



**WELLCOME
GENOME
CAMPUS**
LIFE-CHANGING SCIENCE



Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.

via Zoom Conference Call.

Minutes

Attendees:

Sarah Burgess (SB) Chair,
Lorraine Moore (LM) Secretariat,
Iain Webb (IW) WLT,
Lee Outhwaite (LOT) WGC, Michelle Starling (MS) WGC,
Will Newhouse (WN) CTC, Tim Leech (TL) CTC,
Matthew Midgley (MM) Sanger,
Ceri Williams (CW) Hinxton, Dr Steve Trudgill (ST) Hinxton,
Neil Rawlings (NR) EBI, Sabine Eckert (SE) Sanger,
Dave Keating (DK) Ickleton, Jack Freeman (JF) Ickleton
Jack Monaghan (JM) Tree of Life, Sanger,
James Blackshaw (JB), Emma Manners (EM) EBI,
Anna Davies (AD).

Hinxton Hall Ltd
Estates and Facilities Management
Wellcome Genome Campus
Hinxton, Cambridge, CB10 1RQ



**Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on
Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.**

Item	Description	Action
1.0	<p><u>Apologies & Welcome</u> Apologies received from Gerry Birch (GB), Terry Sadler (TS), Eve Coomber (EC), Andrew Knights (AK), Will Newhouse (WN), Tim Leech (TL), Laura Osborne (LO), Andrii Lundin (AI), Norman Cobley (NC). Introductions made.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Biodiversity Strategy</u> Wellcome Genome Campus ten year sustainability plan involves campus teams with one team required for biodiversity with a working group and SHB would like to use this forum for that group. All voted and it was agreed to rename the Committee as the Biodiversity Working Group. All targets set for 2030. These meetings more frequently initially. The other working groups are every two months. Initially 2 months. SHB will have conversation with IW and LW and bring to next meeting.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>Sightings & Surveys Summer 2021</u> <i>Support from Grounds Team and Wildlife Trust</i> Surveys – no walks due to Covid and Campus closure.</p> <p>➤ Birds – NR Common bird census 2020-2021, 6 people took part, visited twice, noted bird activity on map. NR to do analysis to work out what is going on, awaiting results from AK and NC but we have enough data to do an analysis. Survey undertaken last year with AK and NR with the last visit on the 17th June 2021. Both there was a Common Tern on Campus, believed now to be breeding at Sawston but on land for development. SHB is hoping to put a Tern raft on</p>	

**Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on
Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.**

<p>the Wetlands lake and pond. SHB & LO looking at areas for management with a view to encourage more wildlife.</p> <p>LO has produced a map and thanked SHB for inviting him to be involved, it was enjoyable to be able to stop and look.</p> <p>➤ Sightings</p> <p>Evidence found of Tree Creepers nesting. Coots, Moorhens and Little Grebes had two broods SE - 2 broods Nut Hatchers. Terns seen in May/June, NR. MM offered to help NR. NR grateful for any help and information. The Survey captures breeding birds from March to July but NR is always interested throughout the whole year.</p> <p>DRD - Snipe came visiting for a month early in the season.</p> <p>NR -Wood Cock on the Wetlands on the small path through the middle. It may have been a visiting Snipe.</p> <p>ST reported no sight of the Turtle Dove this year; others have seen a Little Owl.</p> <p>IW visited the Wetlands twice but found no evidence of Turtle Doves. DRD reported that one came early in the season and a man with his dog took a photo of the Turtle Dove on the wires and it was displaying but it then disappeared.</p> <p>Cetti's Warbler, SE saw one over Winter but not in the breeding season.</p> <p>➤ Bird Boxes</p> <p>Bird Boxes have proved successful this year with an 85% success rate of bird occupancy. This is rewarding for the</p>
--

**Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on
Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.**

	<p>Grounds Team who clean and put up the bird boxes every year.</p> <p>The Owl box came down when the tree fell but will be put back up as soon as the tree contractors to come to Campus.</p> <p>One of the Grounds Team is a master craftsman of wood and has made Kestrel boxes.</p> <p>➤ Butterflies & Moths</p> <p>AK and EC not at this meeting. Other reports. DRD looking biblical no's of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers even some Commas, Small Coppers, Small Heaths, Common Blue and Brown Argus. LO, found Lobster Moth larvae, now a Caterpillar. Marble Whites and Six Foot Burnets in plenty.</p> <p>➤ Reptiles</p> <p>Refugia MS looked but found little evidence of reptiles, only mice underneath. DRD found snakes and a tiny baby grass snake between bridge Common Lizards, there were very few, until three weeks ago multiple youngsters found on the ant hills on grass ponds, five on ant hill and path through middle. Path submerged for weeks with lots of babies.</p> <p>SE found small Grass Snake by West Pavilion.</p> <p>JF found Grass Snakes in the reeds by the Wetlands bridge 1½ft long, which frightened the ducks.</p> <p>DRD has uploaded his photos taken on the Wetlands of wildlife and birds onto Google drive. LM to give access to all.</p>	
--	--	--

**Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on
Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.**

<p>➤ Mammals Mice, Shrews, Voles and dead Moles found by DRD, not attacked but dead, all over grass path on Wetlands and next to gravel path on bridge. LO will look into that.</p> <p>➤ Flora and Fauna Transects. Orchids by summer path in middle of Wetlands. DRD found by the south edge of the south pond; Southern Marsh Orchid, Bee Orchid, Spotted & 30 x Pyramidal Orchids by the wildflower meadow. Grounds Team and SHB aware and will ensure area left undisturbed. DRD also found Wildflowers including Cowslips, Lady's Smock, Horseshoe Vetch, Common Ragwort, Knapweed and Field Scabious which are all good for Butterflies. West Pav – SE found Bee Orchids and one Pyramidal LO, found 100 or more Bee Orchids by the side of Morgan.</p> <p>Himalayan Balsam IW asked for an update on Himalayan Balsam on the Wetlands. The lakes are not clear, DRD pulled up 25-30 south of north lake, height of 6" to 2ft and huge quantity by the end of the path towards the railway, towards Chesterford and the whole drainage ditch is full. MS has pulled up as much as possible on the Wetlands but found access difficult through the thicket. Hopeful that it will become more manageable, by the fence adjacent to the railway line. DRD pointed out that it is taking rapidly at the north west corner of the pond.</p>

**Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on
Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.**

	<p>IW reiterated his concerns, although tree management is necessary it encourages Himalayan Balsam to appear and thrive.</p> <p>➤ River Cam No representation for the Cambridge Trout Club at this meeting to provide an update. LO gave an update, volunteers from the river group and Grounds team spent four days clearing the compost area adjacent to the large pond, as it would have caused an issue with flooding and has much improved flow. CTC are keen to plant Alder trees but that would cause an issue managing on the Wetlands.</p> <p>➤ Aquatic Habitats DRD sighted Trout in the river? Although, no sign of large Trout only small up to 6". LO pointed out that the CTC had not restocked these for a few years. The Environment Agency were keen to come and spray in the river, which is the reason the CTC came to clear the river.</p> <p>One angler, told DRD, that it is so overgrown further up the river, it is difficult to fish.</p> <p>The Environment Agency have increased resource. LO recalled that the section with the bend in the river became so overgrown you could not see the water at all and can only assume this would be similar further down river.</p> <p>JF sighted a Muntjak Deer, four times in one month, not clear whether he has gone. DRD saw them a week ago, they are still coming in. LO, found three Muntjak hiding under the platforms by Beehives.</p>	
--	--	--

**Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on
Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.**

	<p>SE noticed an increase in number of Cormorants around than last year.</p> <p>➤ Maintenance Works Alder has overgrown on the summer path through the middle, DRD happy to prune at the east end of the path and in the middle, as some are three feet tall.</p> <p>SB advised that an aggressive cut back scheduled over the Autumn/Winter period to cut down smaller trees over the perimeter of the lakes and overgrown areas around the lakes. In addition, we plan to repeat the main lake works, last carried out three years ago.</p> <p>Cutting is on rotation every two years for half section, the northern path will be cut over the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>DRD complimented LO on the cut to the wildflower meadow and however long it was left, as well done, it was spot on.</p> <p>JM – Proposal for work on site here and three other sites high naturalist to do with weave in with genomics but will share more once dates and funds are available.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p><u>Events & Guided Walks</u></p> <p>➤ Nature Trail Project JB and EM will host a Nature Trail Project with a trail through Wetlands to the west side of Campus and tree belt. Designed Areas with QR codes, which show how chemistry or biology is working on site. Initially, a trail and ideas.</p> <p>➤ Autumn Bioblitz Logistics The next plan is for an Autumn Bioblitz with this Group, Ickleton and Hinxton parishioners and staff invited. The event will be small and bookable only. This would need IW</p>	

Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.

