

A Shamley Green Matter

Bricklayers Pond Report, 1 January 2022

BRICKLAYERS POND

This pond is more challenging to manage than the Duck Pond, in particular because of difficulty of access. It has been agreed that access by people is not a priority for this pond, it will be managed primarily for the benefit of wildlife. The water level has been lowered by adjustment of the exit flow lip, and improved access for maintenance of the hedge of Pond Cottage.

Surrounding Vegetation Management: As with the Duck Pond many thanks to Mark Chapman and Chris Blizzard [Chris actually volunteers to help in Sandhurst Copse & Sheepwalk woodland; but has accepted diversion to the Bricklayers Pond on occasions.], we have trimmed and removed surrounding vegetation, in particular on the Guildford Road margin of the pond. Woody vegetation will be managed as for the Duck Pond on alternate years. Thistles have proliferated during 2021. In 2022 we will attempt to cut the vegetation at a height to prevent further seeding. Brambles will be allowed to develop along this edge of the pond to provide a barrier to discourage dogs or children exploring the steep bank, they are also a refuge for some wildlife.



The adjacent property of Dibdene are carrying out work, hopefully to be completed in January, installing a brick wall (completed) and fencing (to be installed) on their boundary with the pond. We can then assess what is necessary for management of the pond on that boundary.

Aquatic Vegetation Management: The remaining reed-mace and bur-reed (see photo) in the centre of the pond have been removed manually. Apart from the difficult working conditions in the pond, the actual removal of the vegetation was much easier than anticipated and did not require any further work by heavy equipment. These two species will be allowed to re-establish at the west end of the pond at the far end from the road.

Yellow flag iris will be introduced on the perimeter.

Duck weed and blanket weed have re-established themselves and will be subject to further removal next week.



Aquatic Wildlife: Surveys will be carried out at least quarterly in 2022 for recording of aquatic wildlife. Ducks regularly move between this pond and the Duck Pond, traversing the Guildford Road!

Water Flow: The recent vegetation clearance exposed the inlet water flow from under the Guildford

Road, albeit small, it is still flowing (the dark stain in the centre of the first photograph, above), an important asset for the Pond.

Patrick Mannix