

Wallington Water Meadow Management Plan



The Water Meadow has a history dating back to mediaeval times when the Bishops of Winchester owned a great deal of the land in Fareham. Today it is an open area that plays an important part in the life of the Village. It is also a valuable environmental resource, particularly because former water meadows that have remained (relatively) undisturbed are nationally rare.

- Establishing a pattern of visible care has been a continuous objective of Wallington Village Community Association as the best way to discourage neglect and possible development.
- The stated aim has always been ‘to maintain and safeguard the water meadow and adjacent areas for amenity and wildlife conservation’.

The conservation aspect became more significant with the designation as a SINC (Site of Interest to Nature Conservation). To assist the maintenance a management plan was put in place in 1987. It was drawn up with permission of the owners (Standard Life) in consultation with FBC, HCC and using local technical input. This leaflet outlines an updated version of the original plan, which identified four main habitat areas – the boundary banking, the meadow/grassland, the riverbank and the river itself. The aims are unaltered but the practical operations have been modified to reflect changing circumstances and in the light of experience.

1. Boundary banking of the meadows

AIM: To maintain and enhance the screen and stability of the bank.
To retain important habitat for nesting birds.

2. Meadow/grassland

AIM: To manage the area for public amenity and to encourage plant species diversity.

3. River bank

AIM: To maintain the natural riverbank for maximum stability and for wildlife conservation.

4. River

AIM: To improve the cleanliness of the river and its water quality.
To create optimum conditions for life in the river.

Maintenance Strategy:

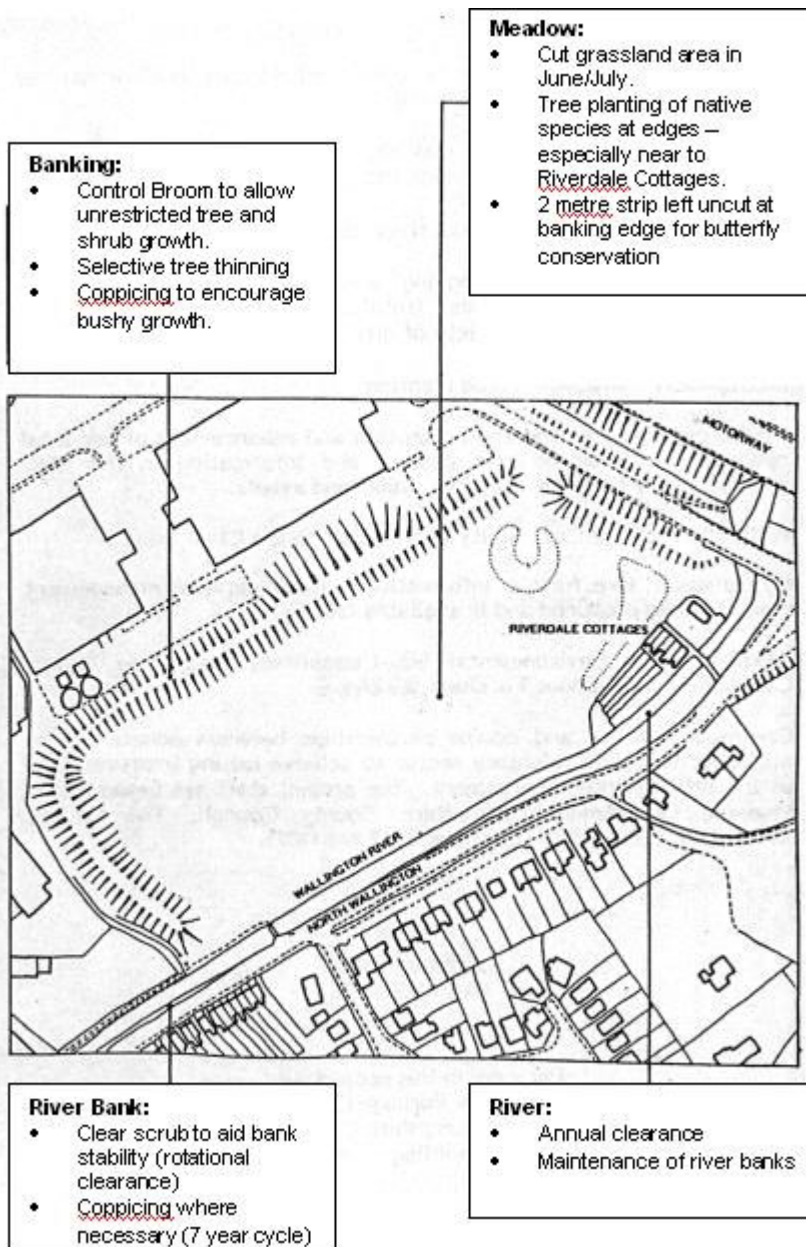
JUNE Annual clearout of boundary banking prior to Fete and enabling selection of trees to be thinned in Winter.

END OF JUNE/ TO EARLY JULY Hay making - cutting the grassland area and removing the harvest prior to the Fete. Leaving a 2 metre strip alongside the banking for butterfly conservation.

SEPTEMBER Annual River clean up – flood prevention/environmental.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER Removing scrub from meadow and river banks (rotational clearance allowing a variety of different age habitats to establish). Coppicing banks on a 6/7-year cycle.

DECEMBER/ JANUARY Tree maintenance and planting.



Please come and join in the protection and enhancement of our local open space. Look out for posters and information in the WVCA newsletter or on the website for the dates of tasks, walks and events.