Melwood LNR and Mel Meadow

Summary Management Plan

2016 – 2020

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

This plan updates the one prepared for the period 2011 to 2015 which was developed with assistance from the Wildlife Trust.

The issues to be addressed and the key objectives for 2016 t0 2020 are considered to be very similar to the previous period and therefore this document is primarily focused on a new work schedule for the period 2016 to 2020, with a reiteration of the description of the site, challenges and objectives.

A summary of the achievements 2011 to 2015 is included.

The plan covers the Melwood Local Nature Reserve plus an adjoining strip of land known as Mel Meadow. Mel Meadow incorporates an area of restored grassland which is essentially a woodland glade.

This small area (2 acres) of woodland habitat forms part of a larger area of woodland along the River Mel. Management by the owners of these areas is largely passive. It supports a number of woodland and grassland plants, insects, birds and bats, and may be used as a refuge area by river species such as water shrew, water vole and otter. Three old hedge lines are still visible as lines of mature trees.

The site is very popular with local people and is particularly well used by dog walkers and is regularly visited by the local primary school children for supervised activities.

A group of conservation volunteers follow the management plan schedule of activities at work parties during the year.

Events for the public are held in the wood.

1.2 Management Challenges:

- The wood is very small, publicly visible and well-used. It has limited opportunities for tree work or ride creation;
- Many of the trees are similar in age meaning that the ground is very shaded, with a relatively poor cover of woodland plants, and few saplings survive;
- The grassland plants in the meadow are limited in area by the shade of nearby trees. Shorter trees or shrubs at the edge of the meadow would allow more light in;
- Two of the old hedge lines are protected with Tree Protection Orders so any work on these trees must be done in consultation with South Cambridgeshire District Council. The trees in the hedge lines are older and larger than most in the rest of the wood; some cast a considerable amount of shade;

- Public use means that there are many well-trodden paths and very few inaccessible areas;
- As a local nature reserve, the woodland owners wish to engage with the local community and involve more people in managing and enjoying the wood.

1.3 Management operations:

- Work on a relatively small number of trees to increase light reaching the woodland floor and Mel Meadow. This will be spread over a number of years and involve a relatively small number of trees. Details are in Appendix 1. This will allow more plants and shrubs to grow under the trees, which will in turn benefit insects and butterflies. Concentrating on a few small areas will allow maximum benefits with minimum tree work and will increase the diversity within the wood;
- Methods used will be a combination of coppicing (felling and allowing the stumps to re-grow), pollarding (similar to coppicing but leaving a length of tree trunk standing), crown reduction (removing a few large, shading branches) and very limited felling (not allowing the tree to re-grow);
- Plant trees, shrubs, tubers, bulbs etc. and distribute seed (purchased if necessary), where appropriate, to facilitate the objectives of the management plan;
- Maintain a circular path, including the public footpath, and discourage use of other paths. Concentrating public use in particular areas will keep them open and allow others to become denser and more secluded;
- Manage the meadow by annual mowing, removing the cuttings. It may be possible to use the cuttings to add seed to newly sunny areas of the meadow or paths;
- Provide information and publicity and work with Meldreth Primary School to increase local knowledge and understanding of the wood;
- Involve more people as volunteers in the monitoring and management of the wood;
- Work with neighbouring landowners and the River Mel Restoration Group to share information and discuss any shared issues;

The aim of the on-the-ground management work is to encourage some areas to become more dense and shrubby and others more open, light and airy. Ideally some of these areas will be adjacent, so that towards the edge of the meadow or a path, short grass becomes longer grass, then bushes and small trees, then finally tall trees. Once established, this structure is maintained by cutting at varying intervals.

Allowing more light to the meadow will allow the grassland plants to spread more extensively and increase the meadow's wildlife value.

2 Summary Management Plan 2016-2020

2.1 Site Details:

Name:	Melwood Local Nature Reserve and Mel Meadow
Area:	0.81 Ha (2 acres)
Grid Reference:	TL378459
Local Planning Authority:	South Cambridgeshire District Council
District:	South Cambridgeshire
Conservation Status:	Tree Protection Orders on some trees.
Nature of legal interest:	Cambridgeshire County Council owns Melwood. Meldreth Parish Council is the leaseholder of Melwood. The adjacent Mel Meadow is owned by Miss Margaret Hunter. South Cambridgeshire District Council has protected two of the old hedge lines with Tree Protection Orders. Any work on these trees must first have consent from the District Council.
Current Management:	Melwood Conservation Group carries out the practical management of Melwood and Mel Meadow. Miss Hunter also carries out some independent management on the site. Miss Hunter has kindly arranged that Mel Meadow will ultimately become part of the LNR.
Byelaws:	None at present.
Access:	The adjacent public footpath (footpath Number 6 on the definitive map) provides open access to the woodland which is available to the public at all times. The nearest entrance is via the footbridge at the end of Flambards Close.

2.2 Site Description

Melwood is a small woodland nestled in the village of Meldreth in South Cambridgeshire. The OS map published in 1887 shows that Melwood was one of the few fields in the area not planted as an orchard. As Melwood formed part of the same parcel of land as Meldreth village school at enclosure, it is possible that regular grazing may have ceased when the school was built in 1910. This would have resulted in the gradual encroachment of the grassland by scrub, leading to the development of secondary woodland. The old hedge lines were clearly marked as field boundaries on the Inclosure Award Map of 1820.

By the late 1970s and early 1980s, the woodland had become increasingly dominated by scrub to the detriment of ground flora.

A conservation group was formed in 1986 by Miss Hunter, the owner of Mel Meadow. Volunteers cut back dense thickets of scrub to enable light and air to enter the woodland again. New trees were planted, some of which were native species (such as hazel, field maple and beech) and some of which were non native species (such as ornamental cherries). Further planting has continued during 2011 to 2015 including a hedge along the southern boundary supported by dead hedging and layering.

