BENHS 150th Anniversary Bioblitz at Dinton Pastures 17-19 June 2022

With AES ‘Bug Club’ Family Day

The British Entomological & Natural History Society

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BENHS

A brief history

- 1872: Founded as the ‘South London Entomological Society’
  (Only ‘Royal Entomological Society’ older at 189 years)
- 1968: Morphed into BENHS
- 1992: Moved HQ from Alpine Club in London to Dinton Pastures

BENHS 150th Anniversary Bioblitz at Dinton Pastures 17-19 June 2022

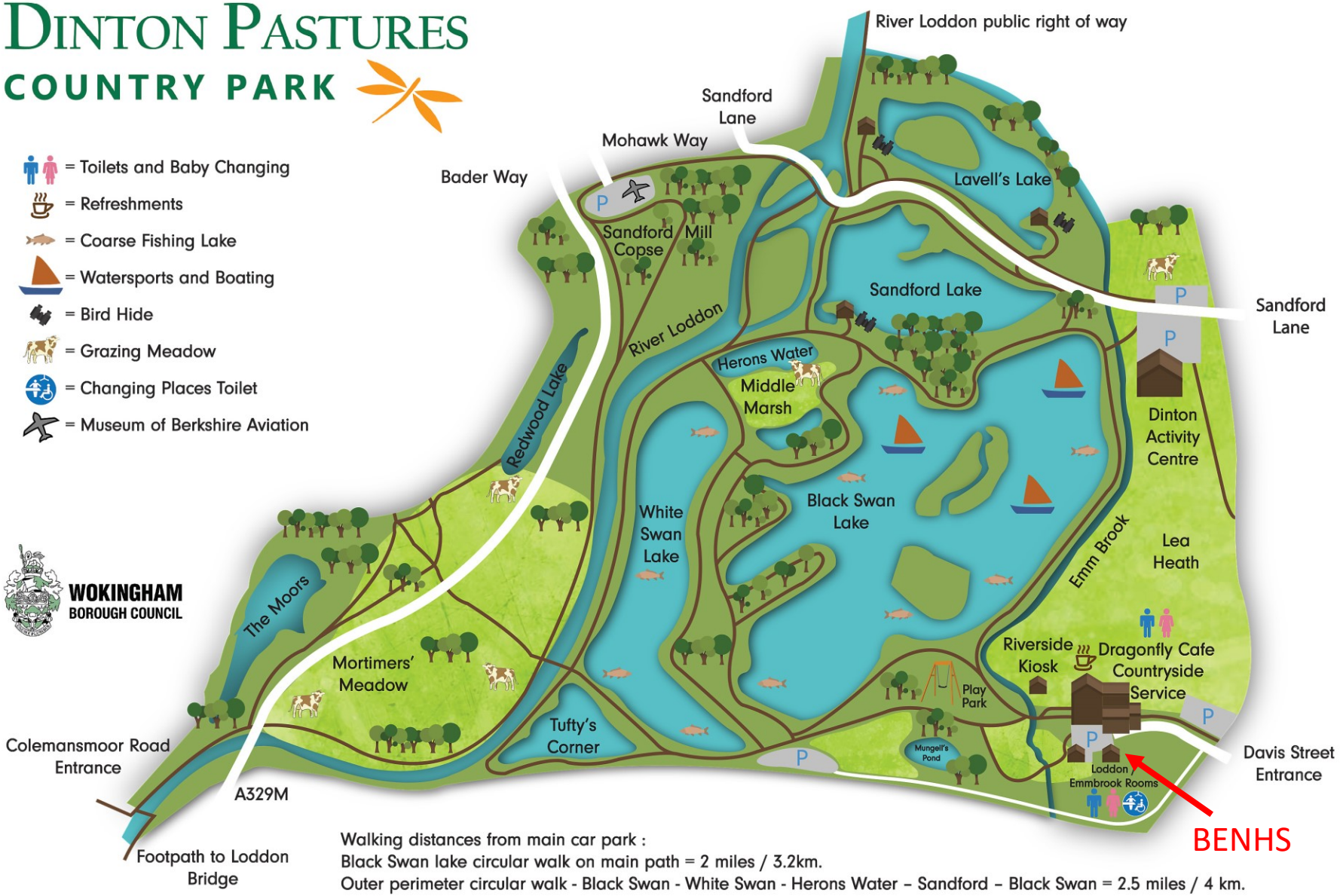
Organised by Steve Lings & Jon Cole
with greatly appreciated aid from WBC Countryside Service

<u>The Programme</u>

- Friday 17th – all night moth trapping (Berks Moth Group & BENHS only)
  8 lights (Ian Sims, Jon Cole, Norman Hall & Paul Black)
- Saturday 18th – park open; public asked to go out and record what they see
  (Included the AES Bug Club Annual Family Day)
- Saturday 18th – all night moth trapping (Berks Moth Group & BENHS only)
  3 lights (Jon Cole & Paul Black)
- Sunday 19th – park open; public asked to go out and record what they see

The focus was on families, especially children

Dinton Pastures
Country Park



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Visitors & Exhibitors

Night-time Stuff….

Daytime stuff….

Photos on this slide kindly provided by Chris Raper

Results Summary 1

Group		Species		Records	
		No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Lichens	Lichens	4	1	4	0.4
Plantae	Plants	56	10	56	6.1
Pulmonata	Slugs and Snails	14	2	17	1.7
Chilopoda	Centipedes	7	1	8	0.9
Diplopoda	Millipedes	5	1	5	0.5
Isopoda	Woodlice	8	1	11	1.2
Decapoda	Crayfish etc.	1	0	1	0.1
Pseudoscorpiones	Speudoscorpions	1	0	1	0.1
Opiliones	Harvestmen	2	0	2	0.2
Araneae	Spiders	21	4	29	3.2
Ephemeroptera	Mayflies	2	0	2	0.2
Odonata: Zygoptera	Damselflies	6	1	14	1.5
Odonata: Anisoptera	Dragonflies	2	0	3	0.3
Orthoptera	Grasshoppers	3	1	7	0.8
Dermaptera	Earwigs	1	0	2	0.2
Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha	Aphids etc.	3	1	3	0.3
Hemiptera: Auchenorrhyncha	Leaf hoppers etc.	4	1	5	0.5
Hemiptera, Heteroptera	True bugs	27	5	29	3.2

Results Summary 2

Group		Species		Records	
		No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Neuroptera	Lacewings	1	0.2	2	0.2
Coleoptera	Beetles	28	4.9	55	6.0
Diptera	Flies	56	9.8	83	9.1
Mecoptera	Scorpion flies	1	0.2	1	0.1
Megaloptera	Alder flies	1	0.2	1	0.1
Trichoptera	Caddisflies	19	3.3	19	2.1
Lepidoptera, Heterocera*	Moths*	199	34.9	424	46.2
Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera	Butterflies	19	3.3	34	3.7
Hymenoptera, Aculeata	Bees/wasps/ants	42	7.4	53	5.8
Hymenoptera, Symphyta	Sawflies	6	1.1	6	0.7
Reptilia	Reptiles	1	0.2	3	0.3
Amphibia	Amphibians	2	0.4	2	0.2
Aves	Birds	28	4.9	35	3.8
Mammalia**	Mammals**	2	0.4	2	0.2
Totals	**32**	**572**	100	**919**	100
* 73 micros + 126 macros	** Excludes humans and their dogs				

All records checked by specialists before adding to list

Recording Highlights

Shed skin of Barred Grass Snake
Natrix helvetica helvetica (Colubridae)

Square Spot *Paradarisa consonaria* (Geometridae); Local

Small Elephant Hawk-moth
Deilephila porcellus (Sphingidae); Local

Scarlet Tiger *Callimorpha dominula* (Erebidae); Locally common

Recording Highlights

Larva of Grey Dagger moth *Acronicta psi* (Noctuidae); Common

Blue-bordered Carpet moth
Plemyria rubiginata (Geometridae); Common

Nymph of Speckled Bush-cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima* (Tettigoniidae); Common

2-spot Ladybird
Adalia bipunctata f. *sexpustulata* (Coccinellidae)

A few rarities

Lepidoptera (Moths)

- Great Oak Beauty *Hypomecis roboraria* (Geometridae); Nationally Scarce
- Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera* (Noctuidae); Migrant (S. Europe/Africa)

Diptera (True Flies)

- Tree Snipefly *Chrysopilus laetus* (Rhagionidae). Increasing but recorded rarely in Berks; RedList_GB_post2001- Near Threatened (IUCN)
- Pheonix Fly *Dorycera graminum* (Ulidiidae). Declining: recorded rarely in Berks; RedList_GB_post2001- Near Threatened (IUCN)

All records checked by specialists before adding to list

SUMMARY

- A very successful weekend; 572 species (919 records)
- Over 1300 people took part and visited the indoor exhibits
- Noted a great interest in wildlife in general
- Lots of intelligent and tricky questions, especially from kids!
- Shed grass snake skin and living creatures, especially moths, were great favourites
- Will we do it again? Hopefully, but probably just a 1-day event

To reiterate: BENHS and AES are extremely grateful to members of the Wokingham Borough Council Countryside Service for their financial and staff support, without which the event would have been much more difficult to run.