



NATURAL GOLDSWORTH PARK



Meadow and Woodland Action Plan

By the Natural Goldsworth Park Working Group

Author: Bob Challoner
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:
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1.0 PROJECT 1: MEADOW

1.1 PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

"To conserve and maintain the Meadow as it is with minimal intervention but enhance its biodiversity"

Continue the current management strategy adopted by WBC but with regular reviews as to the effects and impacts of "new" management measures. 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.

A measured and considered approach to recognising and enhancing the prevailing biodiversity will be taken to ensure that the existing habitat and ecosystem are not overwhelmed and/or radically altered by change.

1.A PROJECT 1A: ENHANCE THE MEADOW'S BIODIVERSITY

1.A.1 Strategy

The strategy agreed with WBC is to increase the distribution and abundance of the flowering plants now present across the Meadow and to supplement them through seeding with new native species that will tolerate the site conditions without demanding frequent re-seeding. It is hoped much of this can be undertaken by local resident volunteers

The Plan carries a High Priority to ensure measurable results can be achieved by the 2026 end of the 10 year "grace" period granted by WBC.

The project will involve a gradual expansion of existing and new plant species distributions across the Meadow over a 5 year period.

1.A.2 Actions

Action	Action by	Implementation dates
A Identify Trial 2 plots across the Meadow perimeter for extending distribution and abundance of existing flowering species and introduction of new species	NGP/WBC	April-June 2021
B Monitor flowering on 2019 trial plots and report	NGP	April-September 2021
C Select existing species for improving distribution and abundance	NGP/WBC	April-June 2021
D Select suitable new species suitable for prevailing soil conditions	NGP/WBC	April-June 2021
E Secure funding for seed procurement	GPCA/NGP/WBC	April-June 2021
F Volunteer seeding of trial plots	GPCA/NGP	After 2021 summer cut
G Monitor flowering in trial plots and report	NGP	Spring/summer 2022
H Year 2 Repeat stages A-G	GPCA/WBC/NGP	September 2022-2023 summer cut
I Year 3 Repeat stages A-G	GPCA/WBC/NGP	September 2023-2024 summer cut
J Year 4 Repeat stages A-G	GPCA/WBC/NGP	September 2024-2025 summer cut
K Year 5 Repeat stages A-G	GPCA/WBC/NGP	September 2025-2026 summer cut

Notes:

Insect and plant biodiversity will be regularly monitored and updated to assess favourable or unfavourable impacts of the actions.

1.A.3 Key Metrics

- Number of different flowering species present in individual survey areas, comparing trial plots with unplanted areas, and overall diversity and distribution against 2020 survey update data
- Increases/decreases in ecosystem diversity over time e.g., insect, bird and mammal species
- Biodiversity changes attributable to changes in use e.g. impacts of BMX track alterations,
- Biodiversity changes attributable to changes in management practices

1.B PROJECT 1B: RETENTION OF A SIMPLE NETWORK OF GRASSED PATHS ACROSS THE MEADOW

1.B.1 Strategy

The existing path network will be simplified to link the key access points onto the Meadow. Hopefully this will encourage birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles (if present) to occupy the resulting larger individual sections of grassland by making them less susceptible to human disturbance, and will 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.



Existing and proposed path network

During the very wet winter in 2020/21, the Meadow became severely waterlogged resulting in recognised paths suffering loss of grass cover and soil compaction from foot traffic. The short length to which the grass was cut in 2020 has resulted in the width of paths increasing. The extent to which grass growth recovers will be monitored as this may impact on path network simplification.

The project carries a High Priority as it should be implemented before the first cut of paths in Spring 2021.

1.B.2 Actions

Action	Action by	Implementation dates
A Agree path layout for implementation by WBC	NGP/WBC	April 2021
B Monitor regrowth of uncut existing paths	NGP/WBC	April-September 2021
C Regular cutting as required	WBC	

1.B.3 Key Metrics

- Number of public visits to Meadow
- Increases/decreases in Meadow ecosystem diversity e.g., insect species, bird species over time
- Biodiversity changes attributable to changes in use e.g. more concentrated use of pathways
- Biodiversity changes attributable to changes in management practices

2.0 PROJECT 2: WOODLAND

2.1 *Primary Objectives*

To improve biodiversity by planting a more varied range of woodland field and understorey plant species to provide cover for invertebrates, amphibians and mammals.