The site forms part of a larger, linear woodland along the east bank of the river. This larger wood is owned by a number of different landowners and consists mainly of former orchards, with some damper areas and a variety of trees including willow. Management by the owners of these areas is largely passive, although there has been some clearance at the back of the British Queen and adjacent areas and at the back of the new High Street development.

The River Mel flows into the River Cam (or Rhee) 2 – 3km downstream and forms an important wildlife corridor. The River Mel Restoration Group, a group of local volunteers, manages the river.

Secondary woodlands such as Melwood, which are near to towns or villages, often have a history of use by local people for informal recreation and play. Such woodlands have more direct value to society than biologically rich but remote ancient woodland with no public access. These woodlands, even very small ones, provide areas for recreation and relaxation and can sometimes be the only accessible 'wild' space for play, learning and adventure that local children may have. Many secondary woodlands, including Melwood, are ecologically robust. The fact that they may contain fewer of the sensitive and specialist species that occur in ancient woodland means that the woodlands themselves are less sensitive to the pressures of recreational use and as such have a higher carrying capacity in terms of visitor usage before unacceptable ecological damage is done.

High levels of public use have led to the existence of many well-worn paths through the wood. The woodland is directly adjacent to a public right of way which runs alongside the river for approximately 1 km.

Melwood is well used by the public and forms a significant public amenity for the village, particularly for regular dog walkers.

The site is regularly visited by the local primary school children for supervised activities. This is following an environmental event organised with the school and visits to the school by Mel River Restoration Group volunteers.

Groups of younger people gather in one particular area near the ditch and occasionally light fires and leave litter. Log piles created for environmental purposes have been used to fuel these fires.

An initiative with the local youth worker reduced the destructive nature of these visits for a period during 2011 to 2015.

2.3 Site Sub Divisions

The site, although small, is sub-divided into areas that reflect the habitats present; these are used as management compartments within the plan.

Area – H1 Secondary Woodland
Secondary woodland covers most of the site (age estimated 40 – 100 years). The habitat community is typical of the area, dominated by ash and hawthorn. It includes several non-native species such as ornamental cherry. Native trees and plants support a greater diversity of fungi and invertebrates than non-native species, which in turn will support a greater number of insect-eaters such as birds and bats. The woodland has a dense canopy and many narrow paths, resulting in a limited ground flora. In some areas ivy dominates the ground cover while in others there are areas of sedge and ground ivy with patches of dog's mercury. There is also dog's mercury at the rear of the meadow. There are also planted daffodils and bluebells, some of which are non-native. There are signs of heavy rabbit grazing, and Muntjac deer are known to be present.

Area – H2 Ancient hedgerows
Three parallel old hedge lines run southwest to northeast, which are now lines of large ash and hawthorn trees and form the site boundary on two sides. There is evidence that these trees have been coppiced in the past.

Area - H3 Meadow
There is a meadow area known as Mel Meadow. The south-western end of Mel Meadow has an area of cleared land which has been seeded with grass and meadow plants. For management purposes this may be thought of as part of the woodland habitat, as it is essentially a woodland glade.

Area – H4 River
The River Mel forms the south-west boundary to the site. The River Mel Restoration Group is working to restore the river and improve its biodiversity. River species such as otter, water vole and water shrew are known to be present and may also benefit from the habitat in Melwood and Mel Meadow. A ditch forms the eastern boundary and contains water seasonally.

2.4 Objectives:

2.4.1 To maintain and enhance the different habitats of the site

H1 & H2 Secondary woodland

Woodland management will increase the variation in woodland structure. Tree work such as coppicing (cutting down and allowing to re-grow) will produce gaps (effectively glades), which allows more light in and encourages regenerations and a flush of growth. This in turn provides habitat for a wide range of birds and insects.

A varied habitat will attract a greater variety of plants and animals and therefore have a greater wildlife value. This means having variety in the age and height of trees, including dead wood, as well as the amount of light and shade. Many species of bird and insect thrive in the transitional areas at woodland edges where increased sunlight allows more flowers and berries to grow. Similar habitat may be created at the edges of woodland paths or glades. Dead wood provides a home for wildlife including bats, birds, fungi, lichens and mosses as well as a large range of insects. Standing deadwood and fallen trees provide different habitats, as do the rot-holes and hollows in older living trees. Ivy on trees provides nest sites, winter shelter and food for birds and insects. As ivy flowers late in the year, it provides nectar when little else is available.

Because the site is a Local Nature Reserve and so the local community is encouraged to visit, there may be a need for additional intervention if trees become a safety risk to users.

H3 Meadow Management

The meadow will benefit from work reducing adjacent tree cover. More light reaching ground level will allow more grasses and flowering plants to flourish. East of the meadow flowers, particularly primroses, will be encouraged by reducing ivy growth.

Grassland and grassland plants will be encouraged by annual mowing, removing the cuttings. Green hay from the more flower-rich areas of the meadow may be used to enhance other areas which were previously shaded.

H4 River management

The footpath adjacent to the River Mel is the widest path in the wood.

Work near the river will be done in consultation with the River Mel Restoration Group and the school.

2.4.2 To maintain and enhance the public access of the site for local people

The site is currently well used by local people for informal recreational activities including walking and observing wildlife.

A circular path around the wood, including the public footpath, will be selected and maintained. An inviting path should mean that fewer people walk in other areas, so that denser growth can establish in places.

Re-instating the bridge across the river to the school may be an option, but needs to be discussed with the school and other stakeholders.

2.4.3 To increase involvement of the local community in the management of the site

An understanding of the work done in the wood and of the long-term aims will reduce the number of complaints from people who use the wood, especially if they feel they have had the chance to express their views. It will also lead to a greater appreciation of the work put in by volunteers. A key part of getting people involved will be the local consultation on this management plan. Involving local people may lead to changes in the way they use the wood. As a Local Nature Reserve the success of the site depends on the involvement of local people.

