



Our future vision for the Rackleaze nature area and how you can help



The Rackleaze Wetland Nature Reserve is a partnership between Stroud Valleys Project and Cam Parish Council.

SVP has been involved at the wetland site since the late 90's when approached by the parish council to survey the wildlife area and identify the flora and fauna.



When recorded species were identified, parts of the sites habitat were found to be made up of rare MG11 Neutral grassland plant communities.



These types of wet neutral grassland once covered a large proportion of lowland Britain but are now small and highly fragmented/broken up.

Work this year includes: new benches at Rackleaze: Two new recycled plastic benches supplied by Cam PC have been installed by SVP (July 2021),

Wood chipping of the public footpath on-site has recently been completed, February 2022.



Hedge Laying Project: February – March 2022.

SVP project officer and volunteers did a fantastic job of laying the hedgerow boundary adjacent to Tesco balancing pond. This great project enabled volunteers to gain and learn the traditional art of hedge laying.





Last year we surveyed the site for wildlife, this year SVP plan to hold two annual wildlife events; Wetland Bio/blitz and an Evening Bat Walk.

The bio/blitz event will involve local people and help us to identify and record the wildlife on the site

Stroud Valleys Project hold an evening Bat Walk at the wetland site, run by a bat expert.

This event is held annually in August to coincide with the Bat Conservation Trust annual survey.



Over the 5 years the event has been a great success with Common & Soprano pipistrelle, Noctule as well as Lesser horseshoe bats being detected.





Our sensitive on-site management has increased the number of beautiful flowering Southern Marsh Orchids, last flowering season (May to July) 13 flowering orchids were recorded.



Grass snake.



Dark Bush cricket.



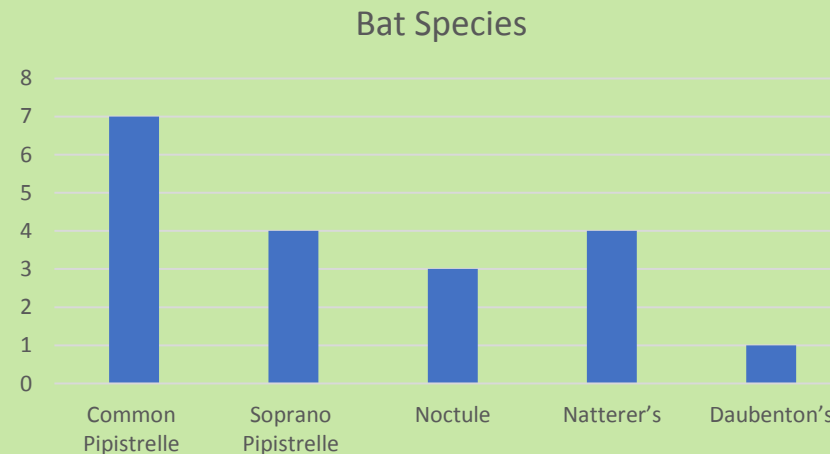
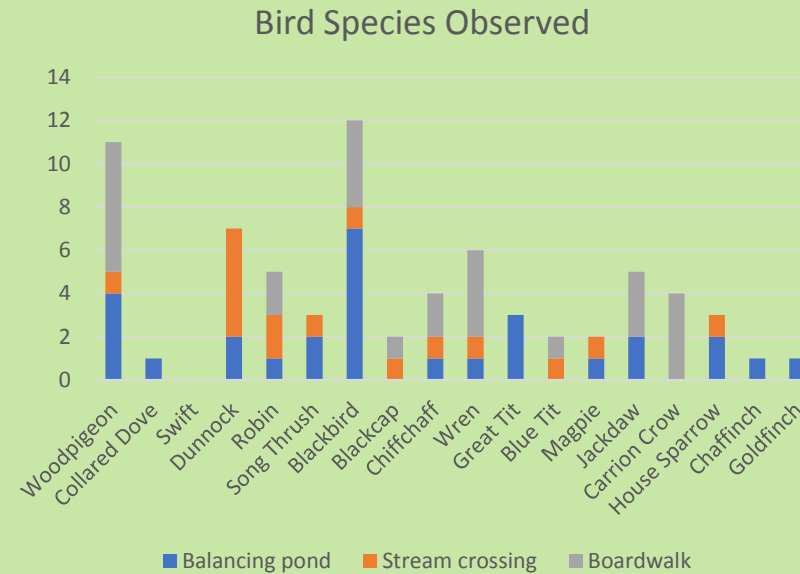
Dark-edge bee fly.

Other wildlife sightings at the wetland.

Wildlife Survey 2021

In 2021 we carried out surveys of the following on the site:

- Birds
- Moths
- Small mammals
- Reptiles
- Bats
- Botanicals
- Butterflies & Insects



Wildlife Surveying 2021

Species recorded on site included

- 2 moth species that are in decline
- In one night we recorded 96 species of moth
- Several bird species that are either red or amber on the Birds of Conservation Concern list
- Species of bat that are all showing declines, including the internationally important Natterer's bat
- We also noted the importance of the site in providing essential ecosystem services to the local area



Other work

- In Cam we are working in partnership with Stroud District Council, Cam PC and Dursley Town Council to develop a plan to improve Holywell Orchard – funding permitting.
- In Stroud we have been creating a new wetland site at Arundel Mill Pond – more details can be found on our website.

Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering with us to look after the site please get in touch with either Stroud Valleys Project.

Thank you