



# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPOSALS AT KNEPP CASTLE ESTATE

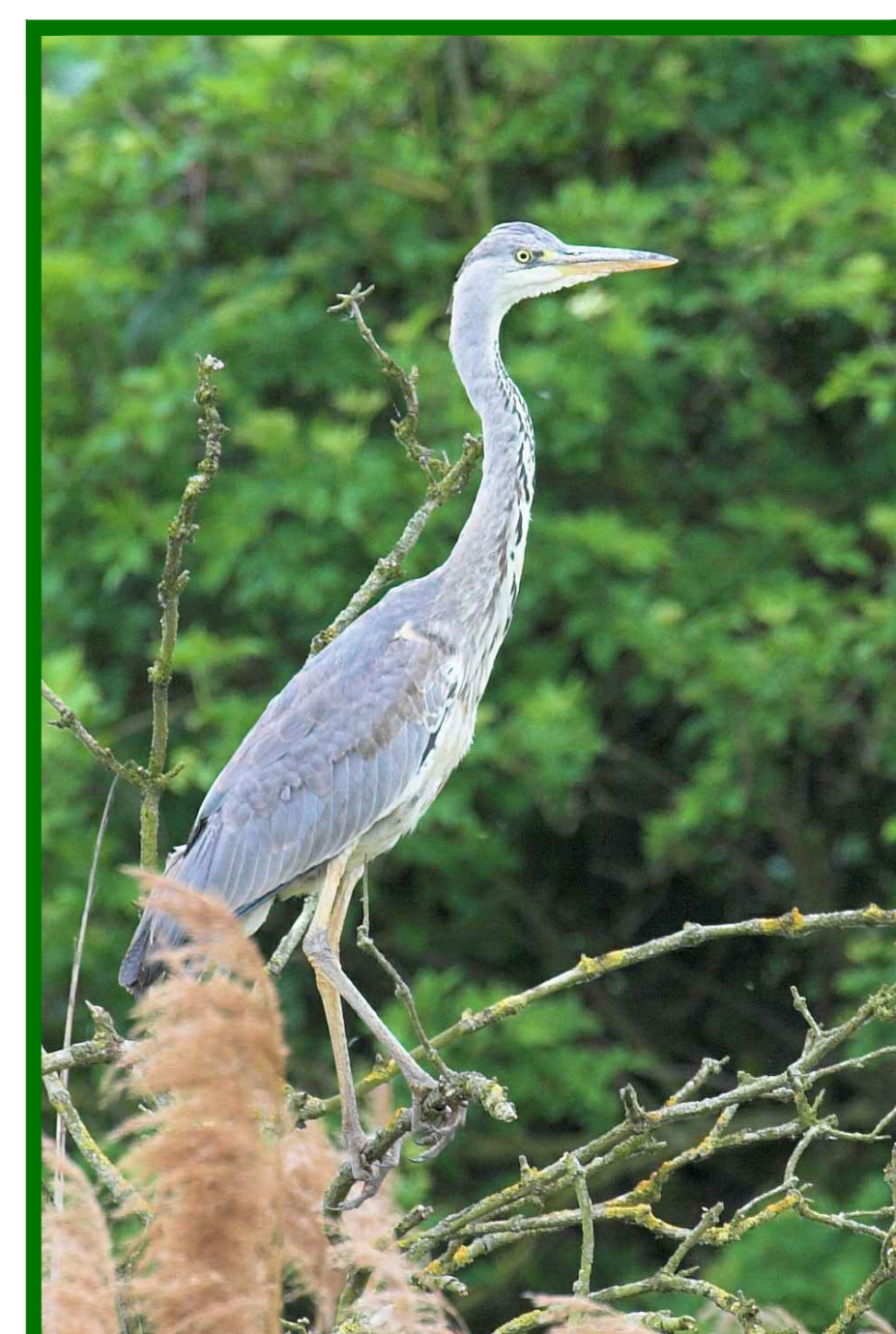


Aerial photo of Knepp Castle and the surrounding parkland

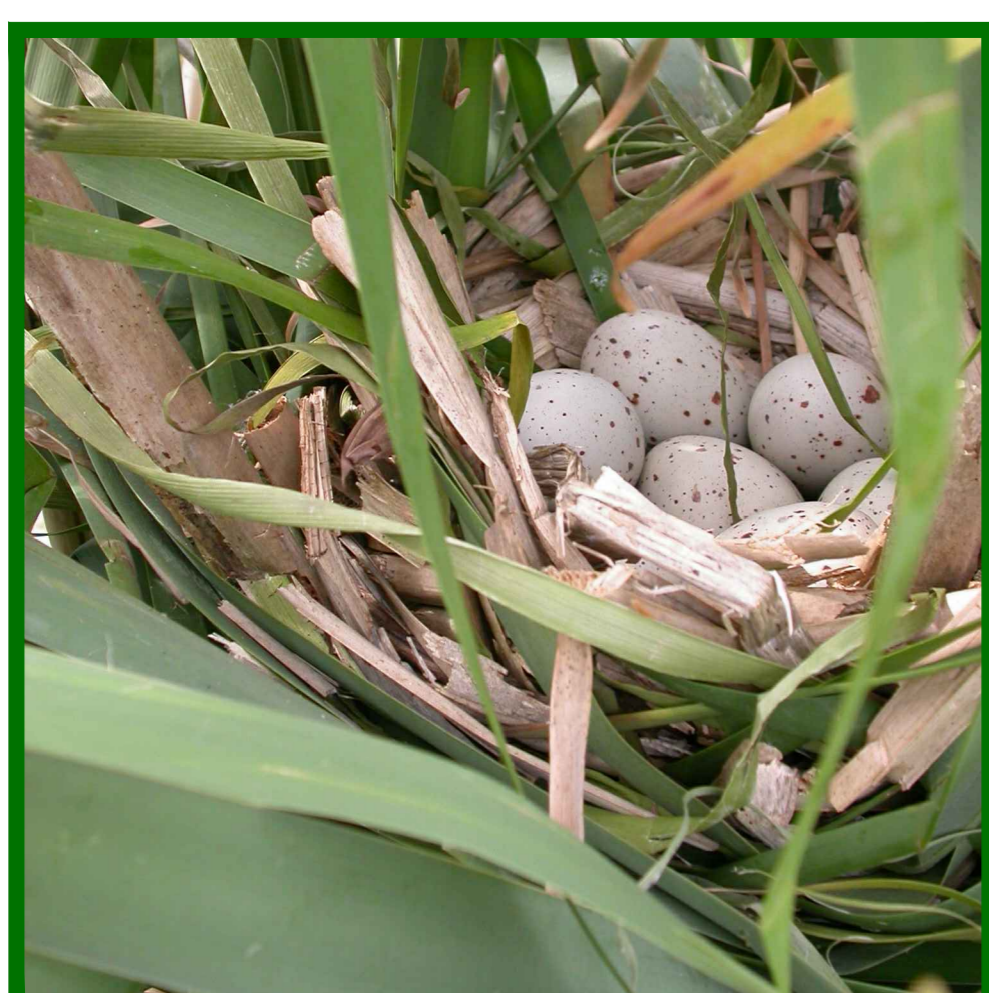


Photo of Knepp Mill Pond

- Knepp Mill Pond is one of the largest and most significant stretches of open water in the South East of England.
- Knepp Mill Pond is an extremely important site for nature conservation.
- Knepp Mill Pond and the surrounding land provides beneficial habitats for herons, Daubenton bats, visiting ospreys, cormorants, over wintering ducks and geese, a number of different dragonflies and insects.
- According to records, the lake originated as a Mill or 'Hammer' Pond in the 16th century covering an area of nearly 80 acres and was vital to the iron industry providing a head of water to drive a water wheel that, in turn drove hammers to crush the iron ore.
- When the industry went into decline at the beginning of the 17th century, the pond was retained as a landscape feature and was the basis upon which Repton and Nash sited and designed the location of Knepp Castle and the surrounding park in the early 19th century.
- Over time due to natural processes of silation exacerbated by intensive farming and ploughing in the direct vicinity of the lake after World War II the pond has shrunk to less than half its size.



Grey heron at Knepp Mill Pond



Moorhen nest at Knepp Mill Pond

- Marsh, reeds, alder and willows have encroached significantly into the open water.
- If restoration works are not carried out soon the pond will become progressively shallower and narrower and will eventually disappear altogether.
- It is proposed that the Knepp Mill Pond is restored by dredging and that associated with the lake dredging works landscaping works are carried out.