

FEBRUARY 2000

Noak Bridge Nature Reserve Conservation



February 2000

Major New project for 2000 Access for All

This is an exciting time for the Nature Reserve as plans are afoot to address a number of key issues relating to the conservation and amenity value of the site. The proposed works have been pulled together by council staff to create a co-ordinated project which should attract a significant amount of grant funding.

The main features of the project are:

Improved access.

- Paths will be improved for use with wheelchair, pushchair and for visitors with mobility problems. A new stretch of path will be created to provide a circular trail. The material used will be in keeping with the rural nature of the site.
- The existing boardwalk will be replaced with another of improved design.

cont. over.

- Physical barriers, including gate and stiles will be removed or improved to allow easy access to the reserve whilst still protecting against fly-tipping, entry by vehicles and the like.
- The two sets of steps on the Reserve will be improved for use by less mobile visitors.
- Rustic benches will be provided at suitable points along the paths for visitors to sit and enjoy the Reserve.
- A fence will be constructed alongside the ditch, where it emerges from underground, with gates to allow access for maintenance.

More information:

- An information sign will be provided at the main entrance off Eastfield Road to show visitors a map with the trails, main features and wildlife of the Reserve. There will also be a notice board for your Society to advertise events, etc.

Habitat restoration:

- An old, silted up, pond will be excavated to provide an additional pond for wildlife.
There will also be a bench situated by this pond.

It seems clear to me that the Reserve is already enjoyed by many people who I have met whilst walking its paths. This project is designed to make everyone's visit to the Reserve more safe and enjoyable without changing its wonderful appeal. It is planned that all the works are completed by the end of this year.

If you would like to know more about this project, or have any thoughts or views about the Reserve please feel free to contact me at my office in Norsey Wood, (01277 624553), or introduce yourself to me when you see me on the Reserve!

Luke Bennett, Countryside Ranger.

Yuletide Walk.

This was well attended, although the weather was damp. Afterwards the party enjoyed mince pies and hot mulled wine in the meeting room in Kenilworth Place.

Birds seen on the Reserve since November 1999.

Robin.	Heron
Wren	Woodpigeon
Jay	Blue Tit
Blackbird	Wagtail
Green Woodpecker	Hedge Sparrow
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Kingfisher
Bullfinch	Stonechat
Tree Creeper	Thrush
Magpie	Mistle Thrush
Collared Dove	Red Wing
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Red Crested Pochard
Fieldfare	Barn Owl
Kestrel	Tufted Duck

Take your binoculars on the next visit to the Reserve, be patient, stay quiet and you will be amazed at the wildlife that can be observed and heard.

Of course, when we have our rustic benches this operation can be carried out in 'comfort'.

Quote:- " we in Noak Bridge are really lucky to have our very own nature reserve on our doorstep"

Society Member

- **Our Ranger. Luke Bennett**

Luke Bennett of Countryside Services , has recently taken over the responsibility of a number of nature reserves in the district, one of which is our very own Noak Bridge Nature Reserve, which as you may or not know, is a wildlife paradise which would make many other nature reserves envious.

Luke has been a Warden at Norsey Wood since 1991. Since last October he has become Countryside Ranger. This is a new post with responsibility for Mill Meadows, Queen's Park Countryside Park, Noak Bridge reserve, Nevenden Bushes and various mini-reserves and open spaces around the district.

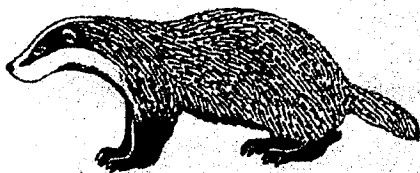
Luke is already working very closely with us with some important advice and guidance. His efforts will surely make our reserve one of the most popular in the district.

Will Farmer is our new Council contact representative.

Future N.B.N.R.S Events Diary dates :-

8
March ~~18~~ Badger Night.

Talk by Tony Doveston on
Badgers and their habitat.
7.30 Kenilworth Place.



All are welcome.

Some events have been arranged for this year, one of which is on the Noak Bridge Reserve. 'Summer Warblers'.

Sunday 18 June 10.00am-12.00 noon.

Lots of other dates in the Countryside Services Events 2000, with this newsletter.

Dairy Dates:-

Sunday. 27 Feb. Norsey Wood Local Nature Reserve,
'Dog Walkers Workshop' 10.00am-1.00pm

Sunday 7th May. Mill Meadows Local Nature Reserve.
'Dawn Chorus' 4.00am - 7.00am

Mill Meadows Local Nature Reserve is our nearest neighbour.
A truly idyllic area. Give it a visit and be very surprised.

Norsey Wood is definitely worth a visit.
This is without a doubt one of the finest
woods of its kind in Essex, simply bursting
with history.

Here you will probably see more varieties
of wild birds than can be seen anywhere
else.

Give it a go.

*In Norsey Wood
there is an ancient
burial mound.*

Newsletter Apology

It seems that for one reason or another some members have
not been receiving a regular newsletter. We apologise for this
and would like to reassure everybody that we are revamping
our distribution techniques.

The object of a newsletter is to keep our members up to date
on all matters concerning the Noak Bridge Nature Reserve.
All comments welcome.

Noak Bridge Nature Reserve Conservation
Work Party Programme. March - August 2000

- March 31st. **NEST BOXES:** we will be putting up boxes around the Reserve that should house a variety of birds and bats.
- April 28th. **'SPRING CLEAN':** A good time to enjoy a walk around the Reserve and pick up litter as we go! Gloves, litter pickers and sacks provided!
- May 26th. **A LOOK AT WILD FLOWERS:** A chance to carry out a survey and learn about the great variety of wild flowers on the Reserve. No previous experience necessary!
- June 30th. **STEP MAINTENANCE:** We will be giving the two sets of steps on the Reserve a 'service' to keep them safe for all visitors.
- July 28th. **'POND DIPPING':** The Reserve has some wonderful ponds that are full of life. We will carry out a survey to see what is lurking below the surface. This is done without getting into the pond!
- August 25th. **FENCING:** The fences on the Reserve are there for visitor safety and to protect delicate habitat. We will do some maintenance work on them where necessary.

NOTE: *This programme is provisional and may need to change due to weather conditions, etc.
Contact the Countryside Ranger if in doubt.*

*Would you like to get involved in
maintaining your local
Nature Reserve ?*

*Why not come along to the next
NOAK BRIDGE NATURE RESERVE
CONSERVATION WORK PARTY.
We can offer two hours of fresh air,
healthy exercise and the chance to
help your local wildlife!!*

*We meet on the last Friday
of every month, 10.00 a.m.,
at the Main Gate, Eastfield Road
and we finish at 12 noon.*

*All tools & training are provided.
If you would like more information
contact the Countryside Ranger
on 01277 624553.*

Children are invited to join the society with their parents and to get involved with the activities on the reserve. Learn about the flora and fauna and have fun at the same time. For details contact the secretary.



Your Steering Committee

Betty Haynes.....Chair
Janet Bircham.....Secretary
Ralph Chapman.....Treasurer

Luke Bennett.....Ranger

Email:-

noakbridge.nrs@ukonline.co.uk

Website.

www.cyberturf.com/noakbridgenr/NBNR/htm