



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

ANNUAL RESERVE REPORT

Bromeswell Green



April 2023 to April 2024

Ben Calvesbert

Heaths and Meadows Warden

Summary of Annual Management

- The pub meadow and the Common Lane meadow were grazed by 29 Hebridean sheep between 11th June and 3rd October. The sheep were moved between the two meadows as required.
- An area of reedbed in the pub meadow was cut with brush cutters and raked into piles on the edge of the site by the Heaths and Meadows volunteers.
- Willow scrub in the pub meadow was coppiced.

- The trail was mown twice in summer (using a Kubota compact tractor and flail mower) and kept clear by trust staff, volunteers and the volunteer wardens.
- The patch of bracken at the top of the pub meadow was cut in July with a tractor and swipe.
- Litter was collected from the road verges and car park on several occasions. •

Site safety checks were carried out in December.



The volunteer team raking cut reed in the Pub Meadow

Key Habitats Appraisal

The species rich grassland appears to be stable with no loss of area to scrub or bracken encroachment. The level of grazing was increased this year and part of the pub meadow cut and raked in an attempt to increase the floristic diversity. This area will be monitored to judge the effectiveness of this.

The saline grassland and reedbed is stable and requires no intervention.

The areas of blackthorn scrub by the car park have developed well following previous coppicing. The level of deer browsing on the reserve appears to have increased and this is

possibly having an impact on the most recently coppiced areas.

The woodland requires no intervention and is stable.

The pond appears to be reasonably open following de-silting in 2020.

Species reports

Barn owl - The repaired barn owl box has been put back up, but no barn owl seen on the reserve.

Nightingale – two territories in the blackthorn scrub by the car park.

Nightingale territories by year

Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Count	2	2	2	n/c	n/c

Otter – several signs of otter using the reserve.

Kingfisher – seen on the stream by the pond as well as on the Deben.

Badger – the badger sett to the south of the pub meadow is very active.

Monitoring and Survey work

Site condition checks such as sward height etc are observed by warden throughout the year.

Several early morning visits are made to estimate Nightingale territory numbers. Mink raft now on site.

Site safety checks are carried out annually.

Volunteer Input

Heaths and Meadows volunteer team - fence repairs, scrub management, cutting and raking.

Livestock checking.

Two new volunteer wardens have been recruited. They will help with keeping the paths clear

and bird surveys.

External Factors

Signs asking people not to launch watercraft from the reserve appear to have been effective.

Fly tipping and litter in the car park is still an occasional problem.

Publicity and Events

Woodbridge wildlife group held their Nightingale walk on 19th May. In line with other events this is now ticketed and bookable via the SWT website.

Health and Safety Issues

None.

Summary of Challenges to Resolve

The fencing in the Pub meadow is now nearing the end of its life.

Plans to refence the southern edge of the pub meadow are complicated by the presence of the badger sett.