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KINGS POND, ALTON

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN



PREPARED FOR:

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL

SITE ADDRESS:

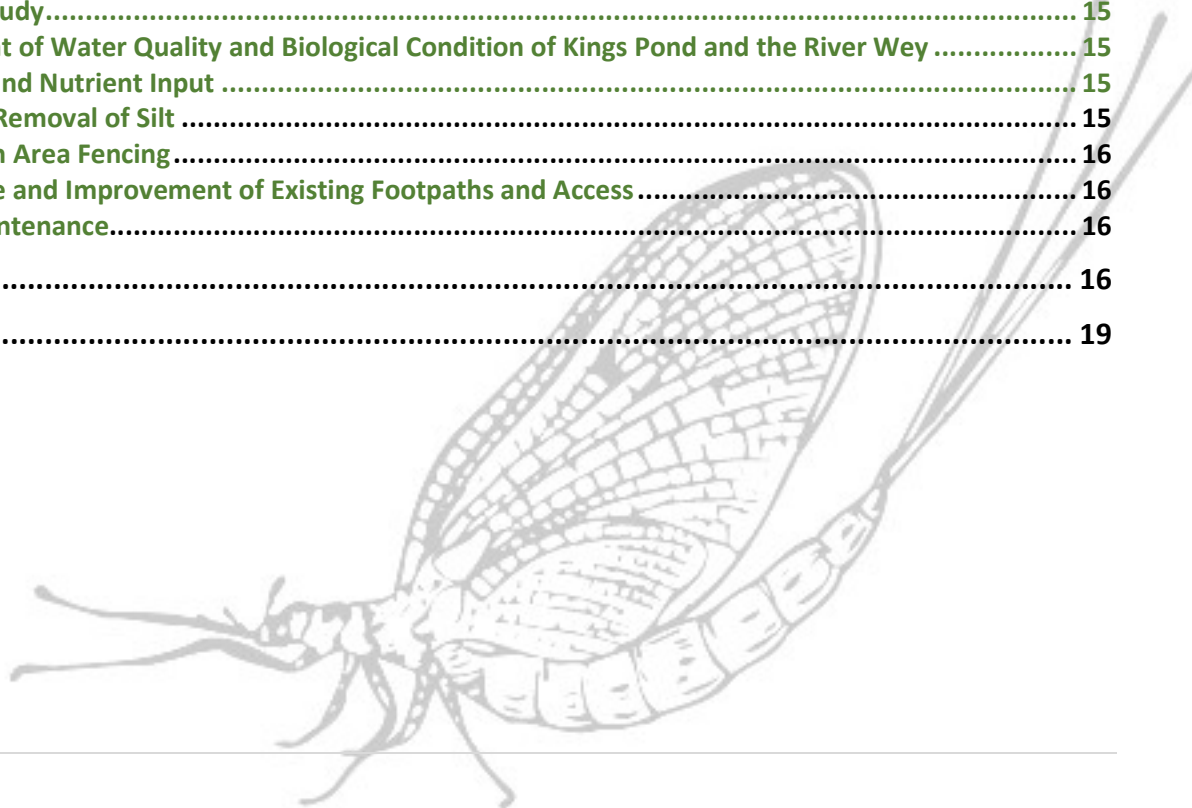
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1.0 Site Description and Physical Features

1.1 Location

Kings Pond is situated in close proximity to Alton Town centre (Grid Ref: SU72293945). The site is bounded by Ashdell Road to the south east, Waterside Court flats, built in 1989 off Paper Mill Lane to the north east and the Watercress Line Heritage Steam Railway to the north west. The area of the site is approximately 4.1 ha.



1.2 Ownership

The site is owned by Alton Town Council, purchased in several lots in 1960s and 1970s from the National Health Service and W J Jackson (Victoria Foundry).

1.3 Other Rights

Access to 'Kings Pond Bungalows' below the railway embankment is via the surfaced track to the north of Kings Pond. This track off Ashdell Road also provides access to the pond for visitors. There are three properties on Ashdell Road which back onto the site. There are no public rights of way on site although there is access on foot around the pond as a public open space.

1.4 Designations

The land is not identified as falling within any international or national ecologically designations. However it has been designated as 'local green space' where development will not be permitted unless under very special circumstances. The underlying philosophy behind the first management Plan to the pond was "a piece of countryside in the town where native species are favoured over cultivars.

1.5 Geology and Topography

Kings Pond lies in the River Wey Valley at around 90m above sea level at the headwaters of the northern branch of the River Wey which crosses two other Alton Town Council open spaces at Will Hall Meadow (source) and Flood Meadows.

There are various surface water drains exiting near the culvert under the railway line from the adjoining highway system and the three properties situated on Ashdell Road. The surface water drainage for the 3 properties is directed by pipes under the fence that drain onto the pedestrian path around the pond.

The source of the River Wey rises at Will Hall Meadow 1.5km away from Kings Pond. The River Wey is a chalk stream and of great ecological importance on a European and National level. Due to the impoundment of the river, Kings Pond acts as a natural silt trap for sediment travelling downstream from its source. Surface runoff from Ashdell Road and the King's View development on the hillside opposite follows kerb lines and makes its way to the pond causing erosion of ground and the bank as well as transporting silt and pollutants off the road surface to the pond. Droppings of Canada Geese and other wildfowl on the pathways also add to the nutrient pollution of the pond

1.7 Soils and Vegetation

Situated in the floodplain the Kings Pond site is dominated by soils which overlay the chalk and are mostly river alluvium, some clays and loamy soils.

Various emergent macrophytes have been identified around the margins of the pond including yellow flag iris, water figwort, sedges and water mint. However submerged macrophytes (waterweeds) are absent due to the high population of water fowl at the pond. Blanket weed, a green filamentous alga (*Spirogyra*) grows on the bottom and in summer with high water temperatures, low water levels and high nutrients it reaches maximum growth and detaches and floats towards the weir. Mute Swans and diving birds like Coots feed on it.

Groups of shrubs and trees are present. Species identified include ash, Crack, Weeping, Grey and Goat willow, common alder, hawthorn, sycamore, holly, elm and horse chestnut. No veteran or trees or trees with TPO status have been identified. The area is not within a designated Conservation Area in planning terms. A few plantings around the car park include one Turkey oak and Whitebeam. The majority of trees and shrubs on site are self-sown

Grassland areas on site are limited and of little botanical interest and common daisy and meadow buttercup have been identified which is to be expected of amenity grassland. There is also Common Knapweed, Creeping and Spear Thistles, Yarrow, Hogweed, Cow Parsley and some Lady's Smock that provide valuable nectar sources for insects. The centre and the sloped bank by the pond also support Cowslips, Ox-eye Daisies and Musk Mallow. Historically mowing has been avoided in this area for a couple of months after the Cowslips have seeded as the leaves make food to put into the underground storage organs for flowers the following spring.

1.8 Fauna

A number of bird species were noted including wren, finches, tits and wetland species such as mallard, moorhen, coot, kingfisher, grey heron, swan, Tufted duck, Canada goose and little grebe. In winter circa 60 Black-headed Gulls arrive to overwinter. (See **Appendix B**)

Five species of bat have been previously recorded; Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, Daubenton's, Brown Long-eared and Serotine Bats along with hedgehog and water shrew. Other mammals are a few Grey Squirrels, Bank Voles, Brown Rats, occasionally Mink, whilst an Otter was killed on Ashdell Road in recent years.

Slow worms, grass snakes, common frog and toad have been previously identified and noted. Frogs occasionally lay eggs but they and the adults are predated, the latter by Grey Herons that have established a small heronry on the islands. Some unwanted pet Red-eared terrapins have been released into the pond

and can be seen basking on fallen trees and although these are unlikely to breed, they have a potential lifespan of 30 years and are non-native to Britain.

There are a number of fish species which inhabit the pond including common and mirror carp, roach, pike and 'minor species' including bullhead, minnow, stickleback and stone loach. Ornamental fish species such as goldfish have also been recorded.

No scientific invertebrate surveys have been carried out but Alton Natural History Society hold details of a number of casual surveys on record. There are regular reports on wildlife at King's Pond in the Annual Report of the Alton Natural History Society. The Town Council organised a Bioblitz at King's Pond in June 2020 reported on in the Annual Report of the Alton Natural History Society 2020.¹

Water quality – with the high nutrient level in the pond there is a potential risk of toxic cyanobacteria. Eutrophicated water exits the pond into the River Wey as evidenced by the algal growth in the exit channels in Waterside Court

The Environment Agency measure water quality of the river systems in England. Each is given an overall ecological status, which may be one of five levels: high, good, moderate, poor and bad. There are several components that are used to determine this, including biological status, which looks at the quantity and varieties of invertebrates, angiosperms and fish. Chemical status, which compares the concentrations of various chemicals against known safe concentrations, is rated good or fail.

Water quality of North Wey at Alton in 2019:

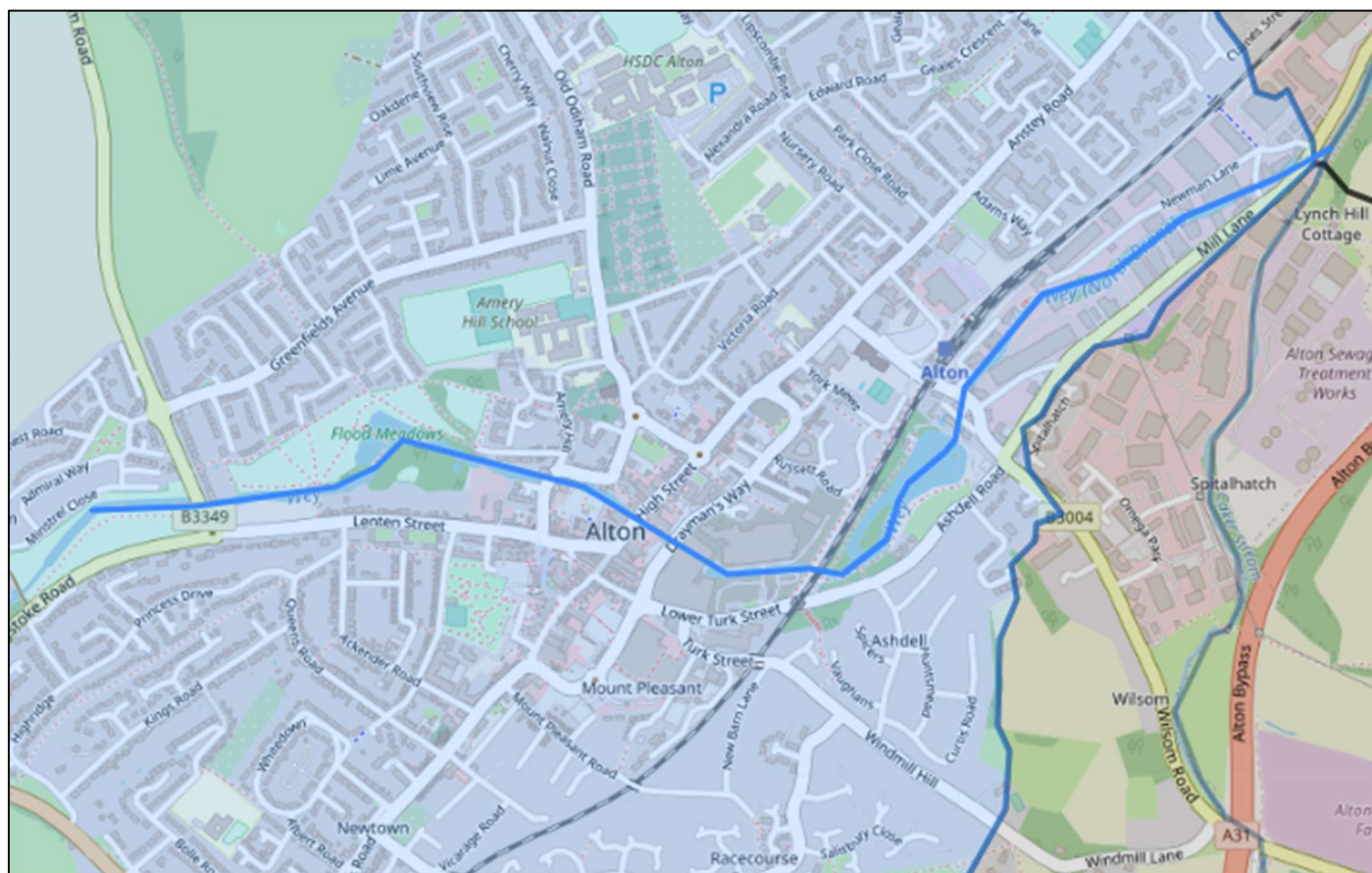
Section	Ecological Status	Chemical Status	Overall Status
North Wey at Alton	Moderate	Fail	Moderate

North Wey at Alton Attributes:

Water Body ID GB106039017800	Water Body Type River	Hydromorphological designation heavily modified	NGR SU7204739286
Surveillance Water Body No	Length 2.802 km	Catchment area 54.231 km ²	Catchment area 5423.05 ha

North Wey at Alton Waterbody Map:

¹ The Bioblitz Field Study Data can be found at <http://www.alton.gov.uk/UserFiles/Files/Bio-Blitz%20data/KingsPondBioBlitz26Jun2021.pdf>



1.9 History

There has been a corn mill at this site since Domesday which might have involved a small mill pond but the rest of the site was a wet meadow with the River Wey meandering through, as shown on old maps of Alton 1666 and the meadow area now occupied by the pond was called Mill Moor, so the pond is not of natural origin. This is the highest part of the northern Wey to have an adequate water flow to support a corn mill. By the eighteenth century a paper mill was set up alongside and this necessitated the digging out of the pond to provide adequate headwater for all year use. It was a heavily industrial site that continued with paper milling until the early twentieth century, but after closure was used to house prisoners of war during WW1. Whilst the mill was working a considerable amount of silt would have been washed downstream when water was let out through the mill. Dredging has been a constant feature every 30 years. For more information on the history of the site please see **Appendix**

The pond and surrounding land were purchased by Alton Urban District Council during the 1960s & 1970s and is now owned by Alton Town Council. The paper mill building was used by Beacon Packaging until destroyed by fire in 1983 when the land was sold to Wimpy for redevelopment. The paper mill site was redeveloped in 1989 to create the Waterside Court flats.

