



Winter 2022/23 Activities - General Information

Management of Non-Native Invasive Species—

Non-Native, Invasive Turkey Oak will be managed through selective felling of both mature and immature throughout the reserve with stump treatment to reduce regeneration. This is to ensure that we do not lose beneficial native grassland species being shaded out by these trees. Boundary trees will be managed through alternating coppicing (cut at base) and pollarding (cut part way up the trunk) - the trees will regenerate but it will help the nearby ponds by reducing shade and leaf litter and allow more light to support native hedge species also growing along the boundary which are more beneficial to wildlife. The new growth will not produce acorns which will help prevent the spread.

Woodland Management -

Woodland management requires trees to be periodically coppiced (mimicking ancient methods for gathering timber). The trees will regenerate and it assists the woodland by breaking up the age structure and allowing light to the woodland floor. As the trees and shrubs have been unmanaged for a long time, the woodland area is very dark, without the understory required to support birds and small mammals (such as dormice) so selective coppicing will be undertaken of native Hornbeam; Hawthorn will be pruned to encourage regeneration. As the woodland area is very small, this will be a limited undertaking over a period of several years.

Fencing -

Grassland management requires regular cropping to ensure that scrub does not overtake the grassland and to maintain diversity of wildflowers. This can be done manually, mechanically or through grazing. As the least intrusive and least resource demanding method, we intend to put livestock on the reserve periodically and therefore stock proof fencing is necessary.

Access-

It is intended that an access area with interpretation boards and a raised walkway will be provided at the entrance on Station Road. The scheduling of this is dependent on site conditions during windows of opportunity to protect species which may be impacted and so this may be undertaken later in 2023.

Scrub management -

Some scrub cutting may be undertaken to prevent it encroaching into the grassland areas and create transitional areas.

All management activities will be scheduled and undertaken to minimise negative impact and protect species, with advice sought from qualified ecologists where necessary. Task days for community involvement are published on the Events Calendar.