2.4.4 To enhance interpretative/educational opportunities of the site for local people.

Whilst the site is well used by local people, there is scope to improve awareness of the LNR and encourage its use. This can be achieved through appropriate interpretation, running a programme of events and engaging with groups that could use it as an educational resource.

The school is very close to the wood, and the current use by the school should be supported. This should introduce the children to the value of the site and about the responsible use of woodland. Achieving an understanding at the primary school level could go a long way to avoiding problems in later years.

2.4.5 To continue to work with the River Mel Restoration Group and others to create a coherent management strategy for Melwood as part of a wider vision

While Melwood has intrinsic value for wildlife, it is also part of a greater habitat network. Working with the River Group provides the opportunity to look at links between Melwood and the nearby river habitats.

The owner of the woodland to the South of Melwood is supportive of the project and has allowed some intervention in his area of woodland, following similar objectives applied to the north-east corner of Melwood (maintain dense tree cover).

Initiatives to involve local farmers owning or renting land adjacent to the wood have not been very successful. It was hoped that they would participate in a

joint rabbit reduction programme and also restrict spraying on the boundary of the wood. This has not materialised.

The ownership of the ditch running on the northern boundary has not been established and the Conservation Group wish to ensure that this is not tampered with due to its importance for wildlife.

Attempts to involve them on critical issues should continue.

2.4.6 To ensure that the agreed management plan is implemented and record all activities relating to the management plan

It is important that the detailed operational plan is regularly assessed and updated as necessary.

2.5 Achievements 2011 to 2015

2.5.1 Maintain and enhance the secondary woodland habitat

1 Maps have been produced and kept updated;
2 Tree growth has been regularly monitored and appropriate coppicing and felling carried out at work parties;
3 1 willow overhanging the river was pollarded;

1 willow beside the footpath was felled.

4 Yew hedge was pollarded;
5 Rotating coppicing programme carried out;
6 Discouragement of random paths through the wood has been fairly successful.

2.5.2 Maintain and enhance the meadow habitat

1 Annual mowing of meadow;
2 3 trees planted at western edge: 2 Sallow and one wild berberris.

2.5.3 Involve the local community in the management of the site

1 There is a solid core of regular volunteers and there have been some new recruits during this period;
2 There have been regular articles in the local magazine, Meldreth Matters;
3 A litter rota is maintained.

2.5.4 Enhance interpretative/educational opportunities of the site for local people.

1 An interpretation board has been installed on the site;

2 There was an event for the primary school on the site and they now regularly visit as part of their studies;
3 There has been an event for the local community most years
4 Cambridge University Social Anthropology Division has sent visitors to the site and participated in work parties.

2.5.5 **Ensure that the agreed management plan is implemented and record all activities relating to the management plan**

1 Activities have been recorded and regular reports provided to committee meetings and the AGM on achievements and future plans.

2.5.6 **Additional Activities**

1 Bird boxes have been maintained and additional ones installed.

2.6 Main Management operations for 2016 to 2020

2.6.1 a) Maintain and enhance the secondary woodland habitat

- Maintain maps as work progresses;
- Continue review of vegetation and Identify areas for further work; thinning, coppicing or planting;
- Carry out further thinning in the back eastern corner to support bush coppicing and / or plantings and ensure good light in cleared areas;
- Carry out annual inspection to identify any trees that are potential safety hazards;
- Maintain circular access path by cutting back over-hanging vegetation;
- Review options and implement best for defining path edges more effectively:
    - wooden borders inserted in the ground;
    - hoops at edge;
    - graded vegetation;
    - wood chips.
- Fill gaps in yew hedge;
- Control ground ivy by cutting and pulling;
- Encourage new growth of herbaceous plants by green mulch, seeding or planting;
- Maintain litter rota.

2.6.1b) Maintain and enhance the meadow habitat

- Cut once per year. Review timing annually and decide whether to cut half early and half later.
  Use cuttings as “green hay” to enhance areas of reduced shade following tree work;
- Regularly review hedge lines, particularly western edge.
  Thin crowns rather than fell if more light needed.
  Possibly allow bushes to mature on western edge then introduce hedge plants;
- Annually monitor grass near cut yews and decide if seeding needed;

- Review regularly enhancement of flora in the meadow area.

2.6.1c) Maintain and enhance the riverside habitat

- Work with the River Mel Group and the Primary School to identify felling, pollarding, coppicing requirements;
- Keep grasses down on the edge of the bank to encourage flowering plants.

2.6.2 **Maintain and enhance the public access of the site for local people.**

- Maintain circular access path by cutting back over-hanging vegetation;
- Review options and implement best for defining path edges more effectively:

2.6.3 Involve the local community in the management of the site

- Continue to recruit and train volunteers, if necessary, to help with the management of the wood and to survey for birds, invertebrates, bats, small mammals and plants;
- Maintain the litter rota;
- Continue to publicise the work of Melwood Conservation Group, for example in the village magazine, as well as opportunities to get involved with work parties.

2.6.4 Enhance interpretative/educational opportunities of the site for local people

- Organise one event, such as a guided walk, per year;
- Use temporary boards to explain ongoing major management work;
- Continue to encourage Meldreth Primary school and/or Melbourn Village College to use the woodland as a resource for teaching and recreation. Use these contacts to promote increased understanding of woodland management and ecology amongst the students (i.e. help them understand why the management is taking place, which activities cause damage to the wood and which do not). Possibly carry out transect studies.

2.6.5 Continue to work with the River Mel Restoration Group on implementation of the management strategy

- Discuss any further tree felling/pollarding/coppicing on the river bank.

2.6.6 Interact with adjacent land owners when required

2.6.7 Ensure that the agreed management plan is implemented and record all activities relating to the management plan

- Keep a management diary to record all work done on site;

- Undertake yearly monitoring of site management operations to ensure objectives are being met and to inform future management plan reviews.

2.6.8 Additional maintenance work

- Nettle control: Selectively control and pull docks on Meadow;
- Cow parsley: ensure that this does not reappear and dominate;
- Bird boxes: Clean at the start of the following winter, or remove and repair if necessary;
- Bat boxes: Possibly add more.

Appendix 1: Summary of structure management ideas

(Existing) Open Spaces

- Manage central areas as grassland. Remove all cuttings;
- Manage all edges on rotation where possible (using a combination of coppice and mowing) to achieve a graded edge.

Potential Open Areas

Look for opportunities to widen paths and create glades in these areas, to allow more light to reach the ground. As Melwood has a limited seed bank, it is necessary to let as much light in as possible so that imported seed can establish.

- Remove trees and coppice or pollard others to let more light in;
- Use seed and/or plug plants (native species, sourced as locally as possible) to establish ground flora;
- Consider the use of fencing and signage in the early stages;
- Manage edges of the new open spaces as above.

Denser Growth Area

Encourage the growth of saplings and understory in this area.

- Choose paths to keep clear and maintain them (and try to make other paths less appealing to walkers);
- Identify and protect saplings (this could involve using tree guards and clearing a small amount of ivy around each);
- One-off coppicing to improve the density of the shrub layer;
- Look for hazel, blackthorn or hawthorn for layering;
- Allow shrubs and tall vegetation to grow;
- If there is too much shade from tall trees, fell one and allow it to make a hole in the canopy as it falls. Leave all or part of the tree in place as fallen dead wood.

Hedge Lines

These include many of the larger trees in Melwood. All but the southeast line are protected with TPOs.

- Consider coppicing some of the larger trees in the southeast hedge line near the main path, as part of creating a small glade or path widening;
- One or two of these trees may be left to lie (with a gap for the path) to provide deadwood habitat;
- Plan whether to re-establish any of the old hedge lines, particularly the meadow end of the two protected ones. This could involve:
    - Establishing a coppiced area in front of the existing trees along the northwest hedge line (yellow on map);
    - Coppicing or pollarding some of the existing trees in the middle hedge line (with optional gapping up); or
    - Planning to plant new trees and establish a hedge in future, once the older trees have died.

Melwood and Mel Meadow Example Management Areas

Appendix 2: Species lists

Birds
Mallard
Buzzard
Sparrowhawk
Kestrel
Hobby
Pheasant
Moorhen
Woodcock
Wood Pigeon
Collared Dove
Cuckoo
Tawny owl
Swift
Swallow
House Martin
Kingfisher
Green woodpecker
Great Spotted Woodpecker
Pied wagtail
Grey wagtail
Spotted Flycatcher
Wren
Dunnock
Robin
Blackbird
Mistle thrush
Song thrush
Fieldfare
Redwing
Blackcap
Chiffchaff
Goldcrest
Long-tailed tit
Blue Tit
Great Tit
Jay
Magpie
Jackdaw
Rook
Starling
House Sparrow
Chaffinch
Green finch
Gold Finch
Little Egret

Butterflies
Large White
Small White
Green veined White
Brimstone
Orange tip
Meadow Brown
Hedge Brown/Gatekeeper
Ringlet
Speckled Wood
Red Admiral
Peacock
Small Tortoishell
Painted Lady
Comma
Common Blue
Holly Blue
Large Skipper
Small / Essex Skipper
Small Skipper

Mammals
Water Shrew
Pygmy Shrew
Yellow necked field mouse
Wood mouse
Vole (unidentified)
Bank Vole
Water Vole
Rabbit
Grey Squirrel
Fox
Muntjac deer
Hedgehog
Pipistrelle bat
Mole
Otter
Weasel

Fungi
Morchella esculenta
Coriolus versicolor
Hypholoma sublateritium
Xylaria hypoxilon
Polyporus squamosus
Psathyrelia candolieana
Auricularia auricula
Inocybe geophylia
Calocera cornea
Armillaria mellea

Herbs

Few-flowered Leek
Hedge Parsley
Lords-and-Ladies
Spreading bellflower
Nettle-leaved Bellflower
Pond Sedge
Great Pond Sedge
Cyclamen
Spurge laurel
Snowdrop
Goosegrass / cleavers
Dusky Crane's-bill
Field Crane's-bill
Herb Robert
Ground Ivy
Stinking Hellebore
Bluebell
Stinking Iris
Yellow Flag Iris
Oxeye Daisy
Birds-foot Trefoil
Dog's Mercury
Daffodil / narcisus
Common reed
Oxlip
Cowslip
Primrose
Lesser Celandine
Creeping buttercup
Broad-leaved Dock
Wood Dock
White Clover
Red clover
Nettle
Lesser periwinkle
Vinca major
Viola odorata

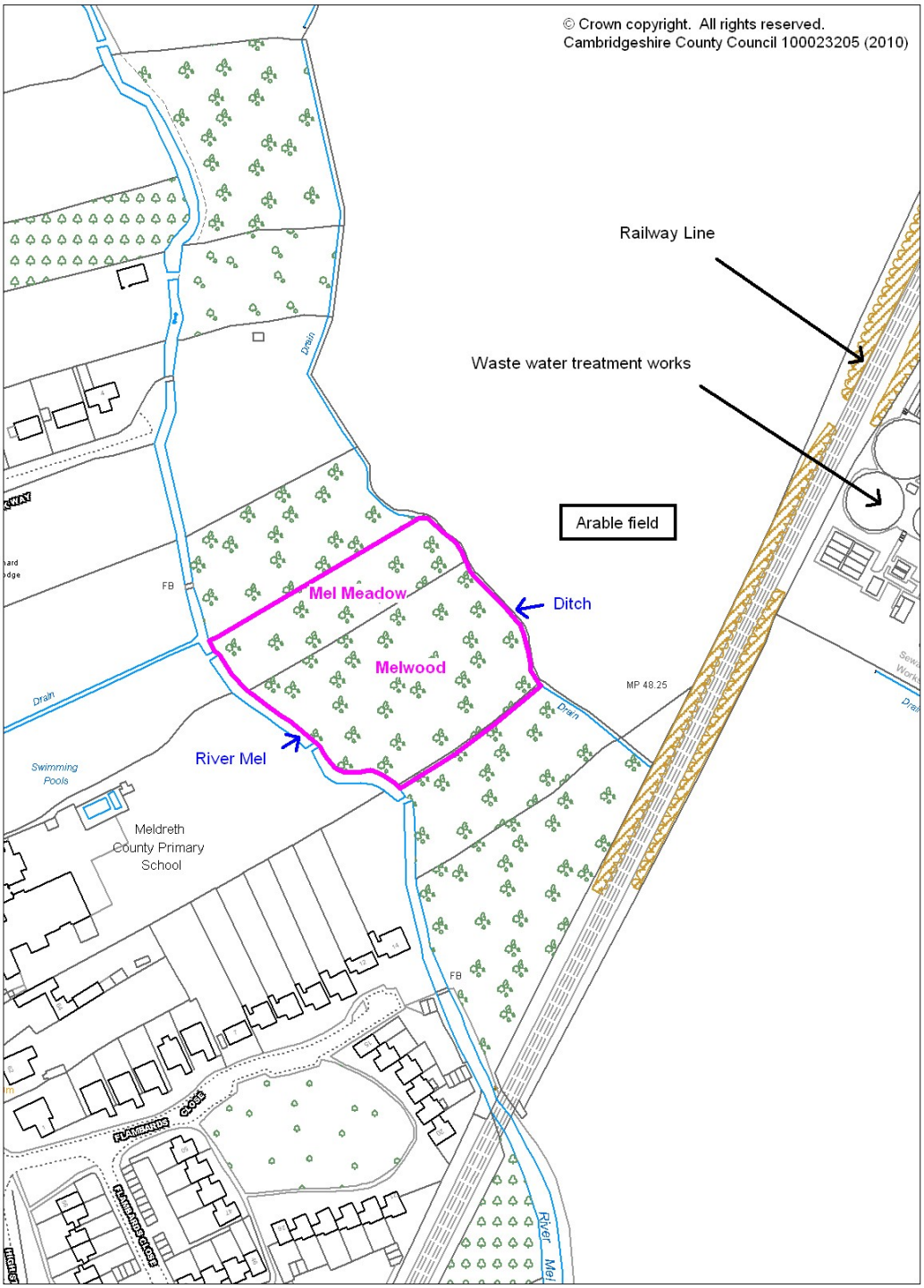
Trees

Field maple
Sycamore
Silver Birch
Hazel
Hawthorn
Ash
Ivy
Privet
Honeysuckle
Cherry
Blackthorn
Red Currant

Rose (introduced)
Dog-Rose
Dewberry
Bramble
Elder
Rowan / Mountain Ash
Yew
Beech
Prunus
Oak (introduced)

