



HOLTON PITS NEWS

Winter 2024



Can you spare “a coffee a month” to keep the Pits in the Community’s hands?

Despite successfully raising the funding to buy Holton Pits for the Community we still need to raise money every year to pay for the expenses needed to keep the Pits open. These include public liability insurance, accountant’s fees, website and other online service fees, printing, contingency and emergencies, repair materials etc.

A small donation each month of around £3 (or more if you wish), equivalent to a cup of coffee, set up as a standing order, will help us to secure this funding to keep the Pits running into the future.

Our details are:

Bank: The Co-Operative Bank
Account Name: Holton Pits Community Interest Company
Sort Code: 08-92-99
Account Number: 67279447
Reference: (Your account name).

Work Begins At Holton Pits

Following the purchase of Holton Pits work has started making the site safe and accessible. The land purchased by the industrial estate has now been fenced off and we have begun the process of planting hedging alongside it on the Pits side to soften its impact and to attract birds and insects.



Around the lake, a section of bank had been taken into the water on the root-ball of a willow tree that had fallen in the high winds of the 18th November. We constructed a

retaining structure of chestnut stakes and chestnut bundles against the fallen root-ball and filled the space with gravel taken from elsewhere on the site.

We have installed new lifebuoys and safety signs around the lake and have dismantled a number of the old fishing platforms that had fallen into a dangerous condition.



The car park has now been cleared of the fly-tipped waste that had been dumped there and the bramble that had grown up the fence-line has been removed.

Any trees that were causing a hazard or obstruction have been professionally coppiced or felled.

There will be more work to do and we will be looking for volunteer work party members to help us once our policies and procedures are in place.



Funded by
UK Government

Holton Pits Community Interest Company is a company limited by guarantee
Company No. 14657980 (Registered England & Wales)
Registered Office: East Lodge, Beccles Road, Holton, Halesworth, England, IP19 8NQ

Japanese Knotweed Control

A small patch of Japanese knotweed is on the site, near the small lake – north-east. Knotweed can grow in most soil conditions found in the UK, particularly in man-made habitats such as ours. Japanese knotweed is the most common of four invasive knotweed plant species in the UK. It usually takes at least three years to treat Japanese knotweed successfully. CEMEX tried, and failed.

We are taking measures to control the spread of Japanese Knotweed.

- We will put up a small rope fence, marking out the area / providing delineation for when treatments begin later in the year.
- We will clear the area of vegetation to make it easier to spot and treat the knotweed.
- We will install a couple of small signs informing people that the area is ‘under management/treatment for Japanese Knotweed’

For the next 3-5 years we will need to treat the knotweed with appropriate methods, which we are currently researching and seeking advice. Hopefully, if we can knock it on the head successfully the fencing will come down in a few years.



Volunteer and Learn The Gentle Art of Hedge Laying

On the 12th and 13 of February we will be coppicing and “laying” the elm trees on the eastern boundary of the Holton Pits site. The trees are dying and this ancient woodcraft technique is used to provide live hedging rich in biodiversity, and to save and prolong the life of the trees.



We have places on our volunteer work parties where you can come along and learn this ancient technique with our arborist Paul Jackson, spend some time in the fresh air, and save this valuable asset.

If you would like to volunteer for this project, please contact us on holtonpitscic@gmail.com

Please note that places will be limited for this opportunity so the sooner you can apply the better. However, further volunteering opportunities will be arising in the near future.

Fishing at Holton Pits

We are committed to maintaining sustainable fishing for the local community on the larger of the two lakes. The current licensee, Woodbridge and District Angling Club, have indicated that they are unlikely to want to renew their licence and so we have been engaged in exploring a number of options including bringing the running of the fishery “in house” through volunteers. We are currently obtaining quotes for the provision of facilities for people with disabilities to be able to enjoy fishing, and the lake, for which we obtained £10k of Government funding.

Celebration

Please join us at Holton and Blyford Village Hall on Friday 16th February starting at 7pm to celebrate the amazing community achievement of saving Holton Pits!



Funded by
UK Government