

5 Year Management Plan 2011-2015: Melwood Local Nature Reserve and Melmeadow

Objective	Task	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1) To maintain and enhance the woodland and meadow habitats.						
1.1 Maintain and enhance the secondary woodland habitat and old hedge lines.	a) Carry out more detailed mapping of areas for thinning and/or glade creation, main paths, and areas where denser growth will be promoted.					
	b) Manage yew trees next to Melmeadow by “low pollard” to reduce shading of grassland.					
	c) Carry out selective small-scale coppicing / layering to increase density of shrub level.					
	d) Carry out coppicing or pollarding of larger trees to allow more light to reach the woodland floor, create large deadwood habitat and encourage growth of grass and herbs (contractor).					
	e) Negotiate with S. Cambs DC regarding a plan for the protected hedge lines.					
	f) Identify any trees that require attention under Health & safety site management regulations.					
1.2 Maintain and enhance the grassland in the meadow.	a) Mow the meadow and rake cuttings once a year in late summer. Deposit cuttings in compost piles on site. If part of the meadow is cut early, make sure a different part is cut early next year.					

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	b) Mow half of a 2m strip around the edge of the meadow and rake cuttings, leaving the rest of the strip untouched.					
	c) Coppice 2-3 trees on the edge of Melmeadow. Aim for a ring of coppiced trees around the whole meadow in the long run, with in particular a strip in front of the old hedge line. Protect stumps with cut branches and remove remaining cuttings.					
	d) Monitor growth of grass and herbs next to cut yew trees and decide whether it is necessary to introduce seed to this area next year.					
2) Maintain public access to the site.	a) Mow a path through the meadow as often as necessary for easy access. Rake cuttings.					
	b) Maintain a selected circular path, trimming back branches where necessary to ensure this path looks more appealing to walkers than any other.					
	c) Use tree cuttings to discourage access to other paths if needed.					
	d) Regularly remove litter, especially from the "Witches circle".					
3) Enhance interpretative/educational opportunities of the site for local people.	a) Organise one event (such as a guided walk) per year.					

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	b) Consider installing an interpretation board in an appropriate location, plus perhaps temporary boards to explain ongoing management work.					
	c) Work with the local primary school (and/or Melbourn village College) to provide educational opportunities for children on the site.					
	Investigate the possibility of a young people's project involving a youth worker.					
	Send regular updates to "Meldreth Matters".					
4) Work with neighbouring landowners and the River Mel Restoration Group to create a coherent management strategy for Melwood as part of a wider vision.	a) Keep neighbours and stakeholders informed of plans and progress in Melwood and Mel Meadow. Be aware of their long-term plans.					
	b) Discuss buffering and spray drift with the neighbouring farmer.					
	c) Consider working with neighbouring landowners to control rabbits.					
5) Ensure that the agreed management plan is implemented and record all activities relating to the management plan.	a) Develop a funding bid to help with the implementation of the management plan.					
	b) Keep a management diary to record all work done on site.					
	c) Undertake yearly monitoring of site management operations to ensure objectives are being met					

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	and to inform future management plan reviews.					
6) Manage nest boxes.	Clean in winter and repair over winter if necessary.					