

BOUGHTON FEN REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 03.05.2013

Since our last meeting, we have continued with well attended working parties on the drier areas of Highland Fen, cutting back areas of scrub that had begun to advance again from our trimming a few years ago.

We also constructed a bridge over the ditch at the entrance to the fen as this had been impassable for much of the winter with high water levels making access a very damp affair.

Using contractors, larger areas of scrub have been cleared in an area adjacent to Stringside Drain on Middle Fen.

All clearance work has now been completed for this season, but we will turn our attention to keeping the Wildlife Walk clear throughout the growing season so that everyone can enjoy a nice stroll around the fen. If you would like to help with this work throughout the summer, please give me a call on 01366 500461.

On a more disappointing note, we seem to be suffering from some dog mess on the walk, and we believe it is always the same culprit. It is a great shame that the enjoyment of the fen is being compromised by one irresponsible dog owner. Please enjoy the fen with your dog, but keep it on a lead and clear up after it.

Hopefully, the Environment Agency will be able to carry out the promised work on the Stringside Bank this autumn as part of the water management plan for the fen. They were unable to do this over the winter due to the excessively wet conditions.

An interesting visitor came to the fen a few weeks ago in the form of a Great White Egret, which is a rarity for this part of Britain. It is a heron, similar in size to our usual birds, but pure white in colour. Spring is at last here, with many summer visitors arriving, including cuckoos, which have been heard by several people over the last few days.

Once again, a huge thank you to all those who have helped in any way over the past few months.

MPO also informed council of a donation to funds of @£250 a 50% split of remaining funding with Wereham village hall committee following the closure of the Wereham Woodlife Fund.

Mark Pogmore