While the site clearly has a historic interest, there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or known archaeological features on site.

1.10 Public Access and Use

The site has no official public footpaths or bridleways but the site is open to the public and there is a tarmac and hard standing path system running around the pond.

Pedestrian access is available from the south west end of the pond via Turk Street/Ashdell Road at the railway bridge where there is a currently an informal unused tarmac area. This tarmac area near the bridge

was the site of some cottages demolished circa 1960s. It is currently used as a parking area for ATC and Watercress Line maintenance staff.

Pedestrian access is also available from Waterside Court. There is a tarmac car park which is accessed from Ashdell Road for visitors with vehicles to use.

Various signage and information boards have been installed providing members of the public with a description of the area.

No fishing or boating is allowed at Kings Pond to avoid conflict with water fowl and the general public.

1.11 Past Management

1.11.1 Management Plans

The first management plan was written by Dr June Chatfield OBE in 1985 based on guidance by the Hampshire Ecologist David Lloyd. This was revised in 1996 prior to the dredging of the pond (October 1996-March 1997) and then subsequently by the then Alton Town Clerk.

The previous version of this plan was drafted by Footprint Ecology² and approved by Alton Town Council in 2017, which included a five-year action plan. This 2022 version of the plan and its associated actions update the previous document, following a full review.

1.11.2 General maintenance

General maintenance including grass cutting and litter bin emptying is carried out by Alton Town Council staff. The Town Council arrange for regular inspections of the trees for Health and Safety.

1.11.3 Dredging

Due to the impoundment caused by the damming of the river the pond acts as a natural silt trap as the sediment load carried in the water settles out in slower flows. Being a headwater stream the discharge and velocity regularly changes. The pond has been dredged twice in the past in order to reduce silt levels within the pond.

The Council dredged the pond in the early 1970s on acquiring the site and again some 25 years later in 1996. Over 25 years have passed and this would need doing again. Dredging every 25 years is a prohibitively expensive ongoing outlay. The 1900 OS 6 inch map shows only the small island, the large island having been created later following dredging because of the expense and difficulty of getting the dredged material off site. This issue was explored again during the preparation for the 1996 dredging when arisings from the dredging operations were used on site on the islands within the pond and to create new areas of bank.

1.11.4 Canada Geese

Annual egg oiling is carried out under licence provided by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) under Section 16 (1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in order to control the resident breeding Canada goose population. Egg oiling prevents the eggs from hatching but without encouraging the birds to re-lay, if the eggs were simply removed. The methodology was a result of consultation with the RSPCA Wildlife Department, the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust and The London Lakes

² King's Pond Management Plan – written by John Underhill-Day & Chris Panter – Footprint Ecology 2017 available at http://www.alton.gov.uk/Kings_Pond_6330.aspx

Project, as well as the booklet by DETR “Management of Canada Geese” based on university research on their life cycles.”

2.0 Objectives and Actions

2.1 PRIMARY ACTION – Feasibility Study & Improvement of Water Quality and Biological Condition of Kings Pond and the River Wey

2.1.2 Background

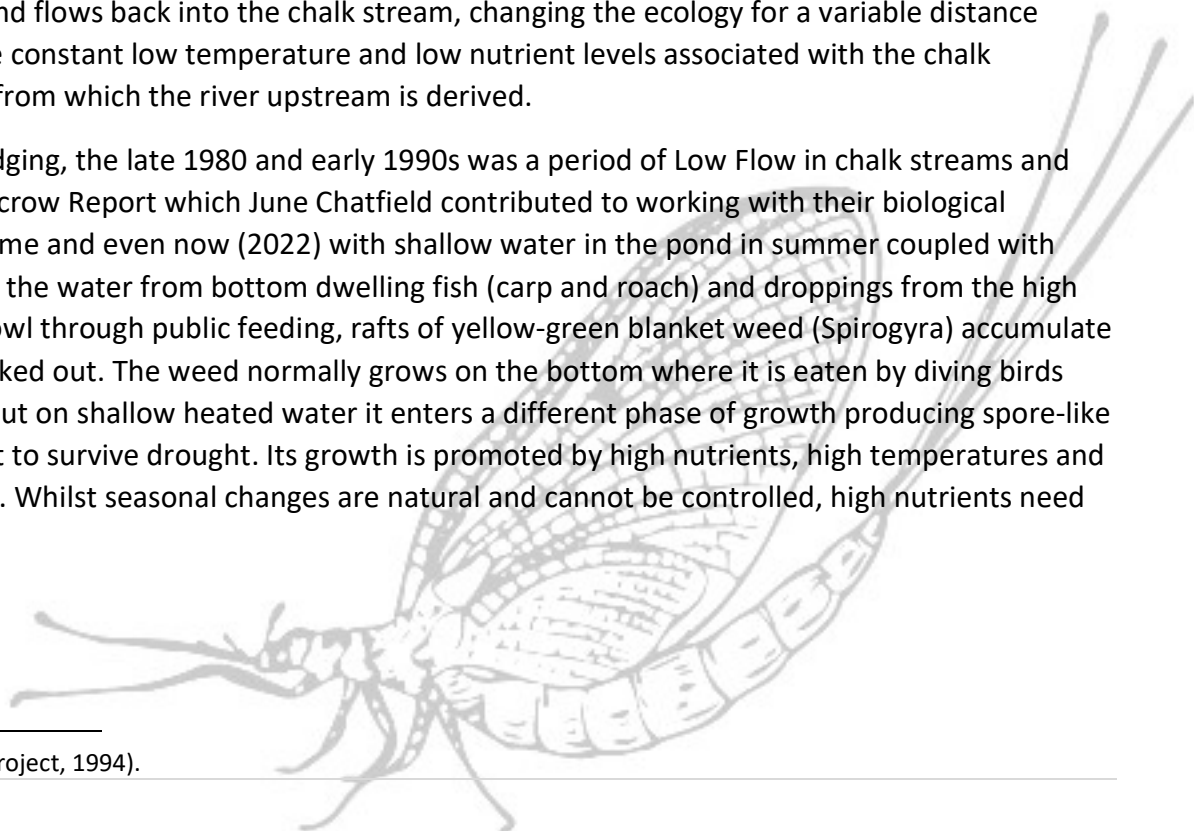
The River Wey is a chalk stream which flows through Kings Pond. Chalk streams are of international ecological importance with 85% of these being located in the UK. Chalk streams are groundwater fed and they generally have exceptional water quality, clear, pure water of a constant low temperature from groundwater source which combined with their gravel bed provides perfect conditions for a diverse range of different plant species, invertebrates, reptiles and fish. Stream Water Crowfoot, a chalk stream specialist waterweed grows in the cress beds at Flood Meadow and the River Wey by Costa Coffee in the High Street and in the former brewery grounds. The stretch of the river under the Ashdell railway bridge is too shaded for it but it turns up again near the confluence with the Caker Stream at Mill Lane downstream from the pond.

The presence of the Kings Pond impoundment dramatically affects the character of the River Wey. Impoundments resulting in on-line ponds have a significant impact on the watercourse and the species which use it. Firstly, they act as barriers preventing fish from being able to swim upstream to their spawning grounds, thereby disrupting their lifecycles. This is one of the main reasons why the North Wey is currently failing to reach good ecological status as required by the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

As the river enters the pond, water flow is slowed and silt is deposited in the pond. Water in the pond, with a large surface area, is warmed in summer when the water levels drop giving enhanced heating from the sun in shallow water. Seasonal changes in the water level is a constant factor. The presence of large numbers of waterfowl and introduced benthic feeding fish result in increased nutrient levels, greater turbidity and a reduction of aquatic macrophytes and invertebrates. This warmed and nutrient rich water then exits the pond and flows back into the chalk stream, changing the ecology for a variable distance downstream from the constant low temperature and low nutrient levels associated with the chalk groundwater springs from which the river upstream is derived.

Prior to the 1996 dredging, the late 1980 and early 1990s was a period of Low Flow in chalk streams and the subject of the Halcrow Report which June Chatfield contributed to working with their biological consultants. At that time and even now (2022) with shallow water in the pond in summer coupled with high nutrient levels in the water from bottom dwelling fish (carp and roach) and droppings from the high population of waterfowl through public feeding, rafts of yellow-green blanket weed (*Spirogyra*) accumulate at the weir and are raked out. The weed normally grows on the bottom where it is eaten by diving birds like Coot and Swans but on shallow heated water it enters a different phase of growth producing spore-like structures to enable it to survive drought. Its growth is promoted by high nutrients, high temperatures and high levels of sunlight. Whilst seasonal changes are natural and cannot be controlled, high nutrients need to be tackled³

³ (see The London Lakes Project, 1994).



2.1.3 Proposal

In consultation with the Environment Agency (See **Appendix A**) , it is recommended that the Management Plan for the site gives strong consideration to the removal of the pond in its current form and re-profiling the river to greatly improving the ecological benefits, should it be feasible. The surrounding land would be wet meadow with the River Wey meandering through and landscaped to incorporate ponds and wetlands to accommodate differing public interests should a feasibility study support this (Works Prog Ref PA02).

The **Priority action** is therefore:

- **To appoint of a river restoration consultant to investigate and undertake a feasibility study and options report for the recommendation highlighted below that would include concept drawings/designs, Environment Agency consultation and approval, public consultation, structural reports of the weir structure, flood modelling and hydraulic calculations for various options (Works Prog Ref PA01).**

2.2 SECONDARY ACTION Reduce Silt and Nutrient Input

2.2.1 Background

Low invertebrate and macrophyte diversity is a direct reflection of the poor ecological status of Kings Pond caused by ever increasing silt levels and nutrient loading. Local nutrient loading input includes wildfowl faeces, food used to feed the wildfowl, bank erosion caused by public, dogs, wildfowl, wave action and local run off from roads, grassland and adjoining properties.

Macrophytes (large waterweeds) stand little chance of survival with the current population of waterfowl at the pond. This has been the case since the late 1970s when there was a resident population of about 100 Mallard ducks, a pair of Mute Swan and smaller numbers of Coot. Since the 1990s Canada Geese have established at the pond as residents with a potential breeding population of 30 birds (at one time there were 11 nests) and additional non-breeders that are around in late summer to late autumn to feed and roost on the island.

2.2.2 Proposal

If the feasibility study recommended in 2.1 (Primary action) does not support pond re-profiling then there are several short-term options that would need to be considered in relation to siltation and the associated nutrient build up. It must be recognised that these are short term solutions and would be a recurring cost should the action in 2.1 not be pursued. (Either not supported by the public or not feasible)

- Mechanically remove silt (dredge) in order to reduce levels. Arisings can be used in the creation of islands, new sections of bank and to repair eroded bank edges (Works Prog Ref RS01).
- Continue to educate members of the public about the adverse effects of feeding wildfowl (Works Prog Ref RS02).
- Carry out survey of bank erosion and areas of need of immediate repair (Works Prog Ref RS03). See section 2.6.
- Locate and redirect highways surface water drains and outlets from adjoining properties (Works Prog Ref RS04).
- Consider the removal of a number of the Canada Geese from the site, either through culling, translocation or any other option identified to reduce the population and reduce nutrient loading.

2.3 Maintain Existing Tree and Shrub Cover

The existing trees and shrubs provide cover and habitat for wildlife. The woodland surrounding Kings Pond consists of mature and semi-mature trees together with an understory of native shrub species. With climate change bringing hotter summers, trees provide welcome shade and relief from high temperatures for both humans and wildlife.

