now event this Saturday to take part in a guided trek!

If you're going to the Windfarm with your horse, you can ride the tracks yourself, but you could also have some instruction in orienteering. Come along to trek off the usual paths with a qualified instructor, and enjoy getting a little muddy exploring some new areas of Whitelee by horse. It's

important you don't go 'off piste' without a map as on a lot of the windfarm, it's important to stay on the main routes. Rhoda is a trek specialist, and if you'd like to make a booking to ride with her, please email rhoda@makingstrides.co.uk / www.makingstrides.co.uk

Warble AM

5-5-13

Members of the public and countryside rangers alike were provided a real treat in the early hours of Sunday 5th May as they took part in International Dawn Chorus Day for the the first time at Whitelee. A group of early morning explorers, or restless sleepers, set off from the Ardochrig entrance at 5am, heading around Ardochrig Hill and in the hope of finding birds singing. Expert help to identify all the calls was provided by Mark Mitchell and a volunteer (Rick), from RSPB Lochwinnoch, both of whom gave up their time and sleep to help.

Nobody had to wait long for the first bird of the morning, a hunting Kestrel that was spotted before we even started, and it wasn't long before a further 20 bird species had been seen or more importantly for dawn chorus day - heard calling. Highlights included a Raven and Cuckoo but the group were also treated to the sounds of Willow and Grasshopper Warbler as well as the booming voice of the Wren and intricate song of the wonderful Goldcrest. All in all - a great way to start the day!

Lanarkshire Wildfest 2013

24-4-13

How would you like to explore the habitat of our birds, beasties and local wildlife? If so, then why not come along and join in the celebrations for the Year of Natural Scotland next month when Wildfest events will be taking place throughout Lanarkshire - including at Whitelee!

With over 20 events throughout North and South Lanarkshire between 18th and 29th May, Wildfest will give visitors, and local people alike, the chance to learn about wildlife in a fun environment.

From bogs to bings and gorges to glens, there's a wide variety of places to explore and wildlife to discover during Lanarkshire Wildfest 2013. Activities range from badger watches to bee- keeping and plant hunts to a outdoor access day ('Outside Now') at the windfarm.

Early risers will be rewarded with a dawn chorus breakfast, or if you're more of a night owl, take an evening walk to discover nocturnal animals such as bats, badgers... and maybe even an owl.

For those with a spring in their step, there are longer hikes and cycles and the 'Outside Now' event at Whitelee promises to be a great way to try some new pursuits.

Download a copy of the Wildfest leaflet from the 'Related documents' section.

Canine Capers 2013

23-4-13

The Whitelee visitor centre played host to Canine Capers once again with the carpark at the front of the centre being taken over for the event. 2013 saw new groups and exhibitors coming along as well as favourites from last year. K9 Chat/Pawsitive Action, Scottish Siberian Husky Club, Cani-fit, Dogs Trust, Rouken Glen Vets, Acupets, Animal Reiki Scotland, Levernbank Kennels, Shar Pei Rescue & Support Scotland and Malamute Matters all made it along for a fun packed evening of dog games, activities and networking. The weather was perfect with bright sunshine and low wind (at the start of the event at least), and the visitor centre stayed open to serve much needed teas, coffees and cakes.

Numbers were down on 2012 possibly due to the horrible weather the preceding week but that didn't stop those that made it having a great time taking part in games such as 'fetch-the-sausage' and a lookalike competition with prizes going to the winners. Further goodies were provided in the form of goody bags, with the bags supplied by Waitrose in Newton Mearns along with free dog treats/food and there was also some very appetising looking food included from Land of Holistic Pets.

The event was punctuated with a Bike-jor demonstration and ended with a fabulous short race by 2 dog teams from the Scottish Siberian Husky Club before everyone headed home after a fun event.

First Wheatear of 2013

23-4-13

The first migrant Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) was spotted by the Whitelee Countryside Rangers near turbine 73 on the 12th of April. These amazing migrant birds should start to appear throughout Whitelee and will be here for the summer months only - so enjoy spotting them while you can!

Peanuts & Palaces

8-4-13

The rangers had a great day on Saturday 6th April at Peanuts and Palaces where we helped kids and adults alike to build their very own bird houses! The sun was shining for the day so everyone happily worked away outside as the rangers made sure no thumbs were bashed with hammers - which they weren't! By the end of the 3 hour event 28 kits had been built which should be some kind of record. Everyone that built a home got to choose what birds it would be intended for from sparrows to robins, great or blue tits, and received some help-sheets in installing and caring for the now feathered palace. Hopefully there will be some grateful avian tenants moved in soon.

