

October 2007

The Kings Clipstone Project

Reviving the royal heart of ancient Sherwood

www.HeartOfAncientSherwood.co.uk



More mediaeval carving found.

The recent stone survey of the village by the archaeologists working on the Palace yielded 6 pieces of high quality 900year old mediaeval carved stone. This very important find is thought to be part of a fireplace from the Palace



Emergency Work underway on the Palace

The Palace was placed on English Heritage's Buildings at risk register in the nick of time. Following further stone falls one of the key sections of the Palace wall was left unsupported and in danger of collapse. English Heritage are providing £5000 for emergency support & repairs.

The palace is in too dangerous a condition to allow unsupervised visitors on the site.

Baulker Lane – 152 incidents recorded in 3 months

The fly tipping and theft nightmare continues on the National Cycle Route and former sidings. Several loads of asbestos have been dumped plus more partially full gas cylinders. The problems aren't just confined to the former sidings, glass doors, steel barrels, wooden pallets and a very large gas cylinder are among some of the items dumped on the National Cycle Route. In conjunction with the Sherwood Forest Trust, we had a useful meeting with Network Rail to discuss the habitat improvements to the heathland found along the line. Already an important site for nature conservation, it is very probable that Sherwood Forest trust will be given a licence to manage the sidings as part of the Vicar Water Valley nature reserve.

Planning Permission Refused

The application for a very large metal building for the sale & repair of motorhomes & caravans at the top of the Rat Hole has been refused by Newark & Sherwood Council on the grounds of traffic problems, inappropriate development in Sherwood Forest Special Landscape Area and development that would be detrimental to scheduled Ancient Monument(King John's Palace).

Tree Sparrow Survey

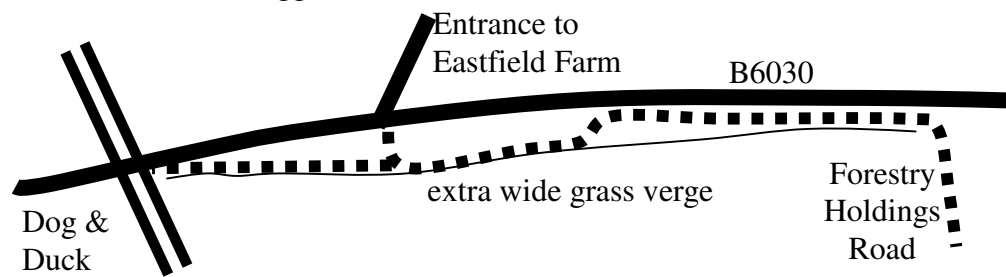
This in one of the Biodiversity Priority Species having suffered catastrophic declines in the past 30 years. We know that there is a very significant breeding population on Squires Lane. We now need to find out just how far they are spreading so we can plan new nest box clusters.

Tree Sparrows are slightly smaller than house sparrows, **have black cheek patches** and are distinctly chestnut in colour, especially the head. Can you let us know of any regular sightings.



Significant improvements to the path network a step closer

With the aim of creating circular walks taking in Vicar Water Country Park, Kings Clipstone and Sherwood Pines, we have identified with the Forestry Commission, a route linking the village to Sherwood Pines along Forestry Holding Road. We had hoped to see simple improvements to the B6030 section of this route before publicising it. However, because of the lack of use Highways seem reluctant to improve the verge (it's a classic chicken and egg situation).



The safest way to get to Forestry Holding Road is to carefully climb the bank on the right-hand side under the bridge, then cross a wide part of the ancient highway above the road and follow the very wide

verge.

The route turns right down Forestry Holding Road as far as the overhead power line crossing the road – then follows this up the hill(left turn). At the T junction in the path at the top of the hill, take the right then the next left. The visitors centre is reached by crossing the road, Vicar Water Country Park by turning right and following the road down to the offices and rejoining Forestry Holdings Road behind the offices.

Martin & Mickie Bradley are applying to the Higher Level Farm Stewardship scheme to create a bridleway from the top of the Rat Hole through the field, past the Palace, to the National Cycle Route. Included will be another bridleway along the field edge next to the B6030 up to the entrance to Sherwood Pines and across the ridgeline.

Vicar Water Valley Heritage Landscape

What is it?

The valley is one of the most important areas in Sherwood Forest Special Landscape Area but needs restoration and protection.

Why is it important?

The valley contains a wealth of different habitats and wildlife sites. As well as two SSSIs, there is a very rich mosaic of heathland, flower rich grassland, meadow, acid grassland, scrub grazing, old and new broadleaved woodland, wood grazing and orchards. A huge range of wildlife can be seen in the valley including many Biodiversity Action Plan(BAP) priority species such as Red Kite, Turtle Dove, Tree Sparrows, Nightjar, Sky Lark, Linnet, Yellow Hammer, Yellow Wagtail, Song Thrush and House Sparrow, Sand & Common Lizard, Slow Worm and Grass Snake.

Where is it?

It runs from the Dog Duck Meadow and the Palace site through to Vicar Water Country Park and includes all the area across to Sherwood Pines.

What is happening?

These different sites need linking up, protecting and managing as a first step to reconnecting the northern and southern parts of Sherwood Forest for the benefit of wildlife, residents and visitors.

With the support of the important landowners in the valley there are ambitious plans to create the Vicar Water Valley Nature and Heritage Landscape Area.

Contact us

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