**discovering the past**

For hundreds of years Ravenswood and Pollockshole were farms on the Cumbernauld Estate. Records show that the original Ravenswood House was an early medieval retreat for the Bishop and Clergy from Glasgow. It was demolished in the 1960's to make way for building of Our Lady’s High School.

**enjoying the present**

Ravenswood is an enjoyable place to take a stroll, cycle or perhaps take your dog for a walk. There is a good surfaced path and boardwalk which will take you across the wet meadow where you can see greater butterfly, northern marsh and common spotted orchids. Look out for the impressive 6 spot burnet moths. If you are lucky you may catch a glimpse of one of our rarest butterflies the small pearl bordered fritillary. Finally, the path takes you past Polloks Pond and then along the old tree lined avenue of Pollockshole Farm.

**a special place**

Ravenswood bog and orchid meadow is a very special place. Despite being close to busy main roads it remains a haven and refuge for local wildlife. Fox and roe deer live and breed here. Kestrels and buzzards are frequently seen over the open meadows hunting small mammals.

The display of wild orchids in the wet meadow and woodland edges in summer is stunning with 5 different kinds growing here. The meadow also supports a variety of butterflies, moths and other insects which in turn support other wildlife such as hedgehogs and frogs.

A document from 1684 tells us that the farm tenant of Pollockshole had to pay to the Earl of Wigton in Cumbernauld House an annual rent of 101 Scots pounds, one veal calf, two furlots of barley, and twelve hens. Pollockshole continued as a working farm up to 1964 when the lands were purchased by the Cumbernauld Development Corporation.

Much of the farmland was spread with subsoil from the building of Condorrat and nearby roads. Nature then took its course, and wildflowers flourished, creating the wildlife sanctuary it is today.

There is also a wealth of birdlife to see and hear, grasshopper warbler, sedge warbler, reed bunting and snipe. Summer or winter there is always something to appreciate in Ravenswood’s own nature reserve.
participate in the future

We publish a Greenspace Diary every year. There you will find details of all free events and activities happening not just at Ravenswood but at sites all across North Lanarkshire.

For more information please contact
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Photographs courtesy of North Lanarkshire Council, RSPB, Jimmy Maxwell, Ruth McGuire