

Marlot Conservation Group (MCG)

Work report to Whixall Parish Council meeting 11 Sep 24

Reporting Period 8 July- 6 September

Summer work down at the Marlot has mainly concentrated on cutting and strimming the meadow and main pathways. These sessions have had to work around the varying weather conditions that we have experienced and also the availability of personnel to conduct the work. In addition to clearing the pathways we have also completed a full weed of the terrace seating at the top of the pond area and also a full weed of the creeping willow patch. We also took time in clearing and cutting back the many overhanging branches along the main pathway and along the pond paths. The MCG has also had one session of equipment and machinery maintenance. This involved a full clean and service of equipment to ensure maximum effectiveness and running of the brush cutters and other tools.

The lack of work in the pond area due to the winter flooding has meant that the reed growth has now completely overtaken the ponds and the ponds are hardly discernible. It is because of this heavy overgrowth that no further newt surveys were conducted in June or July. There will be much work to be done in the pond area over the winter months, however this is dependent on the work to be conducted on the pipe and culvert at the main entrance and its effectiveness over the winter period.

Worryingly, we have also had to cordon off part of the main entrance around the edges of the ditch railings. This was due to the ground sinking and collapsing along the edges of the bridge and several holes appearing close to the railings. The central part of the entrance is still considered safe for walking on, however there is a worry that the subsidence will start to impact further onto the whole of the bridge and thus be too unsafe for use and the main entrance will have to be closed off. It is therefore vitally important that the work programmed to repair the bridge and culvert area be carried out as soon as possible. It is requested that we be informed of the proposed work plan and timescale that the Parish Council has negotiated with Natural England to carry out the work, and would appreciate being “kept in the loop” with any plans and progress.

Graham Turnbull
Marlot Conservation Group
6 Sep 2024