

17, Osbourne Street,  
Bletchley,  
Milton Keynes,  
MK2 2LU.

30th October 1989.

The Chief Executive,  
Wycombe District Council,  
Queen Victoria Road,  
High Wycombe,  
Bucks.  
HP11 1BB.

Dear Sir,

re: Mannings Pond, Downley Common.

During the winter of 1987-88 the Downley Common Preservation Society carried out conservation work on the above pond. As a result of their activities, a very rare native British plant appeared on the site in August of this year. The plant has been known from 'Naphill' in the past, but the last reference I can find for its appearance was in 1897! It used to be at a few other Buckinghamshire sites, but now seems to be extinct. It is currently only certainly known from one site in Surrey and this one on the Common. Consequently, its reappearance is most exciting - and rewarding for the Preservation Society. Because of its national rarity the plant is scheduled under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and so special care needs to be taken of it. What this involves is not quite certain at present but research work is being carried out at Cambridge University.

I understand that your council grant-aided the conservation project and thought you would be interested to know of its success. Obviously the presence of the plant was unsuspected at the onset of the project but as a result of the very successful exercise the Common now has a very special place in the botany of Buckinghamshire and the country generally.

Please thank your council for the grant provided; I hope they are gratified to learn of this most rewarding use of their money.

Yours sincerely,



Roy Maycock.

(Botanical Recorder for Buckinghamshire)

c.c. Mr. N. Belson. ✓