

# Delamere's Dragons

## Evaluation report



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## Summary

The white-faced darter dragonfly became extinct in Cheshire in 2003 after suffering a slow decline over the preceding decades. The species is likely to have gone extinct in the region due to the degradation of its habitat, lowland peat bogs. The Delamere landscape is peppered with over 100 peat basins, most of which have been drained or otherwise modified since the abolishment of Forest Law in 1812. Widespread restoration of the peat bogs in Delamere began in 1994, with the extent of the peat resource of Delamere mapped in 2003 and steps taken to restore large parts of it. Delamere's Dragons aimed to reintroduce the white-faced darter to Delamere, after an absence of 10 years, while encouraging people to get involved in the reintroduction and learn about the Delamere landscape. The project also aimed to grow a mere's and mosses community across the Delamere Living Landscape and to integrate dragonflies into the visitor economy of Delamere Forest.

Running from 2014 until 2017, Delamere's Dragons translocated 450 white-faced darter dragonfly larvae into their new home in Delamere Forest. Population monitoring took place at both donor sites and the reintroduction site, Doolittle Moss; in total over 100 white-faced darter surveys. Over 400 other surveys were carried out on 52 sites across the Delamere Landscape, recording dragonflies, sphagnum moss and performing rapid habitat assessments. A total of 8 university projects were also conducted through the project, adding to our understanding of white-faced darter behaviour and ecology. Scientific outputs from the project were shared through articles published in the British Dragonfly Society Journal and Conservation Land Management.

Volunteers were a key part of the project with 236 people meaningfully engaged with Delamere's Dragons. In addition three volunteer trainees were taken on for six month placements, gaining skills and experience that enabled them to gain employment in the conservation or ecology sectors. A total of 12 training days were held, covering dragonfly identification, sphagnum identification and rapid habitat assessment methodology; 102 volunteers were trained through these events, with more people trained 'on-the-job'. Over the course of Delamere's Dragons 3820 volunteer hours were given to the project.

To engage the wider public a display was produced, including pull-up banners, display boards and a bog-in-a-box model. The display was taken to four large community events and 15 smaller events, from AGMs to scientific conferences and open gardens. 18 guided walks and 14 talks were delivered, most of which were to local groups or audiences. Mosslands in Delamere are better interpreted, with two leaflets designed and printed explaining the importance of mosses and the white-faced darter reintroduction, as well as two interpretation panels and two walking trails. 60 press releases have been printed in local newspapers and the project has been filmed for BBC North West Tonight and ITV CountryWise.

Delamere's Dragons also influenced the Delamere Forest Design Plan, ensuring connectivity between mosslands is considered into the future, and the Norley Neighbourhood Plan, highlighting important habitats to local residents. Several local businesses were engaged with the project and two visitor giving schemes were developed, as well as support in the installation of one of the nature trails.

The work accomplished by Delamere's Dragons has been recognised by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and was awarded the Best Practice award for a large-scale conservation project 2017.

# 1. Project Introduction

The white-faced darter (*Leucorrhinia dubia*) is an endangered (UK red data list) species of dragonfly that is a highly localised species of lowland peatbogs. It was present at two sites in Delamere, Cheshire until 2003, after which it was considered to be extinct in the county, thought to be a result of the degradation of its bog pool breeding habitat. However, since 2003, the peatland resource across Delamere has been recognised and widespread restoration work has taken place. With this restoration and the start of a similar white-faced darter reintroduction project in Cumbria, a Delamere White-faced Darter Steering Group was established in 2010. The group commissioned a feasibility study, 'Assessment of Basin Mire Sites in the Delamere Forest Area - Potential for the Reintroduction of the White-faced Darter' in 2011 which discovered several basins potentially suitable for the white-faced darter dragonfly with minimal work needed. Following some scrub clearance and outfall blocking work in 2011/12, a peat basin in Delamere Forest named Doolittle Moss was deemed the most likely area of suitable habitat for the species. Natural England commissioned further aquatic invertebrate surveys of Doolittle Moss and the production of the Delamere Forest White Faced Darter Action Plan in 2012.

Following on from a pilot year in 2013, which was used to test the reintroduction methodology, funding was awarded for a three year project focussing on reintroducing the white-faced darter to Delamere Forest, as well as monitoring other species of dragonfly, assessing mossland habitat condition and incorporating dragonflies into the visitor economy of Delamere, ensuring that the local community are aware of the important habitats on their doorstep.

Delamere's Dragons was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Linley Shaw Foundation and the John Spedan Lewis Foundation. The project was carried out in partnership with the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the British Dragonfly Society.

## 1.1 Project aims

To achieve the project goals, a set of community focussed aims were established:

- To reintroduce the white-faced darter dragonfly to Delamere Forest
- Get people involved in a nationally significant dragonfly reintroduction and encourage them to learn about the Delamere landscape
- Grow a meres and mosses community across the Delamere Living Landscape
- Integrate dragonflies into the visitor economy of Delamere Forest

## 1.2 Project targets

A set of project targets were established in the project plan to help achieve these aims:

- Recruit two project staff to deliver the project and ensure their continued personal development
- Produce 2 pull-up banners, two leaflets, film footage, display panels, two interpretation boards and a model to raise awareness and promote the project
- Three joint community events in conjunction with the Meres and Mosses of the Marches NIA

- Three Delamere dragonfly guided walks with the opportunity for 20 people to attend each one
- Three talks given to community groups
- Create one dragonfly trail around Delamere Forest
- Work with Forest Holidays to raise awareness of Delamere's meres and mosses with holiday-makers
- Influence local plans
- Raise the profile of dragonflies in Delamere to produce a clear dragonfly brand
- Connect with a range of audiences including local businesses, visitors to Delamere, local community groups, local partnerships and Parish Councils
- Develop a visitor payback scheme, a business network and three new business ideas based upon the natural heritage of Delamere
- Evaluate project progress based upon feedback
- Appoint three Volunteer Trainees and equip them with the skills and experience to successful employment.
- Recruit 250 volunteers over the life of the project
- Hold three training events over the life of the project on dragonfly ecology and surveying techniques
- Hold three training events over the life of the project on mossland ecology and habitat surveying techniques
- Provide 120 opportunities for people through the training events
- Undertake the white-faced darter dragonfly reintroduction
- Undertake dragonfly and mossland habitat surveying and monitoring including dragonfly surveys across three sites and mossland surveys across 10 sites
- Analyse dragonfly survey data to learn more about the species ecology and work in partnership to undertake genetic analysis of exuviae collected

## 2. Project Outputs

Delamere's Dragons was a success and delivered the project aims and outcomes. An overview of intended outputs and the progress made against each is in Table 1. Further details about these outcomes, in the context of staff, community and heritage, and what went well or didn't, are in the following sections. The full range of the activities delivered throughout the project is available in the 'Final Project Report' and a photographic record of project activities has also been produced.

