

# Friends of Weir Wood Newsletter

Newsletter No. 90

Autumn 2020



## Welcome!

### Reservoir Leisure Rights for sale.

You may have heard through the local press that the Weir Wood "Leisure Rights" lease is up for sale. I am aware there is some concern amongst members and the public that this may adversely affect the Nature Reserve.

There is currently no public access or leisure activities allowed at the West End under an enforceable legally protected SSSI that is under the control and responsibility of the site owner, which is Southern Water.

I can therefore assure all that the bird sanctuary which includes the Whillet's meadows area will remain unchanged by any leisure rights lease sale. The leisure rights are applicable only to the dam end beyond our buoy rope. The rights lease which is currently held by Weald Water Enterprises Ltd has been offered for purchase through a local agency - Savills.

Whilst on the subject of sales the south facing slopes directly behind Whillet's meadows were once grazed farmland until they were purchased in 2017 by the Kingscote Estate. The Estate then landscaped these slopes and planted them with vines. The Estate & its vineyards are now currently up for sale, but this should also have no adverse effect on the Nature Reserve. In fact being surrounded by vineyards is a definite positive as these attract wildlife and birds in particular.

This autumn the wildlife benefit has already been noticed with an unusually high flock count of 74 Meadow Pipits seen on 13/9. Also flocks of Mistle Thrushes have recently been attracted to the area. *by Bob Johnson*

### Meadow Pond silt removal. *by Bob Johnson*

The adverse side effect of Kingscote landscaping the meadows behind Whillet's for vines, was that heavy rains were able to wash loose soils down the hill which eventually collected in the stream that fed meadow pond. Although the pond has a silt trap, it was unable to deal with the heavy flood rains and amount of silt we had, particularly last winter. This caused the pond to become almost fully silted up in places which badly needed to be removed for the health of the pond.

With the dry weather this summer it was deemed the right time to carry out this work. On 26<sup>th</sup> August a suitable excavator and driver was hired from Coppard's in Crowborough. The driver managed to remove a good deal of the silt from the pond, which he strategically laid clear of the pond, this will quickly have a natural covering of vegetation and not even be noticed.

We are very pleased with the results. The driver did an excellent job in a tight working area. The pond will take a little while to recover, but the work had to be completed during dry summer weather to allow suitable safe machine access, while pond water levels were low.

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Now just a few weeks later we are already seeing pairs of Common Darter dragonflies egg laying. It will not take long for the round-leaved pondweed to re-grow and for the wildlife to recolonise the pond.

### Anniversary Book Update.

The production of our book to commemorate our 25th anniversary next year is going well. We have written all the text and have collected almost all the photographs. We have laid out the contents using a desk top publishing software package.

We have talked with three possible printing companies, have received quotes from each of them, and will update the quotes towards the end of the year. There is some concern on their part that Brexit may affect the cost (apparently most of the paper is imported). We are now starting to proof read the book.

The final version should be ready on schedule for printing in December and going on sale in January 2021. So far it looks like the book will be about 150 pages with a lot of colour photographs and we should be able to offer it for the target price of £5.

It is not quite too late for you to contribute content. If you have any thoughts, words or pictures you would like to add please contact me quickly.

*by Tom Howard-Jones*

### Covid-19 Update. *by Bob Johnson*

Since the last newsletter we have had continued problems with the public illegally trespassing onto the reservoir and breaking laws.

There have been several occasions where the police have had to be called to deal with situations where large groups of youngsters have been causing problems. The outcome has been that Southern Water have now put security devices on the dam wall with alarms and cameras. They also intend to improve the security fencing at the dam wall area to try and prevent further illegal access from the public.

Anyone visiting the dam end will also now find there is a manned security barrier as you near the pumping station. This is mainly because of some major building improvement work being carried out at the pumping station where a new improved water quality UV filter system is being installed.

Public access to the north bank millennium footpath still remains through the pumping station, and you can still park there, but you will be logged by security if you wish to park within the barriered parking area.

