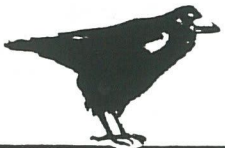




LENS BULLETIN

No. 28

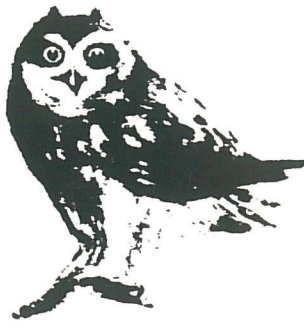


LONG EATON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

AUTUMN 1993



CHAIRMAN	:	ALAN HEATH
SECRETARY	:	CAROLE WILLAN
MEETINGS SECRETARY	:	GEORGE SMITH
TREASURER	:	NORAH KNIGHT



CHAIRMAN'S FORWARD

I am sure that everyone who attended any of the events on the Summer Programme will have enjoyed what was on offer. The 'Dawn Chorus' at Forbes Hole (plus breakfast) was a great success despite the early start. We were favoured with very good weather for the visit to Bempton Cliffs.

Deserving of special mention was the splendid effort by Norah Knight on her Coffee Morning. Over £160 was raised and we gained new members. The committee felt it would be appropriate to use some of the money to make a permanent contribution to nature by perhaps purchasing a tree to be placed in Trent College arboretum. The feasibility of this is being looked into.

The society continued to work in collaboration with the Erewash Groundwork Trust who have made a contribution to our funds. More recently, a 'Friends of Forbes Hole' has been formed to help organise the running of this local nature reserve and your chairman has been given the job of chairing that too!

I would like to thank all who attended the event at the Erewash Museum at which we put on a display of our work. Living pond life through a microscope, a garden 'safari' and a slide show all helped make this enjoyable for the visitors, rather more than came last year, and we gained new members. Your chairman gave a live broadcast on Radio Derby from the museum.

I would like to thank all who have given so generously of their time to help the society and to thank George and Joyce for what will surely be another excellent winter programme when we will be welcoming both old and new speakers.

Finally, may I extend a hearty welcome to all the new members who have joined us, and I am sure you will find our work both interesting and enjoyable.

Alan Heath

THE BULLETIN : Due to costs involved in producing this, it is necessary to keep it to 7 pages (14 sides of A4 single spaced). Articles and lists submitted may have to be shortened to meet the limited space, but full records will be kept by the Recorder. PLEASE KEEP RECORDS COMING IN and also articles.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT BULLETIN - meeting of 7th February 1994 to allow time to produce the edition for distribution before the end of the Winter Programme.

EREWASH GROUNDWORK TRUST 'Spring into the Countryside' event and LENS association with it.

Event Report

Launch into the Countryside, West Park, Long Eaton Tuesday 6th April

The idea behind this event was to celebrate the coming of spring by involving people in a whole range of outdoor activities in the most accessible piece of countryside in Long Eaton. This proved to be an awkward date because it was the last day of term in most local schools, however, one school, Harrington Juniors asked if they could participate, and let 70 children, accompanied by teachers and parents come along.

Five Groundwork Trust staff and six volunteers (including Ken Broomhall, a Derbyshire County Council Countryside Ranger from Elvaston Castle Country Park, and Alan Heath, the chairperson of Long Eaton Natural History Society) ran two lots of sessions, morning and afternoon, including rides along the Erewash Canal in a canal boat to Trent Lock; cycle rides around Woolaton Park, Nottingham; Nature trails around Fox Covert Nature Reserve; pond dipping in the canal and ponds in Fox Covert; bird box making; and kite making and flying. A marquee was used as a base, where the 'making' activities went on, and in case of rain.

Although the weather kept clear, there was a very strong blustery wind which caused problems particularly for the kite flyers. A trailer load of hire bicycles was loaned by Shipley Country Park for the bike rides, and because of concerns for safety, the children were driven in a minibus to Woolaton, about 6 miles away, where they could cycle around a beautiful park away from cars. This obviously caused a few logistical problems, but was necessary because cycling is not allowed in the West Park area, and there are few other places where organised cycle rides can go on safely in the Borough.

Another unforeseen problem was the fact that the toilet block nearby was closed for painting, so at lunchtime, we had to organise a relay in the minibus to get the children to the nearest toilets in West Park Leisure Centre, almost a mile away.

