NATURAL GOLDSWORTH PARK

www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

A Review of the Vision Statement Projects for the North Meadow and Woodland, Revised Proposals and Action Plan

By the Natural Goldsworth Park Working Group

Author: Bob Challoner

Version: FINAL 002
Date: 15 April 2021

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Issue date	Revision	Issued to
Draft 001	05 March 2021		NGP Working Group
FINAL 001	10 March 2021	Approved by Working Group	GPCA Trustees for comment/approval
FINAL 002	15 April 2021	Minor revisions to text following Trustees' comments; PostScript section added.	
	17 April 20212		GPCA Trustees; Woking Borough Council officers; Thames Water Biodiversity Field Officer; local SCC and WBC Councillors; NGP Patron; GPCA website; NGP Working Group

CONTENTS

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Executive Summary Revision 002 FINAL

Appendix A: Meadow botanical survey 2020 update

Appendix B: Woodland botanical survey 2020 update

Appendix C: Action Plan REVISION 002 FINAL

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

Following an undertaking in 2016 from Woking Borough Council ("WBC") to defer any development of the North Meadow for a period of 10 years, Natural Goldsworth Park ("NGP") was established under the auspices of registered charity Goldsworth Park Community Association ("GPCA").

A Vision Statement for the North Meadow (hereinafter "the Meadow") and adjoining woodland areas was published in 2016. This set out six broad aspirational projects for enhancing their biodiversity, increasing the local community's engagement with the spaces and their natural history, and recognising the history and heritage of the site.

In the intervening period, a number of surveys have been undertaken which have provided a wealth of information about the plant and wildlife present and have offered a clearer understanding of the Meadow and woodland ecologies. This knowledge has been and will continue to be updated regularly. Further surveys covering the reptile, amphibian and mammal species that are resident on or visit the Meadow and woodland, and of woodland invertebrates will be undertaken in 2021.

1.2 *Purpose of the report*

Since its preparation and issue to interested stakeholders, the Vision Statement's proposals have not been critically reviewed. Whilst efforts have been made to implement some of the projects, no long term strategy for their implementation and completion has been considered.

The purpose of this review is to critically appraise each of the Vision Statement projects in terms of:

- *Feasibility*
- *Desirability*
- *Sustainability*
- *Benefits and costs to the habitats and their users*
- *Priority for implementation*
- *Financial and resource costs*
- *Implementation time*
- *Post-implementation ecological and user consequences*

The review suggests alternative approaches where appropriate with some new ideas for realising NGP's objectives and proposes an Action Plan to take the NGP project forward for consideration by key stakeholders.

1.3 *NGP Working Group*

The NGP Working Group comprises:

- Celia Young (Secretary and Trustee, GPCA)
- Liz Wilkinson (resident)
- Barry Allen (resident)
- Roger Westcott (Secretary, Goldsworth Park Angling Club)
- Bob Challoner (Project Manager, Natural Goldsworth Park)

None of the Group members has any detailed scientific knowledge or qualifications, but all have a keen interest in natural history and in the conservation of the Meadow and adjoining woodland as the only substantial "wild" areas on Goldsworth Park. We hope our views are shared by the Goldsworth Park community at large.

In reviewing the Vision Statement and reaching its conclusions, the Group has called on guidance and advice from the many naturalists who have kindly volunteered their time, support and knowledge towards improving our understanding of the Meadow and woodland as wild habitats, and has sought input from representatives of WBC and Thames Water ("TW"). In conducting its appraisal, the Group has researched information from many organisations with specialised knowledge as referenced in the report.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Description

The Meadow is an area of grassland extending to an estimated 2.5ha in area and is owned and managed by WBC. The Meadow area considered for the purposes of the report is defined in Fig. 1:

Meadow boundary for report purposes in red
BMX track area in orange

Fig.1: Meadow area

The woodland comprises two areas to the east of the Meadow separated by a narrow open space and is of a similar total area to the meadow. That to the south is primarily owned and managed by TW. The area to the north is owned and managed by WBC (Fig. 2 refers). The lake banks are leased to WBC which is responsible for their maintenance.

Fig.2: TW-owned land area (Thames Water)

Fig.3: Record photo of the meadow 1980 (G. Smeesters)

Fig.4: Record photo of the meadow 1990 (G. Smeesters)

Fig.5: Exposed concrete rubble (R Challoner)

Fig.6: Excavated metal roller March 2021 (WBC)

Little is known about the history of the Meadow since land use by Slococks Nursery ceased. However it is understood the area was never cultivated by the Nursery and before construction of Goldsworth Park it was heathland similar in character to the nearby Horsell Common.

The presence of concrete rubble at surface level, excavated metal (**Fig.5 & 6**) and of bricks, concrete and plastic sheeting in trial pits dug for a 2014 soil analysis suggest the Meadow is substantially made-up ground, possibly predating construction of the Claydon Road housing phase and the industrial estate in the 1970s. The presence of such material from this period carries a risk of ground contamination by deleterious materials such as asbestos commonly used pre-2000, although none has been seen or reported to date.

The history of the woodland is also unknown but it is thought to date from the early-mid 1990s. Anecdotal evidence from residents suggests the northern area was grassland in 1986. This is supported by the lack of trees in the 1980 meadow photograph (**Fig.3**) looking north-east towards the industrial estate, and in the 1990 photograph (**Fig.4**) where the absence of trees in front of the Willowmead Close properties is notable. An aerial photograph probably taken in the early-mid 1980s shows the whole of the area being grassland with a small number of trees immediately to the north of the Lake (*Wakeford, 2015*). A relict of heathland flora remains in the north-east corner of the Meadow (*Hounsome, 2021*).

Biodiversity

Since 2016, a number of botanical and wildlife surveys have been conducted across the Meadow and these continue to be updated. They have revealed that the Meadow ecosystem alone comprises:

- **151 plant species** of which 103 are flowering species
- **166 invertebrate species**, two of which are rare or under threat
- **23 species of butterflies and moths** (not surveyed exhaustively, data from casual observation)
- **12 species of bee** (not surveyed exhaustively, data from casual observation)
- **An estimated 35+ bird species** (numbers vary across the quarterly surveys). Birds of prey are often seen over the Meadow and the Goldsworth Park area
- **At least 7 bat species** (identified during two bat detector surveys). A rare migratory species (*Pipistrellus nathusii*)) has been recorded, one specimen of which has been found close to the Lake)

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the Goldsworth Park Recreational Area and Lake commissioned by WBC in 2014 (*Surrey Wildlife Trust Consultancy, 2014*) noted :

- "As there is a suitable habitat for reptiles a survey for presence/likely absence should be conducted"

- "There is potential for the following BAP Priority species/SPI animals to be present within the survey area:
  - Common Toad
  - Grass Snake
  - Stag Beetle
  - Hedgehog
  - Brown Long-Eared Bat"

It is understood the recommendation of a reptile and amphibian survey was not followed up by WBC. Toads, frogs, newts and hedgehogs are regularly recorded in gardens around the Meadow and woodland areas. There is anecdotal evidence of grass snakes around the Lake.

