



Annual report - for the year ended 31st March 2021

Site Management

From January 2020 no official volunteering has been undertaken on the Reserve.
North Somerset Council's insurance was not valid in the absence of up-to-date Risk Assessments.
Liaison with NSC to find a solution was further inhibited by Covid 19 restrictions.
This has led to the site becoming unkempt, especially as litter could not be picked.

Committee/Local Authority involvement.

We continue to receive very much appreciate support from the Parish Council, and – of course – the Parish Clerk

In March 2021 a site meeting between our Committee and NSC officers was arranged. This was positive. Most encouraging was the acknowledgement of the good work undertaken by the volunteers.

The meeting moved a long way towards resolving issues caused by the more stringent requirements for Health and Safety now current.

It hoped that work will be able to resume in plenty of time for the annual hay-cut in autumn.

Biodiversity

Whilst no official work has been able to be considered a number of private individuals have visited to record wildlife.

The total number of species has now grown beyond 1,000

It is hope that not mowing the 'wildflower meadow' areas will have no long term effect on the diversity of the habitat.

Success

Giles Morris has had an article on our work published in 'Conservation Land Management' magazine. This publication is widely circulated in the conservation sector.

Liaison with other Groups

There has been considerable liaison with other like-minded groups in the village including the Carbon Capture group and those managing areas for wildlife.

Flower Bank tools and machinery are available for others to use, where suitable.

There is considerable overlap between groups with volunteers being involved with more than one undertaking.

Fundraising

This has been much curtailed.

The main fundraiser, Christmas Tree shredding, was cancelled.

Only a couple of the monthly walks were possible, when restrictions were temporarily eased.

However, there has been no need for much expenditure, with little work being undertaken.

Work is underway to raise enough to buy the new cones and signs demanded by the uprated Traffic Management requirements

The Future

Without an obvious presence on site it has been difficult to engage new recruits.

It is hope that once work restarts it will be easier to attract more, younger, volunteers.

The continuing value of the site as a highly diverse endangered habitat is not in doubt.