A Royal Bank of Scotland representative, Heather Taylor, from the Long Eaton branch attended the launch, and stayed all day, joining in with most of the activities. She gave an excellent short speech, talking about the importance of young people protecting the environment, and the Bank's interest in supporting such ventures, and then started the campaign by turning the handle on a very loud air siren!

The day was a great success all in all, the adults enjoying the activities as much as the children.

Work for Wildlife event, Forbes Hole Local Nature Reserve, Long Eaton Thursday 8th April

This was the Trust's first scheduled midweek task for volunteers, at an important wildlife site where the Trust has responsibility for implementation of the management plan. Unfortunately, the weather was poor, raining most of the time, and only three volunteers turned up. This wasn't enough to tackle the task of reedbed clearance from a boat as planned, so it was decided to do some sycamore removal instead (these two tasks are the most urgent management objectives for the site).

L.E.N.S. WALK Attenborough Reserve (Eastern) 6..3..93
Leader Carol Willan.

BIRDS

Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Grey Lag (2), Mallard Duck, Tufted Duck, Moorhen, Black Headed Gull, Coot, Cormorant, Wood Pigeon, Dunnock, House Sparrow, Greenfinch, Redwing, Blackbird, Collared Dove, Robin, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Great Crested Grebe, Redshank(4), Kingfisher(2), Heron, Lapwing, Wren, Carrion Crow, Magpie, Shoveller, Pochard, Reed Bunting, Bullfinch, Teal, Sparrowhawk, Long Tailed Tit, Shelduck, Feral Pigeon, Chaffinch, Starling, Pheasant, Mistle Thrush, Common Gull.

MAMMALS

Grey Squirrel, Brown Rat.

FLORA

Coltsfoot(in Flower), White Dead Nettle, Pussy Willow.

Nottingham Canal to Cossall and Robinetts 4..4..93

Sky Lark, Yellowhammer, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Willow Tit, Reed Bunting, Kingfisher, Moorhen, Coot, Mallard Ducks, Long Tailed Tit, Mute Swan, Carrion Crow, Magpie, Chiffchaff, Common Partridge, Cock Pheasant, Green Woodpecker.

Sawley)- Shardlow via Wilne return by Dewent Youth Lock 10..4..93

Goldfinch, Skylark, Yellowhammer, Greenfinch, Reed Bunting, Sparrowhawk, Collared Dove, Black Headed Gull, Meadow Pipit, Willow Warbler, Sand Martins, Canada Geese, Greylags, Heron, Kingfisher, Cormorant.

FIRST SIGHTINGHolly Blue Butterfly 18..4..93

L.E.N.S. WALK Dale Abbey 26..4..93

PLANTS

Bracket Fungi, Queen Ann Lace, Gorse, Bluebells, Daisy, Dogs Mercury, Cleavers, Buttercup, Holly, Honesty, Tulip, Red Dead Nettle, Lady Smock, Lesser Stitchwort, White Dead Nettle, Garlic Mustard, Clover, White Bells, Narrow Leaf Plantain, Yellow Archangel, Apple Blossom, Celendine, Daffodil, Marsh Marigold, Goldilocks.

BIRDS

Robin, Yellow-Hammer, Chaffinch, Swallow, Blackbird, Starling, Skylark.

Old Thrumpton Ferry Site 29..4..93

Common Whitethroat, Yellowhammer, Skylark, Chaffinch, Shelduck(2), Mallard, Lapwing, Mute Swan, Corn Bunting, Willow Warbler, Wagtail(Yellow), Heron, Sedge Warbler, Swallow, Great Crested Grebe.

BUTTERFLIES

Small White, Large White, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell.

Old Thrumpton Ferry Site 1..5..93

BIRDS

Blackcap, Cuckoo First Sighting.

BUTTERFLIES

Orange Tips.

Make Friends with Forbes Hole event, Community House, Long Eaton. Tuesday 27th April

As previously mentioned, Forbes Hole is the one of the most important wildlife habitats in the Borough, despite its position on the edge of town surrounded by an industrial estate. The Steering Group for the site, comprising Groundwork, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Long Eaton Natural History Society and Erewash Borough Council decided that to stimulate more community involvement there, a 'Friends of Forbes Hole' type group would be a useful group to launch.

