

# **EASTFIELD PARK NORTHAMPTON**

## **STATE OF THE PARK**

(Water Resources & Vegetation)

**September 2019**



**Eastfield Park Management Committee**

***Friends of Eastfield Park***

**V G F SMITH (September 2019)**

**EASTFIELD PARK NORTHAMPTON**  
**STATE OF THE PARK - September 2019**  
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**Preface**

This is the second *State of the Park* report to deal more or less exclusively with water resources and vegetation, the first having been written in November 2018. Like the 2018 report, it is not based on a single inspection but on observations made throughout the year. It does, however, include a report of a brief survey of the set-aside areas and seeded meadow carried out on 23<sup>rd</sup> July by Matt Johnson (the local Wildlife Trust's Living Landscapes Manager). It also refers to park visits made by Nicola Clarke (Midlands Horticultural Manager for *ídverde*) and Paul Townsend (NBC Neighbourhood Warden and Bloom Officer) in the company of Vic Smith (FoEP Chair).

It should be noted that the report has been produced for the *Friends of Eastfield Park* (FoEP) and the Eastfield Park Management Committee (EPMC) by Dr V G F Smith, Chair of both groups. However, unless otherwise stated, the views are those of the author and not necessarily those of *The Friends* or the Management Committee.

The report is written to partly meet the requirements of the first five 'On-going Planning/Management Objectives' in the Park Management Plan:

- i. Report on condition of park grasslands, including set-aside areas. Review management policy and agree set-aside areas for less frequent mowing for following year.
- ii. Report on condition of wooded areas including 'weed trees' and undergrowth. Review management policy and agree actions for following year.
- iii. Report on number and condition of trees in the Park Heritage Zone. Review management policy and agree actions for following year.
- iv,a. Report on condition of Lake and ponds especially reed beds and other flora including surrounding vegetation. Review management policy and agree actions for following year.
- iv,b. Report on water levels in ponds & Lake and consider ways of improving water retention and/or water quality, including possible dredging or raising/repairing outfalls. Agree necessary actions.

## **EASTFIELD PARK NORTHAMPTON**

### **STATE OF THE PARK – September 2019**

#### **A. Introduction**

As mentioned in the Preface, unlike the *State of the Park* reports that deal with footpaths, facilities and ground conditions, this report is not based on a single inspection but on observations made throughout the year. Similarly, the photographs illustrating the report were taken at various times during the year.

Also explained in the Preface, the report links particularly to the first five ‘Ongoing Planning/Management Objectives’ in the revised Action Plan (now numbered i to iv). However, as previously, this report also includes a consideration of the gardens created by the Friends of Eastfield Park (FoEP) not mentioned in these objectives.

#### **B. Grassland (including Set-aside Areas and Seeded Meadow)**

The general standard of mowing during 2019 has been high with very few complaints received by the FoEP. What complaints there were related mainly to expanses of long grass in areas inaccessible to the large mower such as under trees, along fences, around play equipment and on the monster play mound. These are mainly areas that require strimming rather than mowing, although herbicide was used along some fences and around structures such as notice boards.

The monster play mound was not strimmed until late in the year but, following a visit to the Park by Nicola Clarke on 24<sup>th</sup> June, it was dealt with very promptly. Cutting grass under some trees has, in the past, been difficult because of low branches but this is becoming easier with better tree maintenance. The use of herbicides in the Park needs to be reviewed in the light of increased concern about glyphosate impacts on human health. There is a possibility that the FoEP could play a part in strimming some small areas particularly around notice boards and waste bins.

In 2018 the EPMC agreed that the two areas of parkland set aside in 2018 should again be set aside in 2019 and not mowed until the autumn. The two areas were marked out by FoEP volunteers in March 2019; Area A3 being approximately 60mx30m and Area D roughly 20mx20m<sup>1</sup> (Map 1, p11). However, the markings had partly disappeared by the time the grass came to be cut and were almost completely gone by the time of the second cut. As a result, the areas left unmown were somewhat smaller than those originally marked. It is therefore suggested that in future the corners of the areas are marked with more permanent paint such as that used for football pitches. As planned, the diagonal pathways were cut through Area A3 for the convenience of walkers (see front cover).

