

Friends of Weir Wood Newsletter

Newsletter No. 102

Autumn 2023



Welcome!

Autumn Walk – Saturday 28th October

We will again have an Autumn Walk for members as the walks have been well supported in past years.

As usual we will start in the study area where we will look for some woodland birds and fungi. Then we will take you over to Whillet's meadows shortly after 15:00. We hope a few reed buntings and redwings may start to come in to roost by then. The bird ringers hope to put out a net in the afternoon to try and catch a bird or two for you to see in the hand, but this is weather permitting and not guaranteed.

Please meet at the hide car park for a 13:45 start. Paths may be muddy so bring suitable footwear. No need to book, just turn up.

16th July Open day report *by Bob Johnson*

Although the weather was fine and dry, it was also windy and there are strict rules for bird ringers regarding bird safety and the maximum allowed wind conditions. Unfortunately, the wind was deemed too strong to carry out bird ringing. However, all our other attractions went ahead as usual.

In the meadows: The pond dipping was again very popular with our new recently built pond dipping platform now in use. A good list of species was seen and in good numbers, included water scorpion and water stick insect a variety of diving beetles, newts, dragonfly, damselfly and mayfly larvae plus dragonfly and damselfly adults on the wing.

There were also various flat and blood worms, snails and limpets and freshwater shrimps. There are well over 50 species in our pond.

An organised refugia tin walk gave some visitors a chance of views of slow worms and grass snakes, also voles and toads.

The meadow flowers were good with a large stand of betony with its purple flowers and the white flowers of sneezewort, a plant which is not that common in Sussex, among the highlights.

Butterflies seen included a Purple Hairstreak with the more usual common meadow species.

Our beehive team had a dismantled hive to show and explained how a beehive worked, so people could understand what was happening whilst watching the hives from a safe distance.

Their popular honey was also available to buy.

At the hide car park - we had our gazebo which was kindly loaned by Goughs Pet Store in East Grinstead. They have helped and supported us for some years. The gazebo held our popular moth display. The wet and windy weather the day before was challenging to attract the moths, however we managed to collect some hawkmoths and around 40 other species which gave a good and interesting display.

A pheromone trap had been set up for a while to attract lunar hornet moths, and so we actually had one of these interesting and unusual moths on display. I should add that all the moths were released unharmed at the end of the day.

We were able to provide tea and coffee thanks to a volunteer bringing his caravanette. Cakes and biscuits were also provided by volunteers.

We had our usual telescopes at the viewing area, so people could get closer looks at the birds with experts naming and explaining about the birds being seen.

We had a good number of visitors throughout the day to make it all worthwhile.

My thanks go to all those who volunteered and assisted with our open day. The feedback from visitors was very good with all enjoying their visit, despite one of our highlights, the bird ringing, having to be cancelled. A full open day report with pictures will shortly be available on our website.

North Bank Picnic Area *by Bob Johnson*

In August the ESCC Rangers rebuilt the broken picnic table with new leg supports and refurbished top. The broken bench seat was also repaired, and the two seats at the back had leg movement which has been rectified. The front hedge was trimmed, and the area generally tidied with some small blackthorn saplings removed from the grass area.

The tall blackthorn clump growing in front of the front hedge that was affecting the views was cut down and removed which has improved the view. The wild rose and bramble clump around it was lowered but retained as it is good nesting habitat for birds. Willow growing along the water's edge which had been cut down a few weeks earlier was also suitably cleared.

The large meadow in front of the picnic area will also shortly have a cut to control the invasive bramble. The meadow does hold some interesting plants including Dyers Greenweed & Pepper Saxifrage.

2023 Small Nest Box survey result

There are 113 small nest boxes located within the western end reserve. 49 boxes used by birds.

30 used by Blue Tit – 161 young fledged. 5 cold eggs & 20 dead in the nest.

16 used by Great Tit – 80 young fledged. 9 cold eggs & 4 dead in the nest.

1 used by Marsh Tit – 6 young fledged.

1 used by Nuthatch – 4 young fledged.

1 used by Wren - unconfirmed young.

10 boxes had leaves & used by mice. 2 had bees nests. 1 was filled with acorns? 8 had only part nests before being abandoned. 43 were not used at all.