Groundwork prepared a display using photographs taken there over the last 35 years, including enlargements of superb close-up slides of butterflies taken by Alan Heath, and gave it an extra dimension by playing a tape recording of bird song behind it. A letter drop to local residents was also organised, and letters written to local businesses in the industrial estate, schools and local members of the Notts. and Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts.

Despite a disappointing turnout of only six people, a useful evening was spent, with inputs from all the groups mentioned and some more excellent slides by Alan Heath and discussion ensued as to what would happen next. Particularly interesting was the repeated comment about the water quality of the large pond at Forbes Hole, graphically illustrated when Alan projected a water sample (taken during the day) on to the screen, to reveal a mass of wriggling water life. The water is unpolluted and the pond 150 years old (with a known date of excavation): well on its way to the 200 year mark, when ecologists reckon ponds to be at their peak for supporting wildlife.

Dawn Chorus event, Forbes Hole Nature Reserve, Long Eaton. Sunday 2nd May

This was the first outing for the Friends of Forbes Hole, and we were rewarded by a great turnout of 20 people at 4.30 in the morning (even though some people didn't yet know that they were Friends of Forbes Hole!). This was led by John and Julie Langford from the Long Eaton Natural History Society, and during the walk around the site, 29 species of birds were identified. The early risers were then treated to a barbequed breakfast, expertly prepared by volunteers, donated by Asda, Long Eaton and Duncan's, Sandiacre, and cooked on a barbeque loaned by Handi Hire, Long Eaton.

Some people stayed to join the work party, which commenced after breakfast and were joined by two more. All the sycamore brushwood that had been cut down since the management programme commenced was removed in a skip provided by the Borough Council, whilst the logs were piled and left to rot in specially placed shady habitat piles. The two large logs remaining at the pond's edge (from the 8th April) were skilfully manouvred out in an impressive display of team work and person-power!

The Forbes Hole display was left in Asda's entrance area, after the breakfasts had been collected, and has since attracted a lot of attention, bringing more publicity to the Campaign and the ongoing development of Forbes Hole. Getting such a high profile site was quite a coup, as this is a very busy shop, and is probably visited by a more representative cross section of the local community than anywhere else.

DAWN CHORUS BIRD WATCH

2nd May 1993

JOINT L.E.N.S. and EREWASH GROUNDWORK TRUST :

Forbes Hole and Fox Covert, Long Eaton

Robin, Blackbird, Wren, Pheasant, Song Thrush, Mallard,
Collared Dove, Wood Pigeon, Coot..... all before 5.10 am

Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Great Tit, Carrion Crow, Heron,
Chiffchaff, Greenfinch, Blue Tit, Little Grebe.... 5 am - 5.45

Later a Cuckoo also heard

Fox Covert - 6 am - 6.35 am

Blue Tit, Collared Dove, Chaffinch, Mallard, Magpie, Moorhen,
Wood Pigeon, Blackcap, Robin, Willow Warbler, Blackheaded Gull,
Duncock, Chiffchaff, Great Tit, Starling, House Sparrow,
Mistle Thrush

Wild Side of Town event, Long Eaton Wednesday 5th May

This concluding event of the Campaign was intended to illustrate how wildlife adapts to urban conditions (thriving in many cases), the reasons why urban wildlife is important in the overall national picture, and, on a smaller garden scale, what people can do on a practical level to encourage wildlife. We started with an early evening guided walk, led by Alan Heath (who deserves special commendation for his large input into the Campaign), looking around a churchyard, walking along the canal towpath out to the railway sidings, with its neighbouring water meadows, and the River Erewash.

The walk returned in time to the library, where the Campaign Coordinator gave an illustrated talk about 'Gardening for Wildlife', looking at all the various habitats that are endangered, and how they can be copied on a garden scale. This event was attended by six people, who enjoyed the evening very much and made up for in stimulating discussion what they lacked in numbers!

FIRST SWIFT recorded by the Langfords at 114 Breedon Street,
Long Eaton was at 9 am on 7th May 1993

FISKERTON STATION - village - towpath of River Trent to Hazleford Ferry and village lane to Bleasby Station.