- "The woodland habitat within the survey area is an HPI (Habitat of Principal Importance) and therefore should be retained and enhanced"

At present there are no data relating to amphibian, reptile or mammal populations, It is hoped these gaps in our knowledge will be addressed during 2021 along with further surveys of the woodland about which little is known.

It can be seen that despite their semi-urban location, the Meadow and, potentially, the woodland represent valuable dynamic and diverse ecosystems.

3.0 NATURAL GOLDSWORTH PARK OBJECTIVES

The Group has considered the objectives for NGP as identified in the Vision Statement. We have expanded these as noted in blue below:

1. To maximise the contribution this area makes to the Natural Woking and Woking 2050 Strategy objectives;
2. To improve and enhance biodiversity and sustainability through a high quality natural habitat;
3. To provide a safe, enjoyable and visually stimulating natural environment for users;
4. To provide encouragement and opportunities for schools to use the area as an outdoor classroom;
5. **To inform and increase the community's knowledge and understanding of the Meadow's and woodland's plant- and animal life and of that more generally found across Goldsworth Park through personal experiences and by print, broadcast media or social media-based information sources e.g. local press and radio, Goldsworth News, Facebook, Twitter; GPCA website;**
6. **To actively promote and encourage the community's engagement and involvement with the Meadow and woodland habitats;**
7. **In collaboration with other parties, to promote and create opportunities for community participation in expanding its natural history knowledge base through volunteering and citizens' science projects;**
8. **To encourage and facilitate recreational use of the Meadow and woodland by the community whilst minimising potential conflicts with the sustainability of their ecosystems;**
9. **To liaise and work with all stakeholders, particularly the landowners, on matters of land management;**
10. To ensure accessibility, every day of the week, for visitors on foot ~~**or by cycle**~~**, and so far as is practicable**, those with disabilities and/or limited mobility;
11. To encourage less active users to improve their fitness, health and well-being;
12. ~~**To showcase Goldsworth Park heritage.**~~

4.0 REVIEW OF VISION STATEMENT ASPIRATIONAL PROJECTS

4.1 *Project 1: North Meadow: Improved habitat and biodiversity*

The key project objectives stated in the Vision Statement are:

- ***Conversion of habitat from grasses to wildflowers***
- ***Retention of a simple network of grassed paths suitable for foot and cycle***

Conversion of habitat from grasses to wildflowers

What should the management strategy for the Meadow be?

Options
In consultation with WBC, the Group has considered several options for the future management of the Meadow. The Vision Statement does not comment on this aspect in any detail, but the Group considers it a fundamental question, the answer to which will frame the direction of future actions:

Option 1: Do nothing
The Meadow survived for many years without active human management and indeed, what is seen today is largely a consequence of human inaction. It can be argued that nature thrives on neglect and by letting nature take its course the Meadow will evolve in its own way over time.

The relatively recent emergence of the woodland areas suggests that if left unmanaged, the Meadow will gradually transform into open woodland/scrub (*Hounsome, 2021*).

Option 2: Conserve and maintain the Meadow as it is with minimal intervention and without significant man-made change
This option largely reflects the current management strategy adopted by WBC. Other than regular mowing of footpaths, in recent years the meadow has been mown annually, typically in late summer. This is recognised as a "standard" management strategy for hay meadows and is recommended practice for wildflower meadows, which, unless deliberately and artificially created, are the result of agricultural land use. However, it is impractical to allow over-winter livestock grazing which a fundamental element of traditional wildflower meadow management.

Option 3: Conserve and maintain the meadow but enhance its biodiversity
This option builds on Option 2 by taking a measured and considered approach to recognising and enhancing the prevailing biodiversity in such a way that the existing habitat and ecosystem are not overwhelmed and radically altered by change.

Option 4: Change the physical character of the habitat
This is the thrust of Vision Statement Project 1, the feasibility of which is considered in more detail below. To ensure long term sustainability, the option would ideally demand changes in prevailing soil conditions and plant diversity that would create an entirely new habitat very different from that now present. It would also demand a much more intrusive and intensive management approach to avoid the Meadow reverting to grass dominance or, as noted under Option 1, eventual transformation into woodland.

We have discussed the future of the Meadow with WBC. We and they agree that adoption of Option 3 represents the most appropriate strategy for ongoing management.

Defining a wildflower meadow
The common perception of a wildflower meadow comprises wide swathes of bright seasonal colour. In fact, "natural" wildflower meadows vary considerably in character according to their locations and unique site conditions. They are generally man-made, being a consequence of agricultural management over long periods of time. Management approaches vary according to the type and purpose of a meadow, but annual mowing and winter grazing are considered essential for their continuity.

Fig.7: The common perception of a wildflower meadow (Daily Telegraph)

Changes in agricultural practices have significantly reduced the number of wildflower meadows, and great effort has been and is being expended on their conservation and in creation of new meadows. Aside from their aesthetic value, the attraction of pollinators to wildflowers is frequently cited as a reason for restoring existing meadows and creating new sites, particularly where they adjoin crop fields.

Wildflower meadows require specific environmental conditions and management practices for continued and sustainable growth, particularly poor quality soils. Without these, wildflowers will be out-competed by grasses.

Desktop Assessment

The Vison Statement aspiration was formulated without interrogating site conditions to confirm their suitability for a wildflower meadow in its typically understood sense, although the document acknowledges that feasibility is dependent on understanding prevailing soil conditions.

We have therefore undertaken a desktop assessment to determine the feasibility or otherwise of converting the existing habitat to wildflowers in its entirety. The assessment adopts the methodology set out by **Plantlife**, a leading charity which actively promotes wildflower meadow creation, conservation and restoration through its **Magnificent Meadows** initiative (www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk):

Soil conditions

We have been provided with a soil analysis report for the Meadow commissioned by WBC in 2014 when provision of soccer pitches was being investigated (*WBC, 2014*). The analysis of five trial pits showed the soil texture generally comprises sandy loam or loamy sand with a broadly neutral pH value. Potassium, magnesium and phosphorus levels vary across the samples taken, but indicate generally medium fertility.

The soil is susceptible to waterlogging during prolonged rainfall as witnessed during the 2020/21 winter. Historical quantitative data of soil wetness are not available and we have assumed a Soil Wetness Classification of IV defined as -"….. where the soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for more than 180 days but not within 40 cm depth for more than 210 days in most years or, if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth, it is wet within 40 cm depth for 91-210 days in most years" (*LandIS, N.D.*)

Existing plant diversity

Botanical surveys in 2014 and 2020 have identified a total of 151 plant species which are or have been present on the Meadow (*Appendix A*). 103 are flowering species. 67 of these are localised, being present in five or fewer of the 33 survey areas defined by the path network through the Meadow. Dominant flowering species (defined for the purposes of this review as being present in more than 50% of the survey areas) include Red Clover, Ribwort Plantain, White Clover, Hogweed, and Dandelion.