**Table 1:** An overview of intended project outputs for Delamere's Dragons and the progress made against each.

Theme	Targets	Progress
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit two project staff to deliver the project and ensure their continued personal development</li> <li>Evaluate project progress based upon feedback</li> <li>Appoint three Volunteer Trainees and equip them with the skills and experience to successful employment.</li> <li>Recruit 250 volunteers over the life of the project</li> <li>Hold three training events over the life of the project on dragonfly ecology and surveying techniques</li> <li>Hold three training events over the life of the project on mossland ecology and habitat surveying techniques</li> <li>Provide 120 opportunities for people through the training events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Conservation Officer and Development Officer roles were filled and staff worked towards the successful completion of their learning plans.</li> <li>Feedback forms were used to help evaluate the project and help improve it.</li> <li>Three volunteer interns were recruited, all went on to gain further work in conservation or the ecological sector</li> <li>236 volunteers were signed up to receive volunteer reports, updates and opportunities. An end of season report was sent each year to all volunteers</li> <li>174 different people have actively volunteered on Delamere's Dragons</li> <li>Six dragonfly identification training events were held, attended by a total of 66 people. More were trained in dragonfly identification through regular volunteer survey days</li> <li>Two training events were held each year covering sphagnum identification and rapid habitat assessments. 36 people attended these 6 events</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce 2 pull-up banners, two leaflets, film footage, display panels, two interpretation boards and a model to raise awareness and promote the project</li> <li>Three joint community events in conjunction with the Meres and Mosses of the Marches NIA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two leaflets were designed and printed, one about the white-faced darter and its reintroduction, the other providing information about Delamere's mosses and where to see them.</li> <li>Two pull up banners, display boards and film footage were produced to raise awareness of the project</li> <li>A 'bog in a box' model was created and proved successful at events – bringing the mossland to</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Delamere dragonfly guided walks with the opportunity for 20 people to attend each one</li> <li>• Three talks given to community groups</li> <li>• Create one dragonfly trail around Delamere Forest</li> <li>• Work with Forest Holidays to raise awareness of Delamere's meres and mosses with holiday-makers</li> <li>• Influence local plans</li> <li>• Raise the profile of dragonflies in Delamere to produce a clear dragonfly brand</li> <li>• Connect with a range of audiences including local businesses, visitors to Delamere, local community groups, local partnerships and Parish Councils</li> <li>• Develop a visitor payback scheme, a business network and three new business ideas based upon the natural heritage of Delamere</li> </ul>	<p>the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two interpretation boards were designed and installed in Delamere Forest</li> <li>• Four large community events were attended, a joint event with the Sandstone Ridge Trust and MereFest 2014, 2015 and 2016</li> <li>• A further 15 events were attended where project displays were on show, from Cheshire Wildlife Trust AGMs to open gardens and scientific conferences</li> <li>• Four thank-you events were held specifically for project volunteers</li> <li>• 18 guided walks delivered, 14 of which were through the forest, and 14 talks, 8 of which were delivered to local community groups</li> <li>• Two trails were installed in Delamere Forest, one around Hatch Mere nature reserve and one through the forest to Black Lake, an important mossland reserve for dragonflies</li> <li>• Through the project's input into the 10 year Delamere Forest Plan, connecting corridors and buffers were included protecting and linking important mossland sites</li> <li>• Norley Wildlife Group were advised for the production of the Norley Neighbourhood Plan</li> <li>• Regular articles relating to the project were included in four local parish newsletters and the Forestry Commission's Delamere Discovery Pass</li> <li>• The production of a meres and mosses of Delamere calendar raised awareness through sales in the local area and gifting to groups involved with the project</li> <li>• Dragonflies have been integrated into the local visitor economy through work with Delamere Café, GoApe and other local businesses</li> <li>• Two visitor payback schemes were developed, the Meres and Mosses Business Environment Network was supported through the project and local businesses supported the project in a variety of ways including funding for interpretation, volunteer days, funding from sales and donations of items.</li> </ul>
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake the white-faced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larval translocations took place 2014 - 2016 in late</li> </ul>

	<p>darther dragonfly reintroduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake dragonfly and mossland habitat surveying and monitoring including dragonfly surveys across three sites and mossland surveys across 10 sites</li> <li>• Analyse dragonfly survey data to learn more about the species ecology and work in partnership to undertake genetic analysis of exuviae collected</li> </ul>	<p>spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The translocation of eggs took place 2014 – 2016 in July/August, at the end of the flight season</li> <li>• White-faced darters have been recorded in Delamere every year of the project, but it won't be until 2019 that we can confirm that they have successfully bred in Delamere</li> <li>• Over 400 surveys were carried out over 52 sites with the help of volunteers, recording vegetation, sphagnum moss and dragonflies</li> <li>• Three universities were engaged in the project and its research</li> <li>• Three undergraduate projects were carried out relating to white-faced darters</li> <li>• Five masters theses were carried out focussing on varying aspects of white-faced darter ecology and genetics</li> </ul>
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## 2.1. Outputs for people

### 2.1.1. Staff and Volunteer Trainees

Delamere's Dragons was a success in terms of staff outputs. Both the Delamere Conservation Officer and the Delamere Development Officer roles were filled quickly by Vicky Nall and Heather Hulse, respectively. However, Vicky left the Conservation Officer role after only two months of the project in favour of a full time role elsewhere. The current Delamere Conservation Officer, Chris Meredith, took the role on in June 2014. Both staff members wrote a learning plan upon starting their roles which was then used to help guide their development throughout the course of the project.