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<sup>1</sup> To facilitate comparisons, the codes used for the Set-aside Areas (A3, D, etc.) are the same as those used in previous State of the Park reports. Areas A1 (2016) and A2 (2017) were in the same location as A3 but different in shape and extent. Area B has been abandoned.

The EPMC also agreed that the FoEP could convert the seeded 'meadow' into a wildflower garden in which wildflowers were more intentionally planted. However, the volunteer labour was not available for the intensive management required and in 2019 the meadow was allowed to develop as in previous years. The area between the seeded meadow and Buttermere Scrub to the east was again set aside to provide a contrast between the seeded area and the untreated grassland in this part of the Park (Set-aside C).

Set-aside Area A3 and the Seeded Meadow (SM) were briefly surveyed by Matt Johnson (the local Wildlife Trust's Living Landscapes Manager) on 23rd July 2019. Lists were made of all the grasses and forbs (herbaceous flowering plants other than grasses) observed. These are compared with those noted in 2016 and 2017 in Table 1.

Altogether, 14 species of forb and 9 grasses were found in Set-aside A compared to 21 forbs and 10 grasses in the Seeded Meadow. Not too much importance should be attached to the absence of any particular species since the survey was conducted very rapidly and on just one occasion. Nevertheless, the results do demonstrate a greater diversity in the Seeded Meadow mainly because it includes deliberately introduced species (such as oxeye daisies from the seeded meadow mix and chicory planted in an earlier wildflower border). Two years ago, it also included plants that had rapidly colonised the area after the removal of the original flora (such as dandelions and willowherb) but these have since declined.

Several of the species recorded (those whose name begin with an asterisk \* in Table 1) are key indicator meadow species and illustrate how important it is to conserve at least some of the natural meadow in Eastfield Park.

Along with the set-asides, the seeded meadow is attracting an increasing range and number of insects (Fig 1, p12) including species such as meadow brown butterflies, thick-legged flower beetles, field grasshoppers, black slip wasps, damselflies, and a range of bees and hoverflies. One of the Eleonore House residents commented on how nice it is to see the increase in wildflowers and butterflies since the seeded meadow was created (which rather balances the negative comments about chicory from a resident last year).

As well as Matt Johnson, Nicola Clarke and Paul Townsend commented on how well the seeded meadow is doing. The FoEP now consider it best to abandon last year's plan to convert the meadow into a planted wildflower garden (which we no longer have the volunteers to achieve) and micro-manage it as a planted meadow. This would involve strimming the whole area in September/October, removing as much of the cut material as possible and sowing yellow rattle seeds in large patches of the area. Other meadow plants could be added, either as seeds or bulbs in autumn or as plugs in spring. Possibilities include great mullein, field scabious, common vetch, meadow crane's-bill, tufted vetch, lesser stitchwort, meadow buttercup and betony (in more shaded areas).

**Table 1:** Species observed by Matt Johnson in Set-Aside Area A3 and the Seeded Meadow (SM) in 2019 compared with those noted in similar areas in 2016 and 2017. (Shaded squares: Grasses, Starred species: important indicator species, Blue ticks: Species added to list by V Smith)