The meadow is dominated by grasses, particularly Perennial Ryegrass (present in 30 of 33 survey areas). This species in particular will out-compete wildflowers- in response to our enquiries a wildflower seed supplier commented:

"Typically we would not recommend sowing wildflowers into a ryegrass-based ley as the grass will outcompete the wildflowers" (*Boston Seeds, 2021*)

Wildflower trial

In 2019, trial plots were seeded with a single proprietary 80% grass/20% wildflower seed mix. The ground was prepared by stripping the existing turf and cultivating the soil before seeding. Some annual flowering species such a Poppy and Cornflower grew successfully, but the degree of success will not be known until 2021 when perennial flowers should appear. The December 2020 botanical survey update noted only 5 of the 27 flowering species planted were evident- Appendix A refers.

The trial methodology is that commonly recommended for establishing new wildflower meadows. Whilst practicable on a small scale, applying this approach across the entire meadow would be very expensive and disruptive, and would effectively destroy the Meadow's existing biology and ecosystem.

It would be possible to sow new wildflowers in patches across the meadow, but we do not consider this an appropriate option. It would create islands visibly different from the existing habitat that would be swiftly overwhelmed by the dominant grasses.

Grassland Type

Using the Magnificent Meadows assessment methodology, we have confirmed from the available survey data that:

- Cover of rye grasses and white clover exceeds 30%
- The sward is species-poor (fewer than 8 vascular plant species per sq.m)

This indicates the meadow is classified as Species-Poor Improved Grassland (*Magnificent Meadows, ND (a)*)

Soil chemistry analysis noted:

- Soil phosphorus levels varying between DEFRA Index values of 0 and 3 (0, 1, 1, 2, 3)
- Soil potassium levels varying between DEFRA Index values of 0 and 3 (0, 1, 1, 2+, 3)
- The estimated Soil Wetness Class is IV

The soil types suggest there is potential for moderate drought stress on plants (loamy sand to more than 300mm depth).

Recommended DEFRA Index levels for phosphorus in wildflower meadows should not exceed 1 (0-15mg/l) (*Magnificent Meadows, N.D. b*). The soil analysis results suggest that conditions are at best marginal for wildflower growth and sustainability. **These factors indicate the meadow has a Low Potential for botanical enhancement** (*Magnificent Meadows, ND c*).

Comments

It would be impractical to apply the methodology adopted for the trial plots across the entire meadow due to the high financial and resource costs both in establishing a wildflower presence and in subsequent management. Reducing the soil's nutrient levels to suit a traditional wildflower meadow would entail large scale engineering work by either Inversion Ploughing where the soil is overturned to bring the less fertile sub-soil to the surface, or Turf/Topsoil Removal (*Magnificent Meadows ND c)*. Alternatively, nutrients can be reduced by regular removal of arisings from mowing but this is very much a long term exercise. All three methods are intrusive, would bring about a radical change in the habitat and its biology, and would contradict the preferred overall management strategy outlined above.

Assessment criteria	Assessment
Feasibility	Low
Desirability	Low
Sustainability	Low
Benefits and costs to the habitats and their users	Loss of existing habitat and ecosystem. More attractive visually for users
Priority for implementation	High
Financial and resource costs	High initial cost, changes in management practices and associated cost increase anticipated
Implementation time	10 years if conversion is phased?
Post-implementation ecological and user consequences	Reversion to current state unless competing grasses removed or heavily controlled.

Table 1: Assessment summary for wildflower meadow conversion

Recommendations

We have discussed the matter at length with WBC and have jointly concluded the most appropriate strategy would be to increase the distribution of the flowering plants now present across the Meadow and to supplement them through new native species that will tolerate the site conditions without demanding frequent re-seeding (Table 2 refers).

Common name	Taxon	Soil dampness	Soil pH	Now present?
Yarrow	Achille millfolium	Dry/damp	Neutral	Yes
Bugle	**Ajuga reptans**	**Damp**	**Neutral**	**No**
Cuckoo-Flower Ladies-Smock	Cardamine pratensis	Damp/wet	Neutral	Yes
Common/Black Knapweed	Centaurea nigra	Dry/damp	Neutral/calcareous	Yes
Meadow Vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis	Dry/damp	Neutral	Yes
Autumn Hawkweed	**Leontodon autumnalis**	**Dry/damp**	**Neutral**	**No**
Ragged-Robin	**Silene flos-cuculi**	**Damp/wet**	**Neutral/acidic**	**No**
Self-Heal	Prunella vulgaris	Dry/damp	Neutral	Yes
Meadow Buttercup	Ranunculus acris	Damp	Neutral	Yes
Bulbous Buttercup	Ranunculus bulbosus	Dry	Neutral	Yes
Yellow Rattle	**Rhinanthus minor**	**Dry/damp**	**Neutral**	**No**
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense	Dry/damp	Neutral	Yes
Tufted Vetch	Vicia cracca	Dry/damp	Neutral	Yes
Common Vetch	Vicia sativa	Dry/damp	Neutral	Yes

Table 2: Wildflowers that tolerate slightly more fertile grassland (*Magnificent Meadows N.D e)*

Ragged Robin

Autumn Hawkweed

Yellow Rattle

Bugle

Fig.8: Supplementary wildflowers for the Meadow

Being hemi-parasitic on grasses, Yellow Rattle planting may serve to improve the distribution of other wildflower species.

WBC agrees that initial efforts are focussed on the meadow's periphery to monitor success or otherwise before rolling out the strategy across the meadow more generally. To minimise disturbance, it is suggested that small areas of grass (~1sq.m) are cleared for sowing seed, with over-seeding of the existing grass after mowing as an alternative approach to determine which would be the most successful.

By expanding the distributions of existing species across the Meadow, future maintenance costs can be reduced through recovering seed from existing plants and applying to areas where they are now absent, and only procuring seeds for any new species introductions. No change in current management is anticipated. The strategy would offer opportunities for community involvement in initial planting of trial areas, recovering seed, ground preparation and sowing.

Whilst there may be benefits in introducing spring cutting this would be subject to it proving of benefit to the Meadow and costs falling within WBC budget constraints.

Timescale

Trials can be implemented very quickly after receiving approval from stakeholders. Supplementary species will need to be identified and procured beforehand. Trial plots will be identified, prepared and seeded after the 2021 late summer cut. We anticipate a two year monitoring period to confirm success or otherwise of the trials followed by a 2-3 year roll-out period to increase coverage across the Meadow.

Assessment criteria	Assessment
Feasibility	High
Desirability	High
Sustainability	High
Benefits and costs to the habitats and their users	Established ecosystem maintained. Improved habitat for pollinators
Priority for implementation	High
Financial and resource costs	Low initial cost, no change in management cost anticipated
Implementation time	6 years?
Post-implementation ecological and user consequences	None anticipated

Table 2: Assessment summary for Working Group recommendations

Retention of a simple network of grassed paths suitable for foot and cycle

The Meadow is crossed by a network of paths which are cut and maintained by WBC (**Fig.9** refers)

Fig.9: Existing Meadow path network (Google Maps)

The number of paths has increased over recent years resulting in some relatively small parcels of grass. In addition, the width of the mowed paths has been increased. Consequently, few areas of grass are remote from human activity with potential detrimental effects on attracting and retaining wildlife.