The project also took on Volunteer Trainees to assist with surveys, data analysis and community engagement. Due to the Project Officer change in the first year of the project, no Volunteer Trainee was taken on that year. In 2015 two Trainees started in April, Susan Elcock and Rachel Davies. Susan left the trainee position after two months to take paid work for an ecological consultancy, while Rachel stayed for the full six months. Following completion of the traineeship Rachel was offered a role for Natural England continuing her career in conservation. As carrying out recruitment over the busy survey season would have been difficult, it was decided that to accommodate for Susan leaving the position early, the trainee for 2016 would have a 9 month placement. Margaret Warren began the final trainee position in April 2016. Although her placement ran until December, Margaret finished in September to take paid work on a waste reduction project involving community engagement and volunteer management. Margaret's experience gained in the Delamere's Dragons role was instrumental in helping her to get the job. The diversity in the Volunteer Trainee role allowed trainees to gain experience in both conservation and community engagement, with Rachel and Susan both continuing to focus on conservation while Margaret chose to accept a role focussed more on engagement. Both Margaret and Rachel completed an exit interview (Appendix 1) to give feedback on what went well and not so well in their roles including whether the roles could be

improved for future trainees. Over the course of the project the Volunteer Trainees gave a total of 155 days of their time, worth £7,750.

### **2.1.2 Volunteers**

The project mailing list totalled 236 people, who were contacted regularly throughout the project with news, volunteer opportunities and events. On this list were people who just wanted to be kept up to date with project news as well as more active volunteers. A total of 174 different volunteers assisted with the project, including white-faced darter translocations and monitoring, mossland surveys, running events, habitat management and administration tasks. Over the lifetime of the project 146 volunteers got involved specifically with the dragonfly reintroduction, many of whom were local people. Since 2014 391 days have been given by volunteers, worth £19,550 to the project.

In addition to the above, one expert entomologist and an expert arachnologist contributed survey efforts to better understand the mosslands of Delamere. The entomologist conducted fly and bug surveys over five full days, while the arachnologist surveyed spiders on a number of sites during one day. Their contributions were worth £900 to the project.

### **2.1.3. The community**

#### **2.1.3.1 Events**

A display promoting Delamere's Dragons was taken to four large community events and 15 smaller events. The display consisted of a project branded gazebo, printed display panels, pull-ups and interactive displays including dragonfly exuviae identification, sphagnum identification and a 'bog in a box'. The 'bog in a box' was especially popular and was great to show how dragonflies emerge as well as common bog plants and the process of peat formation.

Delamere's Dragons took the project display to three MereFest events, organised through the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership with a footfall of over 1000 people at each. The fourth large event was run in partnership with the Sandstone Ridge Trust, celebrating the white-faced darter reintroduction and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sandstone Trail, a 38 mile walking trail that crosses Cheshire, passing by the white-faced darter reintroduction site.

The 'smaller' events include large events such as the Cheshire Show and Nantwich Show, that although would have had a higher footfall than MereFest, the shows were more general with a much greater number of competing stands. Some of the other events attended included local open gardens, the Staffordshire Invertebrate Fair, Open Farm Sunday and athletic events in Delamere Forest.

#### **2.1.3.2 Training**

Training for volunteers was carried out throughout the project, including 6 structured dragonfly training events, and 6 mossland species identification and surveying events covering rapid habitat assessment survey technique and sphagnum identification. Written feedback was obtained for all of the dragonfly training events (Appendix 2) but not for the less formal outdoor training.

When asked whether the training met people's expectations, whether they were provided adequate information prior to the event and were they satisfied with the level of training, positive net

promotor scores were achieved for all three questions, 74, 70, 94, respectively. Improvements to the training were suggested, particularly from the early training sessions, which included identification handouts, holding the event at the weekend and arranging better weather! For the second, and all future training sessions, identification guides were produced by a Volunteer Trainee and handed out. At least one dragonfly training session was held at the weekend each year, however, the weather remained unpredictable!

When asked whether people felt that their contribution to the project had been, or will be valuable, the average response was 4.0, with a positive net promotor score of 3. The main reason people didn't feel that their contribution was valuable was a lack of confidence in their identification skills or a lack of survey practice. Suggestions made to make people feel more valued included ongoing project updates and more information about what the data collected from surveys is used for. Both these suggestions were taken on and regular email updates were sent to volunteers, including an end of season report letting everyone know the results of the surveys.

Attendees on the training courses were also asked whether they would recommend the project to others. This was scored with a maximum of 10, the average being 8.8. Only one person scored the question less than 7, giving a 1. The reason for this was that he had no relevant 'others' to recommend the project to. Again, a positive net promotor score was calculated, 71. The reasons people gave for recommending the project included because it was so worthwhile, dragonflies are interesting animals, the project was well run and it was good to learn with like-minded people.

All information from the feedback from training events is tabulated in Appendix 2.

### **2.1.3.3 Volunteer feedback**

When volunteers signed up to the project they were also asked to provide some information about how they view Delamere Forest, their prior knowledge about dragonflies and how regularly they use the forest (Appendix 3). The results show the need for Delamere's Dragons, in particular how important the engagement is to teach people about the importance and uniqueness of the peat resource in Delamere Forest.

When asked whether they viewed Delamere Forest as a wildlife attraction, the average response was 3.9, with a maximum score of 5. However, the net promotor score was calculated as only 2, which although positive does not imply many people are fully aware of the unique habitats hidden behind the trees, or their importance for wildlife.

When asked whether they knew the forest was home to many species of dragonfly the average response, again the maximum being 5, was 3.5. The net promotor score was negative, -11. Following on from this the new volunteers were asked how much they knew about dragonflies and damselflies, which elicited a surprisingly low average score of 2.2, with a strongly negative net promotor score of -95. The answers to these questions show just how little people know about these wonderful animals, and how many people aren't aware of the number of species found in Delamere.

People were also asked whether they would recommend Delamere Forest as a wildlife attraction unique to Cheshire. This question was scored with a maximum of 10, the average response being 6.9 and a net promotor score of -17. Again, it lead us to believe that people weren't fully aware of the importance of the meres and mosses within the forest, with many people possibly unaware they are even there. This was backed up by the comments following the question, with common themes

focussing around there being too much disturbance for wildlife, or the extent of conifer plantation being good for certain bird species. Those whose comments suggested they have a more in-depth knowledge of the forest and the importance of its meres and mosses tended to be much more positive about recommending the forest as a wildlife attraction, many of the mosses being well off the beaten path and therefore quiet throughout the week. This further illustrates the need for the engagement element of Delamere's Dragons so that more people are aware of the value in the forest's wetlands, and the opportunity that exists to see a wide range of wildlife that is hard to view in many other places around Cheshire.

Feedback was obtained at the end of the project and showed that Delamere's Dragons generally had a positive impact on those that were involved with it. After being involved with the project 76% of people said that they visited Delamere Forest more regularly, while 92% visited specifically to watch wildlife. Of those that had visited Delamere Forest to watch wildlife 61% visited to see dragonflies. When asked whether they viewed Delamere Forest as a wildlife attraction, those that had been engaged with the project gave a net promotor score of 64, averaging 8.8 out of 10, a considerably better score than when the question was asked prior to any engagement with Delamere's Dragons. Volunteers were also asked whether their knowledge of mosslands had increased through taking part in project activities, the average score being 8.6 and a net promotor score of 52. Below is a word cloud constructed using words used by volunteers to describe the project, their contribution and Delamere Forest.



