



Radley Lakes 6 Month Report August 2018 - January 2019

Volunteering

- Thursday Volunteer Group total = **894 volunteer hrs**
- Abingdon Naturalists (botanical surveying) = **107 volunteer hrs**



Thursday group volunteers 24/01/19 – end of the day spent trimming the perimeter hedges around Je/P & burning brash on a burn platform

Community involvement

- Guided walk for Prime Time Abingdon around Thrupp Lake, by warden
 - o 20 visitors
- Friends of Radley Lakes with Abingdon Naturalists held a New Year winter walk
 - o 06/01/19 David Guyoncourt lead a guided walk around the aftercare areas following agreement with Warden
 - o Around 15 visitors, good weather

Events

- Night Safari – Evening event from looking at small mammal traps, using bat detectors, lamping the pond and checking moth traps warden and environmental learning officer
 - o Thrupp Lake 14/08/18 17 adults & 11 children

Surveying

- Thrupp Lake has a Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (BMS) annual survey undertaken by warden
 - o weekly from April – September
 - o 15 species recorded
- Abingdon Naturalists carried out botanical surveys, building on surveys they carried out for us in 2016.
 - o 4 days, with 8 volunteers
 - o 154 plant species recorded in total:



- Area H/I had 10 species are listed on the Oxfordshire Rare Plants Register (RPR) 2018. One plant, Round-fruited Rush is listed as Nationally Vulnerable while three others are Near Threatened or Nationally Scarce. (For summary table see end of report)
 - Area G had 8 Oxon RPR species, one Vulnerable, one Near Threatened and one Nationally Scarce species. (For summary table see end of report)
- Summer 2018: Friend of Radley Lakes paid for Ivan Wright (from Shotover Wildlife) to carry out some Hymenoptera survey's (specifically looking at Bees and Wasps) on the Radley Lakes Area, specifically looking at pits G, H/I and Je/P. Below is a quick summary of his findings, there will be a full report in due course:
- **Total: 86 species of bee and wasp**
 - 53 bees of which 7 bumblebees
 - 33 wasps of which 3 social wasps

Combining the results from Bioscan (2011) for the same area but using malaise traps rather than panning and netting:

- **Total: 114 species of bee and wasp**
- 63 bees of which 7 bumblebees
- 51 wasps of which 4 social wasps

Notable species results from 2018

- The rare cuckoo wasp *Chrysis gracillima* was recorded in in Lake G. Its national status is Rare Data Book (RDB) 2 'Vulnerable' and there are only 14 recent records on the NBN atlas. Several of the possible host species were also recorded in this survey.
- Eight specimens of the 'rare' cuckoo bee *Sphecodes niger* was recorded in Lake Je/P. Although its status is RDB 3 'Rare' it has been more frequently seen in recent years. This is a new species for these lakes but was recorded on the contiguous site in 2006 by Ivan Wright
- The 'rare' solitary wasp *Cerceris quinquefasciata* was recorded in Lake HI; status RDB 3 'Rare'. Oxfordshire appears to have had small and isolated meta-population of this species for many decades. With repeated records in recent surveys (2006, 2011 and 2018) the Lakes appear to be an important stronghold.
- Analysis is likely to show that the species profile has a high proportion of cuckoo-to-host species of both bees and wasps. This indicates a site with much vitality and ecological robustness.
- Subject to confirmation, **3 of the species are not only new records for Oxfordshire, their location coincides with – or even extends – the north-western limit of their UK range.** Together with the extraordinary abundance of the hitherto locally rare *Lasioglossum puncticolle*, Radley Lakes is clearly an important site with a locally unique ecology, and it might be suggested – albeit tentatively – that it is one of a few local sites that is helping species expand their range as climate changes. The data certainly contributes to analysis in this area of research.
- **Confirmation that *Stelis odontopyga* a 'cuckoo' of the mason bee *Osmia spinulosa* (found on Area G) is a new species to Britain,** in fact, two specimens turned-up simultaneously in June last year, the other in Kent. These two records together are very useful as Mike Edwards is happy to state - 'Being that widely spread this is unlikely to be an 'introduction' rather than a natural colonisation'. In Europe *S. odontopyga* is widely distributed across southern and central Europe, and is present in France and Belgium.



