

BODENHAM LAKE DIARY

Summer into Autumn

29th July

I blame Sophie.

My interest in the wildlife at Bodenham Lake started with the guided walk around the lakeside. Organised by Sophie Cowling, Lugg Living Landscape Project Officer for Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, a small group of us were led into the private area of the reserve, the wildlife refuge.



Sophie asked if I was interested in monitoring wildlife at the lake, especially any otter activity, using my trail cameras.

I was hooked. This gave me a great opportunity to witness the mostly secret life at a wildlife refuge.

This diary is an informal record of sightings at the lake, together with photos of two experts, Dr. Mick Colquhoun and Christopher Greensmith; their advice has been invaluable.

In total, four trail cameras have been placed around the lake in various positions with reference to Fig 1 below.

Photographs taken by these cameras and on site relate to this map.

14th to 19th August

Cam 1 – BL2

Cam 2 – Beach 1

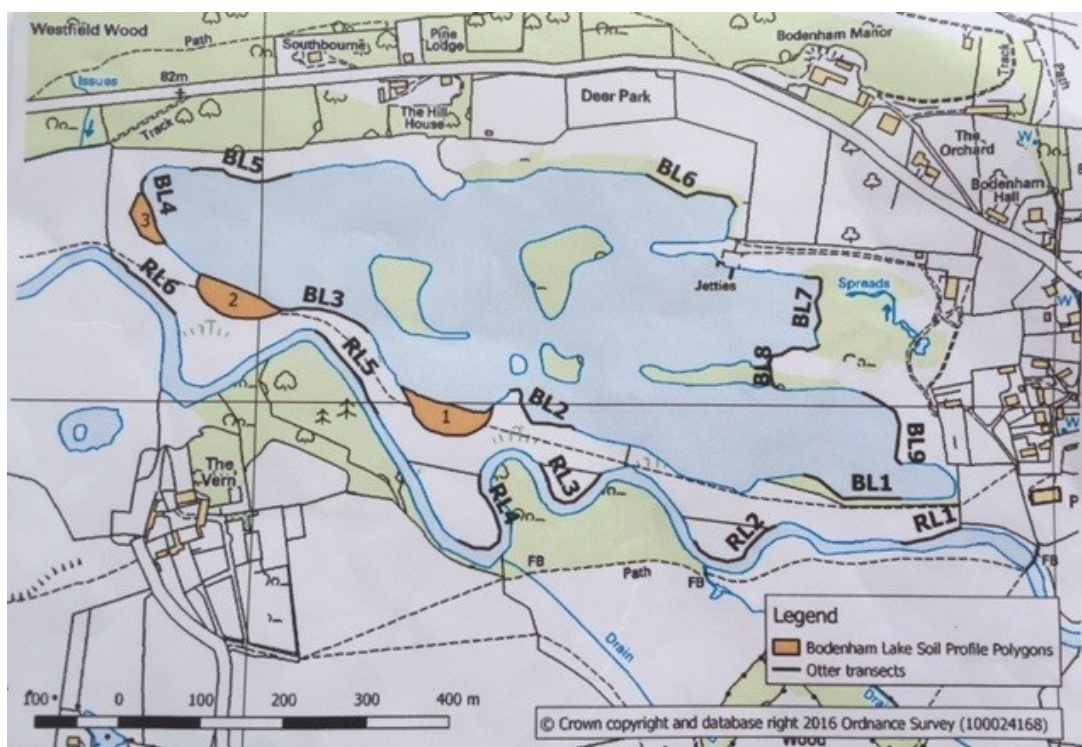
Cam 3 – BL3

Cam 4 - BL4

Mallard, moorhen, Canada geese, magpie, jay, crow, pheasant, blackbird, squirrel, swan, fox, rabbit and fallow deer were all observed by most cameras and on most dates. There was one sighting of a muntjac by Cam 3.

Fig. 1

Location of survey transects for the 2008 Lower Lugg Breeding Otter Project





Cam 1 18th August A flock of Canada Geese

The cams photographed deer and foxes at night as follows:

Cam 1

17th August - Fallow deer at night

18th August - Fox at night

Cam 3

19th August – Muntjac at night

Location of Camera 3



21st - 27th August

21st August

Visit with Dr Mick Colquhoun

Mick sets up Cam 4 at Location BL4



Photo of wild bees nest at RL5 taken by Mick



Mick taking photos at BL4



21st August

Video at Cam 3 of Goosanders <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwwyKDjcvg8>