The Meadow is frequented by dog walkers throughout the year, although groups and families often use it for picnics, socialising and recreation during summer.

Recommendations

In our opinion, it would be sensible to simplify the path network to link the key access points onto the Meadow which hopefully would encourage birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles (if present) to occupy the larger, undisturbed sections of grassland, and also make the transit through the Meadow more interesting by introducing curves rather than the current straight point to point arrangements. This would also increase the effective length of each path (Fig.10 refers).

Fig.10: Possible simplified path network

We would prefer paths cut to a narrower width than is current practice.

Whilst the matter has been considered at length, there is clearly an issue with enabling access for the disabled, particularly for wheelchair users- ground levels are very uneven and the paths are difficult for the latter to use especially after prolonged rainfall when the Meadow can become waterlogged. Providing hard paved surfaces would be costly, requiring extensive engineering to eliminate ground unevenness and would effectively reduce the "wild" meadow to parkland status.

We would not encourage cycling across the Meadow.

4.2 *Project 2: Transformation of the North Meadow woodland and wetland habitat*

Project 2 proposals are:

North woodland area (owned by WBC)

- ***Thinning/removal of unwanted trees and undergrowth***
- ***Selective under-planting with native bluebells and daffodils***
- ***Clearance of undergrowth to expose existing trees***
- ***Open up views into the woodland area***

South woodland area (owned by TW)

- ***Create shallow scrapes and ponds to encourage water retention and wetland wildlife***
- ***Thinning/removal of some unwanted trees and undergrowth***
- ***Create a walk/path through the wood***
- ***Open a lakeside exit point from the wood***

Existing habitat

111 plant species have been identified in the woodland areas, although many are only present at their peripheries-Appendix B refers.

As noted in Section 2.0, the northern woodland area appears to be recent secondary growth, perhaps as little as 25 years in age. It is relatively open, and contains birches predominantly with some conifers. The southern woodland is of similar age and is of a similar character, but it has been substantially "invaded" by self-seeded Cherry Laurel from the screen planting along the north lakeside path and to a lesser extent, holly. Both species are stifling understorey, field and ground layer growth (Fig.11 refers) (*Hounscome, 2021*).

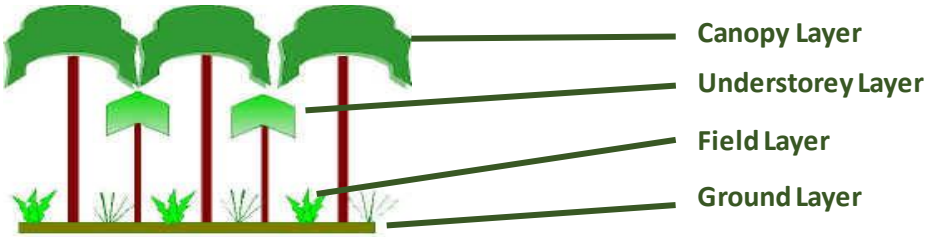

Fig.11: Plant layers in woodland (*Countryside Info, N.D.****)***

No wildlife surveys have been carried in the woodland and consequently little is known about the presence, diversity or distribution of invertebrate or animal species. However, it is known that owls are or have been present, and the areas are visited by deer and foxes. There is evidence of a badger sett in the southern area, although this was damaged (illegally) by persons unknown in 2020. Neither woodland area is considered suitable for bat roosts.

The narrow open area bisecting the two woodlands tends to flood after prolonged rainfall but dries out rapidly, and is relatively barren. There is unconfirmed anecdotal evidence of this area having had silt from the Lake spread over it in the past.

Critical review of Project proposals

We are pleased to learn that WBC and TW are investigating a more coordinated approach to management of their respective woodland areas, and NGP is working with them to discuss management planning and to explore how the community can participate.

Create shallow scrapes and ponds to encourage water retention and wetland wildlife

The Vision Statement refers to a 1996 Master Plan for the Goldsworth Park Recreation Area commissioned by WBC. This suggested creation of a wetland zone in the northern area, although the proposal has not been followed up by WBC. **We are doubtful this proposal would be successful-whilst damp, the area only holds water after prolonged rainfall and tends to dry out quite rapidly thereafter. However, further specialist advice is needed to confirm the feasibility and sustainability of such a habitat.**

Thinning/removal of unwanted trees and shrubs

TW's current exercise in removing the invasive Cherry Laurel is having a beneficial effect in opening up the field and ground storeys for colonisation by plants which in turn will offer a more productive environment for invertebrates and other wildlife. It is not clear whether TW proposes introducing suitable new plant species or will leave colonisation to occur naturally.

The Working Group's view is that the woodland areas and their wildlife should be left undisturbed unless intervention is absolutely necessary or will enhance biodiversity.

Create a walk/path through the wood, Open a lakeside exit point from the wood

TW completed a new path through the south woodland in 2020. This has since been well used by walkers. **We are reluctant to propose any further opening up of the woods to general access with additional paths.** There is already a litter problem along the new path, around the woodland's periphery and in both area's interiors. Passive discouragement of access will limit disturbance of such wildlife as is present. The heavy bramble and scrub growth around the north, east and west sides of the woodland discourage human access as to a lesser extent does the cherry laurel screen along the north lake bank.

Assessment criteria	Assessment
Feasibility	Wetland: low. Tree thinning: high, Laurel removal: High
Desirability	Wetland: low. Tree thinning: medium, Laurel removal: high, Increased access/paths: low
Sustainability	Medium-high
Benefits and costs to the habitats and their users	Potential disturbance of habitats if public accessibility increased
Priority for implementation	Medium
Financial and resource costs	Continued management expenditure if Laurel not removed from Lakeside
Implementation time	4-5 years for Laurel removal?
Post-implementation ecological and user consequences	Disturbance of habitats if public accessibility increased

Table 3: Assessment summary of Vision Statement proposals

Recommendations

We are pleased to see that TW has completed the path through its area and will be continuing the removal of the invasive Cherry Laurel over the coming years. Depending on what species colonise the new open areas, we would welcome efforts to improve diversity by planting a more varied range of woodland vascular species to provide cover for invertebrates, amphibians and mammals.

With regard to the Cherry Laurel, we recommend consideration is given to its removal from the north side of the lake path. The planting is undoubtedly the source of the growth in the woodland. At present it acts as a screen preventing views through to the woods and as such it offers an ideal environment for illicit drinking and drug use by teenagers.

We suggest replacing the Cherry Laurel with native plants such as hazel and hawthorn as planted around the Lake's nature reserve area. This would eliminate the risk of continued Cherry Laurel invasion. Dense planting would deter public access whilst offering a view into the woodland.

We believe a careful balance must be drawn between encouraging public access into the woodland areas and the risks of disturbing wildlife in doing so. In our opinion, the existing natural vegetation barriers around the north woodland should be maintained. We would prefer not to see any more access points or paths created.

The proposed wetland area is intermittently flooded after prolonged rainfall. We do not believe creating ponds and scrapes in the woodland would offer any benefits to indigenous wildlife and indeed may prove detrimental to amphibians spawning efforts if they dry out prematurely. However, specialist advice on the feasibility of this action and likely outcomes should be sought before dismissing the proposal.

