

Following a very brief exploratory wander into the Wildlife Area on 11th February after noticing that access had been restored to the site (see website note on Burgh by Sands, Parish Hall, Village Green) I decided to make a longer visit on the morning of 16th March to see what I might be able to find .

Access is now possible well into the Wildlife Area, although more 'opening up' and restoration will be needed to provide opportunities for appreciation of the range of plants and animals to be found.

Immediately inside the gate efforts have been made to cut back encroaching vegetation (mainly Raspberry) revealing a display of 'wild' daffodils planted many years ago by Sue Olsen who put much thought into the management of the site.



Carrying on towards the bridge over the beck I was delighted to hear a Chiffchaff calling,. One of our earliest migrants it was good to know that Spring was well on the way. I also noted Blackbird, Robin, Wren, Chaffinch and Great Tit singing amongst, the now large, Birch trees on the left of the path as you head towards the bridge over the beck.

At this time of year Yellow flowers seem to dominate and as well as the Daffodils near the gate, Primrose, Cowslip, Lesser Celandine and, in the wetter areas, Marsh Marigold ,were all beginning to show.



The vegetation either side of the recently cleared pathways shows just how much the area has altered in the past four or five years. The margins of the beck have responded to increased wetting and in places are fast developing into Willow Carr. The reedbed is much extended and has encroached well into the pond. All these changes are providing natural features which will be used by a wide variety of wildlife. Hopefully at some stage it might be possible to reinstate the footpath around the pond and into the 'Dry Grassland' area.. I was unable to get near enough to the open water area to look for signs of frogs, toads, newts or other aquatic life. Some tall marginal vegetation which had been obscuring a view of the pond has been removed and the view into the pond promises good opportunities for seeing birds using this area.



Developing 'Carr'



Extending reedbed



Pond—open water

A cold day, early in the year so no insects seen. Although Reedmace stems show exit holes of possible small beetles - keep an eye open !

Some lovely habitats in the Wildlife Area. I look forward to the opportunity to see what they support throughout the coming year.



I wasn't the only one looking to see what I could find !