**Little Grebe** – 2 on 6/7, 1 on 7/7, 31/7, 4/8, 23/8 & 31/8.

**Great Crested Grebe** – (counts over 25), 28 on 20/6, 38 on 25/6, 28 on 28/6, 31 on 3/7, 39 on 6/7, 52 on 10/7, 61 on 11/7, 65 on 17/7, 74 on 20/7, on 21/7 – (4 young were noted), 60 on 29/7, 46 on 4/8, 79 on 9/8, on 15/8 – (further 3 young noted), 63+7Y on 23/8, 83 on 13/9, 100+3Y on 20/9.

**Cormorant** – Regular – (counts over 25), 33 on 20/6, 42 on 28/6, (13 nests – minimum 13 young, but due to covid full counts of young were not taken), up to 35 from 3/7 to 23/8, but numbers had dropped to 16 by 13/9, 18 on 20/9.

**Shag** – 1 on 25/8.

**Little Egret** – Up to 1 regularly throughout period – (counts over), 2 on 29/6 & 3/7, 3 from 11/7 to 20/7, 5 on 24/7, 3 from 26/7 to 28/7, 4 on 31/7, 3 on 2/8, 4 on 4/8, 6 on 5/8, 3 on 9/8 & 16/8, 2 on 20/9.

**Grey Heron** – Regular - (counts over 3), 4 on 20/6, 8 on 1/7, 7 on 3/7, 14 on 6/7, 10 on 10/7, 8 on 17/7, 13 on 27/7, 6 on 29/7, 13 on 9/8, 8 on 23/8, 6 on 30/8, 11 on 31/8, 6 on 4/9, 5 on 13/9, 4 on 18/9, 8 on 20/9.

**Mute Swan** – 2 on 20/6, 28/6 & 29/6, 2 regularly from 3/7 to 11/7, 2 on 21/7, 27/7, 2/8 & 9/8.

**Greylag Goose** – Regular – (counts over 20), 22 on 20/6, 77 on 28/6, 49 on 1/7, 91 on 6/7, 36 on 10/7, 123 on 23/8, 107 on 31/8, 136 on 1/9 220 on 4/9, 68 on 13/9, 189 on 18/9, 346 on 20/9. (Several Canada x Greylag hybrids and Greylag x White Feral hybrids have been noted).

**Canada Goose** – 11 on 1/7, 26 on 6/7, 1 on 10/7, 4 on 29/7, 26 on 2/8, 56 on 9/8, 72 on 16/8, 80 on 3/8, 38 on 30/8, 190 on 4/9, 265 on 5/9, 33 on 13/9, 130 on 18/9, 231 on 20/9.

**Egyptian Goose** – 5 on 29/6 & 11/7, 2 on 19/7, 3 on 20/9.

**Mandarin** – Regularly up to 2 (counts over), 6 on 20/6, 8 on 28/6, 4 on 29/6, 5 on 3/7, 3 on 3/7, 13 from 6/7 to 10/7, 8 on 17/7, 10 on 19/7 & 20/7, 3 on 27/7, 16 on 28/7, 11 on 29/7, 13 on 2/8, up to 11 from 4/8 to 10/8, 5 on 16/8, 7 on 17/8, 4 on 18/8, 5 on 23/8 & 30/8, 4 on 20/9.

**Mallard** - Resident - (counts over 8), 11 on 1/7, 10 on 3/7, 45 on 6/7, 12 on 10/7, 10 on 21/7, 28 on 24/7, 39 on 27/7, 28 on 2/8, 11 on 5/8, 44 on 9/8 & 23/8, 20 on 4/9, 9 on 13/9, 16 on 18/9, 50 on 20/9.

**Teal** – 2 on 10/8, 3 on 12/8, 1 on 15/8, 3 on 17/8, 6 on 23/8, 3 on 30/8, 5 on 31/8, 3 on 3/9, 2 on 6/9, 1 on 13/9, 7 on 18/9, 10 on 19/9, 12 on 20/9.

**Gadwall** – 2 on 18/9.

**Garganey** – 4 on 12/8.

**Shoveler** – 1 on 15/8, 4 on 20/9.

**Common Scoter** – 1 on 15/9.

**Tufted Duck** – 2 on 20/6 & 29/6, 3 on 6/7, 1 on 7/7, 2 on 10/7, 8 on 11/7, 4 on 29/7 & 9/8, 1 on 10/8 & 23/8, 3 on 31/8, 1 on 6/9 & 16/9.

**Red Kite** – 1 on 28/6.

**Marsh Harrier** – 1 on 24/8.

**Sparrowhawk** – 1 on 11/7, 14/7, 17/7 & 27/7, 1 on 9/8, 10/8, 23/8, 30/8 & 31/8, 1 on 4/9, 19/9 & 20/9.

**Common Buzzard** – Up to 2 throughout the period (counts over 2), 3 on 14/7, 6 on 23/8, 4 on 31/8, 5 on 20/9.

**Osprey** – 1 regularly from 22/6 to 2/7, 1 on 6/7, 17/7 & 31/7, 1 on 4/9 & 18/9.

**Kestrel** – 1 on 28/6 & 6/7, up to 3 on 11/7, 1 on 26/7, 1 on 2/8, 3/8, 9/8 & 10/8, 1 on 17/8, 24/8 & 31/8, 1 on 1/9, 6/9, 13/9, 15/9, 18/9 & 19/9, 2 on 20/9.

**Hobby** - 1 on 24/8 & 31/8.

**Pheasant** – Regular - (no notable counts).

**Water Rail** – 1 on 4/8 & 10/8.

**Moorhen** – Resident – 3 on 29/6, 4 on 6/7, 1 on 10/7 & 19/7, 2 on 20/7, 5 on 27/7, 4 on 29/7, 2 on 4/8, 1 on 5/8, 7 on 9/8, 4 on 23/8, 1 on 1/9 & 4/9, 2 on 13/9 & 16/9, 4 on 18/9, 9 on 20/9.

**Coot** – 2 on 24/8, 1 on 5/9.

**Oystercatcher** – 1 on 21/6.

**Whimbrel** – 1 on 18/9.

**Black-tailed Godwit** – 1 on 6/7, 3 on 5/8, 6 on 8/8, 3 on 17/9.

**Snipe** – 1 on 20/9.

**Little Ringed Plover** – 2 on 20/6, 1 on 1/7.

**Dunlin** – 1 on 11/7, 17/9 & 18/9

**Greenshank** – 1 on 4/8 & 9/8.

**Redshank** – 1 on 29/6, 29/7 9/8 & 23/8, 1 on 17/9 & 18/9.

**Lapwing** – 4 on 20/6, 7 on 24/6, 1 on 25/6, 5 on 28/6, 2 on 3/7, 10 on 6/7, 8 on 7/7, 13 on 10/7, 10 on 11/7 & 17/7, up to 20 from 20/7 to 24/7, 21 on 27/7, 26 on 28/7, 23 on 29/7, up to 22 from 30/7 to 9/8, 5 on 10/8, 24 on 17/8, 19 on 23/8, 2 on 24/8, 23 on 30/8, 20 on 31/8, 1 on 13/9 & 16/9 with 2 on 15/9, 20 on 19/9, 22 on 20/9.

**Common Sandpiper** – 1 on 29/6, 2 on 1/7, 1 on 6/7 then up to 2 regularly from 26/7 onwards (counts over), 4 on 27/7, 3 on 31/7 & 5/8, 7 on 12/8, 3 on 28/8, 4 on 29/8, 3 on 30/8 & 31/8, 4 on 6/9, 1 still by 20/9.

**Green Sandpiper** – 1 on 22/6, 24/6 & 19/7, 28/7 & 31/7 then regularly (counts over 1), 3 on 12/8 to 16/8, 2 on 17/8 to 23/8, 2 on 4/9, 13/9 & 15/9, 3 on 17/9, 4 on 18/9, 2 on 19/9 & 20/9.

**Black Headed Gull** – (counts over 5), 6 on 28/6, 13 on 29/6 & 1/7, 18 on 6/7, 23 on 10/7, 40 on 11/7 18 on 19/7, 72 on 24/7, 77 on 26/7, 92 on 27/7, 72 on 28/7, 21 on 29/7, 150 on 2/8, 30 on 4/8, 150 on 8/8, 135 on 9/8, 172 on 16/8, 132 on 23/8, 34 on 4/9, 15 on 13/9, 90 on 20/9.

**Mediterranean Gull** - 1 on 29/6 & 15/9.

**Common Gull** – 3 on 20/9.

**Herring Gull** – 1 on 1/7, 6 on 6/7, 1 on 27/7, 5 on 8/8 & 9/8, 1 on 15/8, 4 on 17/8 & 23/8, 9 on 20/9.

**LBB Gull** – 1 on 29/6 & 1/7, 2 on 6/7 & from 24/7 to 27/7, 1 on 29/7, 2 on 2/8, 16 on 5/8, 2 on 8/8, 1 on 9/8 & 14/8, 2 on 16/8, 1 on 17/8, 2 on 23/8, 3 on 24/8, 1 on 31/8, 3 on 6/9, 1 on 19/9, 2 on 20/9.

**GBB Gull** – 1 on 6/7.

**Arctic Tern** – 1 from 25/8 to 30/8.

**Black Tern** – 1 on 23/8, 24/8 & 29/8.

**Common Tern** - 12 on 20/6 & 28/6 but nesting failed due to mink predation, 5 on 1/7, 4 on 3/7, 12 on 6/7, 2 on 10/7, 10 on 17/7, 8 on 19/7, 5 from 24/7 to 28/7, 8 on 29/7, 3 on 2/8, 6 on 5/8 then up to 2 until 29/8 but with 9 seen on 25/8.

**Stock Dove** – 1 on 6/7 & 27/7, 2 on 29/7, 1 on 4/8 & 9/8, 3 on 10/8, 1 on 23/8, 2 on 30/8, 31/8 & 1/9, 1 on 4/9, 2 on 18/9, 5 on 20/9.

**Wood Pigeon** – Ubiquitous, (counts over 20), 47 on 20/9.

**Tawny Owl** – 1 on 26/7.

**Swift** – 40 on 20/6, 10 on 28/6, 100 on 29/6, 20 on 1/7, 50 on 6/7, 2 on 7/7, 20 on 11/7, 6 on 26/7, 2 on 29/7, 13 on 31/7, 5 on 2/8, 2 on 5/8, 4 on 9/8, 1 on 10/8, 4 on 25/8, 2 on 29/8.

**Kingfisher** – 1 regularly (counts over), 2 on 20/6, 22/6 & 6/7, 3 on 7/7, 2 on 14/7, 17/7 & 26/7, 3 on 9/8, 2 on 10/8, 17/8, 30/8 & 31/8, 2 on 1/9, 13/9 & 19/9, 3 on 20/9.