Fig.12: Frog spawn laid on wet ground, North Meadow

Assessment criteria	Assessment
Feasibility	High for all measures
Desirability	High for all measures
Sustainability	Medium-high
Benefits and costs to the habitats and their users	Disturbance by public minimised. Improved plant diversity.
Priority for implementation	Medium
Financial and resource costs	Dependent on management strategies adopted by WBC & TW. Financial cost of replacing Cherry Laurel along north Lake footpath
Implementation time	4-5 years for Laurel removal?
Post-implementation ecological and user consequences	Disturbance of habitats if public accessibility increased

Table 4: Assessment summary of Working Group proposals

4.3 *Project 3: Education*

Project 3 proposals are:

- **Provide information and facts on local nature within North Meadow and wetland area e.g. resident seasonal birds common to the area; meadow amd other plants that can be found**
- **Encourage school-led nature, play activities and projects on the area**
- **Provide "storyboard" points communicating the context of the urban estate with former heritage activities e.g. a day in the life of Slococks Nursery; its contributions to national and international horticulture; points of interest that may still be seen around the estate, etc.**
- **Design of interest and learning activities for young and old e.g. trails on and around the natural heart of the estate; tree search and identification especially those that would have existed on the former nursery.**
- **Pop-up exhibitions and displays in Goldsworth Lodge with a brief storyboard history of the estate**
- **Promote the area via the GPCA and WBC websites**
- **Oral histories (memories) from people who lived or worked on Slococks and other nearby nurseries- undertake as a collaborative project with Surrey History Centre and local history groups.**
- **Annual photographic competition- e.g. best pictures taken each year around the Lke, North Meadow and amenity areas- entries for different subject categories covering nature and activity, entry for all ages/abilities.**

Critical review of project proposals

Provide information and facts on local nature within North Meadow and wetland area
Design of interest and learning activities for young and old

At present, information about plant and wildlife "finds" on the Meadow and in the woodland is communicated via the NGP Facebook and Twitter pages. Some wildlife survey results are located on the GPCA website.

We have identified key issues relating to disseminating information to the community at large:

- The Facebook page and Twitter account have a relatively small number of regular contributors and visitors. In part this may be due to all posts having to be submitted via a moderator rather than directly. However, site moderation is not unusual as it filters out undesirable material
- The community may simply not consider the content interesting enough for regular visits.
- The community may simply be unaware that the Facebook and Twitter accounts exist
- The NGP pages on the GPCA website are not updated regularly.

Recommendations

The following actions are proposed:

- **Provision of fixed signage as was provided at Brookwood Country Park before it became established. The signage would set out information about the overall strategy for the Meadow and woodland, with details of NGP's social media platforms. To be located adjacent to the playground and, possibly, at the shopping centre footpath's exit point onto the Lake**
- **Produce regular contributions to Goldsworth News updating residents on recent NGP proposals for and developments on the Meadow and in the woodland (Goldsworth News is published quarterly in hard copy format and is delivered to all Goldsworth Park households)**
- **Revive production and issue of newsletters for the Friends of Natural Goldsworth Park as and when circumstances demand**
- **At a future date, produce a free single page information sheet providing information about the Meadow and woodland with details of NGP social media and websites that can be distributed via local shops and WBC offices, and posted on local noticeboards e.g. Goldsworth Park shopping centre, medical centre, church etc.**
- **Generate support for NGP by expanding membership of the Friends of Natural Goldsworth Park**
- **Make greater use of the GPCA website to promote NGP and inform website visitors**
- **investigate and adopt new social media outlets e.g. NextDoor as means of communicating with the local community**
- **Community involvement in management of the Meadow and woodland is seen as key. As new initiatives are developed and implemented we will continue to seek volunteer assistance from residents. Such opportunities will be publicised through the media outlets noted above.**
- **We see citizens' science as a new area for exploration. We propose working with local wildlife groups to identify opportunities for residents to contribute usefully to their research efforts. These can be coordinated with annual events such as World Bee Day, RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch and the like, and with plant/wildlife surveys on the Meadow and woodland.**

Assessment criteria	Assessment
Feasibility	High
Desirability	High
Sustainability	Reliant on continuing input of contributions from public.
Benefits and costs to the habitats and their users	No habitat costs/ benefits. Greater information flow for residents
Priority for implementation	High
Financial and resource costs	NGP time managing social media platforms; publishing costs for hard copy information
Implementation time	Short-long term
Post-implementation ecological and user consequences	None

Table 5: Assessment summary of information provision proposals

Encourage school-led nature, play activities and projects on the area

Sadly, efforts to discuss how local schools and NGP can interact to make use of the Meadow as a teaching resource have had disappointing outcomes. Communicating directly with senior teaching staff has proved extremely difficult. The reasons for this apparent rejection are unclear but we suspect they may lie in the time pressures on teachers for preparing suitable lesson plans for outdoor activities and learning, and the management of such teaching exercises e.g. health and safety assessments/planning; securing teaching assistant/parental accompaniment for outdoor activities.

We note that Sythwood School has access to a woodland area within the school grounds. We understand the school makes use of this for natural history lessons. Goldsworth School, Horsell Village School and St Johns' Primary School may be considered too far away from the North Meadow area to be safely reached by foot. Therefore, NGP's prime target for developing formal educational uses will be Beaufort Primary School which is within walking distance of the Meadow and Lake.

Recommendations

The Group considers furthering school engagement and involvement with the Meadow and woodland is essential and will require a key locational focus or specific curriculum related projects to generate interest from teachers. Input from local teaching staff is essential to bridge the communication gap and better understand the barriers to greater use of our natural resources for education.

NGP should seek alternative approaches to engaging with schools e.g. through school governors rather than through time-pressed teaching staff.

It is important that teachers can be supported by aligning education proposals with Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum requirements.

Assessment criteria	Assessment
Feasibility	High
Desirability	High, but will require preparation of Key Stage 1 & 2-friendly support materials
Sustainability	Dependent on level of demand from schools
Benefits and costs to the habitats and their users	The Meadow, the woodland and Lake offer tremendous potential as learning resources for school aged children
Priority for implementation	Dependent on level of demand from schools
Financial and resource costs	Potentially limited market- Beaufort School only? Production costs of curriculum supporting lesson plans etc.
Implementation time	Dependent on level of demand from schools
Post-implementation ecological and user consequences	None

Table 6: Assessment summary of school-led uses proposals

Provide "storyboard" points communicating the context of the urban estate with former heritage activities
Pop-up exhibitions and displays in Goldwater Lodge with a brief storyboard history of the estate
Oral histories (memories) from people who lived or worked on Slococks and other nearby nurseries.....

We do not consider these proposals fall within the ambit of NGP's key objectives which relate to the natural environment rather than to the estate's heritage and history.

We note that a considerable amount of research and information on the history of Goldsworth Park and the Slocock Nursery produced and published by Woking History Society and by Iain Wakeford is available online e.g. *Woking History Society (N.D.),Wakeford (2012), Wakeford (2014), Wakeford (2015)*.

