



Frog before dip in pond  
Photo by Adrian Middleton

**Affpuddle & Turnerspudde Parish Wildlife Newsletter**  
**No 2022/51      12 August 2022**



Same frog during dip in pond  
Photo by Adrian Middleton

## Wildfire Mitigation Plan Feedback (Newsletter 50)

*Henry Hogger:* Thanks, as always, for an excellent newsletter. I was particularly interested to see the Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) for the Erica Trust land, as potentially relevant to my little triangle of heathland the other side of the crossroads.

We haven't got a formal WMP; although the last lot of major works under my management agreement with Natural England included opening a wide firebreak all the way up the boundary with the MoD land on the far side from the road, and across the middle from near the northernmost cattle grid.

## Date for your Diaries

*Henry Hogger:* I would like to alert readers to an event at the end of this month to mark the presence of the prestigious **Earth Photo exhibition at the Moors Valley Country Park near Ringwood.**

On Wednesday 31 August, from 6 pm, you can join the team from Forestry England - joint sponsors of the exhibition with the **Royal Geographical Society (RGS)** - for a short briefing followed by a walk out to view the photo panels in their forest setting. The event, which is free to attend, will conclude with a glass of wine or soft drink at the Park's open-air picnic area.

Please see [www.rgs.org/events](http://www.rgs.org/events) for more info and booking details.

## Striking Diptera gold

*Jamie McMillan:* My first tentative venture out into the heat (I can only stand about 30 mins of it) struck Diptera gold with a Heath Bee-fly on my Marjoram. Camera ran out of juice, but I managed one shot more or less in focus. Looking on the NBN map, there is a dot on Briantspuddle already - I assume it's Ian's record? Anyway, new for my garden list! The NBN map shows how much of a Dorset speciality this is - and goes further west than I realised.



Heath Bee-fly in the garden Photo by Jamie McMillan

*Ian Cross:* An excellent find! Yes, the dot smack in the middle of Briantspuddle is one of my records – as are several other dots on the map. (As a useful hint

when working with NBN maps, if you click on the dot itself, it actually brings up the record details, often with the date, locality and recorder's name.)

I highly recommend that anyone interested in our wildlife's distribution checks out these maps. Just google the Latin name followed by NBN.

I'm hoping we will see more of this smashing little bee-fly around the parish in the near future. It's a parasite of the Heather Colletes bee (*Colletes succinctus*) which is currently becoming established on the Erica Trust reserve (and even makes its way to our garden from time to time). The bee is spreading closer and closer and is even nesting in localities right on the edge of the village.

The bee-fly is a fluffy, brown ball with a long, protruding proboscis (see photo below). It's a dead ringer for the Dark-edged Bee-fly, which is so common in the parish in the spring, but doesn't have the chocolate-brown margin on the wings. If your bee-fly won't settle for identification don't panic. Mere timing identifies the Heath Bee-fly as the Dark-edged Bee-fly is never out this late in the year.



Heath Bee-fly. Note the long, pointed proboscis, typical of *Bombylius* – photo Ian Cross

**Wall Brown butterfly**  
in Affpuddle on 29th July  
Photo by Helen Frost



*Ian Cross*: A lovely male. It's encouraging to have records of this, one of our fastest declining UK butterflies. It's assessed as 'Near Threatened' in the butterfly red list.

Many thanks to: Ian Cross, Wildlife Advisor,  
Campbell De Burgh, Briantspuddle Community Website  
Margaret Cheetham, Editor

Please send your contributions to [macheetham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:macheetham@hotmail.co.uk).

I will confirm receipt. If you don't hear from me it means I haven't received your email, so please make contact through Briantspuddle Community Website and we'll sort out a Plan B.