

MAKING THE BOG HABITAT

Re-purposing the shallow end of the old pond: Charlton Down Nature Area

October 2024



Charlton Down Nature Area at the start of the project to create a bog habitat at the shallow end of the pond



28 January 2024

Before the new pond was built the shallow end of the old pond had frequently been dry



1 July 2023

The shallow end of the old pond had frequently been dry before the new pond was built

A photograph showing a wooden bridge with a railing crossing a pond. The bridge is made of dark wood and has a simple railing with three horizontal rails. Below the bridge, the pond is divided into two sections. The section closer to the bridge is deeper and contains clear water reflecting the bridge and the surrounding greenery. The section further away is much shallower and contains murky, brownish water. The shallow end is bordered by black plastic liner that is partially submerged and appears to be in poor condition. The surrounding area is lush with green grass and numerous small white daisies. The overall scene suggests a neglected or partially renovated water feature.

April 2024

The shallow end of the old pond was not renovated at all when the new pond was installed. Heavy rain floods it here.

30 September 2024



All pond creatures and aquatic plants were removed to the new large pond before work started on creating a bog habitat

14 November 2024



Old pond liner was punctured to allow water to slowly drain away from the periodically waterlogged soil of the future bog

14 November 2024

The puncture holes were covered with fine gravel to prevent silting up once soil had been added for the bog habitat

14 November 2014

Soil & compost were added to the waterfilled hollow when creating the new bog habitat



14 November 2024



14 November 2024





14 November 2024

Emptying a dumpy bag of soil into the bog habitat



Returning with an empty barrow for a refill of soil from the kerbside



19 November 2024

The old shallow pond area filled with saturated soil & showing exposed redundant pond liner around the sides of the hollow



3 April 2025

Starting to conceal the unwanted old pond liner showing around the new bog habitat



22 April 2025

The old pond liner was cut away above the soil-line in the bog habitat and replaced with turf top-side down

22 April 2025

Pinning turf into position top-side down



22 April 2025

Redundant exposed pond liner on bog hollow sides completely replaced by turf pinned upside down

22 April 2025

Starting to scarify the turf around the sides of the bog hollow and cover with topsoil



10 May 2025

Continuing to cover the upturned pinned turf on the bog hollow sides with topsoil



22 May 2025

Existing plants like yellow flag and rushes beginning to grow. Wildflower seeds yet to germinate

26 May 2025

Topsoil added to sides of bog habitat hollow & seeded with wildflower including yellow rattle to control long grasses



A rich mixture of wildflower plants begins to grow but the birds ate many of the seeds



6 July 2025

Sides of the bog hollow still bare as seeds have not taken in the drought – but more vigorous plants bloom in damper parts

A photograph of a bog habitat. In the background, there is a wooden structure, possibly a bridge or a walkway, made of dark, weathered planks. The foreground and middle ground are filled with dense, diverse vegetation. There are various types of grasses, some with long, thin blades, and several flowering plants with small, light-colored blossoms. The overall scene is lush and green, indicating a healthy bog environment. The date "23 September 2025" is overlaid in white text in the upper right corner.

23 September 2025

More than 20 species of flowering plant recorded in summer in the new bog habitat. Vegetation beginning to die back

A photograph of a wooden bridge over a stream in a lush green field. The bridge is made of dark wood and has a railing. The stream is calm and reflects the sky. The field is filled with tall grasses and some dead, dark plants. A date stamp is visible in the upper right corner.

14 November 2025

Dead plants with seeds and hollow stems provide food and shelter for wild creatures & their immature stages



13 December 2025

Leaving dead vegetation lying on the ground provides important shelter for wildlife especially in cold weather



3 January 2026

Survival of wildlife and their immature stages is dependent on undisturbed ground vegetation especially in frost & snow



Small sign on the bridge railing with a warning symbol and text.

30 January 2026

Leaving vegetation untouched warms & protects soil-dwelling organisms and promotes early Spring resurgence

A wooden bridge with a railing crosses a narrow stream in a bog habitat. The bridge is made of dark wood and has a railing with three horizontal rails. A small sign is attached to the railing. The stream is calm and reflects the sky. The surrounding area is a bog with tall grasses and some bare trees in the background. A picnic table is visible on the left side of the image. The date "14 February 2026" is overlaid in white text on the right side of the image.

14 February 2026

This bog habitat may look neglected but it is in fact a successfully managed outcome for wildlife

4 March 2026



Patches of long grass removed for sowing with yellow rattle seeds and adding more bog-specific plants

Flowers in the Bog Habitat 2025

- Black medick
- Bog pimpernel
- Brooklime
- Common field speedwell
- Common nettle
- Corn chamomile
- Creeping jenny
- Docks
- Fat hen
- Field scabious
- Grasses, various
- Groundsel
- Hemp agrimony
- Knot grass
- Marsh marigold
- Mugwort
- Penny royal
- Purple loosestrife
- Red dead nettle
- Soft rush
- Wild marjoram
- Yellow flag
- Agrimony, Meadowsweet & Viper's Bugloss sown

BOG HABITAT DEVELOPMENT

A work in progress at Charlton Down Nature Area