**Figure 1:** Words used by volunteers to describe the work of Delamere's Dragons

#### **2.1.3.4 Local visitor economy**

At the beginning of the project the main focus was to engage with Forest Holidays who were soon to build over 70 lodges within Delamere Forest, and focus on opportunities around visitor giving and raising awareness of Delamere's meres and mosses with the new influx of holiday-makers. The project met with Forest Holidays who seemed eager to be involved in the project as a way of helping establish themselves locally. Not long into the project the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs called the lodges planning application in and it was rejected even though the local authority had approved the application. Efforts then turned to what other local business

opportunities there were in Delamere. Research was undertaken on the type of local businesses and their correlation with general environmental themes and corporate social responsibility agendas. Research was also undertaken on visitor giving schemes including a SWOT analysis of current schemes and who the potential audiences were.

An analysis of different types of visitor giving was undertaken (Table 2). The strategy for targeting businesses was based upon initially contacting businesses directly reliant on visitors to Delamere Forest as they were more likely to support a visitor giving scheme and then contact the larger local businesses and then the smaller local businesses and local communities.

**Table 2:** Analysis of different visitor giving opportunities.

Type of Visitor giving	Strengths	Weaknesses	Where it could be implemented
<b>Levies – opt-in or opt-out schemes</b>	<p>Effective at raising money.</p> <p>Easy for visitors to use.</p> <p>Easy for the participant to use once set up.</p> <p>Good paper trail to prove amounts being collected.</p>	<p>Sometimes difficult to get a business participant to get involved</p>	<p>Hotels, B&amp;Bs, Campsites, Kennels, Cycle hire companies etc.</p>
<b>Levies – Food and Drink</b>	<p>Visitor automatically donates when choosing to buy the food or drink item.</p> <p>Donator is made aware of the projects they are funding.</p> <p>Participating business gets green credentials and a sense of belonging to a good cause and local area.</p> <p>Good paper trail to prove amounts being collected.</p>	<p>Sometimes difficult to get a business participant to get involved</p>	<p>Hotels, B&amp;B's, Cafes, pubs.</p>
<b>Voluntary Donations – donation boxes or pin badge boxes</b>	<p>Collections through boxes present at participating outlets which display support for local projects which benefit from the donations can encourage good participation.</p> <p>Easy for businesses to participate.</p>	<p>Boxes need to look immediately enticing in order to attract donations.</p> <p>Donator needs to see what they are donating to straight away.</p> <p>Boxes are expensive to develop.</p> <p>Prone to theft.</p> <p>Collection of funds based on</p>	<p>Hotels, B&amp;Bs, Campsites, Kennels, Cycle hire companies, Cafes, Shops, visitor centres and tourist attractions.</p>

		trust.	
<b>Voluntary Donations - envelopes</b>	The most successful way of collecting funds from donors other than opt-out levies.  If left in a convenient place for the visitor to donate.	There would need to be a robust system of collection which would be based around trust from the participant to the receiving organisation	Hotels, B&Bs, Campsites.
<b>Merchandising</b>	Generates awareness for the project. Direct way of generating income particularly from visitors who would prefer something tangible for their money	Only small amounts tend to be raised and the outlay is considerable.	Cafes, visitor centres, shops, larger stores and retail centres.
<b>Other Fundraising</b>	Appeals can generate large amounts of money in a short space of time.  Other fundraising can be sought by means of events, asking interested parties for direct payments as donations e.g. Corporates or councils, local groups.	Successful if pitched at the right time.  Not a long-term strategy. Costs can be high to set up.	In house appeal, businesses, local councils, local groups.
<b>Trails with maps/ID cards</b>	Creation of a dragonfly trail along existing paths around some of the most interesting mosses. A Trail map and ID card can be bought by visitors to support the projects. A better way of using merchandising because the visitors have something they can do with the ID/Trail card.	Costly to produce visitor trail maps and to add interpretation/way markers.  Time consuming.	Need to work with local business and Forestry Commission.

Over the course of the project 22 businesses were contacted to become involved in the project. They ranged from local breweries and camping and caravanning sites to outdoor activity centres and food manufacturers. Of those 11 promoted the project including 5 getting their business involved in the project through activities (e.g. meres and mosses run through Delamere Fitness) and 4 actively helped the project financially.

#### 2.1.3.5 Delamere community

All five parishes in the Delamere area were integrated in to the Delamere's Dragons project. Early on project staff met with local parish councils and explained ways to get involved in the project as well as ask for financial support. Collectively the parish councils contributed £700 towards the project and helped promote events and volunteer opportunities. A newly established wildlife group associated with one of the parish councils particularly benefited from the project as volunteers from the group were trained and offered advice on how to manage parish council owned mossland habitat. To help

gather new recruits for their group they were able to use the Delamere's Dragons activities as a springboard for getting more people active locally.

Local plans influenced by the project included the Norley Neighbourhood Plan, Oakmere and Delamere Community-led Planning Framework, the Manley Neighbourhood Plan and the Delamere Forest Design Plan.

## **2.2. Outputs for Heritage**

### **2.2.1 White-faced darter reintroduction**

Over the course of the project 450 white-faced darter larvae were translocated to Doolittle Moss in Delamere Forest, 225 larvae being taken from each of Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Chartley Moss NNR. Following the translocation each year extensive monitoring of the white-faced darter populations at the donor sites and the receiving site were carried out. In total 50 exuviae (larval case) surveys were carried out at the donor sites, providing an in depth count of white-faced darter emergence over a three year period, something that neither site has recent data on. This will help form a baseline from which the same pools can be measured in the future to see how changes to management or the effect of climate change impact the white-faced darter populations.

Monitoring of the reintroduced white-faced darter population in Delamere has taken place every year of Delamere's Dragons, with over 50 exuviae searches carried out between 2014 and 2017. Over the course of these counts 111 white-faced darter exuviae have been found in Doolittle. This is likely to represent only a small proportion of the total number of white-faced darters that have emerged there as finding the small exuviae in a large pool can be very difficult. In addition to the exuviae 14 emerging white-faced darters were seen and 16 adults, including recently emerged individuals.

