

Cathkin Braes Country Park History

History

The eastern part of the Country Park was gifted to the city in 1887 by millionaire Mr James Dick who stipulated that the open space must be retained in a natural state and open for public enjoyment

- The area was originally known as the Cathkin Hills and during the Iron Age a Celtic tribe known as the Damnonii lived here. The discovery of many artefacts has been recorded and several cairns still exist to this day.
- Both the Big Wood and Cathkin Braes Park Wood are of ancient origin and appear on General Roy's Military Survey (c1750).
- Queen Mary's seat is a large cairn in the area where Mary Queen of Scots is reputed to have observed the defeat of her forces at the Battle of Langside on 13 May 1558.
- Both Castlemilk and the Cathkin Hills formed part of the Carmunnock parish. Much of Cathkin Braes was originally part of the Castlemilk Estate owned by Sir John Stuart (Baronet).
- A park pavilion was built around 1890 and was used regularly until the early 1980s when it had to be demolished for structural reasons.
- At the beginning of the last century major events were held at the pavilion site including music concerts attracting crowds in excess of 10,000
- Glasgow Corporation acquired the western part of the site from Castlemilk Estates in the 1940s
- The Country Park initiative was established in 1995 after a consultative process in the local area supported by the Strathclyde Structure Plan and Carmunnock Local Plan.

Outstanding Features

- A site of importance for nature conservation (SINC) extends from Blairbeth Golf Course in the east to Windlaw Farm in the west and includes species of importance listed in the Biodiversity Action Plan
 - Small Pearl - Bordered Fritillary
 - Reed Bunting
 - Burnet - saxifrage
- The wide range of local habitats includes marsh, heath, scrub, grassland, hedgerows and woodlands
- The ancient woodland visible on the skyline for many miles around is a feature in its self
- The park is renowned for panoramic views over the city and beyond including
 - Gleniffer Braes
 - Kilpatrick and Campsie ranges
 - mountain peaks which can be seen on a clear day include Ben Lomond and Ben Ledi to the north, whilst in the west Goatfell is often visible

- A viewfinder to aid identification of the peaks is located near to the highest point - close to Queen Mary's Seat.