Maintenance recommendations:

- Any trees that have suffered physical damage or have died should be felled where they pose a risk to public safety, with selected large felled dead wood remaining on site as valuable deadwood habitat to support invertebrates and other wildlife (Works Prog Ref TS01).
- Any newly planted trees should be watered as necessary to aid establishment (Works Prog Ref TS03).
- Newly planted trees to be native species which only occur locally.
- All non-emergency tree works to be carried out outside of the bird nesting season (March to August).
- To carry out tree surveys in accordance with the existing Town Council Non-Financial Risk Assessment and strategy for maintenance, new planting and long-term replacement (Works Prog Ref TS04).
- The understory should be maintained to encourage development of dense, bushy structure by planting of hazel, hawthorn, holly and blackthorn (Works Prog Ref TS05).
- Management of ivy to include some removal from mature trees to prevent 'strangulation.' Ivy is to be retained on some trees to benefit wildlife. Ground growing Ivy is to be removed in order to encourage native woodland ground fauna (Works Prog Ref TS06).
- Marginal aquatic planting to stabilise bank erosion has been tried before and failed. Perhaps use soft-engineering of hurdles but it is not long-term. (Work Prog Ref TS07).
- Tree clearance near the inlet to be undertaken in order to create a 60:40 light/shade ratio in order to encourage macrophyte growth within channel (Works Prog Ref TS08).
- Periodic coppicing of willows on the island and removal of any large fallen trees within the pond, where they affect river flow. This should be carried out sympathetically to maintain tree cover but allowing branches to overhang the water's edge to provide nesting sites for aquatic birds (TS09).

2.4 Manage Existing Amenity Grassland

Without sensitive management, grasslands soon become invaded by vigorous plants and grasses that can overwhelm what is vital habitat for birds, invertebrates and animals.

Cutting is an effective method of managing grassland because the timing, area and height of the cut can be easily adapted to suit the site.

In most situations, June or July (Spring/summer cut) is the best time for cutting, with a further cut in September/October (Autumn/winter cut) often being beneficial. However, cutting times can be varied to suit local conditions. A spring cut (Works Prog Ref AG01) knocks back thistles and vigorous grasses that can sometimes take hold during the winter. While an autumn cut allows the grassland plants more opportunity to flower and set seed (Works Prog Ref AG02 & AG03).

Mowing the entire site in one go can remove a valuable food source for insects and birds. It is therefore good practice to leave some areas uncut to overwinter (Works Prog Ref AG04 & AG05). The best way to do this is to either cut the grassland in sections at varying times or, if you have room, to cut the edges of the grassland on rotation. In recent years the grass has been allowed to grow in the spring on the sloping bank by the pond and by the Ashdell Bungalows to allow the growth of Ladies Smock, an attractive spring flower and one of the host plants for egg-laying and growth of caterpillars of the Orange Tip butterfly. The Cow

Parsley and Hogweed in the bank are visited by a range of insects, all helping biodiversity and pollination services.

It is very important to rake off and remove the clippings after cutting. High nutrient levels in the grass arise from the spreading of pond dredgings, the droppings of the dense populations of geese and these days coming down with rain from nitrogen oxides in air pollution from vehicle exhausts and agriculture. A low nutrient grassland (good for wild flowers) is not really feasible, but the process is slowed down by taking off the risings and composting them offsite as cuttings can smother delicate plants and increase fertility which encourages rank growth at the expense of wildflowers. If clippings are left to dry for a few days after cutting, flowers can shed any ripe seed and insects are able to make their escape.

Undesirable species will need to be controlled, ideally “weeds” such as ragwort will need to be removed by hand pulling.

Growth of the “amenity” grassland area, located on the upper slope, should be monitored through the growing season and cut and/or strimmed as required to maintain a defined space for utilising the picnic benches.

2.5 Conservation Area

A conservation area is to be considered in an area identified near the path at the south west end of the pond. The conservation areas should be periodically managed but minimum human interference is required.

It is recommended that this area is sympathetically fenced to prevent access from visitors and dogs which will allow wildlife to flourish (Works Prog Ref CA01). Fencing should consist of 50mm x 50mm polypropylene fencing tensioned across chestnut posts (please see picture below).



There are already marsh tolerant trees in this area around the pond, the grey and goat willows are self-sown, the alders and crack willows planted. Regular maintenance of any trees in this area will need to be monitored and maintained as detailed in Works Prog Ref TS01 & TS04.

An experimental wildflower area has also recently been planted opposite the long feeding station on the railway line side of the pond alongside two piles of logs which have been left in situ as bug and insect habitats. The wildflower planting should be monitored to evaluate the suitability of the planting, with

further sowing adjusted accordingly. Management of this area should be undertaken in-line with the actions listed in 2.4.

2.6 Maintenance and Improvement of Existing Footpaths and Access

Access points and paths across the site need to be maintained in a safe and useable condition.

Consideration could be given to create a pollinator garden, with raised beds to provide an attractive gateway feature to the site with a 'Wey Walk' archway, similar to the recently installed arch at the Flood Meadows and as proposed for the Rivermead Development on the former Brewery Site.

An alternate option may be to re-instate the car parking area on Turk Street/Ashdell Road for disabled visitors to the park. This would require re-surfacing and clear parking bays to be marked. Access to Wey Walk will need to be kept clear. Due to the location of the entrance to the proposed car parking area it is recommended a traffic survey should be undertaken to ensure public safety.

There are various areas of bank edge that require attention due to erosion caused by pedestrians, dogs, wildfowl and natural processes such as wind/wave action. It is recommended that these areas are repaired using a semi-soft approach such as timber revetment which would be backfilled, compacted and appropriately planted.

In order to maintain the appearance of tidy, clean hard surfaces the following actions should be undertaken:

- Removal of litter (Works Prog Ref FP01)
- Removal of grit, mud, leaf litter and plant debris (Works Prog Ref FP02)
- Removal of weeds (Works Prog Ref FP03)
- Inspection of any defects and potential dangers (Works Prog Ref FP04)
- Ensure all surfaces are safe to walk on during cold weather events (Works Prog Ref FP05)

2.7 Maintain Signage and Interpretation

Signage and information boards have already been installed providing valuable educational information about the site. It is important that:

- Signs and information boards are maintained (Works Prog Ref SI01).
- Remind owners to keep dogs on leads and under close control at the pond.
- Ensure life buoys are available near the waters edge in the event of an emergency.
- Ensure signs indicates that wildfowl should only be fed at designated feeding stations on the water and why this is important.
- Ensure people and dogs to not enter the water.

2.8 Maintain Liaison with Organisations, Individuals and Community Groups

It is important to liaise with official bodies, organisations, individuals and community groups to ensure this important local amenity is managed as effectively as possible. The following guidelines should be adhered to:

- Liaise with Alton Town Council to plan, finance and carry out management and any urgent works that may be required (Works Prog Ref LO01).
- Regular liaison between local community groups and Alton Town Council to encourage local engagement (Works Prog Ref LO02).
- It is strongly recommended that Alton Town Council and local community groups should work together as one when improving the pond and surrounding landscape. Whilst opinions can be diverse, factual knowledge should be the guide.

- Liaise with the Environment Agency and the Wey Valley Catchment Landscape Partnership to improve the quality of water (Works Prog Ref LO03).
- Record incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism to the Police and any incidence involving the death of wildfowl to DEFRA (Works Prog Ref LO04).
- Maintain contact with local natural history groups and individual experts for management advice (Works Prog Ref LO05).

2.9 Carry Out Statutory Duties as Site Owner

Alton Town Council are obliged to meet their statutory obligations to:

- Carry out regular health and safety checks (Works Prog Ref SD01)
- Obtain all statutory consents and approvals necessary for carrying out management work (Works Prog Ref SD02).

3.0 Works Programme

PRIORITY ACTION - Improve WQ and Biological Condition of Waterbody						
Task	Frequency	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
PA01	N/A	X	X	X		
PA02	N/A				X	X
Reduce Silt and Nutrient Input						
Task	Frequency	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
RS01	As appropriate		X			
RS02	As appropriate	X	X	X	X	X
RS03	When necessary	X	X	X	X	X
RS04	As appropriate	X				
Maintain Existing Tree and Shrub Cover						
Task	Frequency	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
TS01	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
TS02	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
TS03	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
TS04	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
TS05	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
TS06	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
TS07	Bi-Annual	X		X		X
TS08	Bi-Annual	X		X		X
TS08	Bi-Annual	X		X		X
Manage Existing Amenity Grassland						
Task	Frequency	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
AG01	Spring/Summer Cut – Entire site	X	X	X	X	X
AG02	Autumn/Winter Cut – North west and south east quarter	X		X		X
AG03	Autumn/Winter Cut – North east and south west quarter		X		X	
AG04	Overwinter- North west and south east quarter		X		X	
AG05	Overwinter – North east and south west quarter	X		X		X
AG04	Autumn and Spring	X	X	X	X	X
Conservation Area						
Task	Frequency	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
CA01	Check fencing every 3 months for defects	X	X	X	X	X
Maintenance and Improvement of Existing Footpaths and Bridges						
Task	Frequency	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
FP01	As appropriate	X	X	X	X	X
FP02	As appropriate	X	X	X	X	X
FP03	Monthly	X	X	X	X	X
FP04	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
FP05	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
Maintain Signage and Interpretation						
Task	Frequency	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026

SI01	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
Maintain Liaison with Organisations, Individuals and Community Groups						
Task	Frequency	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
LO01	Annual/s necessary	X	X	X	X	X
LO02	Monthly	X	X	X	X	X
LO03	As appropriate	X	X	X	X	X
LO04	As appropriate	X	X	X	X	X
LO05	As appropriate	X	X	X	X	X
Carry Out Statutory Duties as Site Owner						
Task	Frequency	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
SD01	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
SD02	As appropriate	X	X	X	X	X

4.0 Indicative Costing

4.1 Feasibility Study & Improvement of Water Quality and Biological Condition of Kings Pond and the River Wey

4.1a Feasibility Study

Topographic Survey (Including equipment hire) = £1300.00 (+VAT)

Silt Survey = £600.00 (+VAT)

Sediment Analysis = £1,950.00 (+VAT)

Utilities Search = £450.00 (+VAT)

Project Document Writing (Including prioritisation report) = £900.00 (+VAT)

Estimation of Construction Costs and Material Re-Use = £450.00 (+VAT)

Design (including map purchase) = £1395.00 (+VAT)

WFD Compliance Assessment = £450.00 (+VAT)

Hydrological and Hydraulic Modelling = £6000.00 (+VAT)

Meetings and Consultations = £450.00 (+VAT)

Environmental Permit Application = £1200.00 (+VAT)

Environmental Permit Liaison = £450.00 (+VAT)

TOTAL = £15,595.00 (+VAT)

4.1b Improvement of Water Quality and Biological Condition of Kings Pond and the River Wey

Pond Re-profiling Works (Depending on outcome of feasibility study and Environment Agency Approval)

TOTAL = £225,000.00 (+VAT)

4.2 Reduce Silt and Nutrient Input

4.2a Mechanical Removal of Silt

Silt Survey = £600.00 (+VAT)

Sediment Analysis = £1,950.00 (+VAT)

Utilities Search = £450.00 (+VAT)

Topographic Survey (Including equipment hire) = £1300.00 (+VAT)

Design (including map purchase) = £1395.00 (+VAT)

Environmental Permit Application = £1452.00 (+VAT)

Environmental Permit Liaison = £450.00 (+VAT)

Dredging (Assuming arisings to be used on site) = £20.00 (+VAT) per m³ = £192,560 (based on m³ removed during last dredging in 1996)

Materials for Bank Repair (to create revetments for arisings re-use) = £400.00 (+VAT) per linear meter = £60,000 (based on 150m indicative requirement)

TOTAL = £260,157

4.3 Conservation Area Fencing

50mm x 3mm x 1m black polypropylene netting tensioned across chestnut posts.

Materials = £15.00 (+VAT) per linear meter

Labour = £850.00 (+VAT) per day

4.4 Maintenance and Improvement of Existing Footpaths and Access

Gateway Feature – ‘Weyside Walk’ archway = £15,000.00 - £20,000.00 (+VAT)

4.5 General Maintenance

Alton Town Council will carry out all routine maintenance as detailed in the works programme in accordance with annual budgets.

