



Milford Conservation Volunteers



www.milfordconservation.org

Committee members update for the Observatory.

4th January - 7th February 2021

As you know I have been staying away from the Observatory since the new guidelines were put in place, but I decided to check how things were going down there. I will start with the results from the 2 trail cams.

Birds recorded:

Mute Swan. Little Egret. Mallard. Moorhen. Grey Heron.

Little Grebe. Water Rail. Woodpigeon. Kingfisher. Pheasant.



Grey Heron

Mammals Recorded:

Badger. Fox. Otter.

Badger



Fox



Otter



I think this shows the back of an Otter swimming away from the camera.

The water levels varied considerably, going from, very high to almost normal.

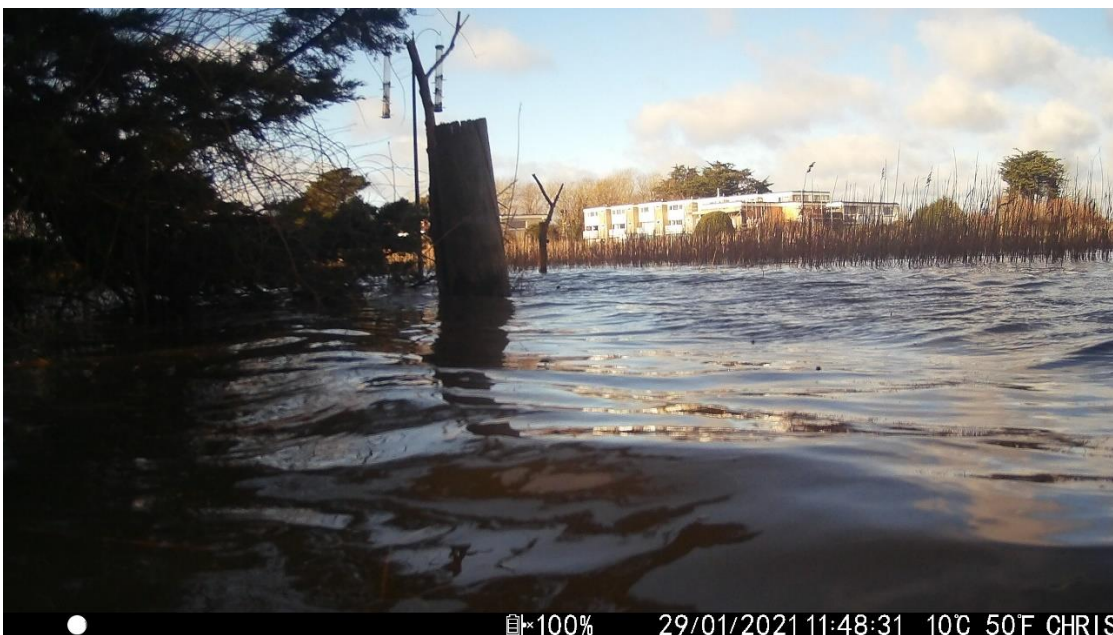


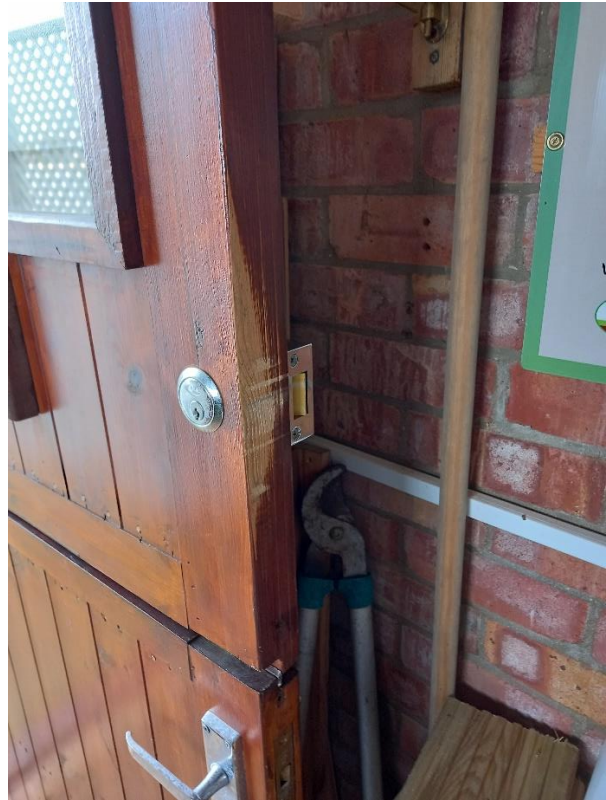
Photo showing quite a large wave flowing through the Kingfisher pool.

The Bad news.

When I arrived at the Observatory on the 5th February it was obvious that the Observatory had been broken into again.



This time, some damage was caused and the fire extinguisher taken.



Missing fire extinguisher. Both locks jammed, meaning the door cannot be locked.

The camera aimed at the windows overlooking the Kingfisher pool was checked. See photo on the following page.



This intruder was unable to enter through the windows as he had previously done, so he targeted the door from the deck and forced the locks. As you can see, this photo was taken on the 17th January which means that once the locks had been broken he or they could have entered the Observatory at any time.

I have set up another trail cam on the left-hand side of the deck as you approach the Observatory. So hopefully whoever walks along the deck will be photographed by this camera.

I have already spoken to David (H) and Keith about the break in and they have both said that the security of the Observatory should be discussed by the committee.

Chris Barrass. 7/2/2021