

NORTH LANE POND WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

A meeting with John Miller on 31/10/24 to discuss the pond at North Lane concluded with an action plan for the pond. This is required to ensure that the pond does not become completely over grown and succumb to , hydrosphere succession.

The pond is dominated by, Reed Mace (Thypha species).This is a very invasive aquatic plant and needs to be managed so as not to take over the pond. Therefore the partial removal and further management of this species is important.

The willow has been pollarded. Currently this tree is in good condition, offering an element of shade and it is recommended that it is pollarded every 3-5 years.

The tree overhanging the far bank, to the left of the willow would benefit from pollarding. It would invigorate growth and increase its longevity. It may require further pollarding but not for at least 7-8 years.

On the left bank the removal of the weed is recommended but with a small margin left at the edges. The right bank has a number of, self-seeded shrubs growing. These should be removed and will allow a more natural margin to form. Margins are important habitat for the ponds ecology.

The road side has a raised area which would benefit from trimming on a yearly basis during mid-Autumn. This would be left to grow during the spring and summer.

It should be noted that during the removal of the weeds there will be some silt disturbance and some of the silt will be removed with the weeds. This will not impact too much on the pond. The recovery period will take a few months but by next spring it will be in a much better condition.

The pond will require regular maintenance to ensure that the plants, in particular the reed mace doesn't take over the pond. The regular trimming, during the growing season may be necessary. The leading edges should be trimmed down to stop it spreading.

The pond has the potential to become a good site for a range of species. Amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, birds and invertebrates, both terrestrial and aquatic.

Another site visit is recommended in the spring/early summer to see how the pond is developing, post works and to provide any advice on future management.

Pedro Collins (Ecologist).