5.0 Plates



Plate 1 – River Wey inlet



Plate 2 – Turk Street/Ashdell Road entrance



Plate 3 – Proposed conservation area



Plate 4 – Sluice structure & EA gauge



Plate 5 – Typical erosion caused by pedestrians and wildfowl



Plate 6 – Failed revetment from previous dredging operation



Plate 7 – Information board at Ashdell Road vehicle entrance



Plate 8 – Course of the River Wey downstream of inlet



Plate 9 – Information board and litter bin



Plate 10 – Typical hardstanding path system on site



Plate 11 – Low Water level 2011 – near Ashdell Bridge

Plate 12 – Canada Geese at Pond Summer 2021



Plate 13 – Siltation at south west end of pond



Plate 14 – Proposed reedbed planting area



Plate 15 – Bird feeding station 1



Plate 16 – Bird feeding station 2 (note need for bank repair)



Plate 17 – Typical area of bank erosion to be repaired



Plate 18 – Large willow on island to be managed



Plate 19 – View of island with limited understory growth



Plate 20 – View of pond from sluice

6.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Advice from the Environment Agency

creating a better place
for people and wildlife



Mrs Leah Coney
Town Clerk
Alton Town Council
Town Hall
Market Square
Alton GU34 1HD

Date: 20th July 2022

Ref: Environment Agency position on King's Pond, Alton

Dear Mrs Coney

I write regarding recent discussions relating to King's Pond, Alton.

The Environment Agency has long held an aspiration to take King's Pond off-line from the River Wey at Alton, restoring the river's natural function and enhancing the ecosystem services provided by the river such as clean water, biodiversity, nutrient cycling, and floodwater retention.

The North Wey at Alton is a chalk stream. Chalk streams are globally rare, and they are threatened. 85% of the world's chalk streams are in the UK, and 77% of Britain's chalk streams fail to meet good ecological status under the Water Frameworks Directive. This was reflected in a new strategy published by the Chalk Stream Restoration Group (CSRG), part of the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA), in 2021. Headwater catchments such as the North Wey at Alton are particularly important, as restoration of headwaters will have cascading benefits throughout the River Thames catchment.

Impoundments are a threat to chalk streams and river systems generally. Impoundments result from structures, such as weirs, that hold back water, disrupting the river's natural function, halting nutrient cycling and harming biodiversity. This is a major reason for the North Wey at Alton failing to meet good ecological status under the Water Framework Directive.

King's Pond is a significant impoundment on the North Wey. This is disrupting the transport of course material and sediment downstream, starving the river downstream of gravels that are essential for river ecology and preventing the cycling of nutrients such as carbon. Crucially, rivers play a key role in the carbon cycle, transporting sediment from terrestrial systems out to sea where the carbon is stored. Where rivers are impounded, such as at King's Pond, nutrient rich sediments accumulate, which decreases oxygen levels and leads to hotspots of CO² (carbon dioxide) and CH⁴ (methane), a situation compounded at King's Pond by the presence of ducks and geese. Dredging will further compound matters, as any carbon storage benefits will be lost. This causes the river to produce higher greenhouse gas emissions than it would if it were functioning naturally.

customer service line 03708 506 506
gov.uk/environment-agency

Furthermore, the habitats surrounded King's Pond are being damaged by the presence of the large numbers of wildfowl that are attracted to the pond. Nutrients added to the soil and heavy grazing by wildfowl exacerbates nutrient and soil run-off into the pond and is holding back the potential of the area as a valuable green space that can be enjoyed by the residents of Alton.

The Environment Agency was able to secure the de-culverting of the River Wey through the old brewery as part of its redevelopment. This, alongside important work done by the Surrey Wildlife Trust throughout Alton, will create opportunities for further restoration work. Restoring the river at King's Pond will significantly contribute to the objective of having a healthy river flowing through Alton that will provide important services to the community whilst helping to tackle the biodiversity and climate crises.

We recognise the sense of place provided by King's Pond to the local community. Details will need to be agreed based on modelling and community engagement, but we envisage a wetland area that can be managed for wildlife which will have a healthy chalk stream flowing through it with areas for floodwater retention, providing Alton with resilience to climate change. Whilst there may be a reduction in the number wildfowl which is an attraction for some visitors these will be replaced by a different community of species that will be more suited to the area and will not damage the river ecology.

It is our position that taking King's Pond off-line is the best approach to the restoration of the River Wey at Alton, helping to restore lost ecosystems, tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis whilst maintaining the value of the site as a green space, nature reserve and sense of place for the Alton community.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Davy,
Biodiversity Technical Officer, River Wey Catchment
Paul.davy@environment-agency.gov.uk

Evidence base:

River's Trust threats to rivers:
<https://theriverstrust.org/key-issues>

Catchment Data Explorer: North Wey at Alton:
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB106039017800>

Natural England: Carbon Storage and Sequestration by Habitat 2021:
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5419124441481216>

Catchment Based Approach: Chalk Stream Strategy:
<https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/chalk-stream-strategy/>

King's Pond, Alton – Dr June Chatfield OBE

Of the sporadic arrivals this year a Barnacle Goose was seen on 15th March at the mill end, recognised by its distinctive white face. It was still present on the Society's field meeting of 1st April when it was joined by a single Greylag Goose. Canada Geese continue to dominate the wildfowl fauna. They returned to the pond as early as 5th January when 23 were seen feeding on the grass, later moving to the pond. The next day 31 were seen in two groups, one by the car park and the other near the river at the town end.

On 7th January 27 were feeding on the grass at noon, most of them in pairs. On 29th January 15 were on the grass feeding or preening with a few standing erect on guard. The breeding season was coming under way and on 3rd March a pair were exploring the small island, but it was mostly submerged. The large island was also wet mud and much of it below water with few good dry nesting sites available so nesting was staggered in dates as opportunity arose. One pair were seen by the edge of the island. Twenty seven were feeding on the main grass on 27th March and this seems to be the resident population. By 8th April about five possible nests were seen, one covered in down and this could have been the nest that produced five newly hatched goslings on 28th April. By 7th May three family groups appeared feeding on the grass with 5 + 4 + 4 goslings and a rise to five family groups with 8 + 5 + 4 + 3 + 1, a total; of 21 goslings, rising to 25 on 30th May. The family groups seemed to gather together. On the evening of 11th June at 8pm, 17 geese were assembled on the large island for roosting.

Whilst the two geese (2020 brood) with the "angel wing" deformation and so flightless remained on the pond during December when the main population had dispersed elsewhere, on 22nd June when the 2021 goslings were well grown and getting the markings of adult plumage with the primary wing feathers developing, one gosling was seen with double the "angel wing" and later from the same brood another developed the "angel wing" in the left wing, the same as 2020. It is possible that they may have been the same breeding birds producing them both years, suggesting a recessive genetic cause through inbreeding, the latter phenomenon encouraged by uncontrolled supplementary feeding by the general public that make young birds reluctant to disperse to pastures new.

By August one was experiencing the regular flights of skeins of geese flying offsite in V formation of about 15, twice a day in early morning and again in evening. Before they take off they assemble on the pond making honking calls that continue as they fly off. They take off and land using the length of the pond like aircraft on an airport runway.

Mute Swans started the year with the parents and cygnets left over from 2020 still in residence but separated from the parents and mostly confined to the mill end of the pond. They were getting white adult plumage but still had splotches of juvenile brown on the wings and a grey bill. By 2nd February, as the parents were aware of the forthcoming breeding season, they turned aggressive towards their offspring keeping them off the large island. The cygnets were seen on 16th February in the river beyond the large island. On 19th February the cob and pen, both with wings up in aggressive mode, were chasing their seven last year's offspring and this continued until 3rd March. By 15th March only two juveniles remained but I was informed that Swan Rescue had been to take them away, but could only catch five. On 22nd March the cob chased one of the juveniles and both took low flight to the end of the large island, whence the cob chased one back again – was this its first flying lesson now the primary wing feathers were well grown? The pen was sitting on her nest on the island on 24th March, bringing five cygnets to feed on the grass on 16th May: these retreated under the protection of her outspread wings when disturbed by people walking by on what was probably their first outing. By 1st June the two parents were seen on the grass by the seat near King's Pond Bungalows and footpath to Waterside

Court but with only one cygnet, and again on 2nd and 9th June. It appeared from dog walkers that the 2021

cygnets had gone one by one over a week: was otter or mink the culprit? The trio remained together as a family group and on 7th September, when the single cygnet was well grown, the three were upending by the weir feeding on filamentous alga from the bottom of the pond. Swans normally feed on waterweeds but such growth does not stand a chance of surviving with the current wildfowl population giving only algae.

Late morning on 18th October there was a loud flapping sound as swans and cygnet flew low the length of the pond– first flying lesson?

Other waterfowl. The Coot bred well, some making raft nests just off the banks of the pond, usually where there were overhanging willows or Alder for protection. A Coot was seen sitting on its raft nest on 4th April with two young chicks appearing (with red heads) and rising to 6 by 19th April. As the season progressed the well grown young were frequently seen diving for filamentous alga by the weir. Moorhen also continue to thrive and breed well and are, unlike the Coot, usually active under the bankside bushes not venturing to the middle of the pond, but coming to the main grass to feed.

Tufted Duck were present (both sexes) from the beginning of the year with four male and three female seen on 14th January, all diving down in unison. They were still around in April. On 6th January I counted 60 Mallard but far more males than females. By 16th February the males were fighting over possession of females and some males (the losers) had bald chests noticeable against the dark chestnut fronts. There were a number of polyandrous groups. Early in the year Mallards were seen sitting in the morning sun on the grass by the car park, but later in the year, as on 27th July, they tended to site themselves under the shade of the trees by the car park in short grass. Ducklings were seen on the pond on 9th June in broods of 6, 4 and 9.

Little Grebe were a continuous presence on the pond and were seen in courtship and frequently diving. However their offspring had a short life. Grey Heron continued to breed with four nests in the willows on the large island. On 23rd February a Grey Heron was seen by one of the nests. On 24th March a loud clacking noise was heard from the large island, signifying that heron chicks had hatched but there was still a chill wind. During the Society's field meeting on 1st April herons were on or in nests on the large island and a pair seen by a nest on the small island. As they nest in trees, herons are less affected by flooding of the island compared with geese and ducks. Loud clacking continued from the large island on 8th April and to young were seen in a nest. On 10th June the clacking was audible from my drive opposite in Ashdell Road!

By 19th July the young were about full size and starting to explore: in the evening at 10.20pm at dusk I saw a young heron walk down my drive at the same time as a Hedgehog walked up.

Black-headed Gulls continue as regular winter visitors with a count of 57 on 6th January divided in numbers between the fallen tree and the centre of the pond. The first one seen with a black head of the summer plumage was on 23rd February. By 23rd March three gulls were seen, all without the black heads. Two Lesser Blackbacked Gulls were seen in February and one on 15th March.

Other records

House Sparrows continue to be heard chirping noisily from hedges in the Public gardens, Alton and at in the cypress hedge at King's Pond. They are less evident in the open than they once were before the decline. Red Kite continue to soar over the area: one was flying over Alton station at 11.45am on 20th May and two were noted soaring over the lane leading to Charity Farm, Noar Hill, Selborne on 16th April. Little Egret is well established and frequently one is seen in the River Wey by The Lamports off Paper Mill Lane, Alton as on 14th April, an overcast and cold day when one in the river was put up as I walked past. They almost seem to be adopting the kick sampling technique of river recorders to liberate Freshwater Shrimps! One was seen perched on a tree at the edge of King's Pond at 9.30am on 7th September and this could have been the one commonly seen in the river downstream from the pond. On the Society's fungus foray at Chawton Park Wood, Medstead in October a Nuthatch was seen pecking around a dead birch trunk and photographed by Louise Fletcher.

King's Pond as online pond

Since the eighteenth-century King's Pond, Alton has been an on-line pond with the River Wey entering near the brewery end and exiting at the weir by the site of the former papermill. It is generally acknowledged that on-line ponds are difficult to manage (Environment Agency and Credit Valley Conservation Canada www.creditvalleyca.ca). Downsides are:

- Silt build up due to slow flow of water compared with a river
- Build-up of nutrients from silt, water fowl and fish which encourages algal bloom as well as restricted biodiversity of pond and effects on river downstream (e.g. filamentous alga *Cladophora*)
- Change in temperature regime as ground water brings warmth to the pond in winter
- Restricts natural movement of native river fish
- Dredging is only a short-term solution as we have seen at King's Pond (1967 and 1996)

There are three types of ponds:

On-line where a river or stream enters at one end, flows through the pond and exits at the other

Bypass where there is limited connection to a river (e.g. the fishing pond in Mill Lane and balancing pond in Omega Park, Alton)

Off-line where the river is separated from the pond but this is not without management requirement

Ponds are naturally part of plant succession to marsh and wet woodland – a hydrosere which progresses until a natural controlling factor or human management intervene to create a **subsere**.

The water emerging from King's Pond has an effect on river water downstream due to the high nutrient level but fortunately some of this is diluted by the numerous spring sources along the river through to Holybourne. I have been monitoring the wildlife at the Newman Lane steps since about 1995 and there have been changes that need analysing – some were due to pollution incidents but others less easy to detect may relate to King's Pond nutrients.

When dealing with the management of King's Pond it needs to be done in the context of the **whole river system from source to Haw Bridge, Holybourne**. The **Wey Valley Catchment Partnership** has put in brushwood to speed up the flow for bed self-cleansing and provide habitats for invertebrates that eat and shred up dead leaves as the detritivore food chain in an attempt to improve the river in Flood Meadow and behind the station below King's Pond. The aim is to get more of the Wey to good ecological status compliant with the **EU Water Framework Directive** that we need to bring into our own legislation eventually.