Recommendations
No action is proposed by NGP, but the three proposals may be of interest to GPCA and WBC

Annual photographic competition
It is unclear why this proposal is included under the "Education" category. Again, we do not consider it falls within the ambit of NGP's activities.

Recommendations
The idea would be better taken forward by GPCA, although NGP may have a role in proposing environmental subject matter.

4.4 ***Project 4: Heritage planting, improvements and increasing accessibility***
The Vision Statement's aspirations are:

- **Clear and tidy up the area as required to make improvements and without threatening any special nature benefits currently by the undergrowth**
- **Select and plant a number of Slocock's award winning specimens if suitable to local conditions**
- **Provisions of information boards to identify the specimens also displaying narrative about the national and international acclaim and awards won by the former nursery**
- **Provide limited seating for relaxation and views of the meadow and amenity area**

Recommendations
The GPCA organises regular litter picks by resident volunteers.

Before he passed away, and although flattered by the suggestion, Martin Slocock expressed his desire not to proceed with the proposal for heritage planting, stating that he preferred not to see non-indigenous plants introduced on the Meadow. Accordingly, we recommend Martin's wishes are respected and that this proposal is not pursued further.

We note that one bench on the Meadow has been kindly donated by a local dog walker, and that funding for three further benches is being sought by GPCA.

4.5 ***Project 5: Cycle and Footpath Network- New Opportunities and Way Signs***
Proposals are:

- **Canvas visitors for their suggestions for particular routes (start and destination points)**
- **Collaboration with WBC and Surrey County Council on strategic cycling networks amd where specific needs have already been identified or could be improved, or that fit in with future development proposals**
- **Design way signs, types of communication and media to raise awareness of new routes and to promote the transformed Meadow, Lake and Wetland area**
- **Provide facilities for cycle parking as currently there are none**

Recommendations

The Working Group questions whether a cycling network is relevant to the NGP project. The Meadow and woodland are already surrounded by paved footpaths which are used regularly by pedestrians and cyclists.

WBC has established a network of cycle ways around the Borough, and improvements to these and pedestrian routes are the subject of the Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan dated February 2020 (*Woking Borough Council, 2020*). This document does not identify any proposals for the Lake and Meadow areas.

Accordingly, the Group proposes no action is needed in respect of a cycling network. This obviates the need for additional way signs, but it would be sensible to augment existing directional signage if new features are added to the Meadow.

4.6 *Project 6: People Facilities*

The Vison Statement proposals are:

- **Designation of a picnic area by the children's play area with refuse and dog soil bins (from the 2015 Master Plan proposal)**
- **Provision of some public seating at various points around North Meadow, possibly in the wetland area and also within the designated picnic area**
- **Availability of an on-site refreshment operation/franchise**

Designation of a picnic area

We note that WBC is procuring picnic tables and benches to e located close to the existing Playground. Our concerns lie in exacerbation of the ongoing litter problem around the playground which despite the availability of refuse bins spills over onto the Meadow and Lake banks- littering with takeaway food and drinks containers is commonplace during the summer months. There is also the likelihood of the facilities attracting groups of youths and anti-social behaviour during evenings, nights and at weekends.

Provision of some public seating at various points

Again the Group's concerns lie in the potential for attracting littering and anti-social behaviour.

Availability of an on-site refreshment operation/franchise

We note there is a plethora of food and drink outlets within the shopping centre (Costa Coffee, Waitrose, St Andrews Church, Woking Hospice, BP Garage), and it is commonplace to see walkers around the Lake and Meadow carrying food and drink purchased from those establishments and other more remote outlets. The Hockey Club also offers food and drinks for purchase by the public on match days.

Recommendations

The provision of a picnic area and further seating carries risks of the facilities being abused as outlined above, but we believe these risks are offset by the opportunities for the community to enjoy the open space afforded by the Meadow and woodland.

We do not believe an independent food/drink outlet close to the Meadow would prove viable financially for any operator given the large number of established alternative sources available in the area. It would also add to the littering issues around the Meadow. Accordingly we recommend this proposal is not adopted.

5.0 NEW IDEAS

The Working Group has considered a number of new ideas for conserving and enhancing the Meadow and woodland habitats and for realising its key objectives of community engagement and education:

5.1 *Tiny Forest*

Description

The Tiny Forest initiative was initiated in Europe some 5 years ago with the first completed in the UK at Witney, Oxon in 2020. At the end of 2020, the UK Government announced funding for 12 further Tiny Forests around the UK. The initiative is administered in the UK by EarthWatch, a leading environmental charity (*EarthWatch, N.D.*). Since completion of the Witney Tiny Forest the initiative has achieved extensive media coverage including a feature on BBC's CountryFile programme (*BBC, 2020, 2021a, 2021b, 2021c*)

A Tiny Forest comprises 600 native trees contained in an area equivalent to that of a tennis court (~200sq.m). It adopts a planting technique developed in Japan requiring the ground to be excavated to a depth of 1m and the soil enriched with a natural conditioner. It is therefore highly space efficient.

Benefits

The benefits of Tiny Forests are:

a) Projects are led, managed and monitored by EarthWatch, but the community takes a proactive role in planning, the initial planting, and subsequently in maintaining the Tiny Forest after training by EarthWatch.
b) Planting is carried out by the local community over a single day (around 100 individuals required).
c) The community takes part in a citizens' science project which provides data for a wider research study by EarthWatch
d) A Tiny Forest provides numerous environmental benefits including increased insect and animal diversity and carbon sequestration
e) A Tiny Forest provides a valuable long term learning resource for the community at large and more particularly for school children. EarthWatch provides learning materials aligned to Key Stage 1 & 2 curricula requirements and will offer training for teachers in how to make best use of these if requested

Costs

EarthWatch reports the total cost of a Tiny Forest is ~£30 000 inclusive of VAT. This sum is broken down in Table 7. The cost encompasses project and partnership management for 2 years after planting.

EarthWatch deliverable	**Cost**
Landscaping and inputs- machinery hire and labour; ground preparation; inputs	£7 778
Materials- tree stock; information plaque; seating, additional features e.g. enclosing fence	£1 994
Preparation and construction- site visit and surveys; forest design; volunteer planting day	£6 714
Community engagement- four engagement days; training and support for Volunteer Keeper Team	£4 950
Research delivery- research equipment, data analysis; communication of results	£2 483
Sundries- staff travel and accommodation for planting and engagement days	£1 078
Total exc. VAT	£24 997
VAT	£ 4 994
TOTAL COST	**~£30 000**

Table 7: Tiny Forest Budget Costs (from EarthWatch)

We recommend a contingency sum of £5 000 is added for separation and removal of any building rubble or other material uncovered during excavation, and for temporary protection around the working area after excavation giving a budget total of £35 000 including VAT.

Funding

Provision of a Tiny Forest represents a substantial financial investment. However, we believe such a long term beneficial project would attract interest from public and private funding sources. These may include:

- Local authority grant funding e.g. Surrey County Council "Your Fund"
- Central government- new funding initiatives are frequently announced, although demand and competition is high and funding quickly allocated
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Corporate sponsorship- a number of major UK organisations fund community environmental projects through their CSR policies, and smaller local businesses may be interested in offering sponsorship financially or by donation of materials such as soil conditioner or fencing for the project
- Community contribution through crowd funding

Whilst early discussions with EarthWatch have been opened to explore potential funding sources, approaches for funding would not be made until all stakeholders have agreed in principle to pursue a Tiny Forest project.