Species	2016: A1	2017: A2	2019: A3	2017: SM	2019: SM
*Agrimony ( <i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i> )	✓		✓		
Autumn Hawkbit ( <i>Leontodon autumnalis</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Medick ( <i>Medicago lupulina</i> )				✓	✓
*Bulbous Buttercup ( <i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i> )	✓				
*Burnet-saxifrage ( <i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i> )	✓		✓		
Cat's-ear ( <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> )	✓				
Chicory ( <i>Cichorium intybus</i> )				✓	✓
Cock's-foot ( <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> )			✓	✓	✓
Common Bent ( <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> )	✓	✓	✓		✓
*Common Bird's-foot-trefoil ( <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
*Common Knapweed ( <i>Centaurea nigra</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Mouse-ear ( <i>Cerastium fontanum</i> )	✓	✓		✓	
Common Ragwort ( <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> )	✓				
Cornflower ( <i>Centaurea cyanus</i> )				✓	
Creeping Buttercup ( <i>Ranunculus repens</i> )				✓	
Creeping Cinquefoil ( <i>Potentilla reptans</i> )				✓	✓
Crested Dog's-tail ( <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> )	✓				✓
Cut-leaved cranesbill ( <i>Geranium dissectum</i> )					✓
Daisy ( <i>Bellis perennis</i> )				✓	
Dandelion ( <i>Taraxacum</i> sp.)				✓	
Dock ( <i>Rumex</i> sp.)					✓
Dove-leaved Cranesbill				✓	✓
*Dwarf Thistle ( <i>Cirsium acaule</i> )	✓	✓	✓		
False oat-grass ( <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> )					✓
Field bindweed ( <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> )					✓
Field Poppy ( <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> )				✓	✓
Germander Speedwell ( <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> )					
*Greater Knapweed ( <i>Centaurea scabiosa</i> )				✓	
Greater Plantain ( <i>Plantago major</i> )				✓	
Greater Willowherb ( <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> )				✓	
Hedge bedstraw ( <i>Galium mollugo</i> )					✓
Hedge bindweed ( <i>Calystegia sepium</i> )					✓
*Lady's Bedstraw ( <i>Galium verum</i> )	✓	✓	✓		✓
Lesser Hawkbit ( <i>Leontodon saxatilis</i> )	✓	✓	✓		
*Lesser Stitchwort ( <i>Stellaria graminea</i> )	✓	✓	✓		
*Meadow Barley ( <i>Hordeum secalinum</i> )			✓	✓	✓
Meadow Buttercup ( <i>Ranunculus acris</i> )	✓	✓			
Meadow Foxtail ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> )		✓			
*Oxeye Daisy ( <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> )				✓	✓
*Pepper Saxifrage ( <i>Silene silaus</i> )		✓			
Perennial Rye-grass ( <i>Lolium perenne</i> )	✓	✓	✓		✓
*Quaking-grass ( <i>Briza media</i> )	✓	✓	✓		
Red Clover ( <i>Trifolium pratense</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Fescue ( <i>Festuca rubra</i> )	✓		✓		
Ribwort Plantain ( <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scarlet Pimpernel ( <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> )				✓	
Scented Mayweed ( <i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> )				✓	
Selfheal ( <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Smaller Cat's-tail ( <i>Phleum bertolonii</i> )	✓		✓		
Soft brome ( <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> )					✓
Spear Thistle ( <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> )				✓	
Sweet Vernal-grass ( <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> )	✓	✓	✓		✓
Timothy grass ( <i>Phleum pratense</i> )		✓		✓	✓
Upright Hedge Parsley ( <i>Torilis japonica</i> )				✓	
White Clover ( <i>Trifolium repens</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wild carrot ( <i>Daucus carota</i> )					✓
Yarrow ( <i>Achillea millefolium</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yorkshire-fog ( <i>Holcus lunatus</i> )	✓		✓	✓	✓

The FoEP Committee also decided that it should seek permission to extend the planted meadow to cover the area shown in Map 2 (Page 11), with a pathway cut through it from the corner of the Eleonore House fence to the pathway through Buttermere Scrub. At present it is difficult for the large mower to cut along the curved line of the seeded meadow and a straight border would make it much easier to avoid the planted area. The FoEP would be responsible for cutting the path through the meadow.

Paul Townsend thought that it would be a good idea to extend the meadow in this way and Matt Johnson's only reservation was that it might be difficult to get some meadow species to grow under the shade of the trees. It should be noted, however, that most of this area is grassed at present and it might be appropriate to plant the areas closest to trees with spring bulbs or woodland flowers.

Matt Johnson only had time to briefly examine Set-aside Areas C and D. Both of these areas contained a range of grasses but relatively few forbs. However, Nicola Clarke admired the range of grasses and considered that it was worth keeping this as a set-aside in future years. It is therefore proposed that the Set-aside Areas A and D should remain the same for 2020; Set-aside C would be incorporated into the planted meadow.

### **C. Wooded Areas (Annual Planning/Management Objective ii)**

The wooded areas include the Buttermere Scrub, Booth Lane Spinney, Squires Spinney, Lakeview Spinney, the Pond Area and parts of the Lake Margin. The first two of these areas are within the Sports and Games Zone; the remaining areas, together with the Lake itself, make up the Wildlife Appreciation Zone. Management of these areas should bear this zonation in mind. These areas still lack a detailed management plan although an increasing number of management principles have been established.