A knowledge of King's Pond, its origin and functioning is an essential to plan for the future. It is not easy or inexpensive in a pond of this size.

History from commercial milling to amenity: evidence from maps and documents. Old large scale Ordnance Survey maps are in the Library and Curtis Museum. Apart from a fulling mill (Orps Mill) demolished in construction of the railway line, the King's Mill and Anstey Popham Mill (off Mill Lane), both owned by the Lamport family, are the highest place upstream where the water supply was reliable enough to run corn mills that go back to medieval times. The river has had a long history of human manipulation. The paper mill started in the mid eighteenth century, initially 2 vat alongside a corn mill but the paper side was greatly expanded and under the tenant miller William King from 1780 to 1796 the pond was expanded to its present dimensions before being taken over by the Spicer family who held it until 1908 when it closed with the business being transferred to Kent (they blamed the poor rail service of a minor branch line for this!). Milling ceased in 1908 and the machinery was sold in 1913. The buildings were used to house prisoners of war during 1914-1918, the site was sold in 1919. The half of the site alongside the railway line came into the possession of the Alton Battery Company and they were bought out by W J Jackson of the Victoria Foundry about 1958, who then lived in the King's Pond bungalow, while land on the other side (including the former Ashdell Cottage – now replaced by 3 bungalows 23-27 Ashdell Road) was part of Ashdell House and Park set up by

Frederick Crowley, brewer, then to Guy Ferrand (renamed Morland Hall) came in mid-1920s into the possession of Sir Henry Gauvain medical superintendent of the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital where we set up his own private clinic for adults, ran by his daughter after he died, closing in 1953 after which Ashdell Park and clinic came into the hands of the National Health Service. They sold in the 1970s when Alton Town Council bought the land around King's Pond but allowed the former retired hospital administrator and his wife to live in Ashdell Cottage for life. The cottage site was sold by ATC for development when Mrs Caine died, but they retained the footpath and hedge adjacent to the pond.

Functioning of the pond

It served as a corn mill with paper milling starting alongside in the mid eighteenth century and greatly expanded for paper during the early nineteenth century. Apart from the small island of willows shown as a tree clump, the large island does not appear on any OS map up to 1969 (from surveys a few years before). It would appear that the pond was self-cleansing with water released in the mill race flushing out silt when the mill was in constant use. By the 1940s (wartime) the pond was probably silting up. When the Alton Urban District Council purchased the pond and surrounding land, in several different transactions, they dredged it in the late 1960s. One of the residents in Ashdell Road, the late Clare Hawkins, remembered this being done and it formed her special study during teacher training at Winchester as a mature student. The large island would appear to have been the most practical and economical disposal for the dredgings. From the sale of the mill in 1919 the pond, under different ownerships was a private amenity with a developing silt problem but becoming a public amenity in the late 1960s.

By the time I arrived in Alton in 1979 it was already a popular informal open space, particularly at weekends. A favourite feature amongst Altonians was the wildfowl population, then a resident pair of swans (dispatching their offspring elsewhere each March), about 100 head of mallard (as today), smaller numbers of breeding coot, moorhen, tufted duck and dabchick with pochard as winter visitors. Feeding the ducks (unfortunately bread) had already led to an overpopulation of mallards but further trouble set in during the 1990s when Canada geese started to settle causing conflict with the swans, and as their droppings added to pond and grass, lead to high nutrients in the water and silt and diminishing aquatic invertebrates. When I wrote the first Management Plan in 1984 it was estimated that the pond might need dredging in 10 years time.

By the 1990s we were experiencing low flow, a phenomenon causing concern across the chalk streams in southern Britain, and in one year the river above King's Pond did not flow for 18 months. Low water levels in the pond led to increased water temperature, concentration of nutrients and rapid growth of blanket weed alga (*Spirogyra*) that coated the bottom, then floated and there were bad smells causing complaints from the occupants of the new Waterside Court flats built in 1989 on the site of the former papermill. We addressed that problem initially by barley straw bales but also set up a King's Pond Working party at the Town Hall that included, as well as Councillors, the Environment Agency, English Nature and Hampshire Wildlife Trust to advise. On a wider scale the National Rivers Authority commissioned a report from Halcrow consultants (whom I worked with) to investigate low flow, including the northern Wey. In addition to weather patterns over which we have no control, they pointed to unsustainable water abstraction from the source of the river at Weysprings pumping station in New Odiham Road as an important part of the problem and set water engineers to find a solution. It was much later (2003) that, following local pressure, Weysprings was shut down and water brought online to Alton from a deeper aquifer at Lasham Waterworks with Basingstoke's shortfall being sourced from the Thames at Bray. As with so many environmental/wildlife problems the causal factor is our own species creating opportunities for invasive species and unsustainable populations. Human education is an essential part of wildlife solutions with the message that birds are not toys for human gratification only.

Pond dredging started in Autumn 1996/ Spring 1997 with the contractors Land and Water once we had secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (I worked with Town Clerk Colin Gay on the application). The Environment Agency also undertook some felling of self-sown large sycamores from the edge to give light to the large island and access from the bank for dredgers while a volunteer team ran by Hampshire Conservation Volunteers undertook some thinning of self-seeded sycamore in the wooded patch opposite the Dell following a site visit by EHDC Arboriculture Officer Stewart Garside. With an on-line pond and active spring input, drainage was not undertaken,

instead it was wet dredged in sections with spoil conveyed directly to the bunded area (present grass) from the edge or transported from the other side in barges. The pond was closed to the public for the duration of the work. Whilst the build up to dredging was characterised by low flow, from 1999 onwards we hit a period of intense rain and the water soon overtopped the original edging causing erosion scars on the island and redistribution of silt draining back in. The wildfowl did not enable a marginal vegetation to thrive both by eating the plants and by scrambling over them to be fed by the public. We started to address the Canada Goose problem by regular egg oiling (method advice from RSPCA Wildlife Dept and the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust) which has limited the number of goslings, although volunteer help was only possible for a single oiling expedition to the island on the Town Council's punt (that has now been retired). At one point we had 11 nests on the large island, each with about 7 eggs. Large islands in on-line ponds are a particular target for Canada Geese – they settled on the island in the Mill Lane fishing pond too.

June Chatfield

14.10.2016

Appendix D Report on Kings Pond BioBlitz, 26 June 2021 – Dr David Murdoch, County Dragonfly Recorder

To Emily Messenger, Community & Events Officer, Alton Town Council

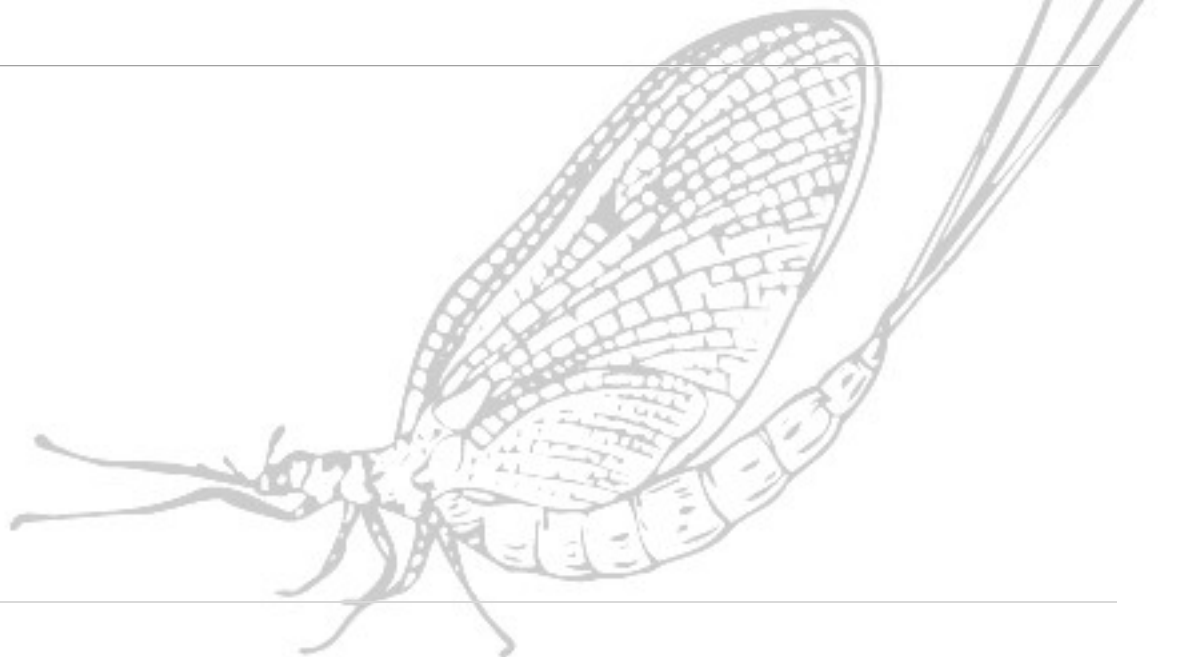
Thank you for inviting me to the BioBlitz on 26 June at Kings Pond, Alton. I hope you don't mind these comments but the reasons are obvious.....

As the County Dragonfly Recorder, the pond was a considerable disappointment as I recorded only 2 species of damselfly – tens of Common Blue *Enallagma cyathigerum* and singles of Large Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma najas*. There were none of the larger dragonflies that I would have expected. This is almost certainly because of the huge numbers of waterfowl fouling the pond and decreasing the water quality, as well as probably eating waterweed or dragonfly larvae. I am also interested in birds and butterflies. We saw a very limited range of birds, fewer than I would expect in a healthy environment, and not a single butterfly.

As a GP with considerable experience of Infectious Diseases, I was appalled by the huge numbers of Brown Rats openly feeding on food left for waterfowl. These are a major potential source of human disease. The Town Clerk told me that the Town Council has tried to take action to control vermin numbers, which I would enthusiastically support, but some residents have deliberately prevented these measures – actions that are crassly stupid and, I hope, against the law.

As a parent, I am sorry to say that I was disgusted by the state of the pond and environs, THE WORST I HAVE EVER SEEN, even having lived for years in London – and that is really saying something. We were expecting to go pond-dipping with our young sons but the water quality made that out of the question. With huge quantities of wildfowl faeces and feathers visible everywhere, and certainly rat droppings there as well, I felt that the whole site was unsafe. I have great sympathies with the Council in their efforts to improve the site when a proportion of residents are actively trying to thwart sensible measures taken for the good of all. Sadly it may take a serious illness or a death linked to the Pond to persuade the lunatic fringe to behave in a civilised manner.

In conclusion, I thought King's Pond could be a nice place for a family to visit but at present it is disgusting and a health hazard; I would never take my children there in its present state. It is of minimal value for its wildlife.

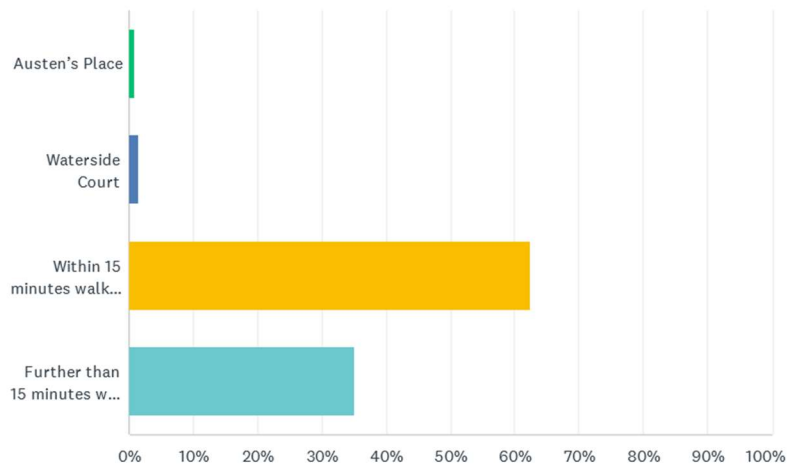


Appendix E – Kings Pond Resident Survey undertaken by Paula Langley

King's Pond Resident Survey

Q1 Where do you live?

Answered: 319 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Austen's Place	0.94% 3
Waterside Court	1.57% 5
Within 15 minutes walk of the pond	62.38% 199
Further than 15 minutes walk from the pond	35.11% 112
TOTAL	319

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Bentworth	2/6/2022 1:31 PM
2	Need to We come by car as too far to walk. Ideal distance round the pond for us	2/6/2022 11:19 AM
3	Aldershot	2/6/2022 10:22 AM
4	Aldershot	2/5/2022 8:27 PM
5	Four Marks	2/5/2022 11:20 AM
6	About 20 minutes	1/31/2022 9:51 PM
7	Turk Street	1/31/2022 11:10 AM
8	Standford	1/31/2022 8:58 AM
9	Orchard Lane	1/31/2022 8:43 AM
10	Live at the pond	1/31/2022 8:11 AM
11	Four Marks	1/31/2022 7:34 AM

1 / 16

King's Pond Resident Survey

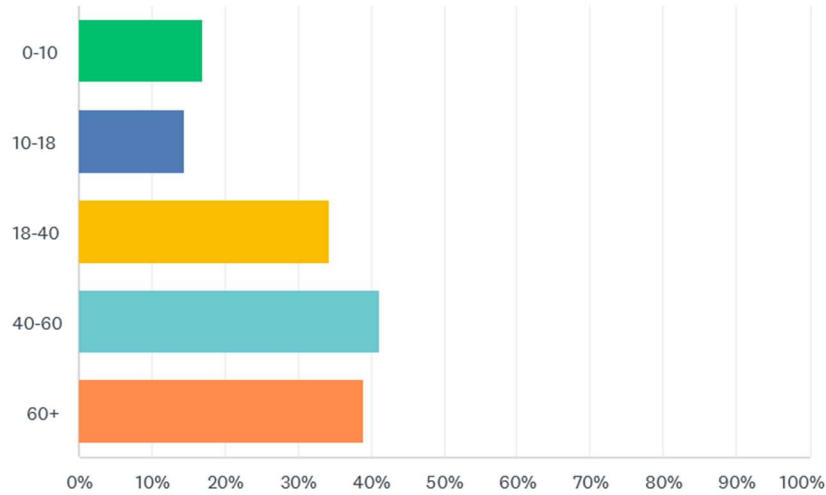
12	Holybourne	1/30/2022 9:24 PM
13	Holybourne	1/30/2022 7:32 PM
14	Fourmarks (but visit mum who is less than 15 mins away from the pond)	1/30/2022 2:26 PM
15	Bramley Close	1/30/2022 2:23 PM
16	Bentley	1/30/2022 1:53 PM
17	Lipscombe rise	1/30/2022 1:14 PM
18	Farnham	1/30/2022 12:00 PM
19	Farnham	1/30/2022 11:40 AM
20	Station Road	1/30/2022 10:42 AM
21	Farnham	1/30/2022 1:49 AM



King's Pond Resident Survey

Q2 Age of people in your household - tick all that apply

Answered: 318 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
0-10	16.98% 54
10-18	14.47% 46
18-40	34.28% 109
40-60	41.19% 131
60+	38.99% 124
Total Respondents: 318	

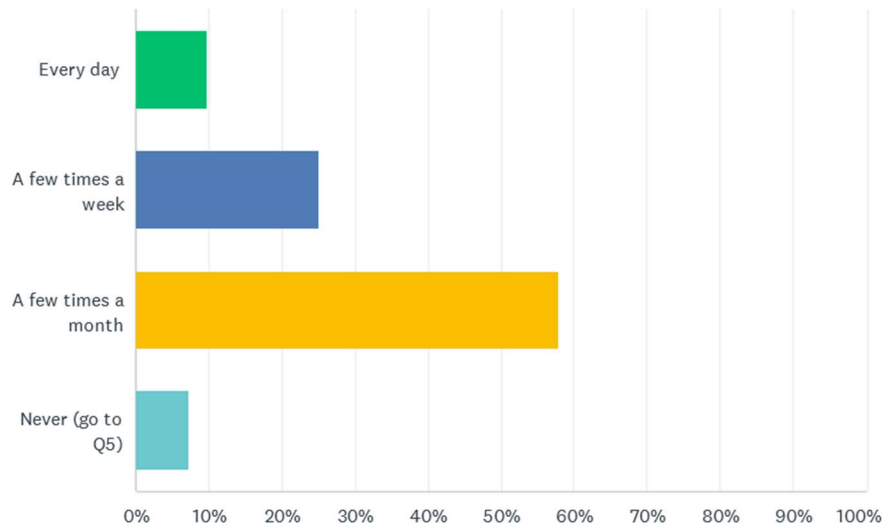
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	80	2/5/2022 5:16 PM
2	If you're 40 which category do you fit in lol	1/30/2022 10:57 AM



King's Pond Resident Survey

Q3 How often do you go to King's Pond?

Answered: 319 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day	9.72%	31
A few times a week	25.08%	80
A few times a month	57.99%	185
Never (go to Q5)	7.21%	23
TOTAL		319

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I used to take my son at least 3 times a week, and I used to run around it too. We no longer go at all due to the rat population	2/6/2022 9:05 AM
2	A few times a year	2/5/2022 12:45 PM
3	More in the summer	2/5/2022 11:20 AM
4	A few times a year	2/5/2022 9:57 AM
5	Couple of times a year	2/1/2022 7:20 AM
6	Rarely but I have walked around it with the kids	1/31/2022 12:02 PM
7	Stopped going due to the rats and rubbish but use to walk every week	1/31/2022 10:48 AM
8	A few times a year	1/31/2022 8:58 AM
9	I live there	1/31/2022 8:11 AM
10	3 or 4 times a year - won't let complete this question. I think you needed to test your survey	1/30/2022 9:24 PM
11	Every week day	1/30/2022 8:18 PM

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King's Pond Resident Survey

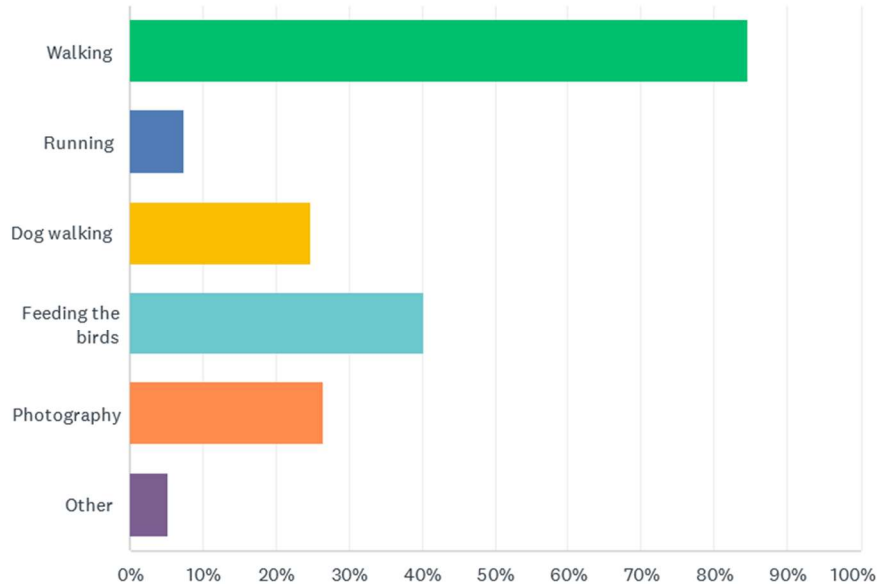
12	Once or twice per year	1/30/2022 1:19 PM
13	When I come over to see my mum	1/30/2022 12:00 PM
14	A few times a year	1/30/2022 11:27 AM
15	once a month	1/30/2022 11:12 AM
16	Very rarely (2 times a year)	1/30/2022 9:24 AM
17	Rarely	1/30/2022 9:07 AM
18	3-4 times a year	1/30/2022 8:49 AM
19	Five times a week if it's not raining. The far path is filthy to walk on in wet weather.	1/30/2022 8:47 AM
20	Sometimes	1/30/2022 8:18 AM
21	Once a month	1/30/2022 8:16 AM
22	Couple times a year	1/30/2022 7:46 AM
23	When I am at my second home	1/30/2022 7:42 AM
24	Whenever I feel like it.	1/30/2022 7:29 AM
25	A few times a year	1/30/2022 7:25 AM



King's Pond Resident Survey

Q4 What activities do you do at the pond? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 306 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Walking	84.64% 259
Running	7.52% 23
Dog walking	24.84% 76
Feeding the birds	40.20% 123
Photography	26.47% 81
Other	5.23% 16
Total Respondents: 306	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	As above, this is now in the past.	2/6/2022 9:05 AM
2	Wheelchair walk with a friend	2/5/2022 5:16 PM
3	Watching wildlife	2/5/2022 1:24 PM
4	Hiding painted rocks	2/5/2022 11:20 AM
5	Picnic	2/3/2022 10:08 AM
6	Observing wildlife	2/2/2022 6:18 PM
7	Bird watching	2/1/2022 3:18 PM
8	None	2/1/2022 6:58 AM

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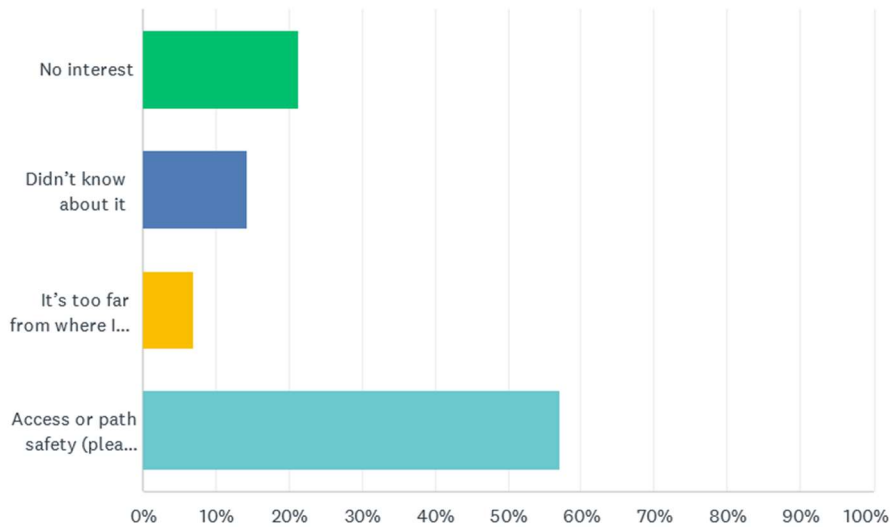
King's Pond Resident Survey

9	None	2/1/2022 6:58 AM
10	Looking at the wildlife	1/31/2022 2:48 PM
11	Botanising	1/31/2022 2:02 PM
12	Use to walk but not now	1/31/2022 10:48 AM
13	To observe the wildlife	1/31/2022 8:24 AM
14	Living	1/31/2022 8:11 AM
15	Won't let me complete this question!	1/30/2022 9:24 PM
16	Bird watching,	1/30/2022 8:18 PM
17	Have lunch	1/30/2022 7:32 PM
18	Just looking at the wildlife	1/30/2022 3:49 PM
19	hiding painted stones	1/30/2022 3:45 PM
20	Picnic	1/30/2022 1:58 PM
21	watch the birds and rats	1/30/2022 12:53 PM
22	Meeting my mates	1/30/2022 12:18 PM
23	Feeding ducks :)	1/30/2022 10:40 AM
24	Feeding ducks :)	1/30/2022 10:38 AM
25	Wellfullness time	1/30/2022 8:16 AM
26	Watching the birds	1/30/2022 7:42 AM
27	Bird watching	1/30/2022 6:06 AM
28	Cycling, eating my lunch!	1/29/2022 11:15 PM
29	Friend's Group	1/29/2022 11:04 PM



Q5 If you don't go to King's Pond, why not?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 305



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No interest	21.43%	3
Didn't know about it	14.29%	2
It's too far from where I live	7.14%	1
Access or path safety (please tell us about it in the 'other' box)	57.14%	8
Total Respondents: 14		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Other places to visit	2/6/2022 10:30 AM
2	Too many rats	2/6/2022 9:41 AM
3	Rats	2/6/2022 9:05 AM
4	Because of the rats	2/5/2022 6:47 PM
5	Not being able to feed the ducks anymore. We used to go every week during lockdown so we can feed the ducks, our son really enjoyed it.	2/5/2022 11:23 AM
6	We don't go in the winter as my daughter is a wheelchair user and often the paths are too muddy and she struggles a lot	2/5/2022 11:20 AM
7	Tend to go for picnics but last year the lack of grass cutting out us off as not much space to play, and the geese do make a lot of mess on the grass	2/1/2022 7:20 AM
8	Rats	2/1/2022 6:58 AM
9	Rats	2/1/2022 6:58 AM
10	Fear of rats	1/31/2022 5:48 PM



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11	Not clean and rats	1/31/2022 10:48 AM
12	Live here	1/31/2022 8:11 AM
13	I cannot use the new pathway as I am a wheelchair user and the path turns into a quagmire when it's even the tiniest bit wet	1/30/2022 11:35 PM
14	Too many rats	1/30/2022 9:24 PM
15	I don't like rats	1/30/2022 3:00 PM
16	Other places to walk	1/30/2022 1:19 PM
17	I became frustrated by all the rules & regulations governing the pond	1/30/2022 11:27 AM
18	.	1/30/2022 10:40 AM
19	Better access path. More seats around railway side. Rats put me off taking grandsons at the moment.	1/30/2022 10:21 AM
20	Too many dogs off lead and out of control	1/30/2022 9:07 AM
21	It's a mess at the pond with rats, poor pathways and too many conflicting rules from the town council	1/30/2022 8:43 AM
22	N/A	1/29/2022 11:29 PM



King's Pond Resident Survey

Q6 How could King's Pond be improved or what would make you visit if you don't?

