

Weed Removal Adderbury Lakes

Both lakes are currently choked with weed (blanket weed sitting on top of 4 or 5 species of indigenous weed. And there is also a problem with Duckweed in the lower lake.

The lakes were dredged in February 2013 and since then the weed has gradually returned, initially in healthy oxygenating clumps but in the last 3 years growth has accelerated due probably to very hot summers and dry winters.

In July last year all the fish in the top lake went “belly up” and over 1300 dead fish were removed by us. The Environment Agency suspected an echo-toxin, a natural phenomenon caused by a combination of low warm water and excessive algae and weed. It could also have been caused by low oxygen levels due to the blanket weed covering most of the lake.

Vaughn Lewis of Windrush AEC Ltd was commissioned last November to investigate the situation and produce a report. (attached)

The only way to remove weed is by mechanical means using amphibious machines. Some weed is necessary for a healthy lake but a method must subsequently be found to prevent the excessive growth from reoccurring.

Aquatic Solutions Ltd have quoted £5010 to clear the weed using the amphibious “Truxors” which were successfully used for the dredging in 2013.

Aqua Contractors Ltd were approached and, produced a quote, but it transpired that their machines could not operate in the relatively shallow waters of our Lakes.

A third company, “Murlac”, have been approached but they have yet to produce a quote.

Based on the Aquatic Solutions Ltd quote, we have applied to the Thames Water Charities Fund for a grant of £5000.

We would expect the work to be carried out in the autumn after the breeding season is over. The plan is for the weed to remain on site where it would be left to rot down.

If nothing is done to remove the weed the upper lake would gradually become a bog with a small water course running through it and the lower lake would revert to a swamp.

Rick Atkinson. 25 June 2020