

Wardens report – Old Redding Nature Reserve 26th June 2023

Key activities since the last update on 6th February 2023:

1/ Trimlock have created two further ponds on HWC. Now a total of 7 new ponds



have been created along the northern boundary of HWC (adjacent to Hive Farm).

2/ Planting of Gilberts Lake, Dyke Pond, Grahams Pond and the top three ponds on HWC has been completed.



3/ Herbicide course has been completed to enable spraying and control of invasives such as Japanese Knot weed (Virginie)

4/ GCN survey course completed to enable the surveying of Great Crested Newts onsite. (Jason)



5/ Further work parties to complete deadhedging around ponds (to discourage dogs from disturbing the new planting while it gets established) and further Leaky dams.

6/ A Corporate Social Responsibility day with 25 volunteers from Turner and Townsend (16th May).

7/ Reports on the two funded projects are being completed.

8/ Steve Bolsover has secured funds from the green grid budget for Benches, a new information sign and refurbished way markers across the site.

9/ Harrow council Parks team have carried out significant Holly clearing on HWC and have started the creation of the new ditch along the path to feed into the new pond system.

10/ Harrow & Hillingdon Geological Society have been onsite to collect some sample pebbles for analysis. They also sounded out if they could bring boring machines and diggers onsite to take samples through the different layers of material strata. They were advised they would need to seek permission from both the Conservators and Natural England before going any further.

General comments

So far no Azolla has been seen in any of the waterbodies onsite – Hooray for the weevils!! We plan to keep the fencing in place around the end of the Lake for now as it keeps dogs and people off the banks of the lake and is allowing undergrowth to establish.



In this dry spell the water levels have dropped in all the ponds across the site. However, no pond has yet dried out completely – all have retained an area of water and the majority of plants have survived the dry conditions.

Dogs are becoming a problem in the newly planted HWC ponds. A few owners are encouraging their dogs to use the new ponds to play and they are causing a fair amount of destruction to our new planting.

The new drainage ditch has been started but not yet finished...the wardens would like to see this work completed in the near future.

We have retained around 10% of the grant funds and also have some income from the Turner & Townsend CSR days. This gives us some reserves to enable further planting, fencing if required and miscellaneous items over the next year.

Work to be carried out in the next few months:

- 1/ Completion of project reports and post project surveys.
- 2/ Monitoring and protecting the new planting and water levels.
- 3/ Creation of additional leaky dams and some Weirs and Culverts to ensure banks of the new ponds do not get washed away during wet weather.



4/ Delivering the Green grid items (new sign, bench locations)

5/ Herbiciding invasives (Japanese Knot weed, Bamboo) and Holly stumps from last years clearing on HWC. Removal of American skunk Cabbage from the Dyke.