<p>expertise, JM, Tree of Life Bioblitz, different entities of which Sanger is part and particularly keen on Bioblitz. SHB welcomed an open discussion with views on this and a smaller Bioblitz, what wildlife we should be focusing on, one idea was Fungi Bioblitz, late October, early November 2021.</p> <p>IW suggested that October is not the perfect time for a Bioblitz and Fungi would be the best option. Bioblitz includes as many groups as possible and it is better to hold this in June/July.</p> <p>A 'Fungal Foray' is more appropriate, as a Bioblitz incorporates a various number of groups. To accommodate the Bioblitz, the Spring event could move to June/July. IW thought it would be good to have an Autumn event with a focus on Fungi and if possible get a Fungal expert in. There is extensive expertise within this Group for Birds and with migrants coming in. BCN Fungal expert has retired Wildlife trust are seeking a replacement.</p> <p>IW concluded it would not be too late to hold an event in November, although weather dependent, it is preferable to have wet conditions.</p> <p>Although Autumn is not an ideal time to start EM is keen to instigate initial event to get going. An expert to provide guidance would be useful. JB will introduce the species we have on site and link back to team. All agreed to the Fungal Foray in October/November 2021. Experts in any field would be beneficial and to publicise the event.</p> <p>Action: EM to find the expert and JB to publicise the event.</p> <p>➤ Survey Plan 21-22 One in Spring and Summer</p>	
--	--

**Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on
Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.**

	<p>March</p> <p>SB we have great data on birds and it would be good to have data of vegetation. LO, MS and any other ecologists that could do Flora, JM tree of life, transects and a Group with a keen interest to actively look and report.</p> <p>Set up for Winter/early Spring.</p> <p>JM asked how to recruit people for the survey as happy to share that with Tree of Life community. SHB advised that it is informal through Fred and word of mouth. The Wetlands section on Fred is pending review to make clearer. SB thanked JM for offer to approach Tree of Life Group. EC heads a Group to walk around every Tuesday for Butterfly & Moth Sightings and Surveys throughout the Summer. Groups are not managed, we allow people to set up their own Group and provide help to ensure we obtain the data needed.</p> <p>Guided Walks</p> <p>One Autumn link with the Fungi Foray event would be good. Campus access changed on the 20th September 2021 to allow anyone to come to site but it is not mandatory. It would be good to offer Autumn and Winter walks for people, weather dependent. Normal walks to progress in Spring and Summer 2022.</p> <p>SHB sent LO a note to discuss in more detail. To be discussed offline, IW, LO and SB.</p>	
	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>➤ Other Sightings</p> <p>SE sighted Kingfisher fly across the lake.</p> <p>SHB sighted a Heron on the lake.</p> <p>DRD sighted Dragon flies, good selection Emperors Ground, Migrant and Hawkers, Demoiselle.</p>	

Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.

<p>DRD has uploaded photographs taken on the Wetlands on the shared Google Drive link https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o_-37aeO5lc9h36NiMw-qekkWWPLIOrV</p> <p>➤ Village Community Thanks DRD shared appreciation from the local village residents with comments on how fantastic it is to live next to the Wetlands.</p> <p>➤ iRecord EM asked whether the group use iRecord. SHB advised that we send any iRecord details to The Wildlife Trust. EM agreed to download iRecord information and bring to the next meeting.</p> <p>➤ Final Comments JM has Proposal for work Campus and three other sites as high naturalist to 'weave in with genomics' and will share in more detail once dates and funds are available. AD is on management placement supporting SHB across the strategy. IW looking forward to getting back and old faces. MS looking forward to getting back to Wetland Walks JF has a keen interest in finding young saplings under trees. Currently cut up is there any plan to mow an area but preserve young saplings and replant. LO advised that the Grounds Team had been seed gathering and we have 50 young trees to go into the Conference Centre area. Strategy is to use trees grown on site. JF offered Walnut trees, as has a stock of 80-90 trees. LO is due to attend the Head Gardeners meeting tomorrow and will mention this to attendees there, LO thanked JF. CW commented that it was good to see everyone. NDR Looking forward to the next survey. AM – management placement across the strategy.</p>	
--	--

Wetlands Community Conservation Committee Meeting on
Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 2pm.

	Next meeting end November, IW, JM, LO and another Project Group. This group will meet at the end of November 2021.	
5.0	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Biodiversity Working Group_Bi-Monthly Meeting Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 2pm. Morgan Floating Meeting Room & Zoom https://sanger.zoom.us/j/92998935618?pwd=UjIUUC9lNmNKTytXaHROQStiMkM4QT09</p> <p><u>2022</u> <i>Biodiversity Working Group_Bi-Monthly Meeting</i> <i>Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 2pm.</i></p>	