Great Crested Grebe – Regular (counts over 12) 14 on 25/6, 23 on 2/7, 26 on 6/7, 17 on 11/7, 13 on 13/7 17 on 20/7, 30 on 25/7 & 26/7, 22 on 28/7, 24 on 3/8, 28 on 7/8, 35 on 13/8, 18 on 18/8 23 on 19/8, 40 on 20/8, 24 on 26/8, up to 50 on 28/8, 29 on 17/9. (Breeding – 4 pairs produced 8 young).
Little Grebe – 1 on 13/8 & 29/8.

Little Egret – 1 on 5/8, 13/8 & 30/8, 11 on 11/9.
Great White Egret – 1 on 21/7.

Cormorant – Regular – (counts over 18), 39 on 25/6, 27 on 4/7, 42 on 6/7, 25 on 11/7, 3/7, 27 on 17/7, 22 on 4/8, 20 on 19/8, 24 on 20/8, 21 on 29/8, 31 on 17/9 (Breeding – 26 nests with 18 successfully producing at least 36 young).

Grey Heron – Up to 6 regularly counts over, 7 on 25/6, 13 on 2/7, 9 on 4/7 & 13/7, 8 on 3/8, up to 13 on 7/8, 7 on 13/8, 9 on 20/8, 11 on 28/8, 7 on 31/8, 11 on 5/9, 8 on 7/9, 10 on 17/9. (Breeding - 45 active nests of which 36 were successful producing at least 53 young).

Mute Swan – 7 on 25/6, 8 on 2/7 then 8 regularly throughout period (counts over), 9 on 22/8, 11 on 26/8 & 27/8, 10 on 29/8, 11 on 3/9 & 10/9, 12 from 17/9 to 21/9.

Greylag Goose – Regular, 69 on 25/6, 27 on 2/7, 61 on 4/7, 26 on 6/7, 17 on 11/7, (counts over 10) 27 on 3/8, 11 on 17/8, 52 on 25/8, 68 on 26/8, 69 on 27/8, 61 on 28/8, 128 on 29/8, 63 on 31/8, 32 on 7/9, 180 on 11/9, 164 on 12/9, 191 on 17/9.

Canada Goose – Regular (counts over 30), 45 on 25/6 & 2/7, 59 on 6/7, 80 on 25/7, 46 on 3/8, 91 on 7/8, 82 on 13/8, 100 on 18/8, 82 on 20/8, 135 on 25/8, 56 on 26/8, 101 on 28/8, 177 on 8/9, 122 on 10/9, 128 on 11/9, 85 on 17/9, 200 on 21/9.

Canada/Greylag hybrid Geese – 5 on 20/8, 1 on 11/9 also several white Domestic/Greylag Geese hybrids seen during period.

Egyptian Goose – 8 on 25/7 & 26/7, 5 on 3/8, 8 on 7/8, 6 on 13/8, 7 on 20/8, 2 on 22/8, 8 on 27/8 to 29/8, 2 on 7/9, 12 on 10/9, 2 from 11/9 to 15/9, 10 on 17/9, 8 on 21/9.

Mandarin – Regular (counts over 2), 11 on 2/7, 10 on 6/7, 5 on 13/7, 6 on 20/7, 8 on 25/7, 22 on 26/7, 7 on 3/8 & 7/8, 5 on 8/8, 7 on 14/8, 3 on 17/8 & 20/8, 7 on 24/8, 6 on 25/8, 8 on 26/8, 6 on 27/8, 5 on 28/8, 4 on 29/8, 13 on 31/8, 4 on 5/9, 5 on 15/9 & 16/9, 12 on 17/9, 3 on 19/9, 19 on 21/9.

Mallard - Resident (counts over 20), 29 on 6/7, 21 on 13/7, 26 on 20/7, 52 on 25/7 & 26/7, 32 on 4/8, 22 on 7/8, 32 on 14/8 & 15/8, 34 on 17/8, 75 on 18/8, 28 on 19/8, 76 on 20/8, 34 on 24/8, 95 on 25/8, 35 on 26/8, 66 on 27/8, 84 on 28/8, 100 on 29/8, 55 on 31/8, 47 on 5/9, 51 on 7/9, 76 on 8/9, 66 on 11/9, 91 on 17/9. Also 1 White domestic and 2 black hybrid Mallards.

Teal – 3 regularly from 25/7 (counts over), 4 on 18/8, 5 on 29/8, 13 on 31/8, 7 on 3/9, 13 on 7/9, 24 on 8/9, 30 on 10/9, 9 on 12/9, 21 on 15/9, 20 on 16/9, 34 on 17/9, 25 on 19/9, 14 on 21/9.

Shoveler – 2 on 25/7 & 26/7, 1 on 28/7, 3 on 26/8, 1 on 8/9, 2 on 15/9 & 16/9.

Tufted Duck – 2 on 20/6, 1 on 13/8, 25/8 & 26/8, 2 on 27/8, 3 regularly from 28/8 (counts over), 4 on 3/9 & 16/9, 6 on 17/9.

Gadwall – 2 on 26/7, 29/8, 3 on 31/8, 1 on 5/9, 7/9 & 16/9.

Common Scoter – 3 on 4/8.
Shelduck – 1 on 15/7.

Red Kite – 1 on 11/7, 20/7, 26/7 & 30/7, 1 on 31/8, 15/9 & 16/9.
Goshawk – 1 on 13/7, 1 on 15/8 & 22/8.

Sparrowhawk – 1 on 4/7, 30/7 & 7/8, 2 on 29/8, 1 regularly from 15/9 to 21/9.

Common Buzzard – 1 regularly throughout the period (counts over), 2 on 2/7, 7/8, 13/8 & 15/8, 4 on 19/8, 9 on 20/8, 4 on 22/8, 2 on 27/8, 3 on 3/9 & 21/9.

Honey Buzzard – 1 on 13/7, 3 on 30/7 2 on 31/7 & 19/8, 1 on 21/8, 28/8, 30/8 & 8/9.

Osprey – 1 on 26/6, 5/7, 6/7, 13/7 & 20/7, 1 on 5/8, 7/8, 18/8, 19/8 & 21/8, 1 on 28/8 to 1/9, 1 on 9/9, 12/9, 16/9, 21/9, 22/9 & 24/9.
Hobby - 1 on 11/7, 30/7 & 20/8.

Kestrel – 1 on 27/7, 1 on 7/8, 14/8, 20/8, 25/8 & 28/8, 1 on 17/9.

Moorhen – 6 on 25/7, 3 on 26/7 then regular (counts over 2), 3 on 13/8 & 20/8, 4 on 25/8, 6 on 27/8, 3 on 7/9, 5 on 10/9, 4 on 15/9 & 16/9, 7 on 17/9. (Some young were noted).

Coot – Regular - 3 on 25/6, (counts over 3) 4 on 2/7 & 20/7, up to 8 from 26/7 to 24/8, 9 on 26/8, 15 on 28/8, 11 on 29/8 & 31/8, 10 on 3/9, 7 on 5/9, 11 on 7/9, 20 on 8/9, 23 on 10/9, 16 on 11/9, 18 on 12/9, 23 on 15/9 24 on 16/9, 25 on 17/9, 22 on 21/9.

Oystercatcher – 1 on 30/7, 3/8 & 5/8, 1 on 31/8 & 19/9.
Water Rail – 1 on 27/8.

Little Ringed Plover – 2 on 28/6 & 5/7, 1 on 6/7 & 7/7, 1 on 20/8. .
Dunlin – 1 on 29/8.

Lapwing – 5 on 2/7 & 7/7, 2 on 4/7 & 6/7, 7 on 11/7, 12 on 25/7, 10 on 5/8, 11 on 7/8, 1 on 17/8, 18/8 & 20/8, 11 on 19/8, 12 on 25/8, 5 on 26/8, 3 on 27/8, 11 on 29/8, 10 on 3/9, 7 on 8/9, 1 on 11/9 & 12/9, 2 on 15/9, 7 on 16/9, 13 on 17/9, 3 on 19/9 & 21/9.
Black Tailed Godwit – 2 on 7/7.

