

Longland Meadow Maintenance Plan

Aim

To sustain and enhance Longland Meadow. To provide a natural, peaceful area for recreation. To support wildlife, biodiversity and natural habitat.

Objectives

Piddington Lane Entrance

- Apply wood chip as required to protect access when wet
- Remove low hedging adjacent to 2 Little End
- Remove tree stumps at entrance and reprofile to improve access
- Reduce hedge on Church Spinney boundary to 8ft and remove diseased elm within it
- Replace vehicular access gate with 15ft gate and reposition

Central area

- Appropriate mowing regime (fortnightly during main season) to keep grass area short and tidy

Hedges

- Annual flailing and topping off of all hedges to promote the thick, dense cover necessary for many of our smaller breeding bird and dormice

Orchard

- Spray around trees to create 1m circles to be woodchipped to protect trees from mower

Carey Copse/Church Spinney

- Twice yearly flailing to fix a tidy edge and prevent encroachment
- Prune and thin trees as required to maintain healthy growth

Summer Meadow

- First cut late August, minimum of 4 cuts per season

Memorial Strip

- First cut early June then fortnightly to end of season

Butterfly Patch

- To be sprayed off and re-established

Bulb Strip

- Additional planting as required

Pond

- Remove excess vegetation and "thug" plants, plant native marginal plants on new terraces to be constructed on the western edge of the pond
- Remove silt and stones

Boundaries

- Crown raise trees between Carey Copse and 2 Little End

- Mow in line with central area all boundaries with the exception of the Memorial Strip and Butterfly Patch

General

- Define pathways through the whole site by close regular mowing throughout the growing season
- Clean/repair/replace bird boxes as appropriate
- Use small piles of chippings to provide habitats for frogs and toads
- Create a secured log pile
- Continue to encourage users to pick up after their dogs and take all litter home for disposal
- Replace/update signage