

Keston Common, Ravensbourne Open Space and Padmall Wood Site Report

Friends of Keston Common AGM 2023

Firstly, as always I wish to pass on my thanks and gratitude for all the hard work that you as Friends put into Keston Common. The site would not be in the position it is without all of your efforts, hard work and support.

Over the winter a number of projects were carried out on the site:

Contractors have removed the degraded revetments and re-profiled the edge of pond three into a natural sloping shape. The footpath has been diverted upward so that people can still enjoy the vista of the pond.

A further contractor work was undertaken on the main bog. This has removed a section of rush to allow re-colonisation of sphagnum mosses, restoring the overall structure of the bog. It is hoped this will keep the rush at bay but only time will tell.

Your efforts during workdays to control the vegetation at the North end of the bog have been beneficial the bog looks significantly more open than it once did but as always there is more to do.

Heathland restoration and holly control has used up a major part of the programme over the winter and has begun a great transformation which I hope we can progress in the coming years.

Looking to Summer 2023 there is a range of infrastructure tasks to be undertaken including replacement of gates, repairs to the Westerham Road car-park Island and notice board. Additionally, there will be all the usual tasks such as post and rail renewal. Plenty of bracken control as always to!

Moving into next winter I am hoping to undertake further works to continue the slowing down of water in the bog focusing on the Southern end this is currently being agreed with Natural England to enhance the hydrology. There is also more holly to bash.

Looking forward to getting stuck in.

Steven Lofting

Senior Conservation Ranger (Biodiversity), Site Manager.

Registered Office:

Octavia House,
Westwood Business Park,
Westwood Way,
Coventry, England, CV4 8JP

Registered in England No. 03542918