Redshank – 1 on 6/7 & 7/7, 3 on 12/7, 1 on 25/7, 2 on 30/7.
Greenshank – 1 on 21/7 & 7/8, 2 on 26/8.

Snipe – 1 on 13/8, 3 on 16/9.
Curlew – 2 on 8/8.

Common Sandpiper – 1 regularly (counts over), 3 on 28/6, 2 on 6/7 & 12/7, 3 on 21/7, 4 on 20/7, 25/7 26/7 & 31/7, (counts over 4), 6 on 3/8, 12 on 4/8, 13 on 5/8, 8 on 7/8, 5 on 13/8, 15/8 & 20/8, 6 on 25/8, 8 on 28/8, 6 on 30/8, 5 on 31/8, then up to 3 until end of period.
Wood Sandpiper - 1 on 31/7.

Green Sandpiper – Regular - 1 on 26/6, 2 on 5/7, 1 on 7/7, 4/8 & 31/8.

Black Headed Gull – Regular, (counts over 5), 11 on 28/6, 6 on 2/7, 120 on 21/7, 125 on 25/7 & 26/7, (counts over 50) 84 on 6/8, 117 on 7/8, 119 on 13/8, 80 on 18/8, 63 on 19/8, 192 on 20/8, 67 on 25/8, 93 on 26/8, 159 on 27/8, 53 on 28/8, 58 on 17/9, 50 on 21/9.
Common Gull – 1 on 30/7, 2 on 1/9, 3 on 16/9.

LBB Gull – 1 fairly regularly (counts over 1), 21 on 20/7, 3 on 25/7.

GBB Gull – 2 on 28/6, 1 on 25/7, 26/7 & 3/8, 3 on 7/8, 2+2J on 8/8, then up to 2 regularly (counts over), 3 on 29/8 & 10/9, 4 on 17/9.
Caspian Gull – 1 on 27/6

Herring Gull – 1 on 25/6, 2 on 27/6, 1 on 28/6, 4 on 25/7, 2 on 7/8 & 13/8, 1 on 20/8 & 31/8, 2 on 17/9, 1 on 21/9.

Caspian Gull – 1 on 27/6.

Common Tern – 11 from 25/6 until 15 seen on 2/7, then up to 15 until 25/7, (counts over 3), 6 on 26/7, 4 on 28/7, 8 on 3/8, 5 on 8/8, 1 on 13/8 & 21/9. (Breeding – 4 pairs fledged 7 young at West End. Pair on dam end aerator fledged 2 young).

Black Tern – 1 on 8/8.
Sandwich Tern – 3 on 28/8.

Stock Dove – Regular (counts over 2), 4 on 4/7, 3 on 6/7 & 24/8.

Collared Dove - 1 on 17/8, 2 on 25/8 & 27/8.

Barn Owl – 1 on 21/7, 4 young ringed on 25/7, 1 on 20/8, 2 on 12/9.

Tawny Owl – 1 on 21/7 & 28/7, 1 on 10/8 & 29/8, 1 on 15/9.

