

Pond dipping platform

This used to be a single shallow pond that was always in danger of drying out. It was decided by the group to create an interconnected pond in 2015. The left-hand pond is deeper, allowing for a pond dipping platform which was constructed by volunteers, funded by the Postcode Lottery, in the same year. The platform is made of recycled plastic bottle tops to prevent the structure from rotting in the water.

The pond has been used over several years for pond dipping for visiting groups and schoolchildren. A variety of invertebrates and amphibians inhabit this pond such as pond skaters, water boatmen, dragonfly and damselfly larva, frogs, toads and newts. In warmer months, dragonflies and damselflies can be seen flitting over the pond, with a kingfisher being an occasional visitor. A variety of plants including marsh marigolds, water plantain, flag iris and bulrushes are common species to observe.

The right hand pond is not used for dipping but which acts as a habitat to encourage similar species to frequent the dipping pond. Both ponds require annual maintenance to ensure they remain free from encroaching vegetation. This includes removing Himalayan Balsam from the fringes which otherwise would encroach on the pond vegetation and ultimately overwhelm it.