

Long Meadow Waterlife Report



River Pinn

The River Pinn flows along the south eastern edge of Long Meadow and in late 2014 two backwaters connected to the river were created to provide more aquatic habitat. These are topped up when the water level rises in the river.

Birds seen using the river include little egret, mallard, moorhen, kingfisher and grey wagtail which feed on the small fish such as sticklebacks and minnows and freshwater shrimps and aquatic insect larvae such as caddis fly and other river flies.

The backwaters have been planted with purple loosestrife, water plantain, flowering rush, yellow flag iris and marsh marigold.

In spring 2015 frogs bred in the backwaters producing over twenty clumps of spawn which soon hatched into tadpoles.

The larger backwater attracted dragonflies and damselflies including a male broad-bodied chaser which adopted it as its territory. Common darters were regularly observed around the backwater and across the meadow and may have bred. Large red, common blue and azure damselflies were seen paired up and breeding. Pond skaters were also quick to colonise this backwater.



Broad-bodied Chaser



Little Egret

Long Meadow, Eastcote – River Pinn Monitoring Report 2015

The River Pinn is a 12 mile long tributary of the River Colne, flowing from Old Redding, Hatch End to Uxbridge, all within the County of Middlesex boundaries. The health of the river is assessed on a monthly basis at 3 locations along the River Pinn by volunteers, through the detection of different groups of aquatic invertebrates, because these are sensitive indicators of water quality and their populations are known to decline in response to pollution events. A three minute kick survey is carried out, which disturbs invertebrates from the riverbed, allowing them to be collected in a net. Once the search is completed, the monitor processes the sample, identifying invertebrates from eight target groups with differing levels of sensitivity to pollution, estimating their abundance. This information is used to calculate a score for each site, which is then sent on to the Environment Agency for their records. If the score for a site falls below the trigger level set by the Agency, this will initiate a pollution investigation.

Riverfly monitoring has been carried out at Long Meadow, since September 2014, following the installation of a sampling platform and river habitat improvement. Scores have ranged from 2 to 7, with a 15 month average of 5. Four of the eight invertebrate groups have been monitored at this site with Freshwater shrimp being the most numerous, followed by Cased Caddis and Olive larvae. However, no Blue-Winged Olive or Mayfly larvae have yet been recorded, although they are recorded on chalk stream tributaries elsewhere in the Colne Valley. Other aquatic invertebrates have also been observed at Long Meadow site including Pea Mussels, Water Beetles, Leeches, River Worms and Mites.



Fish species recorded at this location include Three Spined Stickleback and Bullhead, seen on a regular basis and occasionally a Stone Loach. During the Summer, a school of Minnows was observed at the site swimming upstream in spawning colouration. The Bullhead (Cottus gobio) is a small fish, which can be found on the stream bed, holding on to pebbles and rocks by its large pectoral fins. It is often found in fast-flowing, shallow stretches. Also commonly known as the Miller's thumb, the bullhead had a wide, rather flat head with a large mouth. The Bullhead feeds on bottom-dwelling invertebrates at dusk. Birds feeding in the

River have included Little Egret, Moorhen and Mallard on a regular basis and occasionally a Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail and Grey Heron.

River Monitoring Initiative (RMI) - 2015
River Pinn - Sheila Liberty Bridge, Dovecote Copse, Eastcote House Gardens (TQ 107 888)

