

Report

This is the interim 2019/20 report for the Gift to Nature sites within your area.

Pig Leg Lane

We made seven visits over the period and at least once a month. Visits usually involve a site check and litter collection.

In May a new metal guide rail was installed leading down from the Rosemary Lane/Weekes Road Bridleway to one of the on-site benches. This is intended for use by the visually impaired. Unfortunately this was vandalised twice. It was repaired the first time by the original installation contractor but the second time we visited ourselves and added more concrete and a chain anchor system which seems to have thwarted further attempts to pull it up.

We led a guided walk around the site and surrounding area as part of the 2019 Isle of Wight Walking Festival.

In July we found a fridge dumped on-site and reported this to the IW Council who arranged for their contractor, Amey to remove for recycling. We also pulled logs from the stream. In August we made a temporary repair on the new gate at the rail crossing then reported this to the Rights of Way team who passed it on to Network Rail who installed it.

Following the strong winds in August/September and an inspection of the woodland area we found a neighbouring property occupying part of the woodland next to their garden. There was a gate installed and several items had been left within the woodland. This has been reported to the Isle of Wight Council to follow up. We also had reports of the neighbouring development site pumping waste water across the bridleway and into the reserve in September. We contacted the Planning Department enforcement team who spoke to the site manager who had the activity stopped straight away.

We now have a volunteer who walks the site almost daily and we have supplied him with a litter-picker. He has proved very valuable in terms of keeping a close watch and informing us of any issues. Someone else (not known to us) has erected bird and squirrel feeders, and these are well used by the wildlife. Two squirrels were spotted on our May walk.

Haylands Allotment Woodland

We visited the site eight times over the period. Every visit would include a site check and litter pick. We have allowed the grass around the old play area to grow in the spring and summer as there is a good display of buttercups. As the year has progressed we have cut a little more on each visit to keep it tidier but also to allow some flowers to grow.



Ryde Nature Reserves
Interim Report
April – September 2019

Produced for Ryde Town Council



We have mowed and strimmed on the site in each month of the period and occasionally twice. At the same time the woodland path is pruned to clear any nuisance vegetation.

In April the contractor for Scottish Electric cut the power line wayleave a little late in the season which led to a number of complaints. The company have a statutory duty to undertake the work and assured us that they completed extensive visual checks for nesting birds prior to starting.

Binstead Woods

We visited the site four times throughout the period. Visits would include a site check and litter collection and there is very little litter arising.

In addition to the above in July we strimmed and pruned the woodland paths and in September undertook some deadwood removal over paths.

Issues and Opportunities

Pig Leg Lane

Dog mess continues to be an issue on this site. There has been several off road motorbikes visiting the site at various times and the owner of Arethusa Cottage has enlisted the help of the local PCSO's having spoken to various people including Rights of Way at the Isle of Wight Council. This now seems to be under control. There has also been reported drug dealing on the site and again the PCSO's have been in attendance so hopefully progress has been made. At the same time youngsters are still lighting fires and pitching tents occasionally.

The Nicholson Road development may offer opportunities for enhancing Pig Leg Lane, in particular the woodlands.

There has been occasional pumping of waste water from the Ryde Village site on to the reserve and the Isle of Wight Council are currently investigating.

Haylands Allotment Woodland

We still have not decided what to do with the old play area so for this year have managed it simply as a wildflower meadow. Although the plant diversity is very low there is a good display of buttercups in the spring. The depositing of waste from the allotment appears to be encroaching upon the woodland in places and looks very untidy. We may need to erect boundary posts and the allotment management enforce a no-tipping policy on the boundary.

Binstead Woods

This is a fairly static site in terms of issues. There is continuing garden waste dumping from presumably Dame Anthony's Close and some re-alignment of fences and installation of at least one rear fence gate. This activity has been reported to the Isle of Wight Council in March.

Planned Activities 2018/9

Pig Leg Lane

We will be undertaking some autumn/winter cutting of grass and flower areas as well as pruning path edges. There is some path widening to be undertaken and we will have a visit by the Green Gym in January or February to assist.

Haylands Allotment Woodland

The site will probably need one last visit to cut grass and following that we will thin woody growth along the sides of the woodland walk to reduce the need to prune in the summer of 2020. We may also undertake some coppicing along the paths to thin out woody growth and provide light to stimulate ride edge growth.

Binstead Woods

We will continue site checks and litter collection periodically through the winter and undertake more deadwood removal as needed. We will also apply for TPO consent to work on an ash tree that has a limb that will need some work and its position.

Activity 2019/2020

We will assume that the current agreement will continue post March 2020 unless you advise us differently. We welcome an opportunity to review more formally if you so wish. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note that a full annual report for 2019/20 will be sent in April 2020.

Gallery

