

BOUGHTON FEN REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 09.11.2012

Since my last report, many things have happened on and around the fen. We have purchased our new cutter which is being used by our team of volunteers to keep the walk trimmed and looking good. They will probably be able to leave it now until the new spring growth begins.

The interpretation signs have arrived, and we hope to start putting them up on the fen this weekend (10.11.12), and the new sign in the playground in the next week or two.

The Borough Council Fit Together walkers came to the fen on 17th September, with around a dozen people enjoying the walk.



Marsh Harrier Nest Photograph - Allan Hale

A number of working parties are planned over the winter months to carry on with fen improvements. We will also be using Community Payback in certain areas.

The leaking drain at the bottom of Highland Fen has been removed by Norfolk County Council Highways, so hopefully water loss will be reduced in this area. (Thanks to Highways for this work)

Once the work on the walk has been completed, we should be able to continue preparing our submission to the Planning Inspectorate to fence the two areas of fen for future grazing.

Recently, we met with Natural England and the Environment Agency to discuss water management on the fen, which may result in the EA carrying out some work on Middle Fen to help retain and raise water levels.

Wildlife is continuing to thrive, with large numbers of dragonflies enjoying the late summer sunshine. Late summer also gave us the magnificent sight of up to a dozen marsh harriers coming to roost each evening on both Boughton Fen and neighbouring Brown's Fen.

Finally, we have won an award! In fact, two. We are to receive a CPRE Norfolk award for Boughton Fen Wildlife Walk. In addition, we are to be the inaugural recipients of the Boldero Award for enabling, enhancing and encouraging access to the countryside. The EDP visited us in connection with this, and prepared an illustrated article on the fen and our awards, resulting in a full page write up on Monday 22nd October 2012.

Thanks go to everyone who has helped us with the walk and other work related to the fen. These awards are not just for the Fen Committee but to all of you who have been involved over the last couple of years.

Anyone who would like to come and join us can contact me on 01366 500461, or mark@pogmore.myzen.co.uk.

Mark Pogmore