

STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS ANNUAL WORKPLAN 2024

January to March	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	Costs and Time
Maintenance of Site Infrastructure	<p>Keep area around benches and picnic tables clear of nettle</p> <p>Clean and treat wooden benches</p> <p>Keep area around Boardwalk clear of reeds and encroaching weeds</p> <p>Treat Information Board woodwork as necessary and clean glass</p> <p>Car park area keep clear of weeds and litter</p>	HIGH	Conservation warden with assistance from Volunteers	<p>Appropriate treatment fluid for Information Board</p> <p>Consider use of Herbicides to keep weeds under control in car park</p>	Conservation warden time through Jan to March
Maintenance of Wildflower Meadow	Cut Wildflower meadow and sow appropriate wildflower seed e.g. yellow rattle	HIGH	Conservation warden with assistance from Volunteers	Purchase of wildflower seed	Conservation warden costs.
Maintenance of Reed beds and scrapes	Cut back reeds in scrapes to provide open water and suitable environment for amphibians to spawn	HIGH	River Mel Restoration Group volunteers	Purchase of two lightweight scythes	RMRG volunteer time approximately 3 hours Estimated cost of one scythe = £85 incl VAT
April to September					
Maintenance of Amenity Grassland area	Cut monthly as a minimum -grass to be cut to 5-10cm in height	HIGH	Contractors under advisement of Conservation Warden	Dependent upon the growing season cutting may need to run into October	Contractors' costs and time

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April to September(contd.)	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	COSTS AND TIME
Maintenance of Main paths	Cut paths to 2 metres wide	HIGH	Contractors under advisement of the Conservation warden		Contractors' costs and time
	Rabbit scrapes to be filled in as necessary to maintain safe pathways	HIGH	Conservation warden	Top soil to fill in the scrapes	Conservation warden's time and costs
Minimal maintenance of rough grassland and cowslip area	Minimal cut to Cowslip area during the growing season	Medium	Conservation warden		Conservation warden's time and costs
Maintenance of woodland and scrub area	Keep paths clear of overhanging branches Review Trees health and assess need for replacements	HIGH	Conservation warden		Conservation warden's time and costs
Maintenance of lizard area	Ensure 3 paths cut and remain open through the area	HIGH	Contractors under advisement of Conservation warden		Contractors' costs and time
Invasive species	Regular assessment of the reserve to identify early intrusion of invasive species	HIGH	Conservation warden with assistance from volunteers	Investigate resources required to treat invasive species	Conservation warden's costs and time
Maintenance of Old Orchard	Keep nettles under control by strimming area monthly through the growing season Prune Plum and Gage trees in June/July Check tree guards Water replacement trees	HIGH	Conservation warden with assistance from volunteers	Access to water source in reserve at present non available	Conservation warden's costs and time

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April to September(contd.)	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	COSTS AND TIMES
WILDFLOWER MEADOWS	Using Allen Scythe cut meadows in middle of August and rake off approximately two to three weeks later depending upon the weather and ground conditions Rakings to be placed in lizard area	HIGH	Conservation warden to cut meadow Volunteers to rake off cuttings and remove to lizard area		Conservation warden's costs and time
October to December					
Maintenance of Site Infrastructure	Keep area around benches and picnic tables clear of nettle Clean and treat wooden benches Keep area around Boardwalk clear of reeds and encroaching weeds Treat Information Board woodwork as necessary and clean glass Car park area keep clear of weeds and litter	HIGH	Conservation warden with assistance from Volunteers	Appropriate treatment fluid for Information Board Consider use of Herbicides to keep weeds under control in car park	Conservation warden time through October to December
Old Orchard	Prune apple trees as needed	HIGH	Conservation warden with assistance from Volunteers		Conservation warden's costs and time
Maintenance of Bird boxes	Check boxes for damage and replace as necessary	HIGH	Conservation warden with assistance from Volunteers		Conservation warden's costs and time

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October to December (contd.)	ACTIVITY	HIGH	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	COSTS AND TIMES
Maintenance of Bird boxes	Record usage. Empty and clean before replacing on site	HIGH			Conservation warden's costs and time
Maintenance of reed beds and scrapes	Cut back reeds in scrapes to provide open water. Rake off cut reeds	HIGH	Volunteers	Purchase of two lightweight scythes	Volunteers time Cost of scythes see Jan to March for costings.
Throughout year	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	COSTS AND TIMES
DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTEER GROUP	Develop plan to recruit volunteers Develop links with Timebank and Local corporates Assistance from Parish Council with advertising volunteer opportunities	HIGH	Volunteer leaders with Conservation warden input and assistance Melbourn Parish Council	Consider provision of secure container for storage of tools to be sited in car park To avoid volunteers transporting tools to site each time.	Cost of suitable container Volunteers time
Increase Public awareness of reserve	Consider ways to inform public regarding habitats and the wildlife in reserve e.g. writing regular articles in Melbourn magazine, parish magazine.	HIGH	Volunteers and local wildlife experts		
Develop links with local schools, youth groups and nurseries	Contact identified schools etc to discuss ways of developing strong links	HIGH	Volunteer leads with support from Conservation warden		Volunteers time.