- Ivan has begun a paper for the BENHS journal to announce this new species and under advice (Lucy D & Chris P) will acknowledge the finding with *'Surveys undertaken with the permission of Earth Trust, RWE Generation and H Tuckwell & Son's Ltd.'*

Wardening

- Homeless couple camping opposite bird screen – (arrived on site on 12/06/18) continued from July 2018
 - 02/08/18 Amy (outreach officer from Connections) met with family. Amy & Warden speak on phone - Amy explains that in her opinion the couple are unlikely to move on of their own accord. Warden emails J. Norton at RWE Generation to explain current situation and to ask them as land owners how they would like to proceed, given this may have to go down the route of forcible removal.
 - 09/08/18 JN & warden phone call. RWE generation would like to try to explore every option before bringing in bailiffs. Warden agrees and will speak with PCSO & Vale to see what support if any they can provide.
 - 13/08/18 - Warden calls Vale speaks with Environmental Health, Community Support & Housing Needs before going back to Environmental Health - they cannot offer any support as it is on private land, and therefore up to the landowner.
 - 14/08/18 Warden calls PSCO Adrian Wright to see if they are able to offer any assistance. Adrian happy to come down with Amy & warden to talk to couple/family.
 - 04/09/18 John Norton from RWE Generation served eviction notice to homeless couple on - must leave by 07/09/18
 - 10/09/18 Homeless couple still on site on 10/09/18 - warden informs RWE Generation. Bailiffs are instructed to remove homeless couple from site on 13/09/18, unable to do so.
 - 24/09/18 Homeless couple's camp still there. Warden receives call from a lady representing the couple. They are now in a caravan, and will move their stuff this week.



Campsite on 27/09/18

- 01/10/18 Homeless couples camp still there. Warden & Kelly, come to agreement that ET will help couple to move their stuff. Date set for Tuesday 09/10/18.



- 09/10/18 Homeless couple's camp still there. Warden contacts Kelly – they are unable to come, could they rearrange for Wednesday. Warden unable to do so due to other commitments. Kelly asked she would rather their stuff was left by their caravan parked at the end of Barton Lane. Between 10am and 1pm two ET wardens packed up the homeless couples belongings and moved them to their caravan. Wardens also took the rubbish and recycling off site and put them in ET's bins at work.
- Since October the couple have not returned.



Campsite after wardens cleared site 09/10/18

- 17/12/18 – remains of bonfire found at foot of Poplar tree at Thrupp Lake. Damage not too severe (see photo below)



- 11/01/19 Fly-tipping (porcelain toilet, cupboard doors & door) on B.O.A.T track, reported to Vale waste team/Biffa collected 23/01/19



**Habitat management work at Thrupp Lake and Radley Ash Disposal Site Aftercare Areas G, H/I and J(east)/P
- August 18' to Jan 19'**

When	Location	Habitat management	Who
August	Thrupp Lake	Stem injection/spot spraying of Japanese Knotweed. Located on the banks of the pond, by boat house and around near where Sandles was.	Contractor
August	Thrupp Lake	St David's Meadow cut and rake	Thursday Group
August	Thrupp Lake	Cutting back encroaching vegetation around circular walk and from 7 viewpoints around the Lake	Thursday Group
August	Thrupp Lake	Bring in Tern rafts (for the winter)	Thursday Group
September	Area Je/P	Cut meadow using cut & collect	Contractor
September	Area G access way between compartments 2 & 3	Maintenance clearance of access way	Contractor
October	Area G compartment 2	Mow/scarify second sub-compartment area in Cpt 2	Contractor
October	Aftercare Areas G compartment 1 and H/I compartment 12	Spray <i>crassula</i> - when area dry (starting with outer extent working into middle of <i>crassula</i>)	Warden
October - November	Area G compartment 1	Maintenance clearance of saplings and scrub from area cleared in winter 2015-16	Thursday Group
November - December	Area H/I Compartment 12	Maintenance cut of re-growth – saplings and scrub from part of Cpt. 12, adjacent to the area of permanent open water in Area H/I. Area cut last winter.	Thursday Group
December - January	Perimeter of all aftercare areas	Cutting back encroaching vegetation along vehicle tracks and old railway branch line	Thursday Group
January	Thrupp Lake	Island coppicing – Rotational coppicing on the islands in the Lake Islands cut for winter 2018/19' were: Southern Sandles, tern and Bird hide Islands – all material cut and removed; western-most Gull Island cut, material bundled tethered in the centre of the three Gull Islands; 1/6 th of Otter Island coppiced and material habitat piled on the island.	Contractor
January	Thrupp Lake	Tree safety works – works identified from summer tree safety report; taking out dead wood (branches over footpath, road & parking area/layby) from 1 hybrid black poplar, 2 ash & 1 oak.	Contractor
January	Je/P	Trimming hedge and coppicing willow growth in gateways and bund breach	Thursday Group



