

LAND MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY RESERVES QUARTERLY UPDATE

Date: Q1 January to March 2024

Author: Tristan Leslie, Senior Ranger

Circulation: Community Wardens

This is the first of our new quarterly updates which we are going to give following feedback from our volunteer warden survey before Christmas.

We are still awaiting confirmation of the continued management of these sites from South and Vale councils, but it is looking likely that we will be getting these contracts. Once this is confirmed we will be able to get stuck fully back into these, undertaking the essential management and hopefully improving the infrastructure there such as new gates with better disabled access.

Site: Thrupp Lake	
Number of visits (Community Wardens)	12
Number of work parties	2
Work carried out	2 sessions with Thursday group. 1 wet day getting the tern rafts out on the lake, and doing some clearing work for a project with Radley Lakes Trust to improve the footpath on the south western boundary. Another day focused on just that, and still a bit more to do! Fallen trees removed. Pedestrian gate repaired by old entrance.
Wildlife spotted	Common Merganser and Egyptian Goose, wax wings, cuckoo
Ongoing issues	Swimmers in the lake, dogs in the lake. New signage being investigated, temporary signs currently there. Camping in the carpark, new signs also being investigated but another solution needed. Parking down the BOAT track – new signs to try and prevent this. Bridges need some TLC
Future jobs	Continue with clearing for the new path before the start of bird nesting season. Carpark potholes to be repaired. New gate at the south western corner to be fitted away from the wet area. Post and rail fence repairs (ongoing). Spring cut of St David's Meadow
Upcoming Events	Cakes on the Lakes 2 nd of June with Radley Lakes Trust

Site: Abbey Fishponds	
Number of visits (Community Wardens)	10
Number of work parties	1
Work carried out	Cutting southern fen, clearing scrub.
Wildlife spotted	Muntjac
Ongoing issues	Metal bridge still needs repair work doing to it. Reported to the council. Muddy paths particularly by the northern end. Issues with dog poo bin overflowing.
Future jobs	Spring cuts of the grasslands and fens.
Upcoming Events	None

Site: Wallingford Riverside Meadows	
Number of visits (Community Wardens)	8
Number of work parties	3

Work carried out	Clearing blackthorn scrub along the riverbank to create a low, scrubby, riparian habitat. Cutting the scrub encroaching onto the meadow from the laid hedge in Field C.
Wildlife spotted	
Ongoing issues	Illegally moored boat in Field C. Very muddy entrance to field C.
Future jobs	Finish cutting and clearing the blackthorn.
Upcoming Events	

Site: Wallingford Castle Meadows	
Number of visits (Community Wardens)	12
Number of work parties	1
Work carried out	Coppicing in the small woodland block with Saturday volunteers. Clearing debris from the floods with Monday/Weds volunteers.
Wildlife spotted	Coal tits, wood pecker, chiffchaff Snowdrops, aconites and snakes head fritillaries.
Ongoing issues	Very wet and some flood damage to fences! Litter in ditches hard to reach without lone poles. Water by the gates into the lower meadows. Lots of rotten fence posts about!
Future jobs	Repair and replace fences and gates. Grazing commencing in spring and late summer.
Upcoming Events	

Site: Mowbray Fields	
Number of visits (Community Wardens)	9
Number of work parties	0
Work carried out	Essential maintenance and wardening.
Wildlife spotted	Woodpecker, Long Tailed tits, dunnocks Snowdrops, lilies by the boardwalk.
Ongoing issues	Litter hard to reach. Boardwalk needs repair and eventual replacement when we get the contracts. Really muddy paths and new desire lines being made.
Future jobs	Cutting the fill pond. Spring cut of the wildflower meadow.
Upcoming Events	