Answered: 190 Skipped: 129

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Good walking paths	2/7/2022 9:45 PM
2	Small coffee shack would be nice	2/7/2022 8:49 PM
3	Car park not full of residents cars	2/7/2022 1:29 PM
4	Improve path at far side of pond - it's very messy in wet weather	2/7/2022 7:40 AM
5	Additional benching at the "brewery" end.	2/6/2022 6:20 PM
6	Nothing, it's one of the town's many great open spaces. Just be grateful we've got all of these places we can visit free of charge! Alton Town Council do a wonderful job looking after all their open spaces, not just the pond!!	2/6/2022 5:09 PM
7	Better enforcement to stop people feeding on the ground. The rat problem is endemic. We have had rats in our house.	2/6/2022 2:33 PM
8	Don't know, I like it as it is.	2/6/2022 11:57 AM
9	More picnic tables and benches.	2/6/2022 11:25 AM
10	A few more seats beside the pond, not too low and with arms suitable for older residents who need help getting up!	2/6/2022 11:19 AM
11	Pond needs clearing of debris	2/6/2022 10:22 AM
12	Information board about the history of the pond, identification of wild life that can be spotted and guidance on responsible feeding. Dog poo/waste bins	2/6/2022 9:44 AM
13	Stop excessive bird feeding., full excessive Canada geese. Eliminate rats	2/6/2022 9:41 AM
14	Proper pest control two years ago when it was needed. Not sure now. Very sad	2/6/2022 9:05 AM
15	The paths need raising so they don't flood as much but we love it anyway.	2/5/2022 8:58 PM
16	Get rid of all the fallen trees in the pond	2/5/2022 8:27 PM
17	Get rid of rat's	2/5/2022 6:54 PM
18	Solve the rat problem	2/5/2022 6:47 PM
19	A coffee van again	2/5/2022 6:23 PM
20	A covered sitting area would be nice to see to watch wildlife	2/5/2022 5:16 PM
21	Coffee, NOT FOOD, in the carpal perhaps. Not to near the water.	2/5/2022 5:13 PM
22	The pathway is still a disaster and the swampy end needs sorting.	2/5/2022 5:00 PM
23	Better links to Wey walk maintain balance recreation and wild life all paths suitable for wheelchair	2/5/2022 1:46 PM
24	Little coffee stand on occasion	2/5/2022 1:24 PM
25	Making it safer to walk around	2/5/2022 1:02 PM
26	Lights	2/5/2022 12:52 PM
27	Regular litter clearing would be a good start. More picnic tables would be great	2/5/2022 12:45 PM
28	Love it as it is. Accessible but left natural for the wildlife.	2/5/2022 12:30 PM

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29	Less rats.	2/5/2022 11:43 AM
30	Being able to feed the ducks, maybe some more benches. The grass at the top, where the picnic benches are was long and untidy when we last went, there was also a lot of mess from the ducks, but of course that can't be kept on top of. Maybe a small van with coffee, cake would be nice. But mainly being able to feed the ducks, for a family with small children is a fun, inexpensive activity.	2/5/2022 11:23 AM
31	...	2/5/2022 11:20 AM
32	Kings pond is a lovely place to visit but we have moved here from the I.O.W and feel the grounds are not kept up very well like the ponds on the Island. It's very dirty which a place like this shouldn't be, it really is such a shame as it could be so nice. It's nice to have these areas for the children to visit as well.	2/5/2022 10:28 AM
33	Just keep the footpaths maintained and leave the rest to nature.	2/5/2022 9:57 AM
34	Tame the geese, kill the rats, have a hut which sells reasonably priced food and beverages. What about peddle boats or similar on the pond?	2/5/2022 9:57 AM
35	We love it, a place of sanctuary in our little town, we're so lucky. Not keen on the rats though	2/5/2022 9:44 AM
36	It needs to be dredged and all the dead trees taken if possible from the middle of the pond itself	2/5/2022 9:37 AM
37	Please don't commercialise it , just follow advice of experts to maintain a haven if bird life. Thank you to all who work so hard to do this	2/4/2022 6:35 AM
38	More marginal plants, a boggy area to encourage insects ect.	2/2/2022 6:18 PM
39	Clear some trees/bushes around the pond to create more bird-watching locations.	2/1/2022 3:18 PM
40	rat control and rubbish / fly tipping to be cleared	2/1/2022 1:38 PM
41	I like it however a few more areas to encourage more birds and wildlife to proper	2/1/2022 12:54 PM
42	The path near the railway line is not good in wet weather	2/1/2022 8:14 AM
43	New path brought up to standard, information boards on types of birds (and other wildlife) to be seen at the pond.	2/1/2022 7:44 AM
44	N/a	2/1/2022 7:20 AM
45	Clean it. Up	2/1/2022 6:58 AM
46	Perfect as it is, a natural environment	2/1/2022 6:57 AM
47	The paths wider and trees cut back	1/31/2022 11:30 PM
48	Paths need to be flatter for people with mobility issues. The rat issue needs to be continually monitored. It won't be helped with all the building work in the area. Rat runs should be identified and those areas cleared on a temporary basis.	1/31/2022 9:51 PM
49	Cleaner grass, sitting on benches in summer surrounded by tonnes of poo isn't appealing. Could do with more safety to stop children falling in. Let's rats.	1/31/2022 9:40 PM
50	Reducing the number of geese. I have been attacked by geese in the past (not at Kings Pond) but the number of geese around significantly puts me off visiting Kings Pond on a more regular basis.	1/31/2022 9:25 PM
51	New footpaths all the way round King's pond, more benches maybe should clean pond to make it more attractive	1/31/2022 8:51 PM
52	The fallen trees removed, the ponds silt removed and used to build up the islands. The islands could do with their edges being rebuilt and reinforced along with the edges of the actual pond.	1/31/2022 8:36 PM
53	Improve areas of paths which flood.	1/31/2022 7:46 PM
54	Get rid of the rats!!	1/31/2022 5:48 PM
55	Maybe information on birds found there on info boards. A better surface on the path. Maybe info on trees like for birds.	1/31/2022 5:48 PM



King's Pond Resident Survey

56	More seating closer to the pond. Better footpath, extremely muddy in bad weather	1/31/2022 5:42 PM
57	Please replace the steel safety barrier that was removed today that leads to waterside court. Cyclists will not get off and push now, but run straight off the lake path and down the hill. It was placed there for a reason	1/31/2022 4:40 PM
58	Less feeding of the birds by the public; more marginal water plants; some areas of longer grass / meadow areas	1/31/2022 2:48 PM
59	Stop people feeding the wildfowl - it damages the birds and adds nutrients to the pond water that ruin the habitat, reducing plant diversity and other wildlife	1/31/2022 2:02 PM
60	Maybe a van selling tea/coffee	1/31/2022 12:49 PM
61	The path! It's hard for people like myself who have chronic pain conditions, end up making things worse!	1/31/2022 12:20 PM
62	Sort out the recently reworked path so that it doesn't turn to mud when it rains i.e. tarmac like the other side?	1/31/2022 12:11 PM
63	Accessible from town centre, say as an add on to a shopping trip. I'd like to see the access through the new development made as good as possible for the river and pond.	1/31/2022 12:02 PM
64	Paths need making wider, put trees back at the end looks bad now so empty, few more benches needed	1/31/2022 11:10 AM
65	The area needs to be cleaned up with the rubbish/face marks and the rats are very awful to see	1/31/2022 10:48 AM
66	Canopy floor clearance. Tree shaping/pruning. Path re-laying.	1/31/2022 10:06 AM
67	New pathway still floods when heavy rain really needs raising up or better material used. Plus geese are taking over again. Scaring off younger smaller birds & ducks	1/31/2022 9:43 AM
68	N/A	1/31/2022 8:58 AM
69	The geese make such a mess on the grass so it would be good to have some more picnic benches	1/31/2022 8:57 AM
70	clean up picnic area, unhygienic goose droppings	1/31/2022 8:54 AM
71	improved management for wildlife (not just ducks).	1/31/2022 8:51 AM
72	More bins, less litter, a coffee vendor?	1/31/2022 8:43 AM
73	Keep the geese numbers down	1/31/2022 8:11 AM
74	It would be nice if the water was cleaned up along with the islands that the birds nest on. It would also be lovely to have more access areas for the public to feed and watch the birds.	1/31/2022 7:34 AM
75	Put in a new path and make the pond a glorious place to go for everyone	1/30/2022 11:35 PM
76	I think the pond area has been greatly improved more recently. The area nearest the old brewery could do with some cleaning out. The rest seems to have been done	1/30/2022 10:42 PM
77	More signs to ask people not to feed the ducks bread	1/30/2022 10:40 PM
78	Clean up the rat issues	1/30/2022 9:24 PM
79	Get rid of rats and stupid signs saying stop feeding wildlife put up by ignorant councillors. Path regularly shut, due to incompetent councillors getting done over by unqualified workmen	1/30/2022 9:24 PM
80	Getting rid of people with personal agendas who are spoiling going to what is essentially a wildlife sanctuary and trying to make it a manicured garden. How reckless of them!	1/30/2022 9:00 PM
81	Perfect as it is, ATC do a tremendous job with it.	1/30/2022 8:45 PM
82	Seeing less people deliberately feeding on the paths daily. This really upsets me as I see rats eating it. We live very close to the pond and have had rat problems in our house. I don't want their population to increase again so that they nest in our house again!	1/30/2022 8:18 PM
83	Less duck poo on grass or more picnic tables so we can enjoy picnics in the summer	1/30/2022 7:37 PM



King's Pond Resident Survey

84	Non muddy path more litter bins	1/30/2022 7:32 PM
85	A proper path all the way around the pond so it is still usable after bad weather	1/30/2022 7:24 PM
86	Availability of toilets. More information about the birds there, the history and the the plant cycle, and history of the area in general, watercress line/brewery/housing	1/30/2022 7:11 PM
87	An improved back path would be great so it doesn't get so muddy.	1/30/2022 6:58 PM
88	Reduce number of canada geese, poo all over the place and very small children like my great grandchild gets frightened when there are so many coming towards you	1/30/2022 6:57 PM
89	Nothing, it's lovely.	1/30/2022 6:40 PM
90	Better paths around pond	1/30/2022 5:48 PM
91	cutting down the saplings to the right of viewing area in front of Waterside Court blocking the view f the pond.	1/30/2022 5:25 PM
92	Too many geese there	1/30/2022 5:23 PM
93	1) a greater emphasis on nature including the preservation of habitat and introducing new habitats to increase bio-diversity. 2) more benches for elderly and less mobile residents 3) a greater focus on community ideas rather than paying out for reports which invariably get ignored 4) dredging for the long term benefit of the pond 5) bank repairs 6) investment in paths, walkways and platforms to improve visitor experience 7) adding a wildlife garden in one of the wasteland areas 8) planting the marshy area with appropriate Waterside planting to promote bio-diversity 9) introduction of pollenating plants to encourage pollenators to the pond (bees, butterflies etc) 10) addressing anti-social behaviour and drug use issues 11) stronger, resident/ user focused leadership of OSC where residents feel as though their input matters at committee meetings.	1/30/2022 5:16 PM
94	No rats, better paths for buggy	1/30/2022 5:02 PM
95	Ensure paths are maintained and suitable for wheelchairs etc	1/30/2022 4:52 PM
96	Clean up and remove poo	1/30/2022 4:50 PM
97	More parking for visitors, instead of being filled by nearby residents.	1/30/2022 4:42 PM
98	Can't be improved	1/30/2022 4:40 PM
99	More bins, more benches, better safety precautions for under 16s (life rings etc.),	1/30/2022 4:12 PM
100	a little cabin selling teas/coffees	1/30/2022 3:45 PM
101	If there were no rats	1/30/2022 3:00 PM
102	Nothing quite happy with it	1/30/2022 2:41 PM
103	The new path is awful for my wheel hair wheels when wet as it's is so horrible. I get tired of hearing anti rat rants when there as its not an issue. I wish there were more picnic benches at the abti social behaviour was addressed.	1/30/2022 2:26 PM
104	In my view, Water Court end of Kngs pound is ok other then removal of dead wood and encouraging new growth. Ashdale road end, removal of all objects in or around the pond. Trim back trees over hanging the pound and tidy up and landscape the area where the trees were felled. Managing the island allowing more light onto the island and pond.	1/30/2022 2:26 PM
105	Little play park on the green for children. Nearest parks are Anstey or the town.	1/30/2022 2:23 PM
106	I think that it just needs to be cherished. We are very lucky to have it.	1/30/2022 2:12 PM
107	Picnic area with more seating and bins and a play area for kids	1/30/2022 2:04 PM
108	Just scruffy generally	1/30/2022 2:00 PM
109	Better paths, less geese	1/30/2022 1:58 PM
110	I am concerned about erosion but not sure how this could be tackled.	1/30/2022 1:57 PM
111	Somewhere to get a drink and snack.	1/30/2022 1:14 PM