Assessment criteria	Assessment
Feasibility	Medium-high but subject to funding availability
Desirability	High
Sustainability	High but will require community involvement in maintenance for 4 years
Benefits and costs to the habitats and their users	High potential as a learning resource for community and schools. Citizens' science involvement. Increased biodiversity. Carbon sequestration
Priority for implementation	Medium-high
Financial and resource costs	High initial cost
Implementation time	Fast once funding secured
Post-implementation ecological and user consequences	No ecological consequences. More varied habitat for user exploration and enjoyment

Table 8: Assessment summary of Tiny Forest proposal

Recommendations

We see a Tiny Forest on the Meadow as providing a very valuable long term investment benefitting the local community and in particular local schools and schoolchildren. The small ground area required would have minimal impact on the Meadow habitat.

A Tiny Forest would provide a focal point for Meadow users and could be integrated with a broader approach to community education and engagement with the adjoining natural environmental features (see 10.2). By including an adjacent area with examples of wildflowers present on the Meadow and identification information, a centralised Learning Zone for school and community use could be provided (Fig. refers)

We believe the involvement of children in establishing a Tiny Forest would be essential. To this end, we hope local schools would act as a channel for inviting school children and their families to take part in planting. To create a sense of personal investment, we suggest that each tree is labelled with the name of its planter, and that the names of all contributors involved with the Forest's establishment (sponsors and volunteers) are recorded and displayed on the site.

5.2 *Nature Trail*

Completion of the path through the south woodland opens the possibility of creating a nature trail taking in the Meadow, the woodland and the Lake. A possible route is shown in Fig.8.

The multiple paths across the Meadow would allow flexibility in selecting an appropriate route or routes. This could be extended to encompass the small area of woodland to the north of the hockey and soccer pitches. Financial costs would be incurred for simple way marking. In addition, information about what to see will be needed for users, in the form of information boards or material downloadable from the GPCA website or via a dedicated app.

Recommendations

No progress has yet been made on enhancing plant diversity on the Meadow, and clearance of Cherry Laurel in the south woodland has left large open spaces. Wildlife surveys are yet to be completed so a full understanding of what may be seen by users is not available at present. Consequently, the Group sees this proposal as a medium-long term aspiration that should be delayed until the Meadow and woodland planting has been enhanced and meaningful and informative content for a trail can be identified.

Fig.13: Possible Nature Trail route

Assessment criteria	Assessment
Feasibility	High
Desirability	Medium-high
Sustainability	High
Benefits and costs to the habitats and their users	Increased engagement of community with nature.
Priority for implementation	Medium-low, dependent on recovery of woodland and Meadow plant diversity enhancement
Financial and resource costs	Medium-low- way marking, possible digital guide
Implementation time	Fast depending on funding availability
Post-implementation ecological and user consequences	Possible increased disturbance of habitats on trail

Table 9: Assessment summary of Nature Trail proposal

5.3 *Community orchard*

A suggestion was made for a community orchard on or close to the Meadow. The Group notes that a community orchard was planted on the Lakeview estate in 2012. The success or otherwise of this is not known. In the Group's opinion its proximity would prejudice any application for funding. Concerns were also raised in respect of potential vandalism and long term sustainability if maintained by voluntary effort. The preference of WBC to retain the Meadow as grassland would also mitigate against adoption of the proposal.

5.4 *"Blossom Together"*

Blossom Together is a recent initiative from the National Trust which seeks to plant rings of blossoming trees in urban centres. There is very little information about the scheme, funding sources or application process on the National Trust website.

The Group notes the scheme is focussed on implementation in city centres. Taking account of the local authority's reticence about increasing tree cover on the Meadow and the specific locational criteria operated by the National Trust, we do not consider the idea is worth pursuing.

5.5 *BioBlitz*

BioBlitz (*The Natural History Consortium, N.*D) is a scheme designed to encourage community involvement with recording biodiversity in the natural environment. The community is invited to participate in surveys and to record plants and animals found with scientists and naturalists from wildlife groups to achieve a given target e.g. maximum number of different species within a set period of time, typically 24 hours.

A BioBlitz exercise on the Meadow, Lake and woodland would enable large scale community participation and involvement in citizen science with educational and social benefits. However, considerable organisation, planning and management is required for success (*The Natural History Consortium, 2013*).

Recommendations

We consider the organisation, planning and management of a BioBlitz event would be beyond the resources and capabilities of NGP alone. Partnership with other bodies such as Surrey Wildlife Trust, WBC or TW may be possible.

5.6 *Exhibitions*

Smaller scale exhibitions by local wildlife groups to showcase their work and the diversity of wildlife present on the Meadow, around the lake and in the woodland would be more manageable than a BioBlitz. These could take place at Goldwater Lodge and possibly be tied in with larger events such as the Dragon Boat Challenge and Fun Day.

Whilst lacking the community's direct involvement of BioBlitz, such exhibitions would serve to educate the public, encourage greater understanding and appreciation of the local natural environment, and stimulate interest in its value and continued existence.

Recommendations

The Group views the proposal as something for future consideration and development once there is a better understanding of the ecology of the Meadow and in the woodland. Costs for exhibitions on the lines suggested would be relatively low (venue hire principally).

6.0 ACTION PLAN AND PRIORITIES

Based on the foregoing analysis of the Vision Statement's aspirations, the Group has prepared an Action Plan (Appendix C) setting out an indicative 6 year timeline and estimated individual timescales for implementing the Review's recommendations. It must be noted that in many cases, implementation is wholly dependent on securing funding. The actions recommended in the Review and our assessment of relative priorities are set out in Table 10 below:

Action	Priority	Comment
Extend and update wildlife and botanical surveys	High	48 months update cycle?
Meadow wildflower range expansion and enhancement	High	
Simplify Meadow path network	High	
Complete clearance of Cherry Laurel from woodland	High	Phased
Enhance woodland understorey and field level plant diversity	High	Phased?
Improve information dissemination to GP community	High	
Develop contacts with local schools to encourage use of the Meadow and woodland for education	High	
Replace Cherry Laurel along north Lake footpath	Medium	Phased?
Develop community citizens' science participation with local wildlife groups	Medium	
Provision of a Tiny Forest on the Meadow	Medium	
Establishment of a nature trail	Medium	
Organise exhibitions by local wildlife groups	Medium	
Create shallow scrapes/ponds in wetland area?	Low	

Table 10: Actions and priorities

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Review has proved worthwhile in identifying where the Vision Statement's aspirations are feasible and/or desirable, and where changes, omissions and additions to those aspirations are considered appropriate. New ideas have been considered and recommended or rejected. The exercise has provided a foundation for developing an achievable Action Plan and a provisional timeline for future actions.

The Review has given us the opportunity to restate NGP's *raison d'etre* and to expand its objectives.

