

School Jubilee Wetland Nature Reserve

Work on the Primary School wetland nature reserve began in early 2020, just before the start of Covid-19 lockdown and completed in the summer.

The plot of land is in the north-east corner of the school grounds and was formerly used, when the school was a Middle School, for high jumping and long jumping.

Volunteers cleared patches of brambles and removing buried pieces of astroturf and concrete before a contractor was brought in to create a series of wetland hollows of different depths.

Two were fitted with butylite liners to create ponds and nine were left as scrapes and planted by Year 3 pupils with purple loosestrife, hemp agrimony, meadowsweet and other wetland species.

The whole site is protected by a perimeter fence and the large pond (which has a maximum depth of 50 cm) has itself been fenced off.



Wetland plug plants rooted in coir matting were introduced along the edges of the large pond. The coir has now biodegraded leaving the plants well-established in the shallow margins of the pond.

After one year frog spawn, tadpoles and newts were seen in both ponds. Southern hawker and and common darter dragonflies have also been observed.



Although small, the reserve now has a mosaic of different habitats including the main pond, a smaller, more shallow pond, a range of wetland scrapes of different depths, tall herb grassland around the scrapes and an area of scrub woodland beyond the scrapes. The reserve in summer is alive with bees, butterflies and birds of many kinds. Management is kept to a minimum allowing the site to re-wild naturally.

The final step was the construction of a hide, designed and built by contractor Kevin Grosvenor. The hide was dedicated to Barry Tiffany, an AEG volunteer who had passed away in the summer of 2021.

The reserve and hide were formally opened on Wednesday 17th October 2021 by, Hilary Cave, the Primary School head.

Funding came from a range of sources including the Addingham Beer Festival, the Addingham Totally Locally Christmas Market, Friends of Addingham Primary School and a private donation from Lesley and Clive Loughlin.