3rd May 1993

John & Judy Langford

Collared Dove, Skylark, Wren, Blue Tit, Greenfinch, Pheasant, Swallow, House Martin, Lesser Whitethroat, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Carrion Crow, Heron, Great Crested Grebe, Moorhen, Coot, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Chiffchaff, Woodpigeon, Cuckoo, Sedge Warbler, Willow Warbler, Common Whitethroat, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Green Woodpecker, Jackdaw, Mistle Thrush, Pied Wagtail, Kestrel, Great Tit, Dunnock, Magpie, Yellowhammer, House Sparrow, Starling

Walk DALE ABBEY, Hermits Wood along under ridge above village to main Derby to Ilkeston road and over to Locko Park and return.

5th May 1993

John & Judy Langford

Yellowhammer, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Greater-spotted Woodpecker, Wren, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Skylark, Common Partridge, Magpie, Willow Warbler, Jackdaw, Robin, Starling, Pheasant, Woodpigeon, Mallard (and ducklings), Tufted Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Heron, Canada Geese, Collared Dove, Chaffinch

WHATSTANDWELL - Cromford Canal towpath, Holloway village, Castletop Farm above Cromford to Cromford Station

8th May 1993

John & Judy Langford

Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Jackdaw, Rook, Chaffinch, Moorhen, Little Grebe, Swallow, Swift, Robin, Wren, Mallard (and groups of ducklings), Treecreeper, Mistle Thrush

TRENT MEADOWS GRAVEL PITS - 16 May 1993 John & Judy Langford

Yellow Wagtail, Yellowhammer (H), Corn Bunting, Reed Bunting, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Wren (H), Skylark (H), Linnet, Sedge Warbler, Willow Warbler (H), Wheatear, Great Crested Grebe, Blackbird, Carrion Crow, Magpie, Starling, Pied Wagtail, Little Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Grey Heron, Cormorant, Common Tern, Mallard, Shelduck, Woodpigeon, Stock Dove, Feral Pigeon, Collared Dove, Moorhen, Coot, Swallow, Sand Martin, Swift.

TRENT MEADOWS - 17th May 1993 7 pm to 9.30 pm

LENS joint with Groundwork Trust. The party totalled 22 people : Leaders John & Judy Langford

Grey Heron, Little Owl, Swift, Common Whitethroat, Wood Pigeon, Starling, Cormorant, Great Crested Grebe, Blue Tit, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Blackbird, Lapwing, Swallow, Dunnock, Black headed Gull, Feral Pigeon, Common Partridge, Little Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, Sand Martin, Redshank, Shelduck, Mute Swan, Coot, Moorhen, Reed Bunting, Yellow Wagtail, Wren, Crow, Corn Bunting, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Linnet, Jackdaw, Sedge Warbler, Tufted Duck, Canada Geese

NOTTINGHAM CANAL : 24th May 1993

Starling, Chaffinch, Swallow, Collared Dove, Wren, Magpie,
Common Whitethroat, Kestrel, Yellowhammer, Blackbird, Robin,
Blue Tit, Chiffchaff, Long-tailed Tit, Blackcap, Carrion Crow,
Duncock, Coot (+ 4 young), Willow Warbler, Heron, Little Grebe,
Mute Swan, Mallard, Moorhen, Wood Pigeon, Skylark, Lapwing,
Reed Bunting. A Water Vole also seen

supplied by John and Judy Langford

A visit to this same location by Alan Heath on 29th June 1993
revealed Greater Spearwort and Arrowhead, the former being
photographed. A number of Banded Demoiselles were seen as well
as Blue tailed Damselflies, both of which were photographed.



PLANTS

White Dead Nettle
Fennel
Common Ragwort
Mugwort
Nipplewort
Field Forget-me-not
Birdsfoot Trefoil
Hedge Woundwort
Hops
Lesser Spearwort
Bittersweet
Elder
Bistort
Poppy
Dog rose
Bindweed
Convolvulus
Shepherds Purse
Cleavers
Pinnappleweed
Red Clover
Musk
Mallow
Rough Chervil
Lesser Bindweed
Tansy
Weld
Wormwood

White Clover
Flax (Planted)
Tufted Vetch
Marsh Thistle
Lady's Bedstraw
Meadow Sweet
Herb Bennet
Greater Burnett
Salad Burnett
Knapweed
Slender Thistle
Yarrow
Knotgrass
Rayless Mayweed
Scentless mayweed
Field Rose
White Campion
Hedge Mustard
Charlock
Teasel
Reed Mace
Himalyan Balsam
Rest Harrow
Cinquefoil
Silverweed
Common Sorrell
Self Heal

INSECTS

Small Copper Butterfly
Meadow Brown Butterfly
Cinnabar Moth

list submitted by

ALAN HEATH.



