

Post Site Visit Report

Date of visit:	03/08/2016	Name of site	Meadow Cottage - Pond
Site Location:	Meadow Cottage - Pond	Grid reference:	SU 9925 0567
Attendees:	Ian Powell (MAVES) Mike Tristram (MAVES) Sam Buckland (SDNPA) Simon Mockford (SDNPA) Tony Elphick (MAVES)	Contact details:	-
Site Owner:	Maggie Alexandra	Contact details:	mm@patternlanguage.com
Purpose of visit:	Discuss the control of Parrots-feather within Meadow Cottage pond.		

Site Description

Type of holding/habitat

Pond border by deciduous woodland and pasture. Inflow to pond is from a culvert to east, connecting it to a wet meadow.

Flora

Parrot's-feather, Water forget-me-not, Water-mint, Gypsywort, Meadowsweet, Oak sp. and Willow sp.

Fauna

Comma, Gatekeeper, Sliver-washed Fritillary and Large White.

Issues

Non-native Invasive species – Parrot's-feather

Comments

Owners Objectives

Removal of invasive non-native species.

Improve the habitat of the pond.

To improve the habitat of the pond and wet meadow, in order to increase the diversity of species in this area and population resilience, through high quality, connected habitat.

Summary of discussion

Three key areas of development to enhance the wildlife and landscape

1. Removal of invasive species
2. Reduction in shading of the pond
3. Pond restoration and enhancement

Summary of actions/next steps

ACTION (MAVES) - Arrange site visit with Paul Stevens (WWT) to discuss proposals outlined below and the suitability of site for King Fishers and possible artificial nest site.

ACTION (MAVES) - Complete removal of Parrot-feather this growing season, through manual hand pull or grapples where required. Removed vegetation should be put into a robust black-bag and

stored away from the waterbody to compose down. Nets should be used to catch any fragments created from the removal, as Parrot's-feather can regrow from a tiny piece. Ensure all equipment and clothing is clear and clean before using on other site to avoid the spread of vegetation and disease.

ACTION (MAVES) - Staged coppicing of willows on southern edge of pond to reduce shading. An annual cut of 25% of vegetation on the 'island' over four years will reduce shading, whilst minimising the likelihood of algae bloom. Cutting should be untaken in the autumn/winter once bird nesting is unlikely. Cut material suit be sited appropriately, as willow off-cuts will regrow.

NEXT STEPS - Once Parrot-feather has been completely removed from pond (+2 years) explore options for enhancing the pond within the wider wetland system.

Links and Further Reading

GB Non-native species secretariat: information on biosecurity in the field.

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=174>

Freshwater Habitats Trust: information on pond safety.

<http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/habitats/pond/pond-safety-advice/>

Plantlife: Information page on Parrots Feather, its habitat, the problem and it's removal.

http://plantlife.org.uk/wild_plants/plant_species/parrots-feather

I trust the above is a useful record of our site visit. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, details below.

Kind regards,
Sam

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APPENDIX



Risk Assessment:

Step 1.	Step 2.	Step 3 a.	Step 3 b.	Step 4.		
What are the hazards?	Who may be harmed and how?	What are we already doing?	Do we need to do anything else to manage the risk?	Action by whom:	Action by when:	Done by:
Chest waders	Staff and volunteers: Death by drowning	Work will not take place in water above waist depth. For work in water more than welly depth, there must be another person on the bank with immediate access to a rope or buoyancy aid. Lone working in water over welly depth will not be allowed.				
Slips, trips and falls	Staff and volunteers: Cuts, bruises, back and other muscle strains	Movement within the water will be slow and measured, checking for hidden or buried objects. Provide lines, ropes or duck boards to enable people to get out of water quickly and safely. Store material away from walkways and banks, leaving emergency routes clear. First Aid kit must be fully stocked and all to be aware of its location				
Deep or fast flowing water	Staff and volunteers: Death by drowning	Lif jackets must be worn by anyone working in or above deep or fast flowing water.				

		<p>Waders must be worn for water above welly and below thigh height; chest waders for water above mid-thigh and below waist height.</p> <p>Work will not take place in water above waist depth.</p> <p>Lone working in water over welly depth will not be allowed.</p>				
Manual handling	Staff and volunteers: Back strain	<p>Work must be rotated to allow rest from more strenuous tasks.</p> <p>All workers will be instructed in safe lifting and handling techniques.</p> <p>Use wheelbarrows, or other mechanical aids to reduce all lifting and moving of material.</p> <p>Move wet material using barrows or other handling aids – do not overfill barrows. Inform workers that wet material is heavier than its dry counterpart.</p>				
Contact with sharp or swinging tools	Staff and volunteers: Cut and bruises	<p>Sharp or swinging tools not to be used when wet. Gloves should not be worn when using swinging tools.</p> <p>Ensure workers have a firm stable stance before using tools or handling wet material.</p> <p>First Aid kit must be fully stocked and all to be aware of its location.</p>				

<p>Contact with harmful substances ie rats urine, faeces and other bio-hazards, dead animals, or water polluted by them, with risk of Weil's disease</p>	<p>Staff and volunteers: Leptospirosis, Hepatitis and ill health</p>	<p>Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking using an anti-bacterial soap and clean water.</p> <p>Strong PVC or nitrile gloves must be worn to handle debris and rubbish from water.</p> <p>Dead animals must not be touched – inform the Environment Agency or equivalent.</p> <p>Work will not take place in water where sewage or hazardous chemicals are known to be present.</p> <p>All to be made aware of risk and signs of Weils disease, ie. if experience flu-like symptoms up to 30 days after working in/near water, request a test for Weil's disease from GP.</p>				
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Other relevant Risk Assessments: General Site Safety, First Aid.



Photo 1: Parrot's Feather on SW corner of pond, looking from northern bank.



Photo 2: Parrot's Feather on Southern edge of pond, looking from northern bank.