

Bridge Craft Coronation Meadow, Holt, Wrexham

Grid Ref: SJ411543

Area: 0.2 acres

Privately owned, managed by North Wales Wildlife Trust (River Dee SAC/SSSI)

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The Bridge Craft Coronation Meadow is our most high profile meadow restoration site in Wrexham County Borough, delivered as part of the Wrexham Industrial Estate Living Landscapes Scheme and partially funded through the Coronation Meadows Project. This small meadow was previously a market garden, with members of the Holt community involved in growing fruit and vegetables between the 1960s and 1990s. In the 19th century it was owned by the Wrexham and Barnhill Turnpike Trust and was managed as a garden attached to a toll house on the Holt/Farndon Bridge. The meadow is immediately adjacent to the 13th century sandstone bridge that crosses the River Dee on the border between England and Wales, and is designated as a Grade I listed building and a scheduled monument.

Our aspiration for the Bridge Craft Coronation Meadow is to restore the site to an MG4 grassland community, by the repeated spreading of harvested green hay from Three Cornered Meadow, an MG4 grassland managed by NWWT at Old Pulford Brook about 4km away. This process started by power harrowing the site and spreading green hay in October 2016, followed by another green hay transfer in July 2017. Botanical surveys and hydrological monitoring is planned for summer 2019 and will identify how the site is responding and is likely to be followed by another green hay transfer in August 2019. The site is due to be grazed by sheep for two weeks in November 2018 and a further two weeks in April 2019. The site has been fenced-off with post and rail and NWWT signage has been fixed to the gate. The hedgerow surrounding the site was full of Snowberry and Himalayan Balsam, this has now been

controlled and a new mixed native species hedgerow has been planted in its place. The hedgerow contains Gooseberry and Hops, and are probably remnants from its previous life as a market garden. Docks have been spot treated with Grazon Pro and ragwort pulled with ragwort fork. An annual hay cut has taken place every July since 2016, either by traditional scything and raking or with tractor mounted flail collector with mulch composted in a designated area at the corner of the site.

The meadow has received much publicity in Wales and over the border in England, educating local people about the cultural heritage and biodiversity associated with floodplain meadows, and enthusing local landowners to restore their meadows on the Dee floodplain. The Bridge Craft Coronation Meadow is featured on the Holt iBeacon digital trails app.



