

MARSH WORKING GROUP MEETING – 3PM, WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2025

Present

Martin Barker (CWaC Councillor)
Simon Davies (NTC Councillor)
Audrey Duncan (NTC Officer)
Dr Peter Enevoldson (monitoring and forecasting)
Brenda Marple (NTC Councillor)
Graham Jones (RSPB Site Manager)

Monitoring

PE produced a written report on mosquito monitoring 2024. Attention was drawn to figure 5a which demonstrated a large autumnal peak in 2024 compared to previous years (excluding the exceptional peak in 2023). PE considering selecting some new testing pools for the 2025 season. Research, both independent and collaborative, continues.

Mosquito forecast

Following closure of the Neston Life app, it was agreed that the forecast should continue to be publicised via the Town Council's social media and other local social media channels.

Dredging works

Quayside works (joining up and deepening small pools in the area in front of The Harp Inn) were not undertaken during autumn 2024 due to weather conditions (marshes too wet for heavy machinery to navigate safely). The work will be rescheduled for autumn 2025, or possibly a little earlier subject to Natural England approval. GJ to resubmit application to Natural England and agree a timeframe for the works.

Professor Clarkson

It was noted that there had been a series of delays with the High School implementing the Professor Clarkson prize, the High School having cancelled its annual end of year award ceremonies in 22/23 and 23/24. Town Council exploring options to possibly bring the Professor Clarkson prize in-house instead. MB agreed to follow up with the High School's Business Manager.

Any other business

PE continuing to run traps through the winter to track changing lifespan and activity patterns.