

Burgh by Sands Village Green Wildlife Area—August 2021 update visit.

Following my 2020 monthly notes and report I have only made infrequent visits to the Wildlife Area. I briefly walked around the site on August 11th for a general 'lookaround' and to take a few photographs 'for the record'. It was clear that the vegetation is thriving, The whole site was a colourful mosaic of different wetland, damp grassland and other plant species.



Access, however, was difficult and in places impossible. From a wildlife point of view possibly one might argue that this doesn't matter—habitats alter over time and wildlife too will change and adapt. However, the 'Full provision of facilities for public use and enjoyment' has always been an important function of the site.



The footpaths, which in 2020 allowed visitors to enjoy the diversity of the area were very overgrown, in places denying easy access. These three photographs were taken on the 'footpath' to the south of the pond. The growth of Purple Loosestrife, Water mint, rushes, nettles, dock and willow are plain to see.



The site was very dry following the lack of substantial rain in recent weeks and there was very little 'open water' habitat. The beck entering the wildlife area showed a healthy growth of Figwort, Bur-reed, Purple Loosestrife and other wetland species. The pond was not accessible from the 'dipping platform'. I saw no dragonflies or damselflies.



The beck as it enters the Wildlife Area from between the playing field and the orchard.



The beck from the bridge in the Wildlife Area.



The 'Dipping Platform' access to the pond.



In 2020 an attempt was made to prepare a mown strip through the dry grassland area to encourage flowering plants. It has not been possible to retain this



The path between the pond and the dry grassland area too, is heavily overgrown. The array of wetland plants here was spectacular. It was not possible however to follow the route around the pond to re-join the 'main path via the reed bed.

It is understandable that funding and voluntary manpower has been, and is, difficult to come by. It will be interesting to see how the structure and function of the 'Wildlife Area alters as it moves further towards development of Fen and Reedbed habitats.