**Green Woodpecker** – 1 on 26/7 to 29/7, 2 on 2/8, 1 on 3/8, 4/8, 9/8 & 10/8.  
**Gt Spotted Woodpecker** – 1 on 26/7, 3/8, 9/8, 23/8 & 30/8, 1 on 20/9.  
**Sand Martin** – 8 on 6/7, 4 on 27/7, 50 on 5/8, 40 on 9/8, 1 on 16/8, 2 on 23/8, 20 on 25/8, 30 on 28/8, 15 on 29/8, 12 on 31/8, 10 on 6/9.  
**Barn Swallow** – 6 on 20/6, 23 on 21/6 then up to 2 regularly (counts over), 4 on 7/7, 3 on 19/7 & 20/7, 10 on 26/7, 3 on 27/7, 7 on 4/8, 30 on 8/8, 40 on 9/9, 50 on 10/8, 90 on 16/8, 4 on 17/8 & 23/8, 60 on 24/8, 30 on 25/8, 20 on 26/8, 100 on 30/8, 30 on 31/8, 6 on 4/9, 40 on 6/9, 4 on 20/9.  
**House Martin** – (Regular - counts over 8), 19 on 28/6, 20 on 29/6, 20 on 6/7, 10 on 11/7, 33 on 26/7, 40 on 27/7, 10 on 8/8, 20 on 9/8, 21 on 12/8, 10 on 16/8, 50 on 23/8 & 25/8, 15 on 26/8, 250 on 29/8, 125 on 30/8, 150 on 31/8, 130 on 6/9, 10 on 13/9, 31 on 20/9.  
**Grey Wagtail** – 5 on 20/6, 2 on 1/7 & 6/7, 7 on 11/7, 1 on 29/7, 3 on 9/8 & 10/8, 2 on 16/8, 6 on 17/8, 3 on 23/8, 2 on 30/8, 7 on 31/8, 2 on 4/9, 6 on 6/9, 1 on 13/9, 15/9 & 19/9, 4 on 20/9.  
**Pied Wagtail** – 3 on 6/7, 5 on 11/7, 8 on 24/7 & 26/7, 2 on 27/7, 2 on 9/8, 4 on 23/8 & 30/8, 14 on 31/8, 2 on 13/9, 4 on 20/9.  
**Yellow Wagtail** – 2 on 29/8 & 31/8, 3 on 4/9, 1 on 6/9.  
**Wren, Robin, Dunnock, Blackbird** – Regular and resident reported in low numbers. (No count over 3).  
**Wheatear** – 1 on 29/8 & 31/8. **Whinchat** - 1 on 17/8, 28/8 & 30/8.  
**Stonechat** - 1 on 14/7. **Tree Pipit** - 1 on 6/9.  
**Meadow Pipit** - 1 on 6/9, 74 on 13/9, 70 on 19/9, 15 on 20/9. **Fieldfare** – 1 on 15/9.  
**Woodlark** – 1 on 9/8. **Song Thrush** – 2 on 20/6 & 3/7 1 from 6/7 to 10/7, 1 on 26/7, 5 on 10/8, 1 on 1/9.  
**Mistle Thrush** – 2 on 29/6, 20 flyover on 23/8, 11 on 30/8 & 13/9, 30 on 19/9.  
**Reed Warbler** - 3 on 20/6 & 28/6, 1 on 1/7, 3 on 3/7, 4 on 6/7, 5 on 7/7, 2 on 10/7, 3 on 14/7, 1 on 17/7, 19/7 & 26/7, 2 on 2/8, 1 on 4/8, 4 on 10/8, 1 on 12/8 & 16/8, 2 on 17/8 & 23/8, 1 on 1/9.  
**Sedge Warbler** – 1 on 26/7, 10/8 & 12/8, 2 on 31/8, 1 on 6/9.  
**Grasshopper Warbler** - 1 on 10/8 & 31/8.  
**Common Whitethroat** – Up to 2 regularly (counts over), 5 on 20/6, 10 on 28/6, 3 on 3/7, 4 on 26/7, 3 on 29/7, 6 on 30/7, 10 on 2/8, 8 on 3/8, 6 on 9/8, 8 on 10/8, 7 on 17/8, 5 on 23/8, 24/8, 30/8 & 6/9.  
**Lesser Whitethroat** – 1 on 11/7, 3 on 30/7, 1 on 30/8, 6/9 & 18/9.  
