

DEAN HILL PARK CONSERVATION GROUP

Notes on the nineteenth meeting of Dean Hill Park Conservation Group held on 28th October 2010 at 1900h at Dean Hill Park.

Present: Christine Warry (Convener) David Lyon
Sue Fitzpatrick Anne Cozens
Anne Appleyard Ailsa Mackee
Robert Dodd Bill Symonds

Apologies: Dave Lowe Ted Gange
Pat Woodruffe Eileen Gange
Mike Jennings

1. Updates

Fungi

CW said that four people attended the Fungus Foray and that AC had taken the collected specimens to TG, but there were less than last year. AC said that this was probably due to the dry weather and that the coppiced southern edge of the wood was particularly dry. She suggested that there might be another survey now that the weather had turned wet. CW has a report from TG listing the fungi that were collected and copies are available. Eleven species were found in both the woodland and the grassland although only three were grassland species.

Wildflowers

AA said that no one has visited the red hemp nettle site since it was resurfaced but three plants remain elsewhere and some seed has been scattered there.

Junipers

Clearance around the junipers was proposed for 23rd November. AA said that seeds with the fleshy outers removed were sown just before the drought and that germination tends to be in March and April.

Badgers

No badgers were seen on the walk of 24th of August but trails were observed and gates had been used.

Bats

Bats were heard on the 24th of August, most of which were pipistrelles.

Dormice

AC said that a mother and five babies were found in a box in August. The dead dormouse that was sent for DNA testing could not be tested as it had disintegrated.

Butterflies

Over 600 individuals of 17 species were seen at the top of the hill especially at the southern woodland edge on August 2nd. There were many common blues, silver washed fritillaries and gatekeepers and some dingy skippers plus one chalk hill blue. In May good numbers of green hairstreaks were seen around the tunnel entrances. The Duke of Burgundy was not seen in vast numbers but there were records from some new locations. Worthwhile information has been collected and transects will probably be amended next year.

2. Advisory Group

Advice and suggestions were forwarded to the owner in May. In August there was an exchange of emails relating in particular to the group's concern about the removal of stone from the site where the critically endangered red hemp nettles were found.

3. Rest of 2010

There will be a Juniper clearance work party on Tuesday 23rd November at 10:30am and a winter walk on Tuesday 30th November at 10:30am.

4. 2011 Programme

Ideas will be required at the January meeting.

5. AOB

RD has received an email from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Sites Officer, Rob Large who found the Three Yearly Report interesting reading. DL recommended the Mid Thorngate Society's talk on the history and development of flint buildings which was to take place the following day and CW The Great Bustard Group's talk and slide show '**Reintroducing the Great Bustard to Salisbury Plain**' to take place on Wednesday 24th November at King Edward's Hall, West Tytherley. Admission is £2 and as this is also an end of year social event, mince pies and a glass of wine are included. To give an idea of numbers, those wishing to attend should phone CW on 01794 340149. There being no further business, CW then declared the meeting closed at 8:05pm.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 25th January at 7pm in the meeting room.

Juniper Clearance Work Party – Tuesday 23rd November at 10:30 am. Bring lunch.

Winter Walk – Tuesday 30th November at 10:30am.

Robert Dodd

23rd November 2010.