



# Little Ouse Headwaters Project

[www.lohp.org.uk](http://www.lohp.org.uk)



## Restoring the pond on Broomscot Common 2011 – 13

Photos by Reg Langston and Di MacDonald



**Broomscot Common is linked to the Little Ouse River by a small stream (shown here by a blue line). The pond is marked by a ✖**





**Most of the common is like this - very, very dry. It's good for some plants and animals, but the LOHP decided to restore the old pond at the head of the stream, to keep it good for wildlife too.**





**Before any pond digging could begin, a large willow by the fence had to be cleared as it had collapsed into the pond area. This shows the last of the bits of fallen willow being cleared away in February 2011.**





**After the willow had been cleared  
and a new fence put up - October 2012**





**A mini digger and dumper truck were used to dig out the pond.**





**The mud was very deep and  
the digger got stuck a few times.**





**A school visit to the newly dug-out pond.**







**The soil and mud from the digging was piled onto higher ground along with some big logs from the willow. Amphibians and reptiles, beetles and other invertebrates will live in the log piles.**





**The pond after it had been dug out in March 2012.  
The water comes in under the fence on the right and round an island.  
You can see the stumps of willow which were treated with chemicals to  
stop them growing again.**





**By October 2012 the vegetation had started to grow up and the pond had dried out a little over the summer.**





**By October 2013 the vegetation had almost covered the pond and some of the willow had regrown although it had been treated. This just shows how quickly plants grow in damp conditions.**





**On the south side of the pond a viewing platform was planned so that the school children could view the pond.  
The willows were pollarded (cut off at head height) so that they would grow back but would not shade the pond.  
This is March 2012.**





**The same view one year later (March 2013).  
It shows just how quickly willow grows.**





**The willow and pond viewing platform in October 2013. It's not much use as a viewing platform because no water can be seen. Garboldisham Primary School children are pollarding the pond-side willows again so that LOHP contractors can dig out the mud and grass to make the pond reach the platform.**





**It's hard work pollarding but luckily there are LOHP volunteers to help**



**More welly needed.**







**Success!**

**This willow branch will go to repair the school's willow tunnel.**





**The branches are trimmed to encourage them to grow roots when they are put into the ground.**





**Loading them into the trailer was difficult work  
and took many hands.**





**In December 2013 a big digger scraped away plants and mud to make open water again**





# Pond restoration at Broomscot Common

**Good for wildlife**  
**Good for children**  
**Good for the village**