The Buttermere Scrub is not, strictly speaking, a spinney since, apart from one line of older trees, the vegetation forming it is young, having grown up in the last 50 years. (One elderly member of the FoEP refers to it as 'the long grass' because that is how he remembers it as a young person.) Some years ago, Matt Johnson suggested that the Scrub would benefit from being coppiced and this was tentatively added to the Management Plan should the required manpower become available. However, it now seems unlikely that this will be the case for a very long time, if ever, and when Matt surveyed the meadow areas in July, he was informed by Vic Smith that coppicing now seemed very unlikely. Dealing with the amount of wood cut down would also be a problem considering that there are still piles of wood remaining from other activities. (There are only so many 'hedgehog hotels' that can be constructed in the Park!) What seems more likely, bearing in mind that the Scrub is in the Sports and Games Zone, is that the footpaths running through the scrub could be converted into some kind of activity trail or adventure trail for young people.

During the past year, considerable progress has been made in cutting back the hedge between the sports pitches and the Buttermere Scrub (Fig 2, p12). The work was carried out by FoEP volunteers last winter and only stopped at the beginning of the bird breeding season. This is one of the activities that generates a huge amount of green waste, more than present arrangements seem capable of removing.

During 2019, no further progress has been made on clearing vegetation from the lake embankment and many of the trees and bushes cleared during 2017 have now grown back to a considerable size. The reasons for lack of progress include a shortage of volunteers from business and industry and, more importantly, the problem of dealing with the brushwood produced. The FoEP are still unclear as to the correct procedures to follow in getting unwanted green waste removed from the Park.

As pointed out in last year's report, many of the pine trees in the old spinneys are diseased and dying. Gaps in the woodland are being filled by self-seeded 'weed trees', brambles and nettles. Management by contractors in the last few years has concentrated on felling dangerous trees, leaving trunk sections in piles for the benefit of wildlife. Management by the FoEP has concentrated on maintaining pathways through the spinneys and Buttermere Scrub. This has included removing nettles and brambles along pathways and cutting back overhanging branches. Paths are also being steadily covered with wood chippings (Fig 3, p12). The progress made during 2017 and 2018 on the pathway from the Skiddaw Walk entrance, through the Lakeview Spinney, to the Booth Lane Entrance has continued during 2019 and a number of walkers and joggers now use this as a regular route. Similar work has now been done on major pathways through the Pond Area and the FoEP have plans to improve paths through the Buttermere Scrub (already started) and the Booth Lane Spinney (pending). Contractors working on trees in the Park and elsewhere have been particularly helpful in providing piles of chipped wood for this purpose.

Some local residents have asked the FoEP if it is permissible to plant trees in the Park. Vic Smith discussed this with Ben Lloyd (Ídverde tree officer) and they agreed that it would be permissible to plant appropriate native broad-leaved trees in suitable gaps in Lakeview Spinney where sunlight reaches the ground and only 'weed' species are present. Such planting would have to be carried out at the planters' risk and they (or the FoEP) would be responsible for any watering or weeding required. No planting should be carried out elsewhere in the Park without permission from NBC/Ídverde. Such planting in the Lakeview Spinney would help to achieve some of the aims for this area described in last year's report: *"Lakeview Spinney should also form a barrier between the Park and the houses to the north but should contain a greater range of habitats and plants for both wildlife and people to enjoy. Future management should aim to achieve a well-defined vertical structure to the woodland with ground, field and shrub layers as well as taller trees. There should be a greater diversity of trees including both pines and broad-leaved trees."*

Vic Smith discussed management of the Pond Area with Nicola Clarke in June. It was agreed that a project should be developed embracing the whole area including the ponds, but that it should be divided into phases and funding sought for one phase at a time. Phase 1 would focus on the area around the bottom pond including the Crescent Rock Garden. It would include removing weed trees around the lake, most of which require professional work because of the size of the trees, dredging the lake and then raising the outfall slightly and replanting the Crescent Rock Garden with suitable species. Nicola agreed to investigate the charges for removing trees while Vic said he would explore the costs involved in dredging. Work on the garden could probably be carried out within the FoEP's budget.