2013 Events Program - Out Now!

3-4-13

The exciting new Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service events program is now out! Packed with 28 activities and events to take part in, from craft days to guided walks; geocaching to bird watching, there's something for everyone! WCRS are also pleased to announce that we will be running the 'Boggy Beasties' summer holiday club for children. This will be a new approach to our summer holiday activities.

Printed copies are now available through the windfarm visitor centre and will be in local libraries as well as country parks within East Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and East Ayrshire soon.

Don't delay - follow the link to the on-line version of the leaflet or download the PDF from the 'Related document's section here and book your activities early to avoid disappointment.

Boggy Beasties

3-4-13

You can register your kids for the the FREE 'Boggy Beasties' summer holiday club, allowing you to leave children over 5 with the countryside rangers every Wednesday morning for 6 weeks during the summer! (Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult.) This is a great way to get them involved in nature based activities with the rangers and avoids the need to book individual activities. The rangers have a fun packed program planned to hopefully get them out in the good weather and to keep them busy and excited. (Activities will move indoors when required.) Download the 2013 events program for more information.

Curlews Return

3-4-13

The first Curlews of 2013 have returned from the coast to breed at Whitelee. Two pairs of this distinctive wading bird were seen and heard calling near Lochgoin Reservoir yesterday morning while the rangers were out with the 'Stroller Striders'! This is the largest European wading bird and is conspicuous with its long legs, long curved beak and eerie call that is synonymous with moorlands in the summer months. A real summer treat to see and hear the Curlew is a ground nesting bird and therefore we would ask that dog owners keep their pets close to the tracks and don't let them run into areas where these wonderful birds may be nesting.

To report your wildlife sightings or if you have an access or wildlife question, please contact the countryside rangers at the address above.

Great Eggspectiaions

2-4-13

A 'cracking' time was had by all at the ranger service Great Egg-Spectations Easter event at Whitelee windfarm! The visitor centre was busy with just under 1000 visitors on the day and a good number of them had come for the Easter event run by the rangers. Kids, and parents, took part in an Easter trail, some egg decorating and egg rolling and it was all 'smashing' good fun!

Dog Walkers...Please Be Aware of Bird Breeding Season & Lambing Time!

12-3-13

Breeding time is now in full swing for many animals, not least birds and you cannot fail to notice birds carrying nesting materials or making acrobatic manoeuvres in the sky to entice a mate. Whitelee is an important site for ground nesting birds such as Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Curlew and Snipe to name just a couple. Its the wildlife such as the birds that make a visit to Whitelee so enjoyable so we would therefore ask that if you are walking your dog at Whitelee between March and 31st July - please keep your dog on the lead or if off the lead, keep them to the side of tracks? Doing so will limit the disturbance to nesting birds and mean that the site continues to provide good nesting habitat for these important species. Please look out for notices such as the poster found in 'Related documents' section, when at the windfarm.

Please also be aware that it is lambing time at Whitelee. This is an important time for farmers and therefore you are requested to keep your dog on the lead at all times when in livestock areas. Cattle grids and notices will let you know when you are entering a livestock area. It is a criminal offence to allow your dog to worry livestock so please do not take the risk and keep your dog on the lead.

First Event of 2013 - Sprinting Into Spring!

11-3-13

Friday the 22nd March will see the kick starting of the new 2013 Whitelee Countryside Ranger Service events program with 'Sprinting Into Spring' our first guided walk of 2013! Join one of the rangers to take an early evening saunter from the visitor centre to look for springs early delights. As the sun starts to warm up, we'll look for the return of migrant birds, springs early flowers and signs of 'mad March hares'! For more information please see the event poster in the 'Related documents' box to the right of the page or to book contact the rangers.

Whitelee Stroller Striders

5-3-13

After a very successful winter tour of Calderglen Country Park, Dean Castle Country Park and Rouken glen Park, the Tuesday walks have returned home to Whitelee. From now until the end of November 2013, the weekly parent and baby walking group will be pounding the tracks at the windfarm. The walk lasts for around 1.5 hours and covers approximately 4 miles (at a moderate pace) followed by the opportunity to go for a coffee and cake in the cafe afterwards. There is no need to book in advance, just turn up ready to walk at 10am with babies safely tucked up in their

push chairs. Please contact the rangers for more information or see the poster in the 'Related documents' section.