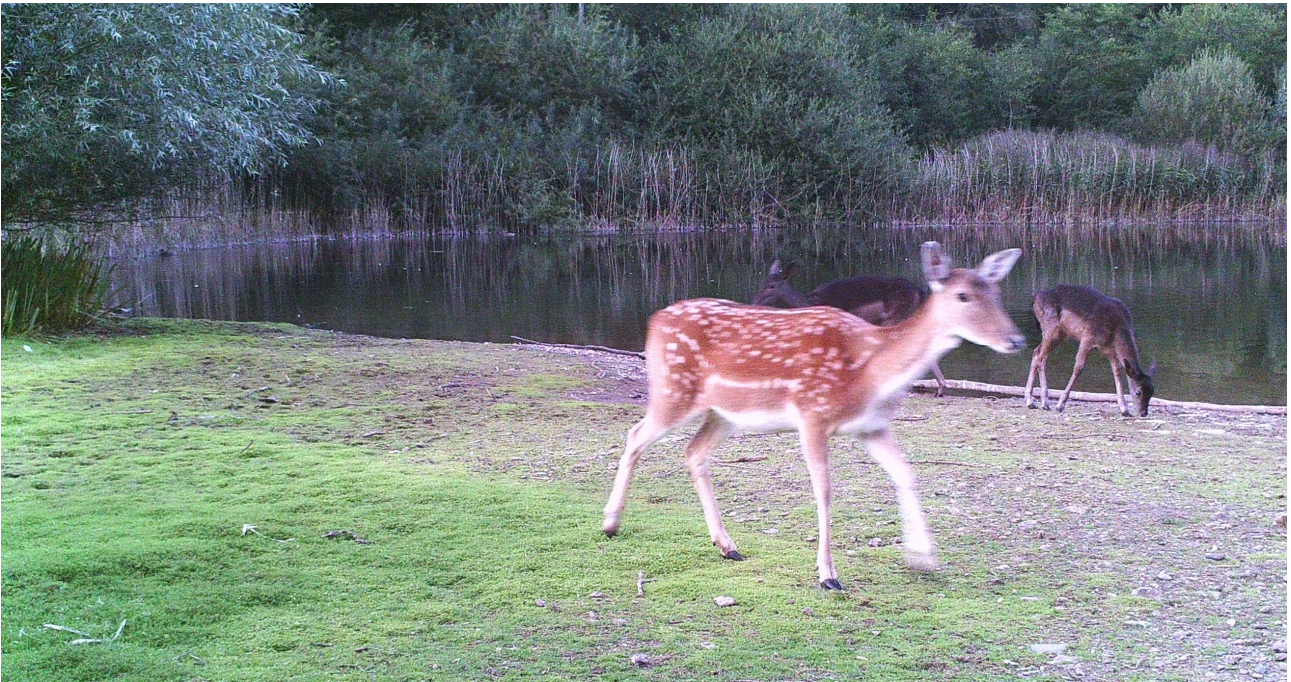
Photo of geosanders taken by Cam 3



23rd August Cam 4
Photo of fallow stag



Cam 4 – Fallow hinds



Cam 4 Video of fallow hinds <https://youtu.be/OBezytZ9WIA>

27th August

Cam 4 – Heron in the morning mist



Cam 4 – Buzzard



Cam 3 - Common sandpiper



1st September

Visit again with Mick, who has designed and made several housings for the trail cams, seen here at Cam 4.



1st - 9th September

2nd September

Photo of mink by Cam 3 <https://youtu.be/4WSeZ1syKUE>

Cam 3 Video of mink chased by a moorhen



42°F 5°C

09-02-2017 06:43:06



9th September

Cam 3. Cormorant feeding frenzy

Video <https://youtu.be/Ky27ADacOxI>

During the period 1st - 9th September mink were observed at BL2.

Muntjac and foxes were photographed by Cam 3. The sandpiper and mate seem to be resident at Beach 2.

Two men had also entered the Wildlife Refuge and were setting up their hammocks at RL5. They were apologetic and swiftly moved on. They were camera shy!

Bird Life at the Lake



13th - 22nd September

No trace of an otter had been found in the past month, so I decided to call in the expert and my friend, Christopher Greensmith on the 13th September.

Christopher quickly found two good sites on the river bank, one with numerous otter spraints. We repositioned Cams at RL2 and at the head of the meander between RL3 and 4.



RL2



Christopher at meander in river between RL3 and RL4



22nd September

Cam 4 Muntjac at night Video - <https://youtu.be/Aff9gQrF77Q>



28th September to 8th October

28th September Cam 3 Playful foxes

Video - https://youtu.be/-pdL_xMZMts



52°F 11°C

09-28-2017 07:26:39