



July 2013

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Quarterly Newsletter

Ecological Survey Highlights

Those eagle eyed users of the fields may have noticed some 'official' looking people having a good nose round the fields a few weeks ago – the result of which has been an up to date Ecological Survey which the landowners Man Diesel have funded, and which was carried out by a company recommended by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT).

Observations from the report include 'a mosaic of habitats and woodland, grassland and bramble/scrub', which is supporting numerous species of conservation concern, specifically breeding birds. Mature trees on the site are highly likely to support roosting bats. Most of the habitats within the fields could be

managed more appropriately in order to increase wildlife potential. Constant access pressure and to a lesser extent rabbit grazing, maintain a very short sward which does not promote the life cycle of many flowering plant species. The authors have made a number of recommendations, which include—

A trial of different mowing regimes and/or timings to promote wild flowers and neutral grasslands.

Pond creation (with appropriate fencing and signage), re-profiling an existing wet area to promote amphibian and biodiversity interest.

Selective thinning of scrub/bramble to benefit woodlands and associated ground flora.

Dead wood refugia created in-situ to promote fungi and invertebrate interest.

Adopt a rotational trimming on a 3 year basis to avoid leggy growth and increase hedge density and flowering.

We are working closely with Man Diesel and CWT regards to any changes or investment in the fields, and we hope that you will help us by joining in some of the consultation style work we are going to be circulating in the next few months.

If you would like any more information or have any concerns about this brief report overview please email us: info@mirrleesfields.org.uk and we will do our best to answer you!

Going digital....

As with many voluntary/charity based groups the strain on our resources of printing and distributing up to 3,000 newsletters each quarter is something which MFAG do not feel they can sustain any more. For a small voluntary annual donation we are

more than willing to deliver print copies to any of our followers who request them – as opposed to the mass mail drop approach we have been using.

PLEASE take a moment to register your interest with us:

For future digital copies please send your email address to: [in-fo@mirrleesfields.org.uk](mailto:info@mirrleesfields.org.uk).

To request printed copies please call/text Rachel on 07793 009953 to confirm your details. Thank you.

Useful Contact Numbers....

Local Police – 101 or 0161 856 9973

You should always call 999 in an emergency. Report non urgent anti social behaviour, criminal damage, motor bikes, camp fires, noise pollution or any other potentially unlawful activity.

Environment Agency—0800 80 70 60

To be used for pollution to water or land, poaching or illegal fishing, fish in distress /

dead fish, illegal dumping of hazardous waste or large amounts of industrial waste

Stockport Dog Warden - 0161 474 4207

Dog fouling, lost/abandoned dogs and uncontrolled/threatening behaviour should all be reported. The more reports are made, the more likely patrols will be seen.

APDW—Association of Professional Dog Walkers.

There has been growing concern from MFAG and Man Diesel about unsupervised or controlled 'packs of dogs' on the fields. One of our committee members is working with the APDW to start a branch in Stockport which will help to tackle this problem—patrols, dog waste bin sponsorship and education re legal requirements. Please contact us info@mirrleesfields.org.uk for more information or to join.

MIRRLEES FIELDS ACTION GROUP PROUDLY PRESENT TWO EVENTS ON MIRRLEES FIELDS THIS AUGUST!!

Join us for a guided **FREE NATURE WALK!**

Sunday 4th August from 13.00 —18.00

(walks start every hour, lasting 30 minutes)

- All ages welcome, but please no pets
- Cake and refreshments will be available **to buy**
- 'Nature Quiz' to complete on the walk—there will be prizes!
- Guide provided by Cheshire Wildlife Trust
- Raffle prize draw to enter
- **FREE parking on MAN's car park** off Bramhall Moor Lane
- **Consultation on potential future uses for the fields**
- Come along and meet us at the 'oak tree' **in the middle of the big field** to see what it's all about!



DON'T FORGET weather appropriate foot wear and clothing. A pen/pencil for your Nature Quiz and some change to get yourself a well earned refreshment after the walk!

Join us for a guided **BAT WALK!**

Saturday 31st August from 19.00 (walk commences at dusk)

- All ages welcome, but please no pets
- **Participation fee of a £2 MFAG donation** per person (payable on arrival)
- Pre walk refreshments and cake included
- 'Bat hat' making prior to walk
- Bat detectors and guide provided by Cheshire Wildlife Trust
- A chance to meet some bats before we set off
- Raffle prize draw
- **FREE parking on MAN's car park** off Bramhall Moor Lane
- **Consultation on potential future uses for the fields**
- Meeting point is the 'oak tree' **in the middle of the big field**



DON'T FORGET a torch, (so you can get off the fields safely after the walk) and weather appropriate foot wear and clothing. Bat man style costumes are optional (but encouraged)!

Please help us with catering / volunteer requirements and register your interest for this event at info@mirrleesfields.org.uk, or by joining 'friends of mirrlees fields' on Facebook and 'joining the event of your choice. Events will be weather dependant.