**Garden Warbler** – 1 on 20/6, 6/7, 14/7 & 30/7.  
**Blackcap** – Up to 2 regularly (counts over), 3 on 17/8, 7 on 30/8, 6 on 31/8, 4 on 3/9, 6 on 6/9, 5 on 13/9.  
**Chiffchaff** – Up to 2 regularly (counts over), 4 on 11/7, 26/7 & 29/7, 8 on 2/8, 3 on 9/8, 6 on 10/8, 4 on 16/8, 3 on 17/8, 8 on 23/8, 5 on 24/8, 13 on 30/8, 20 on 3/9, 14 on 6/9, 9 on 13/9, 7 on 19/9, 10 on 20/9.  
**Willow Warbler** – 1 on 17/7 & 26/7, 2 on 2/8, 1 on 10/8, 2 on 28/8, 1 on 31/8, 1 on 6/9 & 13/9.  
**Goldcrest** – 2 on 28/6, 1 on 26/7 & 10/8, 1 on 20/9.  
**Spotted Flycatcher** – 1 on 17/8.  
**L.T. Tit** – 15 on 10/8, 4 on 23/8, 1 on 31/8, 8 on 18/9. **Coal Tit** – 1 on 30/8.  
**Marsh Tit** – 1 on 26/7 & 31/7, 1 on 4/8, 10/8 & 17/8, 2 on 28/8, 1 on 6/9.  
**Blue Tit** – (counts over 3), 14 on 20/9. **Great Tit** – No counts over 3.  
**Nuthatch** – 1 on 26/7, 9/8 & 23/8, 1 on 1/9 & 20/9. **Tree Creeper** – 1 on 28/6 & 26/7, 1 on 23/8.  
**Jay** – 1 on 28/6 & 26/7, 5 on 5/8, 2 on 16/8, 1 on 23/8, 4 on 30/8, 1 on 4/9, 2 on 6/9, 1 on 13/9, 2 on 19/9 & 20/9.  
**Magpie** – Resident & regular – (counts over 3), 8 on 19/9.  
**Jackdaw** – 50 on 23/8, 20 on 13/9, 12 on 20/9. **Rook** – 12 on 9/8, 17 on 30/8, 40 on 20/9.  
**Carrion Crow** – Resident in low numbers (counts over 3), 10 on 20/9.  
**Raven** - 2 on 29/6, 1 on 14/7, 2 on 9/8, 1 on 17/8, 2 on 28/8, 30/8 & 31/8, 1 on 4/9, 6/9 & 13/9.  
**Starling** – 12 on 29/7, 2 on 9/8, 7 on 20/9. **Chaffinch** – 1 on 13/9 & 19/9.  
**Greenfinch** – 12 on 2/8, 2 on 9/8, 6 on 17/8, 2 on 26/8, 5 on 30/8, 1 on 6/9, 2 on 13/9, 1 on 20/9.  
**Siskin** – 1 on 6/9, 28 on 13/9, 33 flyover on 19/9, 7 flyover on 20/9.  
**Linnets** - 2 on 9/8. **House Sparrow** – 1 on 30/8.  
**Goldfinch** – 3 on 6/7, 4 on 7/7, 5 on 10/7, 3 on 14/7, 17/7 & 21/7, 22 on 26/7, (counts over 5), 90 on 10/8, 25 on 16/8, 90 on 17/8, 15 on 23/8, 60 on 24/8, 23 on 30/8, 8 on 4/9.  
**Bullfinch** – 2 on 28/6, 1 on 6/7, up to 4 from 31/7 to 4/8, 1 on 9/8, 5 on 16/8, 7 on 17/8, 2 on 24/8, 3 on 30/8, 1 on 31/8, 6 on 6/9, 2 on 19/9, 3 on 20/9.  
**Common Crossbill** – 3 on 2/7 & 6/7, 6 on 11/7, 16/8 & 23/8, 8 on 19/9, 12 on 20/9.  
**Yellowhammer** – 2 on 20/6, 1 on 28/6, 1 regularly from 3/7 to 21/7 with 2 on 17/7, 1 on 26/7 & 24/8.  
**Reed Bunting** – 3 on 20/6, 1 on 28/6, 2 on 10/7 & 11/7, 3 on 17/7, 1 on 20/7 & 26/7, 17/8, 24/8, 30/8, 31/8, 18/9 & 19/9.