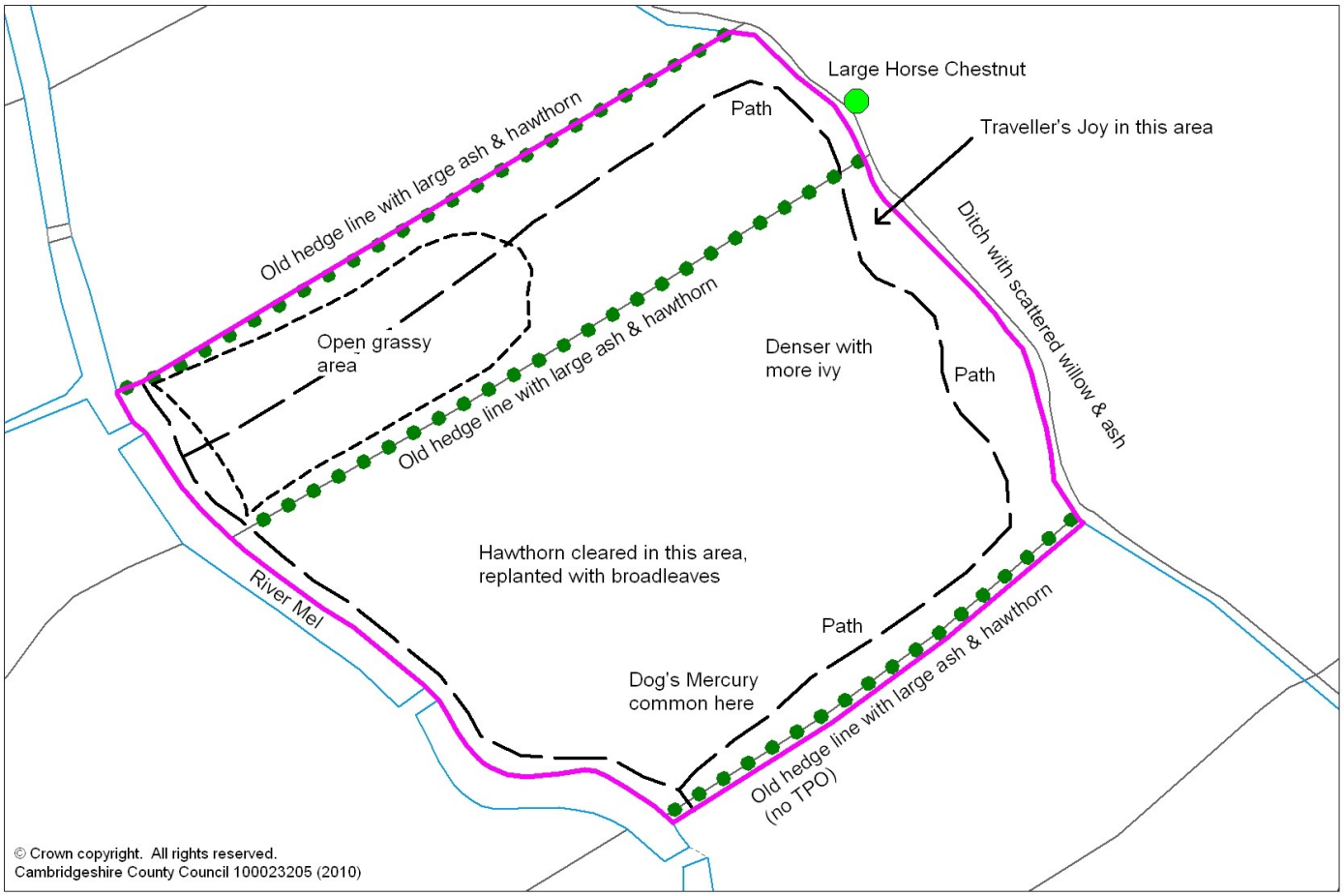
Appendix 3: Map 1 – Location

Melwood and Mel Meadow Location Plan



Appendix 3: Map 2 – Habitats

Melwood and Mel Meadow Habitat Plan



Appendix 3: Map 3 – Tree Protection Orders (marked in blue)