**Habitat management at Thrupp Lake and Radley Ash Disposal Site Aftercare Areas G, H/I and J(east)/P
- from February to July 2019**

When	Location	Habitat management	Who
March	Thrupp Lake	Fixing fencing & gateway (temporary fix currently in place) to be taken down and long term fix put in place	Thursday Group
March	Thrupp Lake	Rotational cutting of scrub & willow along western & southwestern edge (near Bullfield Lake) on a three year rotation and use willow to create a bird screen, in place of the old bird hide.	Thursday Group
March	Thrupp Lake	Re-fresh two Tern rafts and launch on lake	Thursday Group
April	Thrupp Lake	Install solar-powered call tape sand martin bank to attract sand martins when they return	Thursday Group
April	Thrupp Lake	Scythe and rake St David's meadow	Thursday Group
April	Thrupp Lake	Clear mud off edges of B.O.A.T. track	Thursday Group
May, June & July	Area G cpt. 5 & 6	Pulling ragwort and thistles by hand from compartments 5 and the northern part of compartment 6 in the meadow	Thursday Group
July	Thrupp Lake	Cutting back encroaching vegetation around circular walk and from 7 viewpoints around the Lake	Thursday Group



Notable species Area H/I

Vulnerable	1
Near Threatened /Scarce	3
Oxon Rare Plants Register 2018	10

Common name	Scientific name	Red listing 2014 based on 2001 IUCN guidelines	Oxon Rare Plants Register 2018	Comments
Cyperus sedge	<i>Carex pseudocyperus</i>	Least Concern		waterbody margin
Round-fruited Rush	<i>Juncus compressus</i>	Vulnerable	Y	E-W band across site between wet & dry areas
Annual Beard Grass	<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Scarce	Y	muddy waterbody margin
Rat's-tail Fescue	<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Least Concern		track
Pyramidal orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Least Concern		track
Wild Liquorice	<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>	Least Concern		track
Lesser Centaury	<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Least Concern	Y	rides, marsh & scrub
Common Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Least Concern		hundreds in rides & scrub
Early Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	Least Concern		hundreds in rides & scrub
Southern Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza pratermissima</i>	Least Concern		hundreds in rides & scrub
Marsh Helleborine	<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	Least Concern	Y	hundreds in scrub
Common Cudweed	<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Near Threatened	Y	track
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Near Threatened	Y	track



Narrow-leaved Everlasting Pea	<i>Lathyrus sylvestris</i>	Least Concern		track
Mudwort	<i>Limosella aquatica</i>	Least Concern	Y	muddy waterbody margin
Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus tenuis</i>	Least Concern	Y	track
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Least Concern		track
Brookweed	<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Least Concern	Y	marshy areas
Lesser Sea Spurry	<i>Spergularia marina</i>	Least Concern		bare patch in rides
Knotted Clover	<i>Trifolium striatum</i>	Least Concern	Y	track

Notable species G

Vulnerable	1
Near Threatened /Scarce	2
Oxon Rare Plants Register 2018	8

Common name	Scientific name	Red listing 2014 based on 2001 IUCN guidelines	Oxon Rare Plants Register 2018	Comments
Round-fruited Rush	<i>Juncus compressus</i>	Vulnerable	Y	mainly N & E of wet area
Annual Beard Grass	<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Scarce	Y	
Rat's-tail Fescue	<i>Vulpia myuros</i>			past best
Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>			
Lesser Centaury	<i>Centaureum pulchellum</i>	Least Concern	Y	> 100



a Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza ?sp</i>			widespread, green-fruited to dried brown
Marsh Helleborine	<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	Least Concern	Y	a few South near bund
Marsh Pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	Near Threatened	Y	some long hairs in top third of some leaf stalks, has umbels of flowers
Brookweed	<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Least Concern	Y	a few
Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus tenuis</i>	Least Concern	Y	
Marsh Dock	<i>Rumex palustris</i>	Least Concern	Y	2 plants found. Fruit fits this reasonably well (just 3mm with spines shorter. But the anther 1.2mm fresh, is clearly this)
Pink Water Speedwell	<i>Veronica catenata</i>			many with galled fruit