#### **D. Heritage Zone Trees (Annual Planning/Management Objective iii)**

It is the intention of *ídverde* to inspect every tree in the Borough of Northampton and carry out remedial action as necessary. This work was started in Eastfield Park in April 2019 and included removing epicormic growth and diseased or dangerous branches as appropriate (Fig 4, p12). Ben Lloyd (*ídverde* tree officer) informed the FoEP Chair that all the trees in the Parkland Zone would be dealt with unless there was a special reason they should be left. In turn, the FoEP Chair informed volunteers that they should no longer remove epicormic growth from trees as this would be dealt with by *ídverde*.

It is also the intention of *ídverde* to replace trees lost from the Heritage Zone (the Parkland Area) with new trees. It is likely that tree planting will begin this autumn and that sufficient trees will be planted to compensate for the period when tree replacement was neglected. *ídverde* has the resources to plant and maintain saplings in contrast to the whips planted by the FoEP in 2017. In view of these facts, the FoEP have abandoned their own attempt to plant more trees in the Parkland Area. Furthermore, they aborted their attempts to sustain or replace the whips planted in 2017, only two of which still survive.

#### **E. Lake and Ponds (Annual Planning/Management Objective iv, a & b)**

Little has changed in the Park during the past year with regard to water resources other than the decision made by Vic Smith and Nicola Clarke that Vic should explore the costs involved in getting the ponds dredged.

One of the aims of water management in the Park should be to allow the Park to store water in times of heavy rainfall thus reducing the chance of flooding further down the catchment. This means that the land should not be drained but footpaths should be constructed to allow pedestrians to move around the Park in wet weather. Water storage in the ponds and Lake should, ideally, be increased and this can be achieved both by dredging and raising the level of the outfalls. This is a fairly straightforward matter for the ponds and obtaining estimates for the work is a priority.



Increasing storage in the Lake is a more complex issue and would require consultation with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water. The Lake has been dredged before and dealing with the large amount of material removed is problematic. Short term damage to the Lake ecosystem also needs to be considered at set against the long term benefits of dredging. Increasing the level of the outfall has been considered viable in the past but should only be implemented if and when the lake embankment is repaired.

The FoEP remain concerned about the structural integrity of the embankment. As pointed out in last year's Report, apart from underground channels caused by water flow, the bank is riddled with rat holes. The lake side of the embankment is badly eroded and the structure needs to be examined professionally and further erosion prevented.

It was also mentioned in last year's report that some trees along the embankment should be coppiced to improve the view of the Lake but care should be taken not to damage the root structure that help to stabilise the structure. So far, it has not been possible to carry out this work.

Early in 2019, the FoEP explored the possibility of using a drone to monitor the Lake reedbeds as required by the Park Management Plan. Initial photographs were obtained in March by Rob Mason, a member of the Friends of Bradlaugh Fields and a keen and responsible drone flyer (Fig 5, p12). The beds were deemed to be in a satisfactory condition and beneficial to wildlife. Much of the water entering the Lake comes from overflow from the bottom pond (via an underground pipe) or surface run-off from the surrounding land. The ponds act as an efficient sediment trap for the water flowing through them (hence the need for dredging) and the reed beds help to trap suspended solids in the run-off, though this reduces the area of the Lake.

In April, part of the reedbed at the eastern end of the Lake was damaged by fire (Fig6, p12). Although the fire was probably started deliberately, the damage caused was not a matter of major concern. The reeds are rapidly growing back from undamaged rhizomes and the removal of accumulated plant litter could even be advantageous. Indeed, burning can be used as a management tool for reedbeds to reduce the growth of wooded material. However, this is not recommended for Eastfield Park.

## **F. Gardens (Not covered by Annual Planning/Management Objectives)**

Two areas are considered in this section of the report: the 'Crescent Rock Garden' to the south of the bottom pond and the 'Eleonore House Insect-friendly Herbaceous Border' against the west-facing fence between Eleonore House and the Park. The 'Seeded Meadow' against the north facing fence between Eleonore House and the Park, considered in this Section last year, is now considered in Section B, Grassland. It is now proposed that the meadow should not be converted into a wildflower garden, as agreed last year, but should be micromanaged as a 'planted meadow'.