Our recommendations are summarised in Table 10 and in the Executive Summary accompanying the report.

The surveys undertaken to date have shown that the Meadow. Lake and woodland areas offer valuable diverse and vibrant habitats that are worthy of conservation and of responsible, sympathetic enhancement. Our understanding of their ecosystems will grow as more surveys are completed and regularly updated.

There is much to be done to increase the community's engagement with the local natural environment, to develop its understanding and appreciation of the local habitats and wildlife, and to encourage its involvement in their long term care and enhancement. The Group believes the measures and actions it has recommended will advance these purposes.

8.0 POSTSCRIPT

Following discussion with the Trustees of GPCA, it has been agreed that the following recommendations should be followed up and included in the Action Plan:

Project 1; Meadow

- **Increase the distribution of wild flowers now present and supplement with new native species tolerant of prevailing site conditions**
- **Liaise with WBC in agreeing and implementing a simplified path network**

Project 2: Woodland

- **Liaise with WBC and TW regarding a coordinated management plan including removal of invasive Cherry Laurel**
- **Liaise with WBC and TW regarding increasing the diversity and distribution of woodland vascular plant species**
- **Liaise with WBC and TW depending on management responsibility regarding replacement of the Lakeside Cherry Laurel screen planting with native species**
- **Work with WBC and TW on means of achieving a balance between public access to the woodland and conservation/protection of wildlife**

Project 3: Education

- **Produce regular NGP contributions to Goldsworth News**
- **Revive production and issue of newsletters for the Friends of Natural Goldsworth Park as and when circumstances demand**
- **Generate support by expanding membership of Friends of Goldsworth Park**
- **Update the NGP pages on the GPCA website**
- **Investigate use of additional social media platforms e.g. NextDoor Goldsworth Park and GPCA Facebook and Twitter accounts to promote NGP**
- **Encourage and develop opportunities for community involvement with management of the Meadow and woodland with landowners and other stakeholders**
- **Develop opportunities for community participation in citizens science research in the Goldsworth Park area through local wildlife groups and other national bodies e.g. conducting plant/wildlife surveys in the field or in gardens**
- **Develop contacts with senior teaching staff at Beaufort Primary School and investigate how better use of the Meadow and woodland for teaching purposes can be made**

New Ideas

- **With WBC and TW, investigate provision of a nature trail encompassing the Meadow, woodland and Lake with suitable way marking and information boards**
- **Arrange small scale public exhibitions by local wildlife groups to illustrate and explain the diversity of plant and wildlife present in the Goldsworth Park and surrounding areas e.g. Horsell Common**

9.0 REFERENCES

BBC, 2020 BBC News (2020) "*'UK's first tiny forest' in Witney helps urban environment*" Published 10 March 2020 [Online] Available at https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-51817607 Accessed 04 March 2021

BBC, 2021a BBC News (2021) "*Oxford 'tiny forests' planted to promote biodiversity*" Published 26 January 2021 [Online] Available at https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-55811698 Accessed 04 March 2021

BBC, 2021b BBC News (2021) "*Black poplar to feature alongside Bristol's new 'tiny forest'*" Published 02 February 2021 [Online] Available at https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-55893605 Accessed 04 March 2021

BBC, 2021c BBC News (2021) "*Forests the size of tennis courts*" Video published 12 February 2021 [Online] Available at https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/stories-56003562 Accessed 04 March 2021

Boston Seeds, 2021 Boston Seeds (2021) Email to Bob Challoner 12 January 2021

Countrysideinfo, N.D. Countrysideinf (N.D.) "*Woodland Structure*" [Online] Available at http://www.countrysideinfo.co.uk/woodland_manage/struct.htm Accessed 14 February 2021

EarthWatch, N.D.) EarthWatch (N.D.) "*Super Tiny Super Powerful*" [Online] Available at https://earthwatch.org.uk/get-involved/tiny-forests Accessed 29 January 2021

Hounsome G., 2021 George Hounsome (2021) "*Comments on Wildflower Meadow proposals*" January 2021

LandIS, N.D. Land Information System (N.D.) "*NATMAP Wetness data and description*" [Online] Available at http://www.landis.org.uk/data/nmwetness.cfm Accessed 09 February 2021

Magnificent Meadows, N.D. a Magnificent Meadows (N.D.) "*How to identify the type of grassland you have Key 2c*" [Online] Available at http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/How_to_identify_different_types_of_grassland.pdf Accessed 27 January 2021

Magnificent Meadows, N.D. b Magnificent Meadows (N.D.) "*Soil Testing and Assessing Soil Texture"* [Online] Available at http://magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/Soil_Nutrient_Testing.pdf Accessed 06 February 2021

Magnificent Meadow N.D. c Magnificent Meadows (N.D.) "*How to identify the type of grassland you have Key 2a*" [Online] Available at http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/How_to_identify_different_types_of_grassland.pdf Accessed 27 January 2021

Magnificent Meadows, N.D. d Magnificent Meadows (N.D.) "*Soil nutrient stripping*" [Online] Available at http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/Soil_Nutrient_Stripping.pdf Accessed 28 January 2021

Magnificent Meadows, N.D. e Magnificent Meadows (N.D. "*Wildflowers that tolerate slightly more fertile grassland*" [Online] Available at http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/Wildflowers_tolerant_of_soil_fertility.pdf Accessed 28 January 2021

Surrey Wildlife Trust Consultancy, 2014 Surrey Wildlife Trust Consultancy (2014) "*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Goldsworth Park and Lake*" June 2014 Surrey Wildlife Trust, Pirbright

National BioBlitx Network, N.D. National BioBlitz Network (N.D.) "*National BioBlitz Network*" [Online] Available at https://nbn.org.uk/tools-and-resources/useful-websites/national-bioblitz-network/ Accessed 04 March 2021

The Natural History Consortium, 2013 The Natural History Consortium (2013) "*Guide to Running a BioBlitz 2.0*" [Online] Available at https://www.bnhc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/BioBlitz-Guide-2013.pdf Accessed 01 March 2021

Wakeford, 2012 Iain Wakeford (2012) "*Goldsworth Park Self-Guided Heritage Walk*" A.A. Wakeford Old Woking

Wakeford, 2014 Iain Wakeford (2014) "*Goldsworth and Knaphill Nurseries- Home of the Rhododendrons*" [Online] Available at https://wokinghistory.org/onewebmedia/140912.pdf Accessed 23 February 2021

Wakeford, 2015 Iain Wakeford (2015) "*Walter Charles Slocock and the Expansion of Goldsworth Old Nursery*" [Online] Available at https://wokinghistory.org/onewebmedia/150327.pdf Accessed 23 February 2021

Woking Borough Council, 2020 Woking Borough Council (2020) "*Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Woking*" February 2020 [Online] Available at https://www.woking.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Nature/Woking%20LCWIP%20-%20Draft.pdf Accessed 21 February 2021

Woking History Society (N.D,) Woking History Society (N.D.) "*Woking's History and Heritage*" [Online} Available at https://wokinghistory.org/archive/goldsworth Accessed 23 February 2021