

Proposed 'DARESBUY NATURE RESERVE'

Visit on 15th June 2007.

Lyn G and Mervyn H met Paul Oldfield (Nature Conversation Officer for HBC) to take a walk to the proposed site.

During this items were discussed with Paul that had arisen from the meeting on the previous evening.

Following this visit here is a brief breakdown of the situation regarding the proposal.

Paul is going to chase up the transfer of the land from the Business Park to Halton BC and hopefully resolve the issue of the debatable bit of land to the east of Red Brow Lane which looks promising botanically. He is also to suggest slightly enlarging the layby there for car parking for 2 or 3 cars and during works for a contractors' vehicle (bearing in mind the botanical interest according to Julia Hancell).

Lyn raised the point that a reserve closer to the village would be of greater benefit to the local school. Paul will try to find areas that HBC have control over to see if anything is available and someone could ask local landowners.

Tree planting throughout Daresbury. Paul will check what land is controlled by Halton: in this case we should be able to get permission without too many problems. Otherwise the owners of the land would have to be approached for consent.

Wild flower planting. Lyn also mentioned the possibility of more wild flower planting around the village.

The Site. Has great potential for a broad range of natural environments and is much larger than first imagined.

Walking through the site it appears to have been totally ignored for the last six or seven years (the first thirty yards or so being difficult). It was previously grassland and hay crops were taken off it.

As we walked Paul suggested various habitats could be created eg meadow, wood, wetland etc and Lyn suggested a pond (again!). For a wildflower meadow rich topsoil would need to be stripped off so it would be most convenient if this area was accessible from Red Brow Lane.

Paul also suggested a circular walk could be a good idea. This would require the bridging of Keckwick Brook. Paul didn't see this as a problem.

Funding. Paul will help to source funding eg from "WREN" but this will need a contribution from Daresbury PC. We need to get an input with them in some way. Maintenance isn't covered by such grants only initial works. Maybe the Business Park or other businesses could also be approached.

If the project gets the go ahead work would have to be done in phases.