Swift – 10 on 6/7, 3 on 11/7, 10 on 25/7, 2 on 26/7 & 27/7, 5 on 7/8, 1 on 8/8, 3 on 20/8 & 26/8, 2 on 21/8, 1 on 27/8 & 28/8, 2 on 31/8.
Kingfisher – 1 regularly from 1/7 (counts over), 3 on 26/7, 2 on 13/8, 20/8 & 29/8, 2 on 17/9.
Green Woodpecker – 1 on 13/8 & 20/8, 1 from 11/9 to 15/9.
Gt Spotted Woodpecker – 1 on 11/7, 13/7, 7/8, 20/8, 26/8, 28/8 & 15/9, 2 on 17/9.
Sand Martin – 2 on 25/7, 25 on 8/8, 3 on 13/8, 2 on 20/8, 3 on 21/8, 10 on 29/8, 30 on 31/8, circa 1000 migration flyover on 16/9, 4 on 19/9.
Barn Swallow – Regular (counts over 2), 6 on 26/7, 5 on 7/8, 20 on 20/8, 7 on 13/8, 5 on 20/8, 20 on 24/8, 3 on 25/8, 18 on 26/8, 5 on 27/8 & 28/8, 15 on 29/8, 20 on 31/8, 3 on 3/9, 25 on 8/9, 16 on 10/9, 12 on 21/9.
House Martin – Regular - 14 on 26/6, (counts over 5), 15 on 2/7, 10 on 4/7, 8 on 6/7, 16 on 11/7, 26 on 25/7, 20 on 27/7, 15 on 7/8, 20 on 8/8, 30 on 18/8, 39 on 26/8, 135 on 27/8, 15 on 28/8, 60+ on 19/9, 94 on 21/9.
Grey Wagtail – 1 on 25/7, 4/8 & 20/8, 6 on 28/8, 2 on 29/8, 1 on 7/9, 2 on 8/9, 3 on 10/9, 1 on 15/9, 2 on 17/9.
Yellow Wagtail – 1 on 20/8, 3 on 10/9.
Pied Wagtail – 1 on 11/7 & 13/7, 5 on 25/7, then 1 regularly (counts over), 10 on 13/8, 13 on 18/8, 10 on 20/8, on 19/9, 10 on 20/8, 2 on 24/8, 10 from 25/8 to 28/8, 9 on 29/8, 2 on 17/9.
Blackbird, Wren, Robin, Dunnock – Regular & resident. (No counts over 4).
Wheatear – 1 on 19/8, 27/8 & 29/8, 2 on 30/8.
Meadow Pipit - 9 on 16/9, 28 on 17/9, 6 on 21/9.
Grasshopper Warbler – 2 on 24/7, 1 on 21/8 & 30/8, 1 on 19/9.
Reed Warbler – 1 on 4/7 & 24/7, 3 on 26/7, 2 on 30/7 & 20/8.
Common Whitethroat – 1 on 2/7, 2 on 4/7, 3 on 24/7, (counts over 2), 6 on 25/7, 4 on 28/7, 3 on 14/8, 4 on 20/8, 3 on 29/8 was last sighting.
Lesser Whitethroat – 1 on 21/7 & 15/8.
Blackcap – 1 on 2/7, 5 on 24/7, 2 on 25/7, 14 on 28/7, 2 on 13/8, (counts over 2), 3 on 26/8, 7 on 27/8 & 29/8, 4 on 11/9, 6 on 16/9.
Garden Warbler – 2 on 28/7.
Chiffchaff – Up to 2 regularly (counts over), 3 on 24/7, 4 on 28/7 & 7/8, 12 on 13/8, 11 on 18/8, 21 on 20/8, 19 on 25/8, 16 on 26/8, 24 on 27/8, 10 on 28/8, 3 on 29/8, 12 on 3/9, 9 on 16/9 & 17/9.
Willow Warbler – 3 on 13/8, 1 on 14/8, 6 on 18/8, 3 on 19/8 & 20/8, 1 on 25/8, 2 on 26/8, 4 on 27/8.
Spotted Flycatcher – 1 on 5/8, 1 on 13/8.
Goldcrest – 1 on 7/8, 14/8 & 25/8, 1 on 17/9.
L.T. Tit – 2 on 13/8, 8 on 20/8, 1 on 24/8, 6 on 25/8 & 26/8, 9 on 27/8, 3 on 29/8, 11 on 7/9 & 17/9.
Marsh Tit – 3 on 4/7, 5 on 20/7, 2 on 26/7, 3 on 30/7, 2 on 2/8 & 6/8, 1 on 14/8, 15/8, 19/8, 24/8 & 26/8.
Blue Tit – Regular (counts over 4), 5 on 13/8, 10 on 20/8 & 27/8, 7 on 29/8, 8 on 15/9.
Great Tit, Magpie & Pheasant – Regular & Resident – (No counts over 4).
Nuthatch – 1 on 13/8 then 1 regularly (counts over 1), 2 from 24/8 to 28/8, 2 on 17/9.
Tree Creeper – 1 on 13/7, 13/8, 26/8 & 27/8.
Jay – 4 on 7/7, 1 on 13/7 & 20/8.
Jackdaw – (counts over 10), 68 on 2/7, 20 on 4/7, 60 on 14/7, 24 on 20/8, 40 on 24/8, 20 on 26/8, 200 on 27/8, 50 on 28/8 & 5/9, 100 on 11/9, 50 on 17/9.
Carrion Crow – Regular (counts over 2), 4 on 20/8, 24/8 & 26/8, 12 on 28/8, 9 on 5/9, 4 on 7/9 & 17/9.
Rook – 4 on 25/6, 5 on 17/8, 20 on 24/8, 26/8 & 28/8, 4 on 25/8, 2 on 29/8, 13 on 7/9, 10 on 17/9.
Raven – 2 on 4/8, 2 on 7/8, 1 on 13/8, 14/8 & 20/8, 3 on 26/8, 1 on 28/8 & 11/9, 2 on 12/9, 1 on 16/9 & 17/9, 2 on 21/9.
Starling – 1 on 13/8, 3 on 20/8, 32 on 27/8, 20 on 29/8, 8 on 3/9, 37 on 17/9.
Linnet – 12 on 28/8.
Chaffinch – 1 on 13/8 & 15/8.
Greenfinch – 1 on 22/8.
Yellowhammer – 1 on 13/7.
Goldfinch – 5 on 4/7, 3 on 26/7, 25 on 7/8, 12 on 13/8, 65 on 18/8, 21 on 20/8, 14 on 25/8, 10 on 27/8, 30 on 28/8, 16 on 3/9, 20 on 17/9, 3 on 21/9.
Bullfinch – 2 on 28/7, 1 on 4/8, 5 on 20/8, 3 on 27/8, 1 on 3/9, 11/9 & 17/9.
Reed Bunting – 1 on 2/7 & 4/7, 2 on 11/7, 1 on 20/7 & 23/7, 3 on 24/7, 4 on 26/7, 2 on 28/7, 1 on 30/7, 7/8, 13/8 & 17/9.