WATERFOWL

Mallard
Coot
Tufted Duck
Canada Geese
Mute Swan with cygnets
Aylesbury ?

INSECTS

Common Blue Damsel Fly
Meadow Brown Butterfly

PLANTS

Skull Cap
Ragwort
Feverfew
gipsywort
Sweet Flag
Herb Bennet
Herb Robert
Woundwort
Elder
Enchanters Nightshade
Pink Campion
Nipplewort
Hogweed
Bramble
Balsam
Field Rose
Dog Rose
Yarrow
Water Cabbage
Green Alkanet
Sorrel
St Johns Wort
Forget-me-not
Ivy-leaved Toadflax

Figwort
Meadow Sweet
Lesser Willow Herb
Greater Willow Hero
Spear Thistle
Meadow Thistle
Woody Nightshade
Snowberry
Buttercup (? field or bulbous)
Dogs Mercury
Speedwell (Germander)
Burdock
Pignut
Yellow Waterlily
Mayweed
Scentless Mayweed
Meadow Vetchling
Sheperds Purse
Riwort Plantain
Dock
Cleavers
Brooklime
Dovesfoot Cranesbill

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list submitted by
GEORGE AND JOYCE SMITH.



MAX BRYCE Provided this list of mosses at FORBES HOLE July 1993

LIVERWORT

Lophocolea heterophylla

MOSESSES

Atrichum undulatum, Amblystegium (Leptodictyon), riparium,
Amblystegium serpens, Aulacomnium androgynum, Brachthecium
rutabulum, Bryum capillare, Ceratodon purpureus, Dicranella
heteromalla, Dicranoweisia cirrata, Eurhynchium praelongum,
Fissidens taxifolius, Fontinalis antipyretica, Mnium hornum,
Plagiomnium (Mnium) undulatum, Rhizomnium (Mnium) punctatum,
Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus.

Our group, along with some members of the Ilkeston Natural History Society, were taken around the reserve by Paul Robinson. This is a semi-closed reserve, access is by group party being conducted around on the designated pathways. The site is being reserved for its flora which is easy to damage if folk indiscriminately visit and trample plants with children running loose; dogs ditto; or grown ups ignorantly trampling across hidden rare plants 'lost' in the boskage.

The site is an extremely valuable relic of once common unimproved stock-grazed pastureland. It is now a flower rich hay meadow. It is an old lead mining site, about 200 years ago. Tip heaps of lead dross are still only partially plant covered, as vegetation which cannot cope with lead will not survive where there is so little other soil. Thus there are plants here which are rare elsewhere in Derbyshire. The 10 fields of the almost 20 acres had the biggest field of about 3 acres only. Crumbling and vegetation rich stone walls (drystone) separated each old field but a lot had fallen into disrepair. Mr Ollerenshaw, the old farmer had died, an eccentric Derbyshire gentleman had put 6 cows and their follower calves on these fields and taken them off in late wintertime so as to allow spring grass to grow for hay crop. This was taken in the old way; machinery is little use on the steep, hummocky slopes involved, as the D.W.T. were later to find when the tractor they were using to pull haymaking equipment fell into a half hidden open pit shaft, unseen in the high boskage and was all but lost! Maybe the old man wasn't the fool he may have seemed, sticking to the old hard ways by hand. This resting of the fields between late winter and after a late cut of hay (about the end of June-July; not usual lowland May and early June) enabled the flowering plants to flower and also seed and die back; thus ensuring next season's plant production succession.