We have managed to keep safe and still maintain the work parties by managing to keep people working in small groups with social distancing. In fact the work parties have been very active.

The long awaited new reed-bed along South Bank at the dam end will be started on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, Southern Water contractors will be carrying out most of the work. We recently had a work party to burn some previously cut Willow in this area, and that is now cleared in readiness for them to start erecting cages and planting reeds.

At the dam end of North Bank the meadow grass has been cut as far as the picnic area, and we also burnt a lot of previously cut Willow that was stacked in the first meadow. The picnic area had its front hedge cut. To improve views and water edge habitat, we cut down three Willows (2 were out in water) that were blocking views at the South West end water edge. Cuttings were stacked on shore ready for later disposal.

During June/July using an excavator, we dug out silt from the little pondlet in the Study Area which is currently dry, and now just waiting for rain to fill it. We also deepened and reshaped the wader scrapes at Pintail Bank. This will further improve the habitat and their benefits should also be noticed when they start to fill again.

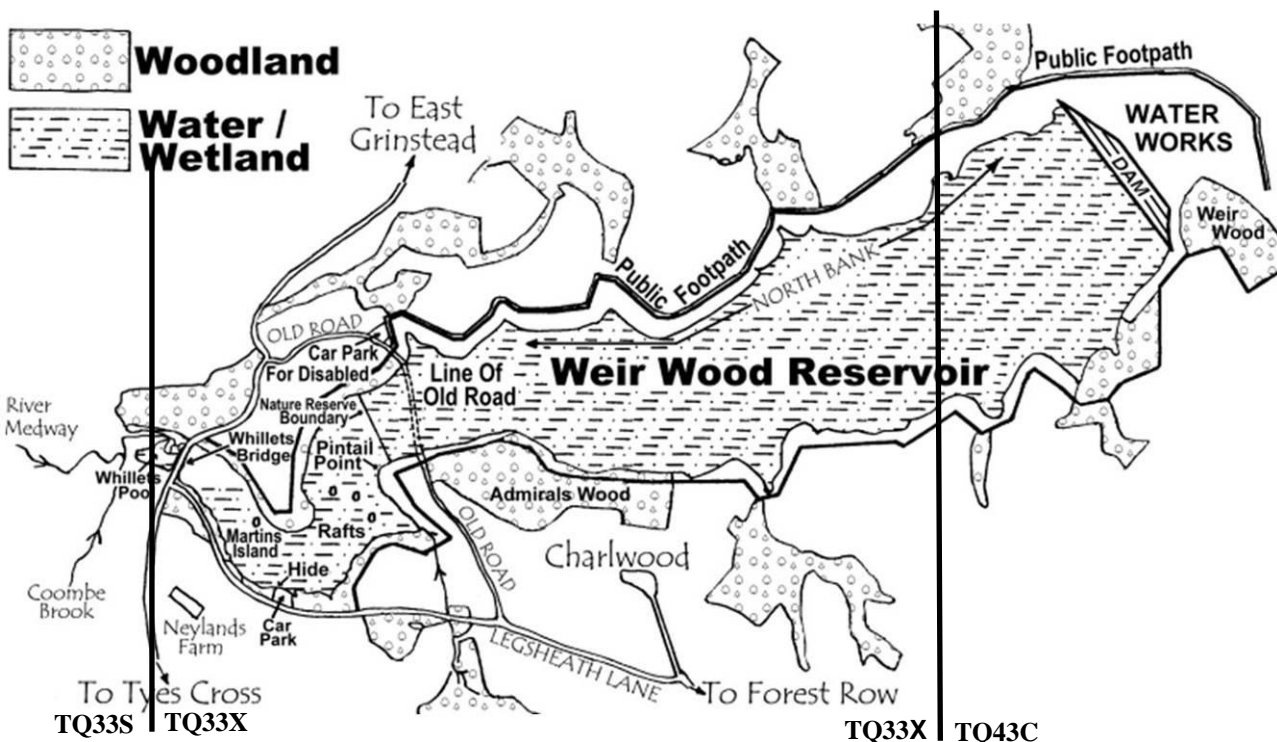
Work has also been carried out in Whillet's Pool with some large trees cut down and burnt at the back of the reed-bed. This has really opened up the area towards the river, and since the work was done, our second only sighting of a Willow Emerald Damselfly was seen on the newly opened stretch of river. The Pool island was also suitably cleared of bramble and Willow, particularly across the shingle top.

Whilst water levels were low, the weir/sluice that controls the water flow at Whillet's Pool had several of its ineffective and rotten flow control boards replaced. A wide ride was cut through the reed-bed which is mainly to allow wildfowl access through and is viewable from the road.

The North Bank area directly opposite the viewing platform has had its vegetation cut back and cleared to attract wildfowl and waders, plus the Bracken in the meadow behind was given another cut to encourage wildfowl to enter and graze. I am pleased to say we are now starting to see some results from this work with Lapwings and other waders now visiting, plus Geese and Ducks are starting to enter and graze as grass starts to re-establish within that meadow.

During July/August we cut back a lot of the bracken in front of the viewing area, and also cut back the Water Dock to give a couple of viewable open areas at the water's edge. This will also allow wildfowl to easily access the meadow and bird feeder areas from the waterside. To the left of the hide we cut and cleared a lot of the Hemlock Water Dropwort to open up and improve the habitat. We also cut back and cleared the Hemlock Water Dropwort in the Study Area to help control and maintain the habitat where the Common Spotted Orchids grow.

We are also about to have contractors carry out a grass cut with pick-up at Whillet's as part of the meadows habitat management.



## Friends of Weir Wood Society General Information

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