King's Pond Resident Survey

112	Why is the survey being done. Who's it for.	1/30/2022 1:07 PM
113	Since the new 'muddy' path alongside the railway line now stops us after the weather has been wet because it covers shoes. We only walk it now with 'rough' shoes!	1/30/2022 1:06 PM
114	Last year's mowing regime was a great improvement (wildflower meadow, so many butterflies!). This should be kept up!	1/30/2022 12:53 PM
115	Needs better maintenance and repairs. It doesn't get the focus from atc that it needs.	1/30/2022 12:46 PM
116	Kings Pond and the area around it just don't looked loved. The whole area could do with a some focus. One thing that springs to mind is creating a better path surface from the pond to the railway bridge (brewery end) which is currently just mud.	1/30/2022 12:33 PM
117	The new path is awful! and puts me off walking round it in my lunchbreak lately as I always come away with dirty shoes.	1/30/2022 12:09 PM
118	Fewer geese. The goose poo is awful and the geese are aggressive. I no longer feed them because of this.	1/30/2022 11:53 AM
119	Somewhere to get a drink would be good!!☺	1/30/2022 11:48 AM
120	Notice board of birds present	1/30/2022 11:40 AM
121	Better noticeboards	1/30/2022 11:28 AM
122	Less political arguments, good maintenance and a place for all to enjoy	1/30/2022 11:27 AM
123	Safe flat footpath. Improved quality of water to encourage diversity.	1/30/2022 11:24 AM
124	Tea& coffee facility	1/30/2022 11:18 AM
125	Clean up the huge amount of goose poo	1/30/2022 11:12 AM
126	Keep grass cut around the picnic tables	1/30/2022 11:03 AM
127	Path on the railway side has been poorly resurfaced should have been left alone or properly resurfaced with tarmac	1/30/2022 11:02 AM
128	Tarmac all the pathways. Safer and cleaner to walk on.	1/30/2022 10:46 AM
129	More parking	1/30/2022 10:43 AM
130	Less Rats and people feeding the animals	1/30/2022 10:42 AM
131	Play park or something for the kids which is exciting	1/30/2022 10:40 AM
132	Play park on the green	1/30/2022 10:38 AM
133	Pull out the fallen trees.	1/30/2022 10:35 AM
134	Tarmac footpaths should be repaired, the gravel path replaced and the whole properly maintained	1/30/2022 10:25 AM
135	General pond management	1/30/2022 10:24 AM
136	Bigger car park maybe some play equipment for young children	1/30/2022 10:21 AM
137	State of parts of footpath on Ashdell Road side of Pond.	1/30/2022 10:09 AM
138	The grass areas to not be so filled with bird poo!	1/30/2022 10:08 AM
139	The path running alongside the railway was fine until they "improved" it	1/30/2022 9:55 AM
140	I quite like it as it is. Usually relatively quiet and peaceful down there. I really enjoy all the bird life. More people would probably spoil that aspect of it.	1/30/2022 9:43 AM
141	Nice to have a coffee hut	1/30/2022 9:36 AM
142	Don't bother, put money elsewhere	1/30/2022 9:24 AM
143	Number of Canada geese reduced, not indigenous, they are too numerous and make a mess	1/30/2022 9:21 AM
144	The dirt path on the railway side could be better	1/30/2022 9:13 AM



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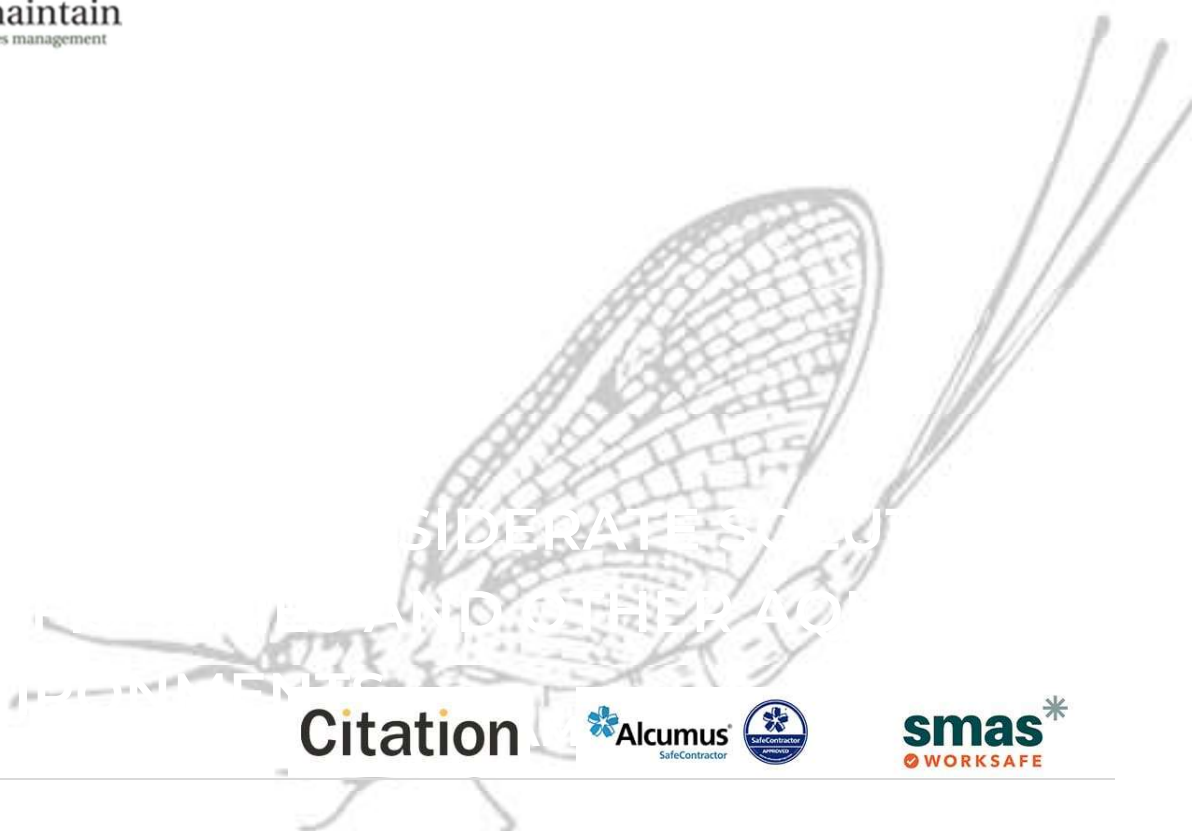
145	Dogs must be in lead at all times	1/30/2022 9:07 AM
146	I like it as it is	1/30/2022 9:04 AM
147	Explanation of what the current clearance work is aiming to achieve? Public participation perhaps. Great facility for Alton	1/30/2022 8:56 AM
148	The north path is made of soft sticky sand or mud?it needs to be replaced	1/30/2022 8:54 AM
149	Less Canada geese! Maybe some information boards	1/30/2022 8:53 AM
150	The rats have been a real issue and put me off going for some time. Also the ongoing battle about whether to domesticate the wildlife by over feeding or to let the wildlife remain wild and let them feed on Nature's bounty. I hold the latter view and have been made to feel very uncomfortable by holding a view supported by ecologists.	1/30/2022 8:52 AM
151	The walkway accessed from Drayman's Way	1/30/2022 8:49 AM
152	Too many dogs not on leads , too much dog poo	1/30/2022 8:49 AM
153	The far side path is fine in dry weather and it's better now that it is wider and there's the extra path looping around the tree to avoid the worst of the mud. However, the surface used makes it filthy to walk on when it's wet. Making it unsuitable for office/town staff to enjoy during their lunch break. It surface has mad wheelchair/ pushchair users avoid going that side because wheels that have to go in cars and houses after the walk have to be cleaned (making already difficult lives even harder) The old path and tarmac surface is preferable in a town. It is after all a man made town pond.	1/30/2022 8:47 AM
154	I hate the rats there. There are trees lying right across the pond, I think they should be cleared.	1/30/2022 8:44 AM
155	Stop atc from ruining it and actually ask alton people about what they would like	1/30/2022 8:43 AM
156	I like it just as it is. We are so fortunate to have it in the town	1/30/2022 8:37 AM
157	It's needs somewhere you can get refreshments .	1/30/2022 8:36 AM
158	Rodent control, path maintenance	1/30/2022 8:33 AM
159	to allow people to fish there	1/30/2022 8:23 AM
160	Be nice on the grass area if there was a few more tables for picnics in the nice weather and maybe some information boards about just little ones about the types of birds, ducks etc that are here and the plants	1/30/2022 8:23 AM
161	Coffee shack	1/30/2022 8:21 AM
162	Less potholes, improvements to appearance	1/30/2022 8:18 AM
163	Needs to be dredged and made fresh again.	1/30/2022 8:18 AM
164	Keeping the area around the pond wildlife friendly. Only cut the grass to and around the tables	1/30/2022 8:18 AM
165	Get rid of the Canada geese - dreadful pests. More dog poo bins. Ban ignorant stupid people.	1/30/2022 8:16 AM
166	Reduce the amount of geese as there is lots of faeces to walk through	1/30/2022 8:16 AM
167	Attend to rat problem	1/30/2022 8:14 AM
168	The newly laid path needs improving, it's not a lit better than before. Top end of pond nearest to town needs a lot of work doing.	1/30/2022 8:04 AM
169	Cleaner? A observation desk out in the water. A few rails round the edge to stop young children leaning out to fat when feeding, some information boards about the breeds of ducks that visit	1/30/2022 8:00 AM
170	The green needs mowing in the summer, you've put picnic tables there, but it's hard to use the area.	1/30/2022 7:51 AM
171	I like it as it is although disagree with signs saying not to give birds bread.	1/30/2022 7:46 AM
172	Clearing fallen trees in areas where all the birds can then access with ease	1/30/2022 7:42 AM
173	It's lovely as it is	1/30/2022 7:35 AM



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174	Remove the terrapins.	1/30/2022 7:29 AM
175	Maybe some benches for older folk walking round. The clearing of undergrowth in some places has made it look bleak, I'd rather see the natural growth left alone. I liked the fact that the grass was left unmown last year, good for wildlife. I think the outlet needs to be regularly cleared as it's often been blocked with debris in the past and that looks very unsightly. Dogs on leads at all times please.	1/30/2022 7:25 AM
176	This is a lovely peaceful place. But could do with a little kiosk for a hot/cold drink and cake.	1/30/2022 7:05 AM
177	Soggy pathways. People need to put their dogs on a lead.	1/30/2022 5:53 AM
178	Get rid of the rats, be allowed to feed the birds and improve the path near the railway line	1/30/2022 1:19 AM
179	Pathing 'improvements' last year were atrocious	1/30/2022 12:52 AM
180	Clean up the trees in the water. Replace the muddy path	1/30/2022 12:04 AM
181	That dreadful new supposed all weather path needs replacing as its not fit for purpose as its definitely not all weather. Pond needs dredging as the islands the birds depend on all but disappear during periods of heavy rain. The reopening of the car park at the railway bridge end as a disabled car park. The areas where the trees have been cleared to be tidied up and seating/tables/bins added. More rubbish bins at the railway bridge end. Regular maintenance, not just grass cutting, by ground staff to keep it up together as you don't see many round there, not their fault they can only go where they are told. Lighting/CCTV to discourage anti social behaviour.	1/29/2022 11:45 PM
182	More benches on the train track side, making sure the grass is cut where the picnic tables are with a walkway to them (meadow surrounding is fine). More environmental work on the pond itself to maintain the best possible eco system for wildlife.	1/29/2022 11:42 PM
183	More regular clearing at either end of the pond of branches, weeds, leaves etc which block the outlets	1/29/2022 11:30 PM
184	Maybe as you enter the car park we could get bigger signs that look inviting to the public weather near or far.	1/29/2022 11:29 PM
185	Don't over manicure it, let it look a bit wild	1/29/2022 11:28 PM
186	The path could be tarmac not just left as it is. Too many rodents still.	1/29/2022 11:27 PM
187	Make it more colourful, maybe wildflowers?	1/29/2022 11:22 PM
188	The water clarity and purity needs to be improved. As it is a cycle route and will eventually link up to the Town centre via the new cycling path along the river, the barriers at the waterside Court end need to be removed now so that cyclists can easily get access to the pond without having to continue to the dangerous junction at the peak of Paper Mill Lane.	1/29/2022 11:15 PM
189	Paths need fixing and pond dredging and banks repairing- toilets would be good and a tea van	1/29/2022 11:08 PM
190	Improved paths to make them safer, remove railings at waterside court entrance, tidy up signs	1/29/2022 11:04 PM





Citation

