

# **Day coach trip to RSPB Conwy and possible extension to Conwy Castle**

Saturday 20 April 2019

Cost: £17 per person members, £20 per person non-members.

The Conwy RSPB nature reserve is a wetland on the east bank of the Conwy estuary, The reserve covers 50 hectares, of which almost 70 per cent was created in the early 1990s from material removed from the estuary during construction of the adjacent A55 road tunnel. The RSPB has shaped this post-industrial landscape to create circular walks which take you through reedbed, young woodland, grassland and scrub. The dominant features are the two lagoons, in which islands have been created for roosting and nesting birds. The remainder of the reserve is mudflats and saltmarsh, part of the Afon Conwy SSSI, important for migratory waders including Curlew, Oystercatcher and Redshank. It is now home to a variety of wildlife.

The coach will depart promptly from the regular pick up point at the Hob Inn in Bamber Bridge at 07.45 and leave Conwy at 16.30. There will be the option to spend a few hours in Conwy, visiting the castle and walking around the town, for those who are interested. The journey is approximately 2 hours.

Entry to the RSPB reserve is free to RSPB members and costs £5 for adults. There is a lovely café at the reserve, overlooking a lagoon, so you can spot wildlife whilst devouring a tasty cake! Please take a packed lunch with you, as the café is not geared up to cater for lunch for a coach party!

Conwy Castle is independently owned and costs £7.95 for adults and £5.60 for concessions.

The southern half of the reserve is grazed year-round by Carneddau Mountain Ponies, a hardy local mountain breed, happy to eat grass, bramble, rush and reeds. They break up the habitats, keeping it in good condition for a variety of wildlife, particularly pioneering flowers that like the low-nutrient soil, and moths whose caterpillars live in the reed beds and grassland. The ponies' manure is great for beetles and flies, so good for birds too.

There are a range of hides around the lagoon and excellent views across the estuary.

Please visit the website to find out more information:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/conwy>

When we did a recce there in 2018, we saw a wide variety of birds, including of note, Yellow Wagtail, White Wagtail, Mandarin Duck, Red Breasted Merganser, Sand Martin, Snipe and lots of Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs at close range, Redshank and Little Egret. It is noted in spring for Black Tailed Godwit, Sedge Warbler, Lapwing, Shelduck and Water Rail.

# Conwy Recce Bird Sightings

13th April 2018

Mute Swan	Canada Goose
Shelduck	Mute Swan
Canada Goose	Shelduck
Mallard	Wigeon
Teal	Pochard
Tufted Duck	Red-Breasted Merganser
Pheasant	Little Grebe
Great Crested Grebe	Cormorant
Little Egret	Grey Heron
Moorhen	Coot
Oystercatcher	Redshank
Curlew	Snipe
Black Headed Gull	Herring Gull
Great Black Backed Gull	Lesser Black Backed Gull
Wood Pigeon	Sand Martin
Barn Swallow	House Martin
Meadow Pipit	Pied Wagtail
Yellow Wagtail	Duncock
Robin	Wheatear
Blackbird	Blackcap
Willow Warbler	Chiffchaff
Wren	Great Tit
Blue Tit	Long-Tailed Tit
Magpie	Jackdaw
Rook	Carrion Crow
Starling	House Sparrow
Chaffinch	Goldfinch
Reed Bunting	