South Cambridgeshire District Council

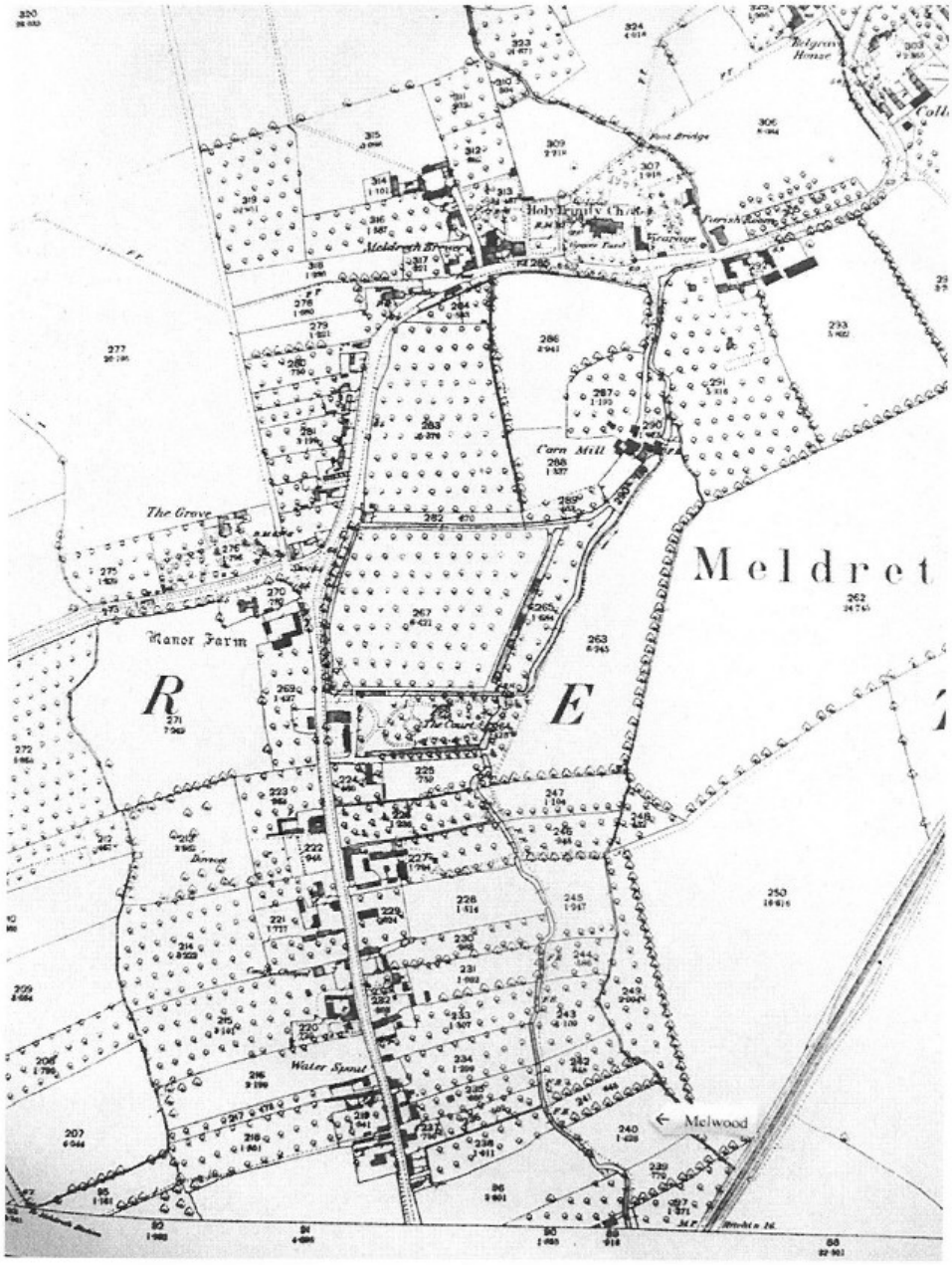
Scale 1/1000

Date 27/5/2010

Centre = 537835 E 245945 N

Appendix 3: Map 4 – Extent of orchards in 1887

Extent of orchards in Meldreth: OS map of 1887



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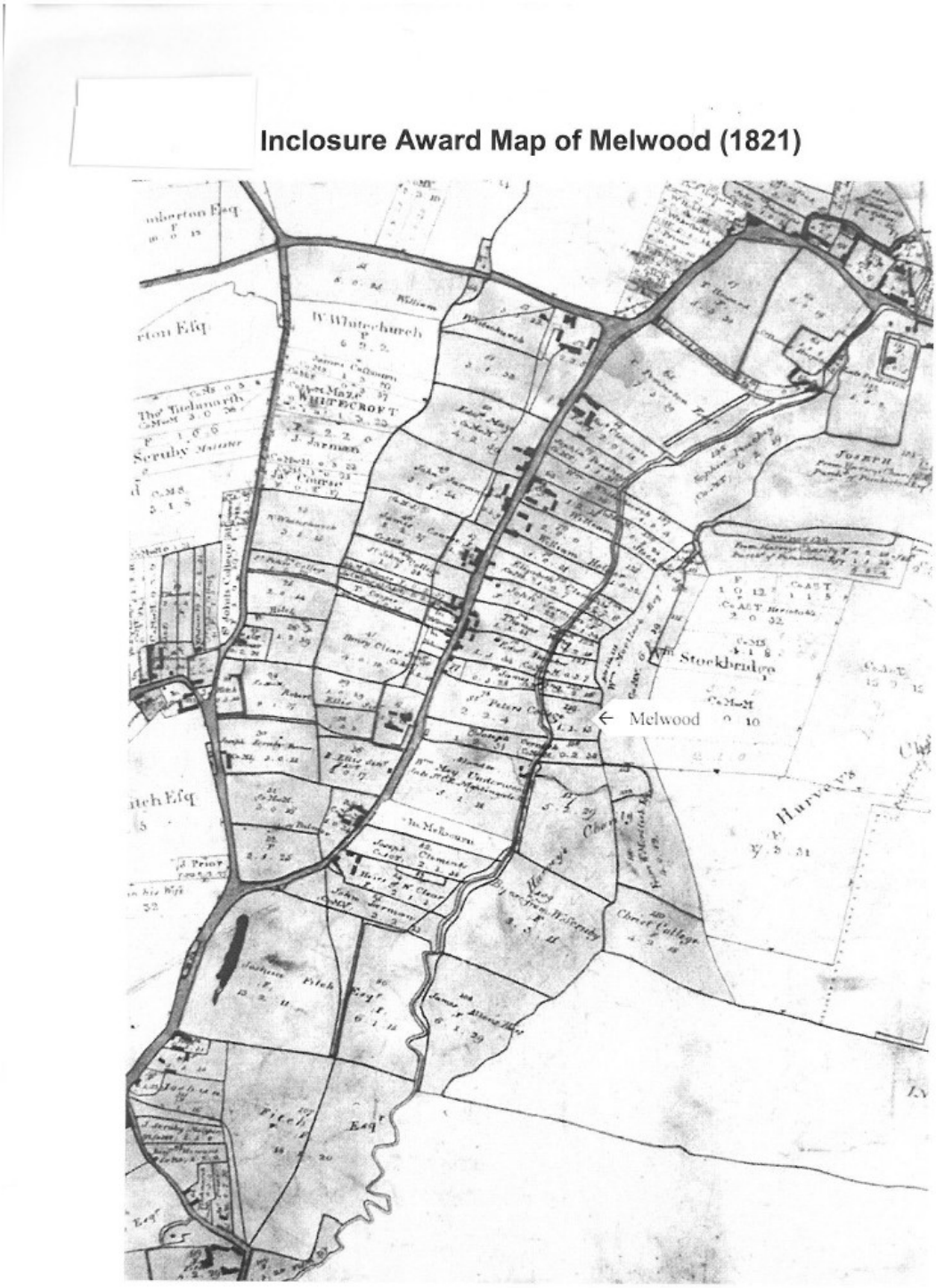
Appendix 3: Map 5 – Inclosure Award Map (1821)



Appendix 4: Management Structure of Melwood Conservation Group

The Melwood Conservation Group was started around 1986 by Miss Margaret Hunter. The group has been responsible for all of the management of Melwood to date.

The Melwood Conservation Group is affiliated to the Parish Council, from which it gains public liability insurance for volunteering activities and funding for management activities. Funding applications are agreed by the Parish Council on an annual basis.

The management committee of the Conservation Group meets a minimum of three times each year. The group appoints a chairman, minutes secretary, treasurer and conservation group leader each year. The management committee is responsible for arranging a calendar of events each year at which a minimum of one event (ideally several events) will be organised to benefit local people. The calendar of events will also include a number of volunteering activities throughout the year.

The Melwood Conservation Group also includes a large number of Friends. The Friends include local people who treasure the woodland and feel strongly about its welfare and future, but do not wish to be represented on the management committee. It may be possible in the future to extend the role and activity of the friends to include fund raising for management tasks and social events.

Appendix 5: Glossary

Ancient Woodland A woodland that has existed continuously since 1700, and possibly pre-history.
Arisings Cuttings taken from a meadow.
Barking Removing bark from a tree, for use in tanning
Black heart Discoloration in the centre of a tree, does not always signify rot.
Brash, brish or brushwood The small twiggy branches from coppice poles.
Butt The lowest portion of a stem or pole
Cant An area of coppice cut or sold in a season.
Cleft A segment of wood split from a round pole.
Coppice Underwood trees, which are cut, close to ground level every few years to allow multiple stems to grow again from the stool.
Coppice-with-standards Coppice overstood by scattered, single-stemmed trees.
Coppicing cycle The number of years between cutting of the coppice.
Copse Another name for an area of coppiced woodland.
Coup Another name for a cant.
Crown Living branches of a tree above the main stem.
Crown reduction Pruning back the crown to its main branches whilst maintaining its overall shape.
Cutting A short length of young shoot or root used to propagate a new plant.
Drifts Cut coppice material or brash laid in rows for sorting or disposal
Emergent tree Shoots sprouting from dormant or adventitious buds on a tree's main stem.
Encoppice To enclose an area of young coppice, to prevent damage to the young shoots.
Epicormic shoots Shoots sprouting from dormant or adventitious buds on a tree's main stem.
Epiphyte A plant growing on another without being parasitic.
Extraction The removal of felled timber from a woodland.
Feathered tree A young tree well furnished with branches to near ground level.
Felling cut The cut made from the back of the stem which fells the tree. Also known as the back cut.
Field layer The part of the woodland structure containing low-growing shrubs, herbaceous plants, grasses bulbs and ferns.
Flush An area of ground receiving nutrient-rich runoff. The first spurt of growth after the winter.
Forest Was originally a tract of heath, moor or woodland controlled by the Crown for the purpose of conserving deer and other woodland animals. Now used to describe a densely wooded area.
Formative pruning The pruning of branches, usually between 3-10 years of planting, in order to improve timber quality.
Glade An open area.
Greenwood Freshly felled living wood, still retaining its sap.
Ground layer The part of the woodland structure which compromises mosses, liverworts, lichens and fungi.
Hanger A wood growing on the side of a hill.
Hardwood Any broadleaved tree, irrespective of the actual hardness of the wood.
Heartwood The inner wood of a large branches and trunks, which no longer carry sap.
Hewing Shaping a log with an axe or adze.
High forest Woodlands dominated by full-grown trees.
Leader The main top shoot of a tree.
Lopping Cutting branches from a tree.
Maiden tree A single stemmed tree, never coppiced or pollarded.
Any tree not grown from a coppice stump