As part of the exuviae surveys at the donor sites 967 exuviae were collected for further analysis. These exuviae were measured for morphological analyses and then sent off to Manchester Metropolitan University for inclusion in a genetics study that would help understand the success of the two donor populations following translocation. The study, being the first in depth genetics study of white-faced darters in Europe also aims to identify the genetic diversity left within the species, and the effect of long term isolation on populations. Delamere's Dragons has contributed a lot of current genetic material for this project, as well as finding genetic material from the original Delamere white-faced darter population in museums.

During the exuviae counts at the donor sites 11,222 white-faced darter exuviae were found. For each of these exuviae data relating to the emergence conditions of the dragonfly were recorded, such as what species of vegetation it was found on, how high off the ground it was found and where it was in relation to the edge of the pool. This has allowed more in-depth knowledge of the emergence preferences of white-faced darters to be understood, which will help improvement management on sites where the species is found or help identify suitable sites for future reintroductions or species dispersal. This knowledge has been shared through the publishing of an article in the British Dragonfly Journal, focussing on the white-faced darter reintroduction, habitat preference and emergence conditions. An article was also published in Conservation Land Management Journal,

focussing more specifically on mossland habitat restoration and the benefits for species such as the white-faced darter.

### **2.2.2 Mossland surveys**

As well as the white-faced darter reintroduction there has been a large survey effort committed to identifying the best dragonfly habitats in Delamere Forest and the effect of mossland restoration work on dragonfly assemblages. This work has involved 244 dragonfly transects being walked, some led by staff with groups of volunteers, others carried out by skilled volunteers, some of whom became skilled as a result of their involvement with the project. The highlights of these surveys included finding confirmation of downy emeralds, an uncommon species, breeding on a site where it had not been observed for nearly 10 years and getting a good baseline for the number of variable damselflies, a nationally notable species, found on one of the few sites in Cheshire known to support them.

General mossland surveys have also been carried out throughout the forest, including rapid habitat assessments on 50 different sites. Each year the rapid habitat assessment is repeated on each site so that any changes in habitat quality can be identified and linked back to site management. Sphagnum moss has also been surveyed across the same 50 sites. Sphagnum is a key indicator of mossland habitat quality and again can be used to identify the effect of positive management.

### **2.2.3 Interpreting heritage**

Delamere's Dragons has helped people to better understand the natural heritage of Delamere and explained and interpreted it to the public in a variety of ways. Two interpretation boards were designed and installed at mossland sites within the forest, one at Doolittle Moss, the white-faced darter receiving site, the other Black Lake, a SSSI mossland nature reserve. Hatchmere SSSI, bordering Delamere Forest, has also benefited from improved paths, signage and two interpretation boards. This was to encourage more people on to the site from the forest and also to better explain its importance for wildlife. A second trail was installed along Forestry Commission paths to guide visitors from the forest's main visitor centre to Black Lake, a particularly important site within Delamere Forest for dragonflies.

Two leaflets have been produced through Delamere's Dragons. The first focussed on the white-faced darter dragonfly, its reintroduction and what a mossland is. This was well received and 2000 leaflets were distributed before the end of the project. The second leaflet was designed to try and get more people engaged with the mosses in Delamere, providing details on what a moss is, a map to direct visitors to some of the best examples and show them what wildlife can be found on them. A calendar was also produced which was used to raise awareness of the beauty and importance of Delamere's mossland to those in the local area. It was sold locally, raising income for project work in Delamere, as well as being gifted to groups and individuals who had supported the project.

Heritage has been better interpreted through the delivery of a comprehensive series of guided walks and talks. Over the course of Delamere's Dragons 18 guided walks were led, including 14 around Delamere Forest, focussing on the mossland restoration taking place and the reintroduction of the white-faced darter. Groups engaged include local Women's Institutes, community wildlife groups, universities and professional ecologists. 14 talks were delivered between 2014 and 2017 to groups

ranging from local wildlife and community groups to family focussed conferences, academics and nature reserve managers.

The white-faced darter genetics work that was carried out in conjunction with Manchester Metropolitan University enabled two masters students to get involved with cutting edge research. Delamere's Dragons also facilitated three undergraduate student projects looking at various aspects of white-faced darter habitat and ecology. A further three masters projects were also carried out, looking at more detail into aspects of white-faced darter ecology and habitat use, as well as a study looking at the effectiveness of dragonflies as indicators of wetland habitat quality in Delamere.

### 3. Project review

#### 3.1. What worked well?

Despite initial worries that it may be difficult to get people engaging with a dragonfly, as opposed to a mammal or bird, it proved fairly straightforward. Many people were surprised to hear that such a rare animal was once found in Cheshire, especially Delamere Forest which is an area so often visited. The fact that the white-faced darter is only found on three other breeding sites in England really makes the importance of Delamere's natural heritage stand out.

This sparked people's interest in dragonflies and we had many people signed up to receive email updates about the project. There was also a lot of interest from nature blogs, magazines, local press and television crews. Regular project updates were published in local parish newsletters and many of the parish councillors got involved with the project in some way.

The volunteers really enjoyed the translocations and exuviae monitoring at the donor sites, the chance to get up close and personal to so many white-faced darters was a special moment for a lot of people, especially the habit of white-faced darters to land on anything light coloured, meaning volunteers would stand motionless while an endangered dragonfly rested on their shirt/clipboard!

The project display was always well received at events, in particular the 'bog in a box' which was created in 2014. This living model let people see what plants make up white-faced darters preferred habitat and the placement of dragonfly exuviae allowed people to see how we survey for white-faced darters and how dragonflies emerge. The addition of sundew in 2015 only added to people's interest in the bog. Likewise, project talks were always well received, with some groups having both a guided walk and talk, wanting to see the sites once they had heard about them. This goes to show how engaged the groups were. A wide range of audiences were engaged through walks and talks, from Women's Institutes to parish councils, professional ecologists and Natural England National Nature Reserve managers. Our aim was to hold three joint community events with the Meres and Mosses LPS, and while we did attend three 'MereFest' events, we were also involved with another large partnership event, celebrating the white-faced darter reintroduction and 40 years of the Sandstone Trail. Displays were also taken to the county show, Nantwich show, open gardens, Wildlife Trust AGMs, Delamere Forest running events and scientific conferences.

We exceeded the target of six training events, delivering six dragonfly training events and an additional 12 mossland survey training events, sphagnum identification and rapid habitat assessment methods. The mossland survey training events were all carried out in the field, while dragonfly training sessions were usually classroom based in the morning followed by a visit to a site.