Reserve News by Bob Johnson

We carry out a (BBS) breeding bird survey at Whillet's Meadows each spring where we determine the number of breeding bird territories based on singing males and/or any nesting behaviour noted over a number of early morning visits. The following is the basic results for 2023.

Chiffchaff – 11 territories	Robin – 4 territories	Treecreeper – 1 territory
Wren – 11	Blackbird – 4	Bullfinch – 1
Blue Tit – 8 (includes nest box users).	Song Thrush – 2	Tawny Owl – 1
Blackcap – 5	Reed Bunting – 2	Goldcrest - 1
Great Tit – 5 (includes nest box users).	Garden Warbler - 2	
Reed Warbler – 4	Long-tailed Tit - 1	
Common Whitethroat – 4	Dunnock - 1	

We know that the Mandarin Ducks had at least 2 broods of young that were seen at Whillet's. Also, a Mallard pair had young. A Stock Dove pair successfully bred in a nest box at Whillet's. Many more bred in the study area. The Common Tern, Grey Heron, Cormorant and Barn Owl breeding results are included within the sightings. Generally, it was a good year for all of these species.

After several years of not seeing any Great Crested Grebe young, we surmised the problem was lack of suitable nesting sites. This year we installed a trial nesting platform to see if they would use it. They did not. However, pleasingly, the Grebes did breed by building nests within tree branches hanging into the water at the west end. Four pairs produced 8 young in total.

Reserve News continued

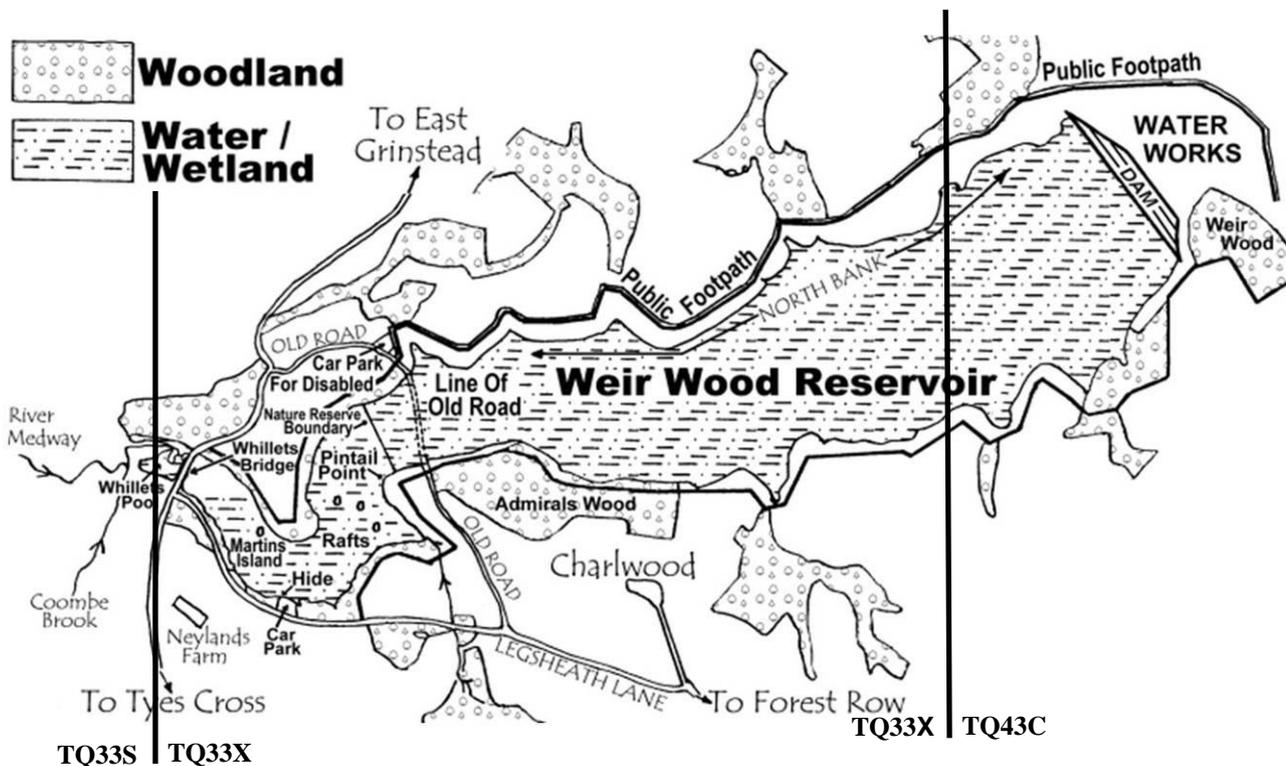
We carry out a weekly Grass Snake & small mammal survey at Whillet's where we have 40 refugia tins. We officially survey from March to September. The snakes normally arrive in April and leave to go into hibernation by the end of September. Our maximum count this year was 9 in June, this maximum count figure is down on previous years where we have seen 15 to 20. We are not sure why the numbers have declined as nothing has obviously changed within the meadows.

We also carry out butterfly transect surveys at Whillet's from March to October. We have recorded 32 species of butterfly within the meadows over the last 10 years. This year we recorded 25 species, some have had a good year, Meadow Brown had a count of over a 100, Gatekeeper & Small Skipper were over 50, but others such as Common Blue, Small Tortoiseshell and Brown Argus were hardly seen. Some migrants such as Clouded Yellow have not been seen so far this year.

Our general insect records have been lacking, but we now have one or two volunteers who are knowledgeable about insects. They have been carrying out insect surveys at Whillet's to try and improve our insect records. We have now identified over 50 species of beetle within the meadows, although this is still a drop in the ocean compared with the number of beetle species in the UK.

Those of you who visit the hide should find an improved viewing experience. We have lowered the bramble patches which were restricting views over the water from the hide, re-cut rides between the patches and cut a path left of the hide down to the water which should be good and encourage birds to the area when water levels rise. The bracken areas in front of the viewing area have been cut including around the feeders in readiness for the winter bird feeding which will start towards the end of October.

Recently we cut back and cleared fallen willow at the Whillet's reedbed and trimmed the hedge and surrounding trees which should help with viewing the reedbed from the road. We hope to cut a ride through the reedbed whilst it is still relatively dry. This will allow waterfowl to swim through to the back of the reeds when the water levels rise. We were pleased that Southern Water asked if they could join us for a volunteer day. They helped us with this willow clearance work which went very well. Their interest in the reserve is encouraging and important for the future of this wildlife reserve which relies on having some support from Southern Water.



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