Mother tree A mature tree left to produce seed to encourage natural regeneration.
Natural regeneration Trees and shrubs which arise from naturally-shed seeds, with no help from man.
Park Originally, land enclosed for the keeping of deer and other animals. An area enclosed for amenity.
Plantation Woodland where the majority of trees have been planted.
Pole A coppice stool shoot of more than 50mm (2in) diameter.
Pollard Tree which is cut at 2-4m (6-12ft) above ground level, and left to produce a crop of poles or branches.
Primary Woodland Woodland that has had a continuous cover of native trees throughout its history.
Prog A stout forked pole used for the pushing and levering trees during felling.
Provenance The place of origin of a tree stock, which remains the same no matter where later generations of the tree are raised.
Pruning Cutting branches from a standing tree, to alter its shape, remove diseased branches.
Recent Woodland Woodland which has grown up since 1600, on land which had preciously been cleared, or was previously not wooded area.
Ride Wide woodland road
Rod Small flexible underwood stem of less than 50mm (2in) diameter.
Rotation Length of time between cuttings of a coppice coupe.
Roundwood Wood of small diameter used for fencing stakes.
Sapwood Wood which carries sap. This may be all the wood in a young stem, or the outermost layer in an older, larger trunk or branch.
Secondary woodland Woodland growing on a site that was formerly not woodland. It could be ancient, if it grew up before 1600.
Semi-natural woodland In ancient sites, wood made up of native species, where their presence is natural rather than planted. More recently woods which have originated mainly by regeneration.
Set A large unrooted cutting, usually willow or poplar.
Short rotation coppice Coppice grown on a short rotation, of up to about ten years, and is used for hurdle making and other crafts.
Shrub layer The part of the woodland structure which includes shrubs and young growth of canopy trees.
Singling Retaining one stem on a coppice stool and allowing it to grow into a standard tree.
Softwood The timber of a coniferous tree, irrespective of the hardness of the timber.
Stag-head A tree with a clear stem or trunk. In woodland structure, a tree forming the dominant layer of the canopy.
Stem The living trunk of a shrub or tree, from which new shoots grow.
Stool The base of a coppiced tree from which new shoots emerge.
Sucker Shoots growing from the roots of an older tree.
Timber Tree trunk suitable for making beams or sawing into planks.

Thinning A tree removal practice that reduces tree density and competition between trees in a stand. Thinning concentrates growth on fewer, high-quality trees, provides periodic income, and generally enhances tree vigour. Heavy thinning can benefit wildlife through the increased growth of ground vegetation.
Underwood Coppiced wood growing under standard or timber trees.
Wildwood Ancient forest, untouched by man.
Wood The part of the stem, inside the cambium, which supports the tree, carries water to the crown and stores reserves of food over the winter period. Also poles and branches of smaller diameter than timber.

Appendix 6: Work Plan

5 Year Management Plan 2016-2020: *Melwood Local Nature Reserve*

Objective	Task	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1) To maintain and enhance the different habitats of the site						
a) Woodland	a) Maintain maps as work progresses					
	b) Carry out selective small-scale coppicing / layering to increase density of shrub level.					
	c) 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					
	d) Review hedge lines and negotiate with S. Cambs DC if tree felling is considered					
	e) Identify any trees that require attention under Health & safety site management regulations.					
	f) Investigate ways of delineating the main circular path more effectively					

Objective	Task	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	g) Implement the plan for the delineation of the main path					
	h) Fill gaps in yew hedge					
	i) Control ground ivy by cutting and pulling					
	j) Encourage new growth of herbaceous plants by green mulch, seeding or planting					
	k) Maintain litter rota					
b) Grassland in the meadow.	a) Mow the meadow and rake cuttings once a year in late summer. Review timing annually and decide whether to cut half early and half later. Use cuttings as “green hay” to enhance areas of reduced shade following tree work.					
	Review hedge lines, particularly western edge. Thin crowns rather than fell if more light needed.					
	Possibly allow bushes to mature on western edge then introduce hedge plants.					
	Annually monitor grass near cut yews and decide if seeding needed.					
	Review regularly enhancement of					

Objective	Task	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	flora in the meadow area.					
c) Riverside	Work with the River Mel Group and the Primary School to identify felling, pollarding, coppicing requirements					
2) To maintain and enhance the public access of the site for local people.	see 1f and 1g above					
3) Involve the local community in the management of the site						
	Recruit volunteers					
	Send regular updates to "Meldreth Matters".					
4) Enhance the interpretative/educational opportunities of the site for local people.						
	Organise one event (such as a guided walk) per year.					
	Use temporary boards to explain on going major work					
	Work with the Priamry School and Village college on activities in the wood					
5) Work with the River Mel Restoration Group	a) Keep neighbours and stakeholders informed of plans and progress in Melwood and Mel					

Objective	Task	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Meadow. Be aware of their long-term plans.					
6) Ensure that the agreed management plan is implemented and record all activities relating to the management plan.						
	a) Keep a management diary to record all work done on site.					
	b) Undertake yearly monitoring of site management operations to ensure objectives are being met and to inform future management plan reviews.					