The project was successful in engaging local businesses. Businesses reliant upon visitors to Delamere Forest were particularly keen to promote the project. Go Ape installed interpretation throughout the Delamere Forest Go Ape assault course and at their booking station. Delamere Forest Café made dragonfly cupcakes to sell at the Sandstone Trail event and produced and sold dragonfly biscuits with 30p of each sale going towards the project. Through this total over £100 was donated to the project. Project posters and leaflets were also distributed through the Café and joint project walks with the café were held.

One of the major successes through the business engagement came from a large goat's milk dairy that started in Delamere. Delamere Dairy was awarded Farm Business of the Year at the Farm Business Food and Farming Business Industry Awards in 2011 and in 2015 was stated in the Sunday Times as the UK's fastest growing UK food and drink exporter. In 2017 they were awarded the UK's most prestigious business award – The Queen's Award for Enterprise for their International Trade achievements. Delamere Dairy contributed both financially and physically to the project. They contributed £3,500 which helped improve access and interpretation around a nature reserve in Delamere. They promoted the work with Cheshire Wildlife Trust on 500,000 goats milk cartons (a months' worth of product) that were sold across the UK in January 2015.

Promoting charcoal produced from habitat management in Delamere also proved a successful way of engaging local businesses and bringing the work taking place in the forest to local people. Charcoal bags were sold through local village stores as well as to project volunteers who wanted to support the work in Delamere in different ways.

### **3.2. What didn't work well?**

Whilst it was fairly easy to attract volunteer help on led surveys, getting volunteers to walk dragonfly transects independently was much harder, despite there being quite a few volunteers who were skilled enough following training and volunteering. Some skilled surveyors did conduct independent surveys, but they only really got going for 2016 and 2017. Similar was found with mossland surveys, a few people getting out to survey independently while most preferred joining groups. I think we have to acknowledge why people volunteer, for many it is a social activity, spending time with like-minded people. Whether they have the skills or not, surveying independently isn't what everyone will want out of their volunteer experience. Those that were happy to survey independently tended to be skilled surveyors already, or people wanting to work in conservation and looking to build up their CV.

Monitoring the reintroduction site, although popular in the first year of the project, became more difficult as the water levels were raised in 2015. This made it hard to take volunteers out into the water to search for white-faced darter exuviae, although this also prevented too much disturbance of the fragile habitat. The difficulty in observing adult white-faced darters near to the centre of the pool also meant that many of the unskilled volunteers found it too difficult to accurately identify the small, dark dragonfly 30 metres away. Luckily the species exist at such high numbers at the donor sites that volunteers were given the opportunity to see them up close there. Hopefully in years to come the number of white-faced darters in Delamere will have increased making them more visible to people walking around Doolittle Moss.

Although there were successes working with local businesses in Delamere, this element of the Delamere's Dragons project proved the most challenging. Whilst the stop to the Forest Holidays lodges development gave the business community element of the project a false start, it did encourage the project to seek other local avenues of support. The easiest ways local businesses could support the project was through publicity and promotion. When it came to helping finance conservation work, including looking at sustainable funding models such as visitor giving, it became a lot harder to engage businesses. Feedback we received from Nurture Lakeland matched our own experience. Setting up visitor giving schemes are time consuming and require a lot of administration.

There were also local businesses that were part of national organisations that would look to contribute financial support to national projects and organisations rather than local projects. We found this with the local campsites who were part of the national Camping and Caravanning Club as well as the Delamere Forest concert ticket sales company. Changes in Data Protection law that prohibit 'opt-out' levy also influence the effectiveness of visitor giving schemes. Rather than visitor giving schemes, corporate support was a more successful way of supporting the project.

### **3.3. Lessons learnt**

With any ambitious project there are always likely to be lessons learnt, acknowledging these ensures future projects continue to be delivered to a high standard. From a previous HLF funded project, the Cheshire Water Vole Project, a key lesson was the need for more survey equipment. That was taken on board and we made sure that we had plenty of waders and weather writers for volunteers, as well as back up activities should the weather not be suitable for dragonfly surveys. This ensured everyone could fully participate in a day, and no one felt their day off was wasted by not being able to volunteer as planned.

Set survey days, when possible ensure volunteers can easily plan ahead. This was most useful for the donor site population monitoring which was kept to specific days over the course of the survey season. It made it easier for volunteers, as well as Natural England, to plan ahead knowing that unless there was quite extreme weather, i.e. thunderstorms, the surveys would go ahead. This was not as easy to do for monitoring in Delamere as that was more dependent on good weather, which often meant volunteers were only given short notice. When the weather was too poor for surveying adult dragonflies then we were able to conduct exuviae searches, which also helped to get more people engaged in exuviae identification, an important but often overlooked survey technique for confirming dragonfly breeding at a site.

There have been lessons learnt with regards to the business engagement aspect of the project. This includes the feasibility of national organisations supporting local projects and how long it takes to develop relationships that lead to financial giving to a project. Overall however, the Delamere's Dragons project has been a huge success with national recognition for its achievements.

## **Appendix 1: Project Trainee exit interviews**

### **Rachel Davies**

#### **Was the role what you expected it to be?**

Yes. If anything it was more interesting than expected with additions of the exuvia sexing and the other more in depth skills picked up. Rachel gained more identification skills than she expected, covering taxa such as butterflies, sphagnum and mossland and forest plants in addition to dragonfly ID.

#### **What went well?**

Exuvia searches and getting to manage volunteers in a new environment was really good. Using the guides and learning about exuvia ID was one of the best bits. Rachel learnt how to use MS Publisher, which she had no previous experience of, when creating posters and her dragonfly guide. Rachel felt that she developed some transferable skills as well, including how to ask for help in different ways, and making sure she was asking the right questions. She found the phase 1 training very good and it was useful to put it into practice with some of her habitat mapping. Rachel felt her personal time management and professionalism improved due to feedback from her line manager, which she hopes will make her more employable in the future. Making the dragonfly ID guide was a really useful way to learn dragonfly ID and Rachel would recommend something similar for next year's trainee.

#### **What didn't go so well?**

Rachel felt that everything she did was valuable and nothing was a waste of time. She didn't dislike any of the work. Rachel would have liked to do more statistics but the Wildlife Trust didn't have access to a particular computer program. Rachel thought statistics software could be purchased for next year.

#### **What did you enjoy the most?**

The exuvia ID work and learning how to identify dragonflies.

#### **What could we change or do better next time?**

Rachel would have liked to have had a little bit more responsibility, perhaps more days leading volunteer groups, such as with the exuvia counts. At the start of the traineeship there were sometimes gaps between time spent on work with Heather and time spent on work with Chris where a mini project might have helped to fill the time.

#### **Did you get out of the role what you wanted?**

Yes. However because of working full time Rachel didn't feel it was possible to get as much out of it as there would have been spending three days a week on the role, however this was down to her commitments rather than the traineeship. For future trainees she would recommend that they don't have a full time job whilst doing the traineeship. If Rachel had more time to spend on the traineeship she would have liked to have done more plant ID.

**Do you think the skills that you have learnt, both practical and developmental, will help you find future work in the conservation sector?**

Yes. Working for a reputable charity like CWT will be good for Rachel's CV and the surveying skills will come in useful, as well as experience working as part of a larger team.

## **Margaret Warren**

### **Was the role what you expected it to be?**

Yes. Although Margaret found the role more varied than expected and she was given more responsibility than she was expecting from previous traineeships. Margaret felt that she has contributed to the project and not just followed staff around, having the opportunity to develop independently. The breadth of opportunities available in the role wasn't fully included in the job advertisement.

### **What went well?**

When Chris was on holiday Margaret enjoyed the responsibility of leading volunteers and carrying out the exuvia monitoring. Margaret felt she managed to learn new tasks quickly and efficiently and finished her traineeship with a great sense of achievement looking back on what she did.

### **What didn't go so well?**

Some planned events fell through because of not getting people enrolled which was disappointing and there were difficulties with Margaret managing weekend work with CWT events – she would have liked to be involved with Merefest. She was disappointed that an art exhibition cannot go ahead in its present form, but Margaret thought the reasons presented in our meeting regarding the event were rational and she managed to see the positive side and how the elements could be transposed onto another event.

### **What did you enjoy the most?**

Helping run the Teddy Bears' Picnic event at Cholmondley Castle. Margaret managed to recruit a member, led two wildlife walks and chatted to lots of people about the work of CWT. Although she enjoys the conservation side of the role, Margaret feels that her contribution to engagement makes more of a difference and can really change how people view the environment.

### **What could we change or do better next time?**

On the engagement side Margaret found that the work was slow to get going and was sometimes stuck for tasks at the beginning of the placement, although this could be due to her fast pace of working. Margaret found it discouraging when writing she had done for newsletters was redone by the Communications Officer without explanation, although this was largely due to time restraints and the piece needing boxing off before she was next in the office. Some of the writing she did was intended as copy to be used in the future and still is likely to go into the Grebe.

### **Did you get out of the role what you wanted?**

Margaret felt that the placement was instrumental in getting her a new job, in volunteer coordination for a charity project. The use of GIS software was also seen as of great importance to Margaret, so becoming familiar with MapInfo ticked off a developmental wish for her. Margaret also found the role with CWT helped facilitate training opportunities with other organisations, e.g.

Natural England and the National Plant Monitoring Scheme, while also being able to take advantage of internal training courses and her training budget.

**Do you think the skills that you have learnt both practical and developmental will help you find future work in the conservation sector?**

Yes. While applying for jobs Margaret felt that she was able to reasonably apply for far more jobs than she could before she started the placement, as well as having a far better understanding of what it is that prospective employers might be looking for.

## Appendix 2: Training feedback and summary of comments

	Did the day meet your expectations?	Did you receive enough prior information?	Were you satisfied with the level of training?	Do you feel your contribution is/will be valued?	How likely are you to recommend the project to others?	Was the venue suitable?	How likely are you to help with dragonfly surveys in the future?	Would you be interested in carrying out dragonfly surveys independently?
	5	4	5	5	10			
	5	5	5	5	9			
	5	4	5	5	9			
	5	5	5	4	10			
	5	5	5	4	10			
	4	4	5	4	10			
	5	5	5	4	10			
	5	5	5	5	1			
	5	5	5	5	9			
	5	5	5	5	8			
	5	4	5	4	9			
	4	5	5	4	10			
	3	5	5	3	10			
	5	5	5	3	8			
	5	4	4	3	10			
	5	5	5	4	9			
	5	5	5	3	7			
	5	5	5	4		8	8	8
	5	5	5	5		10	10	10
	3.5		4.5	4		9	8	8
	3.5		4.5	5		8	10	10
		4	4.5	4		9	8	8
	4.5	4.5	5	3		10	6	6
	4	4	4.5	3		7	6	4
	4.5	4.5	4.5	3		7	6	7
	5	5	5	2.5		8	5	5
	4	4.5	5	5		8	10	10
	4.5	5	5	4		10	8	8
	5	5	5	3.5		10	7	8
	4	5	5	5		8	10	10
	5	5	5	2.5		10	5	5
	5	0.5	5	1		5	1	1
	4.5	4	4	2.5		6	5	3
	5	5	5	5		8	10	10
	5	5	5	4.5		9	9	9
<b>Promotor</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Passive</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Detractor</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>NPS</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>0</b>

**Why recommend the project?**

- Worthwhile and enjoyable.
- Worthwhile, new skills, meet people.
- A useful activity
- Involvement with community and environment, enjoying the forest.
- Interesting project, important data
- Dragonflies are fascinating and valuable indicator species
- Well run project
- I don't know any relevant others
- Genuinely grateful to help on a project that is so local and stands to have such an impact on the ecology of the forest.
- Interesting subject, easily accessible
- Great learning curve
- Reintroduction is of interest to anyone interested in nature
- Excellent opportunity to learn outside with like-minded people
- It's fun to do and you get to learn about dragonflies

**Could training be improved?**

- ID print outs
- Didn't get outside - weather
- It couldn't
- Handouts, specimens
- Pocket sized guide to blue damselflies
- Clearer pictures of differences of blues
- Struggling for improvements to training. ID guides laminated and sold. Project income produced? Charge for training?
- Better weather....!
- Held at the weekend
- Can't think of any improvements
- More structured training days
- Training was first class
- I felt well prepared
- More about their ecological niche
- Better weather
- Include grid references of location

**How could we make you feel more valued by the project?**

- Ongoing project updates
- More about importance of surveys and what data used for
- I feel valued already
- No
- I didn't spend as much time helping as I would have liked

**Was the venue suitable?**

- Needs opening windows
- Difficult to see screen at times
- Fine
- Would have liked access to hot drinks
- Too few electrical sockets
- No blinds
- Small and view not great

**How likely are you to help with future surveys?**

- Time
- Not that confident in ID
- Already surveying

**Would you be interested in carrying out surveys independently?**

- Confidence in ID
- Possibly
- Time dependent
- Yes, I now have the skills to ID dragonflies and the contacts when I can't!
- I need more practice

