



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



A BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you to all our lovely volunteers who have helped with the ice age ponds project this year! And thanks to all those who came to our volunteer event on Friday 10th. For those who couldn't make it, this is what we got up to...

- Lots of chatting about the project and munching of mince pies!
- Looking at soil samples.
- Looking at the surveyed ponds on QGIS maps.
- Discussions about geophysics in the sunshine!



PROJECT UPDATE

Some of you may be wondering what the data you collected is now being used for. Currently it is being organized into a format that we can analyze it in to find out differences between ponds so that we can find out more about these fascinating habitats and advise on management where appropriate. Management work by contractors has been completed on 8 ponds, where coppicing and pollarding of trees has taken place. Restoration of ghost ponds has also been happening and we can't wait to see what wildlife arrives, we think the rainbow that appeared must be a good omen! Thanks to Will Watson for the photos.



BRILLIANT BLOOD SUCKERS

As part of the Ice Age Ponds project we have been working with the Freshwater Habitats Trust on their Medicinal Leech Recovery Project. The last few recorded sites in Herefordshire with Medicinal Leech are Ice Age Ponds. Our wonderful volunteers and ecologists visited one site and tried to encourage any hiding leeches into our nets (they were well covered in wellies so no risk of bites). Sadly we didn't find any this time, but we thought you might like to learn more about these most unusual of creatures. The BBC Radio 4 series Natural Histories has done one on Medicinal Leeches, including the link with vampires and why they are still so important for medicine, so for an interesting listen (possibly not just before bed) click [here](#).

VOLUNTEER TRAINING 2022

Thank you to everyone who attended our online or in-person training events this year. We plan to run some more online training in January and **February 2022 in preparation for our site surveys next spring. If there is anything in particular that you would like us to cover then please drop us a line (e.andrews@worc.ac.uk) and we will see if we can arrange for a session.**

A Date for your diary!

ICE AGE PONDS CONFERENCE 2nd March 2022. 3 Counties Hotel, Hereford.

MAMMOTH NEWS!

The Ice Age Ponds Team (especially Beth) love all things mammoth. Over Christmas David Attenborough hosts 'Attenborough and The Mammoth Graveyard' which profiles an archaeological dig looking to uncover Britain's biggest mammoth discovery in almost 20 years. Although these wonderful finds predate our Ice Age Ponds by 200,000 years it should be fascinating and (fairly) local. one to look out for on Thursday 30th December at 8pm. For further details please click [here](#).



For now, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone on the Ice Age Ponds team! We hope to see you all in the new year.