First Colt's-foot of 2013

1-3-13

The first Colt'sfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) of 2013 was spotted on the 1-3-13, a full 13 days earlier than recorded in previous years! (See the 'what to see and when' section of the website for the 'phenology' of this plant.) This little medicinal herb bears a resemblance to Dandelion and has yellow flowers that appear long before the leaves - which gave it its folklore name of 'son-before-father'. In the past it has been used as a cough cure, with the dried leaves smoked for this purpose, but recent research indicates it may be detrimental to the liver and so isn't recommended! This is the first of the plants and animals that were record each year to appear but we need extra help to look for the others! Please have at what other wildlife to record via the 'Related pages' link.

Brown Hill MTB

28-2-13

Grass cutting operation have begun on the Brown Hill borrow pit - planned site of the MTB development. This being done by a local contractor in preparation for hopefully work beginning on the mountain bike track later this year.

Dog walkers - please be advised that flail cutting will be taking place until potentially 7-3-13 and you are advised not to let dogs enter the borrow pit or come close to the machine working in the area.

Short-eared Owl at Lochgoin

15-2-13

A bold Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) was seen perched on a snow pole, just as the sun was going down near Lochgoin reservoir. It was intently looking around for its next meal and never bothered about the noise of a countryside ranger approaching so we managed to get within about 20 meters and shoot lots of photos! The Short-eared Owl is a day flying owl that can be seen throughout Whitelee but please bare in mind that it is now bird breeding season (March till the end of July) - so do not disturb them or other birds for that matter.

New Windfarm Map for 2013!

11th February 2013

The Whitelee Access Project has produced a new and improved site map for Whitelee to reflect the recent addition of the extension area to the site. The extension will take the overall windfarm up to just over 30 miles square in area with 159 kilometres or 99 miles of windfarm roads and tracks. (Please note however that the extension area is not yet open to public access!) Obviously this is a large area, larger than Dundee for example, and so a good map of the site is essential to finding your way about. With this in mind the new map has improved and updated information on everything from the new extension roads, to updated areas of forestry felling to clearer symbols for the

turbines. You will find the map available to download from various pages through the website and printed copies will soon be available from the visitor centre once open for the new 2013 season.

New Leaflet for Dog Walkers

7th February 2013

A new leaflet with information for dog walkers is now available here on the website from the 'related documents' section to the side of this page and printed copies will soon be available from the windfarm also. The new leaflet includes an updated map and slimmed down information but hopefully still conveys the positive message that Whitelee 'is a great place to walk the dog'! Staying with this theme, the rangers have recently installed a new bin at the Ardochrig entrance that includes a dog waste bag dispenser and we hope that this proves useful at this popular entrance to the windfarm.

Nursery & School Bookings 2013

7th February 2013

Inquiries and interest in bringing nursery and school groups out with the Whitelee rangers is picking up already so if you would like to bring your nursery, school, college, university or interest group to Whitelee for a ranger led activity, please get in touch soon! The rangers can offer all manner of outdoor activities on topics such as ecology, sustainable development, plants and animals (biodiversity), land use and much more, and linked to classroom work and the curriculum for excellence so please avoid disappointment and book now.

Bird sightings and Redwings at Whitelee

7th February 2013

Flocks and Redwings (*Turdus iliacus*) mixed in with Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) can be spotted in arable fields and grassland areas in Whitelee at the moment. Don't be fooled into thinking its just Starlings that you can see - amongst them have been large numbers of Redwings. Just outside the windfarm, look out for flocks of Pink-footed Geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) that have been seen in the Millhall area. These amazing birds can be found in arable fields feeding on the turf.

Orienteering at Whitelee

21st January 2013

WCERS have been working closely with the Whitelee Access Project officer and the Clydeside Orienteers over the winter to develop a number of new orienteering courses aimed at anyone interested in this fun sport. There will be a children's and beginners course through to intermediate and advanced courses for the more experienced. The rangers have been preparing the marker posts to go into the ground over the next couple of weeks so watch for these appearing soon. All the courses will start and finish from the Whitelee visitor centre and maps will be available from there as well as to download from the website very soon.

Whitelee Strollers 2013

The Strollers have been enjoying the change of scenery at Dean Castle Country Park for the past few weeks but its all about to change again as the Whitelee Strollers return to Rouken Glen Park for their winter visit! From Tuesday the 5th of February the Strollers will meet in Rouken Glen at Boaters cafe at 11am.