The details described were given to us by Paul Robinson as we walked round, enjoying the views of Cromford way below us, and over to Riber Castle to the north (above Matlock) and Black Rocks over to the east. We appeared to be exactly at the same height as Castletop Farm's beechwood on the opposite slopes, which stand above Cromford Railway Station and the lane to Holloway village. At Castletop is an Iron Age hillfort 'castle' and nowadays the old stone farmhouse is well known as the erstwhile childhood home of Derbyshire authoress Alison Uttley. (The Country Child; Farm on the Hill; A Cuckoo in June; and fictional High Meadows are some accounts of her farm childhood in the 1890s at Castletop.) Charles Tunnicliffe's excellent illustrations show how they used to bring the milk (in churns) down from the farm high on the hill to Cromford station, along with schoolgirl Alison. The milk churns went over to the London platform to supply the capital with fresh country milk; Alison's train took her daily to the Lady Manners Grammar School in Bakewell, where her brains had won her a scholarship place. The farming family of the Taylors (Uttley was her married name) could not, otherwise, have schooled a girl, as the fees would have been beyond them. The transport to the station? A black mare and trap, driven by Alison's father, or hired man. The lane so steep the mare always stopped at her 'winding place' on the steep toil upwards back home. A different world, but the world of old Mr Ollerenshaw too, across the valley at Rose End

John Langford

ROSE END MEADOWS - 26th June 1993

PLANTS :

Bee Orchid
Pyramid Orchid
Frog Orchid
Common Spotted Orchid
Thyme,
Adders Tonge Fern
Alpine Pennycress (seeding)
Rock Rose
Kidney Vetch
Meadow Cranesbill
Yellow Rattle
Fairy Flax
Moonwort
Milkwort
Limestone Bedstraw
Dogwood

BIRDS :

Duncock
Swift
Wren
Jay
Robin
Wood Pigeon
Jackdaw
Feral Pigeon
Willow Warbler
Blue Tit
Great Tit
Cuckoo
Blackcap
House Martin

..... and later in the carpark
at Cromford Wharf area a Pied
Wagtail was seen and later still
a Yellow Wagtail seen at the
River Derwent Roadbridge area

OTHERS :

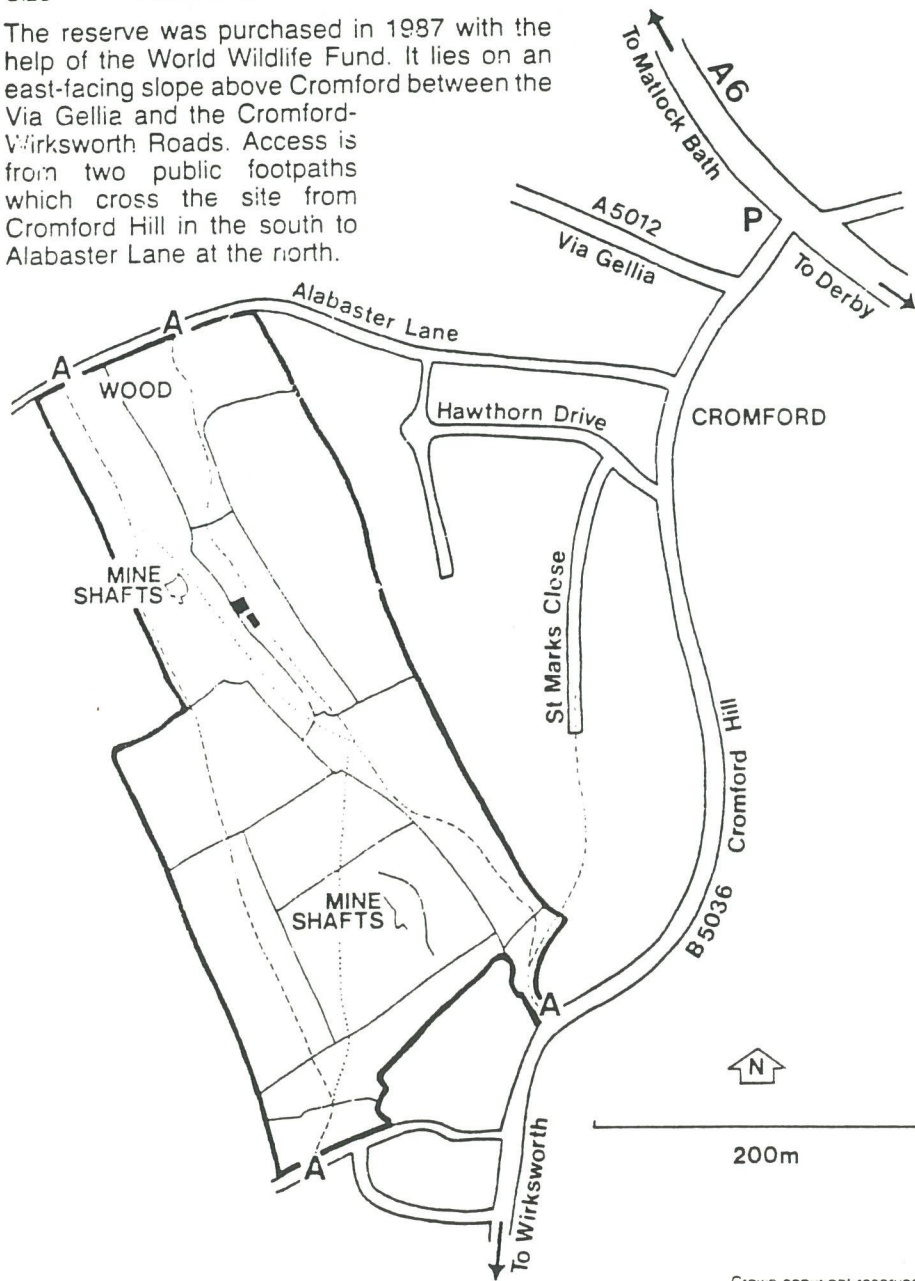
Common Blue butterfly
Chimneysweep Moths

