

Beckford Nature Reserve – 2019/20 Maintenance Plan

Company name: Beckford Nature Reserve

Date of maintenance plan: 02nd June 2019

Completed by: Conservation Warden

Date of next maintenance plan: June 2020

General:

- The footpaths will be chipped and weeded as normal.
- Continue to inspect / repair / replace warning signs, throw lines and other fixtures (seats, gates, hides etc.) as required.
- Barriers and steps will be repaired / replaced as part of the maintenance plan.
- Continue to inspect and cut back overhanging trees and foliage. Cut down at-risk trees adjacent to the roads or footpaths.
- Prevent the spread of injurious weeds (such as ragwort), control the perimeters and comply with the 2004 Code of Practice.
- Monitor the water condition of the reserve; put up warning signs if in any doubt and follow-up with the EA.

North Bank:

- We will weed the spoil at the base of the SSSI face to enable the arid loving flora and fauna to flourish.
- The Northern Boundary hedge is establishing itself now it is protected from the deer. In the autumn we plan to assess the coverage and plant variety and fill in any gaps with possible teasels and dog rose as a start.
- The primrose area needs to have some saplings removed especially beside the footpath for public safety.
- The edge of the water is very overgrown and some of the dog rose plants are encroaching on the footpaths. We plan to trim down the dead brambles and reduce the roses which should encourage new growth.
- The grass will be cut by a contractor in the autumn.
- We will continue to thin out saplings and trees to prevent over population and to allow light through.

South Bank:

- The bank below the Orchard will have its brambles trimmed again to encourage the flower growth. We hope to trim the trees on the water's edge whose roots are above the water line.
- The vegetation around the roof of the old hide will be trimmed back to prevent damage.
- The excess growth on the "flower bank" will again be trimmed to leave space and light for more flowers to flourish.
- The life-expired seat in front of The Stabling will be replaced.

East Bank:

- Take down all at-risk / dead elm trees adjacent to Rabbit Lane to reduce risk of trees falling into the road or footpath; this work will be done by a contractor.
- This year we plan to remove one of the two willows that have fallen into the water (too much vegetation in the water will silt up the lake).

West Bank:

- We plan to trim around the permanent bramble patch to keep it in check, and remove numerous small saplings which are crowding out flower growth.
- We will continue to thin out saplings and trees to prevent over population and to allow light through.

Other work may be included if it is deemed necessary by the Conservation Warden or Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve.