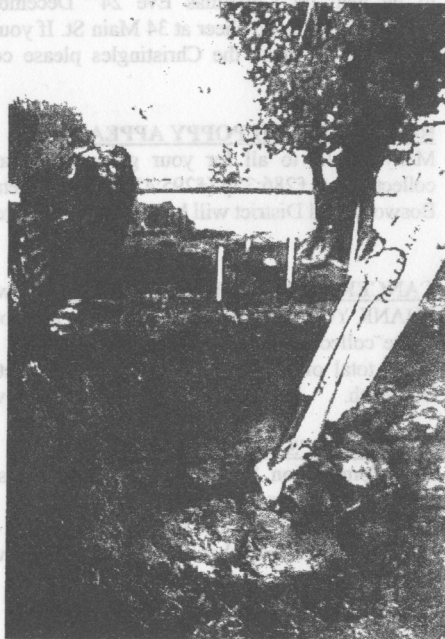


CARLTON CHARITY LANDS.

Over the last few weeks, exciting developments have been taking place in one of the fields belonging to Carlton Charity Lands. For some time, the trustees have been concerned about the deterioration in the condition of a water hole alongside the railway embankment. The water hole fell into disuse in 1994 when a water supply was piped onto the land and a trough installed for sheep and cattle.

Now, thanks to a grant from the Action for Wildlife Grant Scheme, the original pond has been restored and considerably extended. After discussion with the trustees and the tenant farmer, detailed plans were drawn up by Chris Peat, with help and advice from David Swallow, and the grant was applied for. The application was successful and the project was given one of fifteen grants awarded to projects that will help to deliver the objectives of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Plans (BAP).

Work began with the pollarding by Chris Peat of a significant crack willow tree on the site. The next step was to take down the existing fencing and to excavate the area of the new pond to the required depth. The trustees are grateful to Mick Poynton who very kindly agreed to carry out the excavation work. Fortunately this happened before the recent non-stop rains although even then the ground was extremely wet – too wet to spread the soil from the excavations without causing damage to the surrounding area. A spell of dry weather and some hard frosts would be welcome!



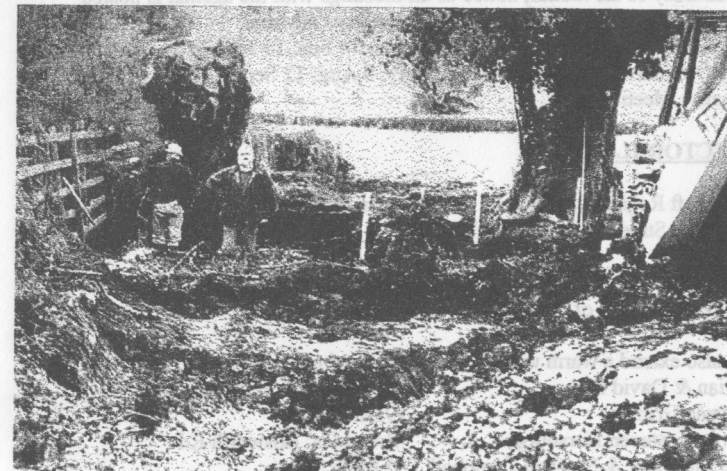
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Source: Carlton News, December 2000

The whole site has been newly fenced by Bill, Frank and Geoff Mephram to provide a protected area for wildlife. The pond is fed by original drains in the field and it drains through a culvert under the railway embankment into a ditch on the other side. The clearing of the field drains and the excavation to a depth of 1200mm in the centre of the pond will greatly improve the drainage in the field as a whole. When plants begin to spring up on the surrounding banks the area will be very attractive and a huge improvement on the old water hole. The trustees, with the agreement of the tenant farmer, hope to arrange an afternoon in the spring when people can go along and have a look at the new pond. More details about this in the New Year.

The trustees are very grateful for the grant which has enabled this work to go ahead and for the help and support of many people in the village. The project has been entered in Leicester Mercury's Village Ventures Competition in the Environmental Action category. This section of the competition is for projects where the aim is to improve or conserve the local environment via community action. Judging is in December so we will let you know in the New Year whether or not the project was successful.

Megan Thurlaway, Chair, Carlton Charity Land Trustees



CHARITY LAND WATER HOLE

5.