To achieve a careful balance between public access into and engagement with the woodland areas whilst minimising disturbance of the habitats.

2.A. *PROJECT 2A: MANAGEMENT PLAN(S)*

2.A.1 *Strategy*

Encourage adoption of coherent, coordinated management plans by WBC and TW for their respective woodland areas that will conserve and enhance existing biodiversity.

Explore opportunities for volunteer assistance from Goldsworth Park residents to implement those plans.

The Project carries a High Priority.

2.A.2 *Actions*

All actions are subject to discussion with and approval by WBC and TW.

	Action	Action by	Implementation dates
A	Develop coordinated management plans	WBC/TW	Complete by September 2021?
B	Identify opportunities for community involvement in woodland management	WBC/TW/ NGP	Complete by June 2021?
C	Continue removal and control of invasive Cherry Laurel from TW-owned woodland	WBC/TW	Complete by end 2023?
D	Increase plant diversity in woodland areas	WBC/TW	Phased programme Complete by end 2026?
E	Replace lake side Cherry Laurel with native understorey planting	WBC/TW	Phased programme Complete by end 2026?

Notes:

Responsibility for the existing lake side Cherry Laurel screening is not clear from the WBC/TW lease dated 1997.

2.A.3 *Metrics*

- Increases/decreases in woodland ecosystem diversity e.g., insect, bird, amphibian/reptile and mammal species over time
- Biodiversity changes attributable to more frequent public access to south area compared to north
- Biodiversity changes attributable to changes in management practices

3.0 COMMUNICATION, ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

3.1 *Primary Objectives*

To improve how the NGP message is communicated to Goldsworth Park residents and the wider public

To provide regularly updated information about NGP project developments and the

Goldsworth Park natural environment generally with specific reference to the Meadow and woodland

To identify and promote opportunities for the community's involvement in conserving and enhancing the Meadow and woodland environments particularly through participation in citizens science projects

To increase public awareness of and engagement with the local natural environment

The project carries a High Priority

3.A PROJECT 3.A: SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION

3.A.1 Strategy

To reconfigure and regularly update the NGP pages on the GPCA website to improve information content

Investigate and adopt new social media channels for communication with residents and the wider public e.g. NextDoor Goldsworth Park

Widen awareness of and contributions to existing and new NGP social media channels amongst residents and wider public

The project carries a High priority

3.A.2 Actions

All actions can be undertaken by NGP and GPCA.

	Action	Action by	Implementation dates
A	Reconfigure NGP pages on the GPCA website	NGP/GPCA	Complete by August 2021
B	Regular information updates via Goldsworth News, GPCA website, NGP Facebook and Twitter accounts	NGP	Ongoing
C	Increase awareness of NGP Facebook and Twitter accounts	NGP	Ongoing
D	Regular issues of Friends of NGP newsletters	NGP	Ongoing
E	Investigate and adopt new social media channels e.g. NextDoor Goldsworth Park	NGP	Ongoing

3B PROJECT 3B: COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLS INVOLVEMENT, AND NEW IDEAS

3B.1 Strategy

To encourage and develop opportunities for community involvement with management of the Meadow and woodland with landowners and other stakeholders

To 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

To 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

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

3B.2 *Actions*

Action	Action by	Implementation dates
Liaise with WBC and TW to identify opportunities for community involvement in management of the and woodland habitats	NGP/WBC/ TW	Complete by December 2021
Work with local wildlife groups to identify opportunities for community citizens science projects	NGP/ other parties	Ongoing
Ditto coordinated with other national initiatives	NGP	Ongoing
Develop contacts with Beaufort Primary School	NGP	Complete by September 2021
Provision of a nature trail through the Meadow, woodland and Lake side	NGP/WBC/ TW	Complete by end 2022?
Small scale exhibitions by local wildlife groups	NGP/GPCA/ other parties	Dependent on arrangement of other community events