
Task Reports July 2003

6th July - Pinewood – Nigel Mason-Flucke

We arrived on site on the Sunday to find a pond with very little water in it. After much pulling of the reed mace the expanse of water got slightly larger and deeper. Parts of the pond also turned into a muddy quagmire which some more than others took an instant liking to. In fact, it looked as though we had found an old member at one stage. Phil, our treasurer, had transformed into what can only be described as Triton's clone. Clad in black speedo's and waders and equipped with a fork the reeds proved no match for him.

The pond at Pinewood has certainly some of the most diverse wildlife on any of the reserves we work on. We came across at least one common newt and many different types of butterfly, which I believe Neil has captured on his digital camera.



At the end of the day a considerable expanse of reed had been cleared, and perhaps another coot (last one got eaten by a fox) will have a bit more success in rearing her chicks next year as hopefully the water in the pond will last a bit longer.





13th July Beale Wildlife Park



Left – one of the rare breed sheep. The van in the corner of the field.

Below – Nigel, Nancy & Philip pulling thistles.



20th July – Greywell Fen – Neil Frankum

A double figures turnout on a sunny day at Greywell Fen saw us replacing the post and wire fencing along part of the southern boundary of the reserve. We had to hack our way through the fairly verdant undergrowth to get to the fence line, but managed to replace all the fenceposts. Unfortunately, trying to reuse the existing wire was not a brilliant idea, as it had become brittle in a number of places and kept snapping when we tried tensioning it. The

warden will need to come back with some new wire to complete the job before the highland cattle can come back to graze the reserve. We finished the day with a walk up to see the Marsh Hellobrine and Common Marsh Orchids that were in full flower at the other end of the reserve, before adjourning to the pub up the road (Dog & Goose?) for a nice roast dinner in the evening sun.