**1. The Crescent Rock Garden:** This garden was started by the FoEP in 2011 on an area that had been a rockery in the Weston Favell House Estate during the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It is the responsibility of the FoEP to look after it; failure of the FoEP to maintain the garden would result in the area reverting to its former condition.

It is a difficult area to garden because it is heavily shaded from sun and rain by a number of undesirable self-seeded 'weed trees' as well as some desirable specimen trees. Ground conditions are also very poor, the soil being rich in clay and covered in pine needles from surrounding trees. The possibility of removing the weed trees as part of the renovation of the Pond Area is being considered (see Section B) and the removal of some lower branches on specimen trees has been requested. The soil has been improved somewhat by the addition of compost and compost will continue to be added as part of the on-going work on the garden. Consideration will also be given to new planting using native plants better able to deal with the prevailing conditions such as wood sorrel, dog violets and cuckoo pint. Expensive plants that might do well under such conditions should be avoided because of the risk of theft.

**2. The Eleonore House Insect-friendly Herbaceous Border:** This garden was started by the FoEP in March 2014, originally as a Sunflower Garden. Responsibility to look after this garden has been transferred from the FoEP to the staff and pupils of St Gregory's Roman Catholic Primary School in Grange Road (Fig 7, p12). If the School is unable to maintain the garden at any time, responsibility for it would pass back to the FoEP and if the FoEP were unable to take care of it, the garden would revert to its former state.

The plants in this garden continue to do well. The School entered the garden as part of their entry for 'Northampton in Bloom' and it was very pleasing to see how well the children answered Paul Townsend's questions about the garden and the insects that visit it, when he judged the entry in July (Fig 8, p12).

## **G. Conclusions & Recommendations**

1. Most of the grassland areas in the Park are being well managed by *ídverde*. However, greater attention needs to be paid to areas that require mowing with smaller machines or strimming rather than mowing. The use of glyphosate herbicide needs to be reviewed in the light of the latest scientific evidence.
2. It is recommended that the same two areas set aside in 2019 be set aside again in 2020 and that they be surveyed in July of that year. The corners of the set-aside areas should be marked with a more persistent paint.
3. Plans to convert the seeded meadow into a wildflower garden should be abandoned. Instead, the meadow should be extended and micro-managed, adding additional desirable meadow species as seeds or plugs and removing or reducing less desirable species. Yellow rattle seeds should be sown in much of the area this autumn.