from lists supplied by John & Judy Langford

Maps 1 : 50000 sheet 119 Buxton
 1" Peak District Tourist Map
 Grid Ref. SK 293567
 Size 19 acres/8 ha

The reserve was purchased in 1987 with the help of the World Wildlife Fund. It lies on an east-facing slope above Cromford between the Via Gellia and the Cromford-Wirksworth Roads. Access is from two public footpaths which cross the site from Cromford Hill in the south to Alabaster Lane at the north.

Rose End Meadows



Description

The reserve is situated on carboniferous limestone and consists of a series of small enclosures on a gentle east-facing slope between 400 and 500 feet. Several lead veins cross the site which have been extensively mined leaving disused shafts and abandoned spoil heaps. Care should be taken in these areas.

The majority of the reserve is unimproved species-rich grassland interspersed with lead spoil heaps which add to the diversity of the flora. It also contains a small area of woodland and scattered thickets of mixed scrub, together with large mature hedgerows. The species-rich grassland has a varied structure ranging from areas where growth is quite vigorous, with species such as cowslip (*Primula veris*), meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*), betony (*Betonica officinalis*), and abundant knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), to more low growing swards with hawkbits (*Leontodon spp*), yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) and quaking grass (*Briza media*). Four species of orchid occur in fairly distinct areas of the grassland, namely bee (*Ophrys apifera*), frog (*Coeloglossum viride*), pyramidal (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and common spotted (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*). The diversity of the sward is further increased by the distinct communities associated with the lead spoil heaps. These are composed mostly of low-growing species such as milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*) and common thyme (*Thymus drucei*), and on the more open scree spring sandwort (*Minuartia verna*) and alpine pennycress (*Thlaspi alpestre*), together with a number of nationally rare lichens. Although small the woodland has a diverse structure containing oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*), and a well developed shrub layer dominated by hazel (*Corylus avellana*). A number of plants associated with ancient woodlands occur including bluebells (*Endymion non-scriptus*), wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), giant bellflower (*Campanula latifolia*), moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), and the uncommon toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*). The mature hedges add to the range of woody species to include dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), and extensive growth of field and dog rose (*Rosa arvensis* and *R. canina*).

The grassland supports a rich invertebrate fauna with many species of butterfly and moth on the wing during the summer including abundant chimney sweeper, together with common blue, meadow brown, and small skipper. A wide variety of bird species have been recorded reflecting the range of habitats present. Tawny owl, great spotted woodpecker and nuthatch occur in the woodland whilst the scrub and meadows support goldfinch, linnets, chaffinch and tree pipit. In addition both summer and winter visitors occur including hawfinch, which is uncommon in Derbyshire. Other animals present include hedgehog and slow worm.