### Appendix 3: Start of project feedback and summary of comments

How often do you visit Delamere Forest?	Would you recommend Delamere Forest as a wildlife attraction?	Would you be interested by leaflets and interpretation within the forest?	How much to you know about dragonflies?	Are you aware that Delamere is home to many species of dragonflies?	Do you see Delamere Forest as a wildlife attraction?
4/year	5	5	2	3	4
1/month	6	5	3	5	5
1/week	10	2	2	5	5
occasionally	8	4	3	5	4
1/year	7	4	3	4	4
1/month	6	5	3	5	3
occasionally	8	5	3	3	5
6/year	8	5	2	4	3
6/year	8	5	2	4	4
2/month	10	5	2	3	5
1/year	5	5	3	3	3
5/year	8	4	3	5	5
1/week	9	5	2	5	5
1/week	10	5	3	5	5
1/year	5	5	2	4	3
never	3	5	2	2	5
never	5	3	1	1	3
never	7	5	2	2	4
1/month	7	5	2	2	3
1/month	7	5	3	4	4
2/month	3	5	2	5	3
everyday	3	3	4	5	2
1/month	8	4	2	2	5
1/month	10	5	2	3	5
3/year	2	3	2	4	3
never	4	4	1	3	3
2/month	10	4	3	5	5
1/week	8	5	3	5	5
never	7	4	1	3	4
1/month	8	5	2	2	4
1/month	6	5	3	5	3
never	2	5	2	3	3
1/year	5	5	1	1	3

	5	4	2	5	10	1/year
	2	1	1	4	5	1/month
	4	5	4	5	9	1/week
	5	5	3	5	10	1/month
	5	1	1	5	5	1/week
	5	5	3	5	7	Never
	4	5	3	5	10	Never
	3	4	4	5	8	1/year
	5	3	2	5	8	3/year
	5	5	3	4	8	1/week
	3	3	3	4	7	1/week
	3	4	2	5	9	2/year
	5	3	1	5	8	1/month
	1	1	1	5	5	Never
	4	5	2	5	8	1/year
	3	2	2	5	7	1/month
	5	1	1	5	5	1/year
	5	5	2	4		1/month
	4	4	3	4	8	1/week
	4	3	2	5	7	6/year
	2	2	2	4	5	1/year
	5	5	1	5	10	1/week
	2	3	2	5	3	1/year
	4	4	1	4	8	3/year
	3	3	2	5	7	6/year
	4	2	2	5	7	2/year
	5	5	3	3	6	3/year
	4	4	2	5	5	3/year
<b>Promotor</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Passive</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>Detractor</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>NPS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-95</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>-17</b>	

### Why would you recommend Delamere Forest to others?

#### An example of the breadth of responses is given here

Recommend but not unique

Brilliant but not the only attraction for wildlife

More trails than wildlife

Hard to find a quiet spot

Not a wildlife place - for leisure

Lots of walks worth seeing wildlife

Good for lowland raised bogs

Lots to see and do

Too many people  
 Too much disturbance  
 Visit now before it's gone - ecosystem under stress!  
 Only extensive forest in Cheshire  
 I don't know enough about it  
 Extended family there, quiet, away from roads, clean  
 Good facilities, large area and range of habitats, but increasingly busy  
 Dragonflies, butterflies, bogs  
 Raise awareness of wildlife diversity  
 New visitor, not aware of wildlife unique to Cheshire.  
 Important bog habitats and species  
 An oasis full of nature  
 Focus as an amenity area, not for wildlife.

<b>Why do you visit Delamere Forest?</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Walking	38
Wildlife	19
Cycling	10
Running	4
Photography	2
Good facilities	4
Volunteering	8
Events	2
To enjoy the outdoors	4

## Appendix 4: End of project feedback and summary of comments

Has the project changed how frequently you visit Delamere Forest?	Do you see Delamere Forest as a wildlife destination	Have you visited to watch wildlife?	What were you watching?	Has your knowledge of mosslands and their species increased?
Yes	7	Yes	Dragonflies	9
Yes	10	Yes	Dragonflies and birds	10
Yes	10	Yes	Dragonflies	3
Yes	8	Yes	Dragonflies, butterflies, birds	10
Yes	10	Yes	Dragonflies	10
No	10	Yes	General	7
Yes	8	Yes	Dragonflies	9
Yes	10	Yes	Spiders	8
Yes	10	Yes	Dragonflies, birds, bats	10
Yes	9	Yes	Dragonflies, butterflies, birds	10
No	9	Yes	Orchids and wildflowers	7
No	7	Yes	Birds, insects	10
Yes	7	No		10
Yes	10	Yes	Dragonflies and birds	8
No	10	Yes	Birds	8
No	7	Yes	Dragonflies	10
Yes	10	Yes	Moths	10
No	4	No		8
Yes	9	Yes	Dragonflies	9
Yes	10	Yes	Dragonflies	7
Yes	9	Yes	Birds	9
Yes	8	Yes	Mosses	7
Yes	10	Yes	Dragonflies, birds, hoverflies	8
Yes	9	Yes	Dragonflies	8
Yes	10	Yes	General	10
<b>Promotor</b>	<b>17</b>			<b>14</b>
<b>Passive</b>	<b>7</b>			<b>10</b>
<b>Detractor</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>NPS</b>	<b>64</b>			<b>52</b>

**Give one word that describes what you think of the project**

Opportunity  
 Excellent  
 Vital  
 Fascinating  
 Worthwhile  
 Fascination  
 Positive  
 Teamwork  
 Inspiring  
 Brilliant  
 Inspiring  
 Exciting  
 Excellent  
 Informative  
 Dedication  
 Fantastic

**What does Delamere's wildlife mean to you?**

A chance to be more aware of my local area and understand how the environment affects wildlife  
 Inspiring

I feel that it somewhat belongs to me being local and having lived in area for many years, and as such I have a responsibility to ensure its protection and growth: hence my involvement on the project  
 :)

Peace and beauty

A nationally important site for spiders. The management is extremely beneficial to the rare spiders associated with the site

Survivors with a better future

A lot of inspiration towards my work

Sunny days full of surprises

Living, thriving environment valuable to enhance the lives of all

Really exciting opportunity to be involved in a great conservation project

Steadily improving habitats

A link in the chain from Whixall meres and mosses to Delamere and beyond

A very important part of my life

It's important to me as a place of quiet reflection and of joy in nature