

Reedbed monitoring 2019

Jon Parkes, Lands Manager for the National Trust for Jersey, visited Alderney in February 2019 to conduct a brief review of the management of freshwater wetland sites on Alderney. Following his recommendations it was decided to use grazing to help improve the health of the reedbed at Longis Pond. In Jersey grazing has yielded positive results. The dry reed at Longis is currently dominated by grasses and bramble.

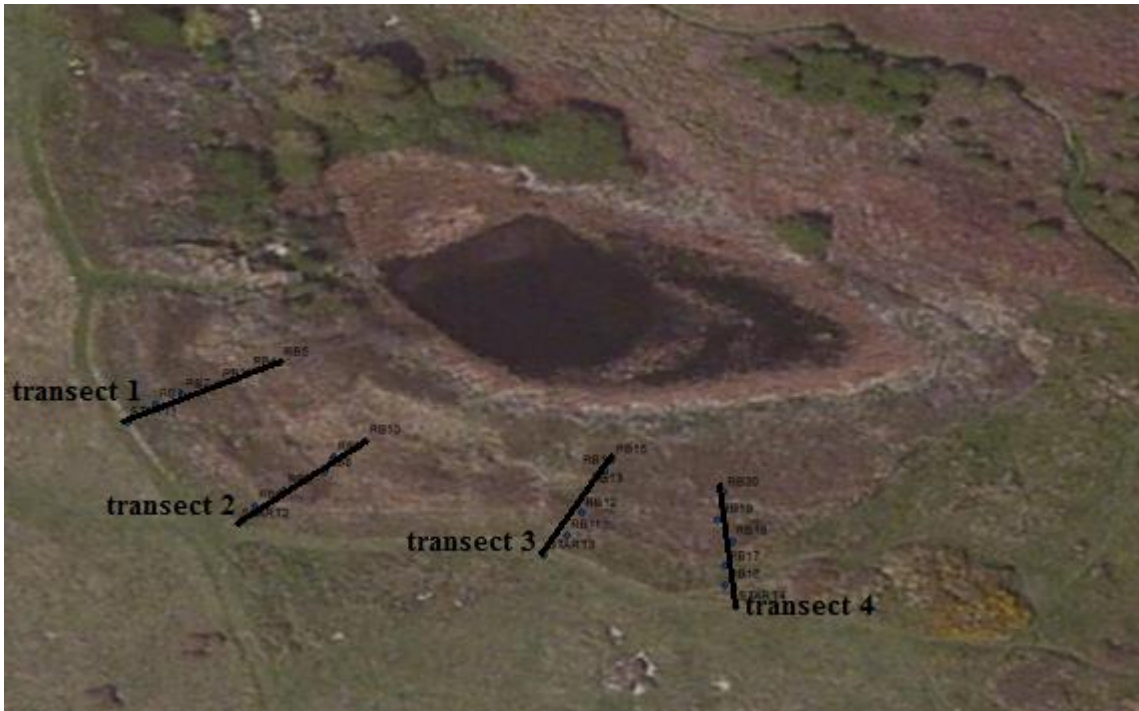
The aim of the 2019 monitoring work was to provide baseline data for evaluating the effects of grazing on the reedbed. The monitoring work was carried out on 3rd October before the cattle was allowed to graze part of the dry reed.

Four transects were surveyed. Two of them (transects 1 and 2) are located inside the planned grazing area and two (transects 3 and 4) outside the planned grazing area (controls). Picture 1 shows the locations of the transects. Each transect consists of five 1m x 1m quadrats (1m²) laid 5 meters apart (Picture 2). For each transect GPS coordinates were taken for a start point, which is located just outside the reedbed. From the start point a 30m tape measure was used to mark out a transect towards the pond. 1m x 1m quadrat samples were taken every 5 meters (5m, 10m, 15m, 20m and 25m) along the transect. GPS coordinates were taken for each quadrat. All the coordinates are listed in Table 1.

Following parameters were recorded for each quadrat:

- number of live stems (live stem density)
- number of dead stems (dead stem density)
- total number of stems (total stem density)
- number of panicles (flowering heads)
- mean reed stem height (cm)
- vegetation cover
 - % grass
 - % bramble
 - % reed
 - % other
- % bare ground

The results of the quadrats are found on a separate excel sheet.



Picture 1. The locations of the transects. Transects 1 and 2 are inside the planned grazing area. Transects 3 and 4 are outside the planned grazing area (controls).



Picture 2. The locations of the start points and the 1m x 1m quadrats.

	point	X coordinate	Y coordinate	
transect 1	START1	2.174575	49.723583	on the path
	RB1	2.174519	49.723618	
	RB2	2.174467	49.723637	
	RB3	2.174395	49.723658	
	RB4	2.174337	49.723681	
	RB5	2.174275	49.723701	
transect 2	START2	2.174356	49.723384	small hawthorn
	RB6	2.174324	49.723419	
	RB7	2.174267	49.72345	
	RB8	2.174189	49.723484	
	RB9	2.174169	49.723515	
	RB10	2.174107	49.723547	
transect 3	START3	2.173757	49.723322	small willow
	RB11	2.173713	49.723362	
	RB12	2.173684	49.723406	
	RB13	2.173673	49.723452	
	RB14	2.173639	49.723488	
	RB15	2.173625	49.72351	
transect 4	START4	2.173383	49.723222	on the path
	RB16	2.173404	49.723264	
	RB17	2.173404	49.723301	
	RB18	2.173389	49.72335	
	RB19	2.173419	49.723393	
	RB20	2.173406	49.723446	

Table 1. The coordinates of the start points and the 1m x 1m quadrats.