Management

In order to maintain the species diversity of the grassland the reserve is grazed by cattle through late autumn and early winter. In addition three of the meadows are cut for hay in late summer. It is hoped that one of the former dewponds on the site can be restored as an additional habitat but apart from this, regular work will include restoring the dry-stone walls which divide many of the meadows.

A programme of work has been carried out to make safe those mineshafts which were obviously unsafe. However, the site does contain numerous abandoned shafts and extreme care should be taken away from the marked paths as the Trust cannot guarantee the safety of any of these structures.

MELBOURNE 5 July 1993

BIRDS : Swan, Pied Wagtail, Swallow, Blackheaded Gull, Canada Geese, Coot, Mallard, Chaffinch, Heron, Grey Wagtail, Tufted Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Hose Martin, Moorhen, Yellow Hammer, Swift, Magpie, Chiffchaff

THE LAKE : Temperature of the Water 19°C : Chironomus larva, Ascellus, Leech (Pisciola geometra), Cyclops, Bosmina, Daphnia, Diaptomus, Eurycerus, Hydracarina, Chydorus, Cypris, Caddis larvae
ALGAE - Oscillatoria, Pedicstrum, Scenedesmus, Closterium concavum
DIATOMS - Nitzschis sigmoidea, Pleurosigma
Also recorded were Pelomyxa and Coleps

BIRD LIST supplied by Ann Ryles and the LAKE LIST by Alan Heath

LUMINOUS WOOD -

Alan Heath

My attention was drawn to a piece of rotting tree trunk found near Donington Park on the evening of 14th July 1993.

Located at approx Nat. Grid Ref 419/275.

The wood was found to glow in the dark of a sufficient intensity to see the dial of a wrist watch. It was photographed successfully on exposures of between 5 and 10 minutes. It glowed only at night and became a little brighter after midnight.

I contacted Norman Lewis who did not know what it was (but knew a man who did) and he put me in touch with Dr. John Lucas, a mycologist at Nottingham University. I took the specimen to Dr. Lucas who said the wood showed 'white rot' and also a species of Armillaria (boot-lace fungus). I received a letter from Dr. Lucas who had mentioned this to forest pathologists whilst on a visit to Canada and it also found there. Little is known about the phenomenon but apparently most luminous fungi are of tropical origin.

The tree from which the specimen came was Elder, identified from leaves of an adjoining trunk to the dead one. Over a period of two weeks, the specimen slowly reduced in intensity and finally ceased to glow on the 28th July. Dr. Lucas is attempting to culture the fungus on agar so perhaps we may hear more of this interesting phenomenon in the near future. A report is to be sent to the 'Mycologist' illustrated by my photographs, the report being co-authored by Dr. Lucas and myself.

THE SAWLEY OXBOW

22nd July 1993

A visit was made to this site by John Blackburn and Alan Heath to evaluate the site for the 'Green Long Eaton' Project.

We were both impressed with what we found and the site is deserving of closer investigation.

PLANTS : Lesser Spearwort, Tufted Vetch, Water Forgetmenot, Nupha lutea, Prunella vulgaris, Sorrell, Plantain, Common Ragwort, Marsh Bedstraw, Hedge Mustard, Marsh Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Meadow Sweet, Lesser Willowherb, Bistort, Creeping Thistle, Meadow Cranesbill

BUTTERFLIES : Gatekeeper, Small White, Small Copper, Small Tortoiseshell

BIRDS : Reed Warbler, Swans with 6 cygnets, Greenfinch, Marsh Tit

We also saw a number of Banded Demoselle, Brown Aeschna Rhagonycha Fulva.

RISLEY GLEBE

As you know, the wooded region known as the Wilderness, has been on lease to LENS as a nature reserve but it is felt that we can no longer meet the obligations of maintaining the site, i.e. repairing fences etc. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust was approached with a view to them taking it over and adding it to their existing reserve. Alan Heath and George Smith have met with DWT representatives on site and Peter Longbottom has recommended that DWT do in fact take it over. This will not affect us as far as visiting goes, so recording work there can still be carried out by those wishing to do so.

STOP PRESS !

- LITTLE EGRET seen at Trent Meadows on
14th August 1993

TRIFID BURR MARIGOLD found at Attenborough
Nature Reserve by Carol

Willan - 18th August 1993 - Details next Bulletin