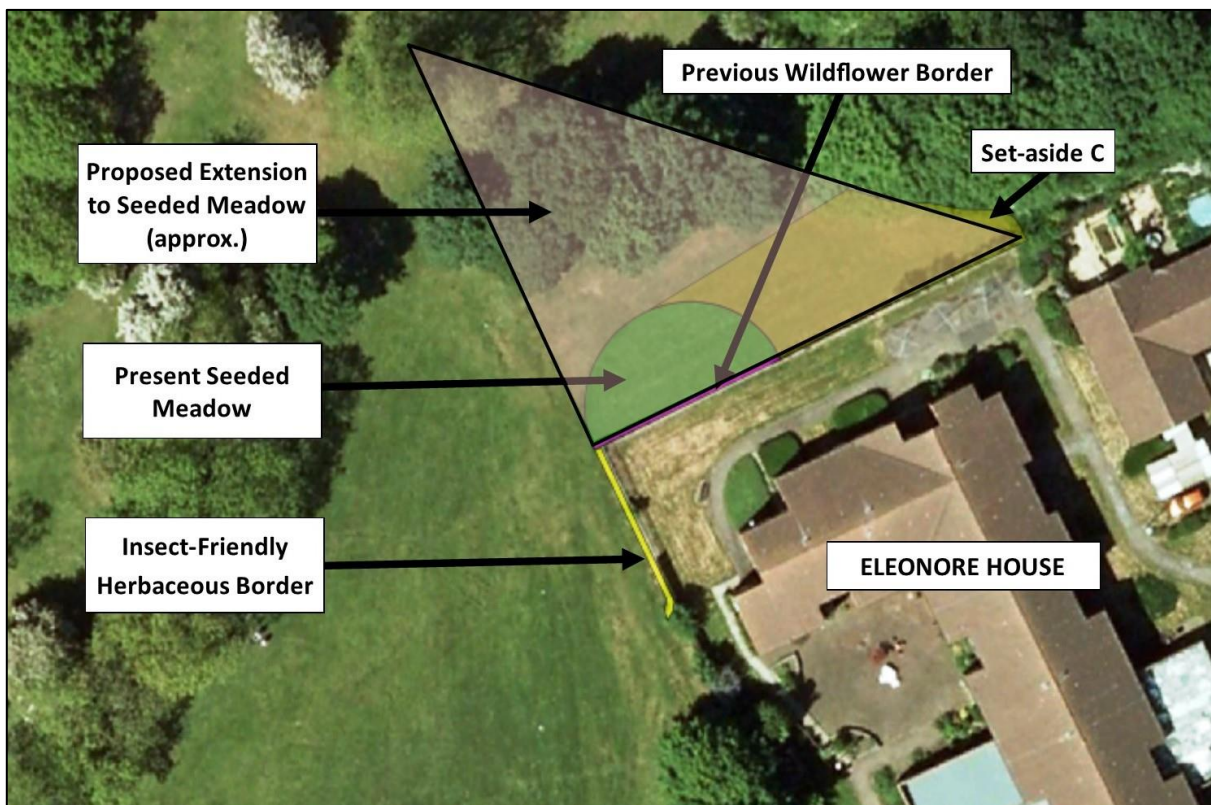
4. FoEP volunteers should continue to cut back the hedge separating Buttermere Scrub from the grassed areas to the north, possibly, completing this work during the winter of 2019/20.
5. The strategy for dealing with branches and other green waste produced when cutting back hedges or pruning and coppicing bushes and trees in the Park should, if possible, be improved to allow this work to proceed at a faster rate.
6. Providing a better strategy is implemented, the FoEP should continue to remove bushes and self-seeded trees from the west side (the parkland side) of the Lake Embankment. Trees on the east side of the embankment (the lake side) should be coppiced but not removed, leaving their roots intact to reduce erosion of the bank.
7. FoEP volunteers should continue to maintain pathways through the wooded parts of the park, cutting back encroaching vegetation and adding wood chippings to path surfaces. Extending this work to areas within the Sports Zone should be a priority.
8. The FoEP should work with local residents to plant a limited number of native broadleaved trees (such as silver birch, beech and oak) in suitable locations within the Lakeview Spinney. The FoEP would be responsible for looking after these trees.
9. Vic Smith and Nicola Clarke should continue to develop ideas for a project renovating the Pond Area that would begin with the area around the bottom pond (as Phase 1 of a larger project). They should obtain estimates for work needed in and around the bottom pond including removal of weed trees and dredging.
10. Contractors working with *ídverde* should continue to maintain trees in the Parkland Area and plant new trees to replace those lost in recent years. FoEP volunteers should not carry out any work or plant new trees in this area until further notice.
11. The Lake Embankment is still in urgent need of attention. Remedial action needs to be taken before further damage occurs.
12. The FoEP should continue to improve the Crescent Rock Garden as part of a larger project improving the Pond Area. The Eleonore House Insect-friendly Herbaceous Border should continue to be managed by the staff and children of St Gregory's School in consultation with the FoEP.

## MAPS

**Map 1:** Set-aside Areas marked out for 2019.



**Map 2:** Proposed extension to Seeded (Planted) Meadow for 2020.





## FIGURES



Fig. 1: Knapweed attracts a hover fly in the seeded meadow.



Fig. 2: Work done on hedge near the football pitches.



Fig. 3: FoEP volunteers adding wood chippings to paths.



Fig. 4: Contractor carrying out tree work in Parkland Area.



Fig. 5: Drone picture of Lake showing extent of reedbeds.



Fig. 6: Inspecting fire damaged reedbed.



Fig. 7: St Gregory's pupils tend the herbaceous border.



Fig. 8: Paul Townsend discusses the herbaceous border.