

Ashlawn Cutting Local Nature Reserve - Hedge laying and station pool enhancement



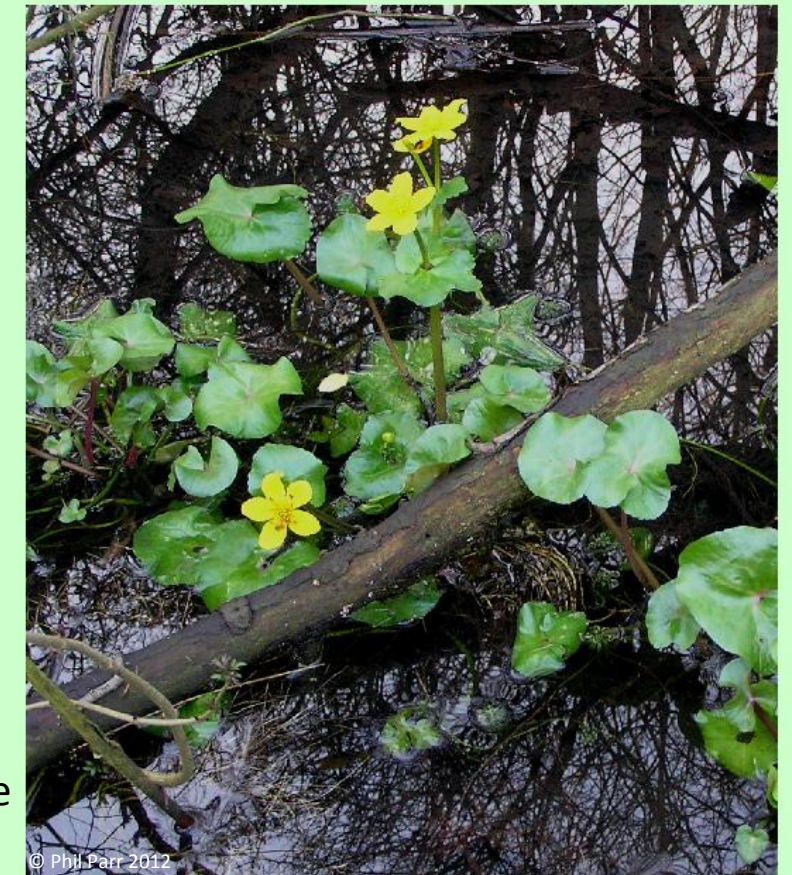
Ashlawn Cutting's rich mix of habitats, including woodland, scrub, wetland and grassland make this a wonderful home for wildlife and provides a green vein deep into the town centre for all to enjoy. Local volunteers have worked hard to keep this diversity of habitats managed for all sorts of species over the winter and with spring on its way there is just a few more weeks to complete some further works.



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Pools next to the old station platform, near to Hillmorton Road bridge will be excavated over February, removing dominating Reed Mace that choke the pool to create deep open areas for frogs and toads to spawn in. Creating more open water will benefit other plants and the aquatic invertebrates such as dragonflies. This will be undertaken by contractors with machinery, so do take care in this area and whilst it may look shocking at first, the area will quickly recover and spring into life again.

The other project that will be completed around the end of February is the "laying" of the hedge near to Jolly's field. A 100 metre stretch will be laid, which is a traditional technique for creating stock proof hedgerows



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by partially cutting small trees at the base and laying them down diagonally. Whilst not serving a stock proof function here, this technique is a huge benefit to wildlife as a haven by providing areas for species such as birds and invertebrates to feed and nest. Over time it will regenerate into a dense hedgerow and will be a wonderful wildlife feature on the reserve.

The Rugby Group would be pleased to hear your comments. If you'd like to volunteer to help with looking after the Cutting, please do get in touch – conservation work is great fun, keeps you fit and you get to meet lots of people and make good friends whilst also doing a worthwhile job improving our local environment! **Many thanks - The Rugby Group of The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - <http://rugbywildlife.info/blog>**

For further information or to send your comments on the project, please contact Warwickshire Wildlife Trust on 0247 6302912 or email enquiries@wkwt.org.uk Help support our work in the local area by becoming a member - please ring 0247 630 2912 to join or visit www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk