

1.0 Introduction

The local community within Beeson village established Beeson Community Orchard and it has been formalised under the Village Green Act. The management plan aims to provide a guide for the future management and development of the site both by identifying management that should be continued and identifying additional areas of management aimed at enhancing the value of the site and addressing new issues or problems at the site.

The main objective is to maintain and enhance the habitats present at the site for the benefit of wildlife and people. The principles and recommended methods of management are presented within the document.

It is anticipated that the plan will be flexible enough to be revised annually with regard to specific management activities, and that the plan will be subject to review on a 5 year basis so as to assess its effectiveness.

South Devon AONB commissioned this document on behalf of the Beeson Community Orchard Group.

The plan outlines a programme of sympathetic management actions to maintain and enhance the site's wildlife interest whilst maintaining the site for community use.

2.0 Plan Summary

The Management Plan identifies and describes a set of objectives and management activities aimed at maintaining and enhancing the site's key biological features and attributes.

The area was once an orchard though there is now only one apple tree which recalls its past history.

3.0 Site Description

The area covered by this plan contains an old apple tree with a 9m spread beneath which there is a range of vascular plants. Over the years planting of an array of different trees has taken place. The species planted include fruit trees – apple, cherry, plum and pear, deciduous trees such as horse chestnut, ash and elm and some ornamental trees such as weeping goat willow, cypress 'plumosa' and lawson cypress. There is a small pond on the site and a canalised stream. There are areas of 'wildness' which include patches of nettle, bramble and honeysuckle.

3.1 General Information

Site Name: Beeson Community Orchard



Location and Site Boundaries: The site is located within the centre of Beeson Village, residential housing and gardens surround its boundaries and a canalised stream runs the length of the western boundary. Hedging and trees make up the remaining boundaries.

Grid Reference: SX 81193 40830

3.1.1 Tenure

The site was owned by the Treasury and has been secured and registered in November 2011 under the Village Green Act.

3.1.2 Management/ Organisation Infrastructure

The site is managed through the Beeson Community Orchard Group; a constitution was adopted on 29 February 2012. Under the constitution an AGM has to be held every calendar year; notice and an agenda has to be sent out 2 weeks prior to a meeting. There needs to be a minimum of 5 committee members with 3 members present at a meeting for decision making. The idea of using the area as a community space is well supported within the village. There is open access at all times through a gate leading off from Orchard Close.

3.1.3 Site Infrastructure

The site is fenced along $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length of the southern boundary with post and stock proof wire and a field gate for access. This then abuts the back of a garage with a concrete wall to the south east corner. There is a picnic table, chicken housing and raised vegetable beds on site along with a fire pit.

3.1.4 Past Land Use/History

Records show that an orchard existed here in XXXX

3.1.5 Position in Ecological/Geographical Unit

The site is within the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and although the site is bounded by residential housing, within a 1 km radius there are two sites recognised as traditional orchards, the nearest being some 100m south east of the site and the second traditional orchard is to the north.

3.1.6 Potential Value

The community has already put a lot of effort into caring for the site and the creation of its habitats over the past 20 years. The potential now lies in allowing the deciduous trees planted to mature naturally whilst carrying out careful management of the old apple tree and the newly planted fruit trees to ensure they are maintained in optimum condition for both wildlife and visitors of the community.

3.1.5 Intrinsic Appeal

The site offers a communal space for the villagers of Beeson to meet for annual calendar celebrations such as Bonfire Night, Christmas carols, Easter egg hunt, May Day celebrations and a summer BBQ. The site is also used for out-door cooking, family picnics, cider making or simply just a spot to find a bit of peace and quiet. In more recent times many trees have been planted to enhance the surroundings.

3.2 Environmental Information

3.2.1 Geology

Need to find this info

3.2.2 Soils and substrates

There is little detailed information on the soils. However, they appear to be xxxxxxxx with a moderate moisture content.

3.2.3 Hydrology

A stream runs along the western boundary of the site and the ground near this area is damper in areas. There is also a pond but this is man-made.

3.2.4 Biological

3.2.4.1 Flora

A full botanical survey has not been carried out on the site at present, however in the writing of this plan the site has been categorised into different habitats /floral communities, see Map xxxx. The majority of plant species currently found are typical of a grassland habitat with a smaller number associated with woodland edge and disturbed ground. The site has no rarities and is classed as low in floral diversity.

The orchard has been planted with a variety of fruit trees such as apple, pear, cherry, plum and medlar. There is a cross section of age ranges but at present the majority are classed as young trees with the exception of T36, T29 and T30. At present the majority of the fruit trees are only a few feet high and are not influencing the habitat beneath them to any great extent. However, as the trees grow they will start to cast a heavier shade over the grassland vegetation and this will start to alter the composition of the grassland. T36 is the one remaining old apple tree with a 9m spread and the flora beneath is more diverse compared to the rest of the site. Plants such as red campion, lords and ladies, white dead nettle, cow parsley, hogweed, dovesfoot cranesbill and forget-me-not thrive beneath the canopy spread.

A small pond has been created on the site and the plants present include wetland species such as marsh marigold, yellow flag iris, parrots feather and pampas grass.

There are a number of shrubs and trees which have been planted over the past 10 years which are classed as ornamentals/non-natives. Some of which are out of keeping with the site such as several species of cypress trees, two non-native hedging plants - papauma known also as griselinia and the New Zealand holly – orlearia sp.

Areas of value from a habitat respect include the bramble and honeysuckle patches (H1, H5) nettle patches (H7) and hedgerow/woodland edge habitat (H3) dominated by red campion, cow parsley, ground ivy, hog weed and nettles.

3.2.4.2 Fauna

There have been no official fauna surveys carried out on the site. However observations by the local community include fox, bats, small mammals and many species of birds. Due to the rural nature of the site it is likely that badgers may frequent the site as well.

3.2.4.3 Birds

A variety of birds are present in and around the site including many species typical of gardens and woodland edge habitats such as scrub. Resident species to be found include robin, blackbird, song thrush, wren, dunnock, blue-tit, great-tit, long tail tit, coal tit, goldfinch, greenfinch, bullfinch and chaffinch. The site is too small to attract ground-nesting grassland species such as skylark and meadow pipit. Sparrowhawk has been seen on the site, buzzards are regularly seen soaring on thermals above and tawny owls are heard in the evening.

A green woodpecker was heard yaffling in the old oak to the south of the site and it is likely that it visits the site, in particular the remaining large apple tree where it will look for invertebrates found in the fissures of the bark. Migratory species seen on the site include chiffchaff and whitethroat, with swallows and house martins seen flying over the site through the summer and winter migrants include fieldfare and redwing.

3.2.4.4 Invertebrates

Although a detailed invertebrate survey has not been undertaken the mosaic of grassland and scrub habitat along with standing dead wood provides a wide range of niches for insects and other invertebrates. The following habitats and micro-habitats found on the site are of value:

- Bramble and honeysuckle patches– provide cover and a source of nectar and pollen to insects such as bumblebees and hoverflies.
- Blackthorn and buddleia around the boundary – nectar source from blossom and flowers and the fissures in the bark provide nesting opportunities.
- Pond – used by a myriad of insects including aquatic and semi-aquatic invertebrates.
- The tussocky structure of the grassland and the flowering plants benefit insects (opportunities for nesting and foraging) such as bumblebees, hoverflies, solitary wasps, beetles, spiders, grasshoppers and crickets.
- Fruit trees – the blossom will prove beneficial for butterflies, bees, hoverflies, flower beetles and flies of various types. As the trees mature the presence of any deadwood, fissures or holes will provide a new set of niches for invertebrates as is currently the case with the old apple tree.

3.2.4.5 Reptiles and Amphibians

The common frog and toad have both been seen on the site and tadpoles are present in the pond. It is likely that the palmate newt is also found on the site but this has not yet been confirmed along with grass snake.

3.2.4.6 Alien invasive/ pest species

A clump of Spanish bluebells (I2) is found on the site near to the gate entrance and there are several patches of pampas grass (I1 and I3). In the pond there is parrots feather (I4) and in the past there have been patches of Japanese knotweed by the stream. All these species need to be either controlled or removed.

4.0 Nature Conservation Features

4.1 Evaluation

4.1.1 Size

The site is very small: 0.23 ha and comprises of approximately 0.06 ha of trees and fruit trees, 0.08 ha habitats such as bramble and nettle and the remaining 0.09 ha of grassland.

4.1.2 Diversity

The site, though small is moderately rich in different plant species including native species associated with the grassland and other habitats and the introduced species of tree and shrub including the fruit trees.

Animal populations on the site are unlikely to be large, but there are several areas of cover which make niches available to many species, in particular invertebrates.

4.1.3 Naturalness

The site includes some semi-natural habitats that have developed as a result of non-intervention such as the nettles, bramble and honeysuckle patches. The trees

and shrubs associated with the orchard are introduced and these habitats have a lower degree of naturalness.

4.1.4 Rarity

Traditional orchards have waxed and waned over the centuries and in the past 100 years have declined by around 50% nationally. However in Devon in the past 10 years there has been a resurgence in restoring and creating new orchards.

None of the species so far recorded on the site have any rarity status but several of the bird species are on the red list for species of high conservation concern and are UK BAP Priority species. See full list in Appendices

4.1.5 Fragility

The large apple tree is vulnerable to high winds and loss of limbs due to its age and the younger fruit trees within the orchard are likely to be vulnerable to especially severe winters and late frosts and potentially also droughts. The fruit trees are also likely to be vulnerable to some pest species.

4.1.6 Typicalness

The flora and fauna of the orchard is typical of the area and traditional orchards are very much part of the Devon landscape.

4.1.7 Landscape

In general, the future management will increase the aesthetic quality of the Orchard and its biodiversity enhanced. However, because of the site's amenity value, it is important to maintain the site's attractiveness by minimising the visual impact of management work (e.g. by tidying cut vegetation where appropriate).

4.1.8 Sustainability

The chief source of site maintenance is provided by volunteer work parties from the local community and therefore the degree of management which can be achieved is limited by this factor. It is therefore essential that consideration be given to ensuring that the proposals made are as self-sustaining as possible. Other groups such as BTCV, local schools, Scout and Guide groups, Corporate volunteering days could be utilised from time to time for particular tasks such as fencing, hedge laying and minor construction work. The Aspects of the management plan that cannot be undertaken by these maintenance parties are the specialised tree surgery that is recommended for the old apple tree. This needs need to be carried out by a qualified arborist.

5.0 Site Objectives

- Enhance the nature conservation value of the orchard, grassland, hedgerows and trees, scrub and wetland habitats on the site.
- Enhance the landscape and aesthetic appeal of the site.
- Encourage responsible access for the local community.
- Manage the site so that it is self-sustaining as possible with minimum maintenance required.

6.0 Management Actions

6.1 Nature Conservation

6.1.1 Orchard/Fruit Trees

Traditional orchards can potentially support a very high biodiversity, including vascular plants, mosses, fungi, lichens, invertebrates and birds, as well as helping to preserve uncommon and local varieties of fruit. Management is required to maintain the health of the fruit trees and ensure a satisfactory crop of fruit each year, including control of competing ground vegetation, pruning of the fruit trees and cutting back of trees or shrubs that are casting shade on the orchard.

The large old apple tree (T36) is a fantastic specimen which needs particular attention. It has some limb failure and needs expert advice for its future management

The following points are necessary for the maintenance of healthy fruit trees.

- **Post Planting:** An area of at least 3 feet [1 m] diameter should be kept weed free for 2-3 years minimum. This can be achieved with a mulch of organic material or polythene or a mulch mat. An application of fertiliser around the tree can be beneficial, particularly in the second season after planting. This can be made from nettles so no cost is incurred.
- **Guarding and Staking of Young Trees:** In many situations, particularly domestic gardens, no form of guard is necessary however if rabbits are known on the site then a plastic spiral guard should be used. Staking of the trees is necessary for the at least the first few years, however the tree should be tied to the stake no higher than 30 cm. Often stakes are put in higher but this does not allow the tree establish a strong root system. See Appendixes xxx for the correct way of tree staking. One of the fruit trees T4 has been staked much too high.
- **Companion Planting/under-planting of trees:** This can help keep pests and diseases at bay by growing mutually beneficial plants together. Apple trees are said to love garlic, chives and tagetes. Trailing varieties of nasturtiums are meant to repel woolly aphids if planted to trail over the tree. Tansy is said to repel ants and it is also an *umbellifere*, which like dill and fennel, will attract beneficial insects. www.herbsociety.co.uk/companion

The Forest Garden approach for fruit trees is to create a herbaceous layer beneath the trees made up of edible perennials and self seeding annuals.

This will produce a very healthy poly-culture, which mimics a natural woodland edge.

www.agroforestry.co.uk/forgndg

www.Pfaf.org.uk

6.1.2 Deciduous and Evergreen Trees

Many different species of tree have been planted over the year, the majority of which are in keeping with the local landscape and the site itself, however there are a number of trees which should be removed and replaced with more fruit trees or native species such as oak or hazel. The two beech trees (T21 and T24) that have been planted have been staked too high. Those trees suggested for removal are T22, T25, T26 and T27.

6.1.3 Grassland and Nettle Patches

The tall grasses and nettle patches within the Beeson Community Orchard currently support a moderate range of vascular plant species and these habitats are often excellent for invertebrates. The coarse grasses are used by many different species including the caterpillars of butterflies such as meadow brown and speckled wood. While nettles are particularly renowned for being the larval food-plant of several large and colourful butterflies; peacock, small tortoiseshell, red admiral and comma. The rank grassland is also likely to provide good cover for small mammals such as wood mouse and field vole, which in turn may attract hunting kestrels and owls. This habitat may also be valuable foraging habitat for frogs, toads and newts breeding in nearby ponds or waterways.

Annual cutting of the grassland areas in late summer/ autumn will help to increase the botanical diversity of the sward, which in turn will enhance the value of the site for a greater diversity of invertebrate and other animal species. Cutting opens up the sward, which increases opportunities for herbs and fine-leaved grasses, rather than the rank and courser grasses, which dominate otherwise. Cutting also prevents the encroachment by trees and scrub (blackthorn in particular). Removal of cuttings is essential to prevent build up of nutrients which would favour more vigorous and competitive species such as nettles, docks and coarse grasses. Cuttings should be removed from site or used to mulch the young fruit trees. Ideally, the whole area should not be cut all at once but small sections cut over a period of days or even weeks. Grassland which is cut in its entirety, within the same day, tend to be poor for invertebrates because of the sudden change in habitat from tall grass to short grass, and numbers are often unable to build up significantly in the intervening year. By staggering the cutting, and also leaving some marginal areas which either remain uncut or are cut on rotation every 3 to 5 years, ensures that there are always refuge areas for invertebrates and other animals immediately following cutting and these species are then better able to re-colonise the cut areas as the grass begins to grow again. Also, having some areas which are cut annually and some areas which are cut less frequently creates a greater diversity of sward conditions which will thus provide habitat for a greater diversity of species.

To increase the diversity small patches of the turf can be cleared and sown with native wildflowers, yellow rattle is a semi-parasitic plant that helps reduce the vigour of grasses by feeding of their roots and so allows other less competitive plant species to thrive. For more information/advice on creating wildflower meadows visit the Emorsgate Seed Company www.wildseed.co.uk

6.1.1.3 Hedgerow and Bramble/Honeysuckle Scrub

The boundary hedgerow and patches of bramble and honeysuckle scrub offer increased diversity to the site. These areas provide food sources for additional invertebrate species as well as perching posts which are important for several species. Scattered trees and scrub also provide shelter to the open areas which helps to keep these areas a little warmer, producing more favourable conditions for many invertebrate species. If any of the trees die back within the boundary then the standing or fallen dead wood should be left in situ, unless removal is absolutely necessary for safety reasons. Standing and fallen dead wood is extremely valuable for many invertebrate species and the birds which, in turn, feed on them. Control of spreading scrub at the margins of the boundary (H1, H5, H7) and encroaching trees and scrub in the open areas will be necessary to prevent excessive shading of the orchard trees and grassland.

6.1.1.4 Pond and Stream

The small pond area has tall grasses surrounding it which add to the diversity of habitats and will provide a niche for different invertebrate species. The taller grasses are attractive to courting/mating damselflies and the pond itself is where the females will lay their eggs, it will also be attractive to dragonflies. The pond will benefit from being enlarged as well as deepened slightly (although not too deep so as to cause a safety issue). By clay lining the pond a more natural effect will be created and in the long run more durable although some pond liners now have a 25 year guarantee. A damp area created around it and planted up with ragged robin, purple loosestrife, bogbean and cuckoo flower would enhance it further. The stream has been channelised along the bottom section but still retains some naturalness at the top, the flora is limited with some planting of invasive species such as pampas grass, this should be removed and replaced with more native species such as yellow flag iris, marsh marigold and purple loosestrife along the banks. A wooden platform for the children to dip from would localise the erosion present due to trampling.

7.0 Management Programme

7.1 Project register

<p>Operational objective 1: Maintain and develop the site management structure.</p> <p>Beeson Community Orchard Management Group</p> <p>1 Maintain an effective management structure for the site ensuring all aspects of management are undertaken effectively.</p> <p>2. Ensure the Group meets regularly and remains active.</p>
<p>Operational objective 2: Enhance the nature conservation value of the orchard, trees, grassland, hedgerow, scrub and wetland habitats on the site.</p> <p>Orchard/Fruit Trees</p> <p>1. Commission several qualified arborists and get advice and quotes on the cost of remedial work on the old apple tree.</p> <p>2. Keep all newly-established trees clear by hand-weeding or mulching as much as is required (April -August).</p> <p>3. Pruning the fruit trees (not plums) should ideally be carried out in the dormant period (November to February inclusive) although November has been a little too early in recent years due to unseasonably warm autumns. Be guided by the leaves – they need to be going or gone! Dormancy reduces the risk of infection from the wounds produced by the pruning. See Appendices for reasons of pruning</p> <p>4. Create habitat piles with brush and branches that have been removed.</p> <p>5. Broken branches of plum trees should be trimmed back in summer to prevent silver-leaf (April - August).</p> <p>6. Check tree ties and stakes- where necessary remove or cut stake off at ground level (September -February).</p> <p>7. Consider new tree planting (replacements trees) between November and February.</p>
<p>Deciduous and Evergreen Trees</p> <p>1. Remove trees that are inappropriate for the site, this should be carried out outside nesting bird season (March – July). See Key page xxxxx for suggested trees for removal</p> <p>2. Check all tree stakes- wherever necessary remove or cut stake off at ground level (September -February).</p> <p>3. Carry out any pruning/lopping between October and February.</p> <p>4. Pollard sycamores along northern boundary between October and February every 5 years.</p>

5. Lay Elm hedge along northern boundary between October and February every 8 to 10 years. (Don't allow diameter > 15 cm due to Dutch Elm disease).
6. Create habitat piles with brash and branches that have been removed.
7. The following year after laying, trim the horizontal branches on the vertical face to ensure good growth, to encourage vertical growth and remove any suckers from the grassland.
8. Fill hedge gaps by additional planting where necessary (e.g. in between pollarded sycamore and layed hedge). Planting should be carried out between October and February). Plant up with hawthorn, holly or spindle.
9. Cut back buddleias when deemed necessary in March (check for early nesting birds first).
10. Standing or fallen dead wood to be left *in situ*, unless removal is absolutely necessary for safety reasons.
11. Sow a woodland mix of native wildflowers such as bluebells, wood avens, wild garlic etc beneath the large elder trees near the stream.

Grassland

1. Cut the majority of the grassland on the site in late autumn after plants and grasses have set seed. It is essential that the cuttings are removed and composted. Ideally mowing small sections should be cut over a period of days or weeks (rather than cutting all at once).
2. Leave marginal areas of grassland (i.e. 2 m bordering the boundary) to remain uncut or cut on rotation every 3 -5 years.
3. Remove invasive species and dispose of by burning – the clumps of Spanish bluebells – these cross pollinate with the British bluebells. Pampas grass is also invasive along with Japanese knotweed which should be pulled as it appears. Ragwort is also an agricultural notifiable weed that should be pulled although it is the food plant for the cinnabar moth so a few plants are acceptable!
4. Scatter the grassland with yellow rattle seeds to help reduce vigorous grasses. Sow in bare ground or scarify grass/turf in patches and sow seeds in autumn. (Yellow rattle needs a long period of chilling or frost before it will germinate).
5. Convert a patch of the grassland to a wildflower meadow (if thought desirable) this would require removing the topsoil before re-seeding.

Nettle/Bramble/Honeysuckle patches

1. Monitor the habitat areas of the patches during summer and mow/strim in Autumn when needed to prevent them from encroaching further into the site – scalloping the edges to increase edge effect.

Pond

1. Remove parrots feather and dispose of by burning. (Don't put on compost). Carry out in September.
2. Clay line the pond and deepen and extend at the same time incorporating a boggy area. Carry out late September/ early October.
3. Plant up boggy area with plants such as purple loosestrife, ragged robin, meadow sweet and cuckooflower etc in the Spring following excavation.
4. Ensure the pond does not become too over grown with vegetation. Clear a proportion of the vegetation in late autumn. Leave the vegetation on the side for a few days to allow invertebrates to return to the water before removing to the compost.
5. Ensure the pond does not become silted with dead organic matter including grass and leaves. Remove floating matter after leaves have dropped.

Stream

1. Remove pampas grass from the stream bed and replace with yellow flag iris.
2. Build a wooden platform for children to access stream without causing trampling.

<p>Operational Objective 3: Maintain and enhance site infrastructure.</p> <p>Access, pathways and site amenities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain the access points to the site e.g. field gate. 2. Install hand gate or stile for ease of entry. 3. Maintain the site amenities i.e. picnic table, benches, chicken coup, veg beds and fire-pit. 4. Maintain the stock-proof fencing along the southern boundary. 5. Cut pathways and glades through site for access and picnicking as and when necessary throughout the summer months. 6. Erect a shed for community tools etc. 7. Formalise the cooking area by the fire-pit by making a Cob oven. 8. Create a 'kitchen garden' by the fence – planting up of herbs- lavender, thyme, sage, chives etc- all excellent for bees as well! 9. Commission wood carver to sculpt Conifer stumps 10. Maintain wooden platform if installed.
<p>Operational Objective 4: Engage local community</p> <p>Events/publicise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to organise/host events throughout the year in the orchard to encourage community involvement. 2. Publicise the site to local natural history societies/organisations to inquire if they will carry out flora and fauna surveys.
<p>Operational Objective 5: Survey, monitor and record</p> <p>Survey fauna</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Record mammals seen on the site throughout the year. 2. Record/survey breeding birds on the site (April – July). 3. Survey the invertebrate fauna (beetles, bugs, flies, ants, wasps and bees, butterflies) between May and August . 4. Survey the reptiles and amphibians between March and August. <p>Survey flora</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out a botanical survey of vascular plants and grasses. (March to September).
<p>Operational Objective 6: Manage the site to be as self-sustaining as possible with minimum maintenance required.</p> <p>Management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review management on a regular basis to ensure that key features can be maintained with the resources available and that long-term management is as self-sustaining as possible. 2. Record management works with written and photographic records. 3. Review management plan after 5 years.

8.0 Work Plan

Work Required	Priority	Timing	Who	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016
Ensure Beeson Community Orchard Group meets regularly	1	At least 3 times a year	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Tree surgery on old apple tree	1	Dormant period	Qualified arborist	x				
Hand-weed/mulch newly planted fruit trees for 1 st 3 years	1	Through summer	BOMG	x	x	x		
Prune the fruit trees (except t plums)	2	Dormant period (Nov-Feb)	BOMG and Possible training course	x	x	x	x	x
Prune plum trees	2	Summer (April – Aug)	BOMG and Training course	x	x	x	x	x
Check tree ties and stakes and remove after trees are > 5 years	2	Summer (April – Aug)	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Tree planting (replacements trees)	3	Winter (Nov-Feb)	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Removal of trees (inappropriate species T22, T25, T26 and T27)	2	July to February	BOMG	x	x			
Cutting back of boundary trees (every 5 years).	3	Winter	BOMG				x	
Pollard sycamore trees along boundary.	3	Winter	BOMG					x
Lay elm hedge (every 8 to 10 years).	2	Winter	BOMG and Training course					x

Work Required	Priority	Timing	Who	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016
Create habitat piles with brash	2	Winter	BOMG					x
Gapping – plant up gaps around boundary	1	Winter	BOMG	x				x
Cut back buddleia (every 5 years)	3	March	BOMG					x
Sow woodland mix beneath large elder trees along stream.	3	Autumn or early spring	BOMG Buy seed			x		
Cut grass and leave for few days and then rake up and compost. Ideally cut site in two stages leaving marginal areas	1	August	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Cut marginal areas on 3 year rotation	1	August	BOMG			x		
Removal of invasive species – dig up Spanish bluebells before sowing woodland mix	1	All year round	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Sow yellow rattle	2	Autumn	BOMG Buy seed	x	x			
Sow meadow mix in patches	2	Autumn or early spring	BOMG Buy seed				x	
Cut back nettle patches.	1	Autumn	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Cut back bramble and honeysuckle patches.	1	Autumn	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Clear vegetation in pond.	2	Autumn	BOMG	x		x		x
Clear organic leaf matter from pond.	1	After leaf drop	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Enlarge pond	3	Autumn	BOMG					x
Plant up boggy area.	3	Spring	BOMG					x
Plant native wetland species along stream edge.	3	Spring	BOMG			x		x

Work Required	Priority	Timing	Who	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016
Erect a small wooden platform next to stream.	3	Spring	BOMG or contractor			x		
Install hand gate or stile	2	Any time of year	BOMG or contractor			x		
Mow/trim pathways and glades.	1	Regularly through growing season	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Erect a shed for community use.	3	Anytime of year	BOMG Possible grant aid				x	x
Create and maintain a kitchen garden.	2	Summer	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Inspect and maintain fencing and other infrastructure (gates, picnic table, chicken coup, shed, platform etc).	1	Annual inspection	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Commission a wood carver	3	Anytime of year	When funds become available.					x
Install a cob oven and maintain thereafter.	3	Summer	BOMG Poss grant Training day			x	x	x
Host events throughout the year in the orchard to encourage and maintain community involvement.	1	Throughout year	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Publicise site to natural history societies in the local area.	1	Throughout year	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Monitoring – Record mammal species	1	Throughout year	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x

Work Required	Priority	Timing	Who	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016
Survey birds	1	April to July	BOMG Other societies			x	x	
Survey invertebrate fauna particularly butterflies.	1	May to August	BOMG Other societies				x	x
Survey reptiles and amphibians.	1	May to August	BOMG Other societies				x	
Survey vascular plants and grasses.	1	March - September	BOMG Other societies			x		x
Review management carried out	1	December	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Record and photograph management work.	1	Throughout the year	BOMG	x	x	x	x	x
Review management plan	1	December	BOMG					x

8.1 Monthly Work Plan

Month	Orchard Trees	Other Trees/Shrubs	Habitats	Events
January	Wassailing. Check stakes and ties. Prune apples and pears if necessary.	Cut back trees as necessary		Hedgelaying and pollarding Day
February		Cut back trees as necessary.	Put up nest boxes. Carryout infrastructure maintenance.	
March	Prune cherries if necessary.	Cut back buddleia if necessary (check for nesting birds first).	Clear parrots feather from pond and pampas grass.	Easter egg hunt
April	Prune twigs with mildew and cankers.		Dig up Spanish bluebells	
May	Remove stakes/ties if necessary		Carry out bird survey Cut paths through grassland	May Day Celebrations
June	Thin out apple clusters		Carry out bird survey Cut docks Cut paths through grassland	Solstice/ Midsummer's eve
July			Pull out ragwort, cut thistles and docks Cut paths through grassland	
August	Prune cherries if necessary		Cut paths through grassland Cut and rake up grass in entirety.	End of summer BBQ after grass clearing
September	Prune plums if necessary		Carry out infrastructure maintenance	
October				Apple Juicing Day
November		Hedgelaying if		Bonfire night

Month	Orchard Trees	Other Trees/Shrubs	Habitats	Events
		not carried out in February		
December				Christmas Carols