



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
Peterborough

Summer Leys Community Consultation Report



Photograph: Nathalie Hueber, The Wildlife Trust

May 2010



Protecting wildlife
close to home

Contents

SUMMARY

1. Brief introduction to the Summer Leys Community Consultation
2. Key Recommendations

MAIN REPORT (available upon request)

3. Introduction to the Summer Leys Community Consultation
 4. Recommendations
 5. Considerations
 6. Results and analysis of public surveys
 7. Results and analysis of stakeholder consultation
- Appendix 1. Consultation documentation

SUMMARY

1. Brief introduction to the Summer Leys Local Nature Reserve Community Consultation

Summer Leys is a wetland nature reserve to the west of Wellingborough, close to the village of Great Doddington. Previously the site of gravel extraction pits, Summer Leys opened as a nature reserve in the winter of 1992/93 and was purchased by The Wildlife Trust in 2007. The site has now established itself as one of the most important wetland habitats in the area. As such it is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and also falls within the boundary of a proposed SPA.

The Wildlife Trust believes that the longevity of sites like Summer Leys cannot be achieved without involving a wide range of people, and it is therefore essential to effectively engage with local communities to find out how they currently view Summer Leys Local Nature Reserve and how they would like to see it used in the future. This had never been done on a significant scale before and so a period of consultation, forming part of The Great Outdoors Project, was deemed appropriate.

The community consultation comprised onsite and offsite consultation with the general public, as well as consultation with key local stakeholders. Public consultation included both onsite and offsite surveys, as well as informal discussions and attendance by project staff at external meetings. Stakeholder consultation comprised completion of stakeholder surveys and one-to-one meetings with key individuals.

2. Key recommendations

Listed below are the summarised key recommendations for Summer Leys Local Nature Reserve. These are examined in more detail in the main body of this report. Note that these are the recommendations that have been formed as a result of the community consultation. It may not in reality be appropriate or possible to implement all recommendations due to restrictions on the site as its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Any physical works that are carried out will be subject to approval from the appropriate authorities.

2.1. Access and Interpretation

Carry out any necessary maintenance work to all onsite seating. Further seating to be explored.

Continue to utilise the car park notice board for displaying information about the site.

Explore the possibility of situating some further interpretation at different points around the reserve.

Unfortunately ways of travelling to Summer Leys and onsite car parking are issues that are beyond the scope of this report and its recommendations, although they were highlighted as a key issue in the consultation.

2.2. Site Management

Place a list of useful contact numbers in the main car park notice board.

Report and deal with incidents of fly tipping as quickly as is practicable.

2.3. Events, Activities and Engagement

Promote and support existing opportunities to get involved at Summer Leys with the Friends of group.

Supplement these opportunities with additional events to provide learning and enjoyment opportunities for adults and young people.

Set up an onsite Wildlife Watch group for 8-12 year olds.

An important finding that came out of the Summer Leys consultation is that many existing users would not welcome a large increase in events and visitor numbers; this needs to be kept in mind so as to not disengage current audiences.

It is also important to get the right balance between encouraging visitors and the site's importance as a wildlife habitat.

2.4. Communications

Produce regular email bulletin with forthcoming events and issues relevant to Summer Leys.

Utilise onsite notice board, and other outlets such as shops and community centres.

Make best use of Wildlife Trust website for information on Summer Leys.

For more information or to request the full report please contact Louise Tuffin, Community Involvement Officer. louise.tuffin@wildlifebcnp.org or 01604 405285.

