# POCKET PARK, CROWBOROUGH FIVE-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019 to 2023

**Dolphin Ecological Surveys** 



Dolphin Ecological Surveys Edgedown Kammond Avenue Seaford East Sussex BN25 3JL 01323 304180 info@ecodolphin.co.uk

# **CONTENTS**

1.0 BACKGROUND	p.2
1.1 Location & Ownership	
1.2 Previous Surveys & Plans	
Figure 1 Pocket Park Nature Reserve Compartme	ents & Features
1.3 Key Features of the Pocket Park	
1.4 The 2019 Management Plan	
2.0 POCKET PARK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	p.5
3.0 RECENT MANAGEMENT	p.5
3.1 Path & Glade Creation	
3.2 Secure Fencing	
3.3 Tree Management	
3.4 Pond Feasibility Investigations	
3.5 Litter Management	
3.6 INNS Control	
3.7 Other Actions	
4.0 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	p.7
4.1 Compartment 1 (The Pocket Park Reserve/Ol	d Tennis Courts)
4.1.1 Pond Creation	
4.1.2 Glade Management	
4.1.3 Boundary Habitat Manage	
4.1.3.1 Northeastern Boundary	,
4.1.3.2 Southwestern Boundary	
4.1.4 Willow Coppicing	
4.1.5 Path Creation	
4.1.6 INNS Control	
4.1.7 Interpretation	
4.2 Compartment 2 (The Copse)	
4.2.1 Minimal Intervention	
4.2.2 Anti-social Behaviour & Litter Man	
4.3 Compartment 3 (The Northern Bank & Stream	nside Zone)
4.3.1 Tree Management	
4.3.2 Ditch Management	
4.4 Compartment 4 (The Hedgerow & Ditch)	
4.4.1 Selective Coppicing & Fencing	
4.5 Compartment 5 (The Buffer Zone)	
4.5.1 Minimal Intervention	
4.5.2 Grassland Management	
Figure 2 Summary of Management Actions	
5.0 SURVEY & MONITORING	p.13
5.1 Photographic Monitoring	
5.2 Vegetation Surveys & Monitoring	
5.3 Fauna Surveys & Monitoring	
5.4 Data Recording	
REFERENCES	p.14
DOCKET DADK FIVE VEAD ACTION DI ANI 2010 TO 2022	- 45
POCKET PARK FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN 2019 TO 2023	p.15

# 1.0 BACKGROUND

# 1.1 Location & Ownership

The Crowborough Pocket Park nature reserve covers an area of approximately 4 acres (about 1.6ha) near the centre of Crowborough, East Sussex at central grid reference TQ522308.

The site is surrounded by school playing fields and the buildings of Beacon Academy to the south with houses and gardens to the north. Figures 1 and 2 show the areas covered by this five-year plan, management compartments, main features and summary management actions for each area.

The land is owned by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) but is managed by Crowborough Town Council (CTC) under an agreement with the County Council.

The main part of the Pocket Park reserve is a fenced area, formerly used as school tennis courts but subsequently abandoned and left to re-vegetate naturally. There are three other parcels of land that are also part of the Pocket Park and are described as separate management compartments in this plan. These are a copse to the south, a bank and ditch to the north and a narrow strip of hedgerow/ditch alongside a footpath to the west (see Figure 1).

An additional strip of land between the Pocket Park reserve and the Beacon Academy sports pitches is included as the fifth compartment within this management plan. This narrow strip of grassland and a narrow, wooded shaw is outside the Pocket Park boundary but will be managed on behalf of the school by CTC to benefit wildlife and as a buffer to the Pocket Park.

# 1.2 Previous Surveys & Plans

In 2017, prior to CTC taking over management of the site from ESCC, a vegetation survey and ecological assessment of the area that was to become the Pocket Park was carried out by Kate Ryland (Dolphin Ecological Surveys 2017). This report also included some preliminary management recommendations for the site.

The 2017 survey recorded plants from three separate compartments on the site; the former tennis courts, the copse and the northern bank.

Since 2017 local resident Kevin Crook has been carrying out regular visits to the Pocket Park and adding biological records to the baseline survey data, primarily of plants, birds and butterflies.

# 1.3 Key Features of the Pocket Park

- The site is small but supports a variety of habitats including scrub, woodland, grassland, ditch and tall herb vegetation
- There is abundant structurally complex edge habitat present
- At least one legally protected species occurs in the Pocket Park
- The site has the potential to support other legally protected species and a rich faunal assemblage
- Invasive, non-native species (INNS) are present and will need to be controlled. Japanese knotweed is known to occur but others are likely to be found in future
- Some parts of the site have a long history of anti-social behaviour
- The support and involvement of local residents, schools and neighbouring property owners with the Pocket Park and its management is crucial for its future success as a community asset

# 1.4 The 2019 Management Plan

The Pocket Park was visited in June 2019 by Kate Ryland (Dolphin Ecological Surveys) and Dan Colborne (CTC Ranger) to assess progress since CTC took over its management in 2018. Potential measures to include in the new five-year management cycle were discussed.

Management of the Pocket Park has to take into account the constraints imposed by the potentially high levels of public access and its close proximity to the Beacon Academy. Parts of the site have a long history of abuses and vandalism. Recognition of the need to curtail this pattern of behaviour is central to the early years of site management.

The following management objectives and recommendations for the period 2019 to 2023 plan build on the suggestions made in the 2017 assessment. They also reflect the results of preliminary investigations into soil water levels and in particular the preliminary management work that has been carried out by the CTC Ranger.

### 2.0 POCKET PARK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- To conserve and enhance the existing biodiversity of the Pocket Park nature reserve through appropriate management
- To create new habitats that will increase the site's value to wildlife
- To turn the Pocket Park into a fully accessible community asset for local residents, school children and visitors
- To demonstrate good practice management of a small, urban nature reserve
- To stop anti-social behaviour within the site boundaries and in the surrounding area

## 3.0 RECENT MANAGEMENT

### 3.1 Path & Glade Creation

Since 2017 some preliminary vegetation clearance work has been carried out to allow access into the previously inaccessible centre of Compartment 1.

This has entailed coppicing and felling mixed trees and shrubs (mostly willow, young ash and gorse) to open out a glade of approximately 30m x 50m in the centre of the site. Some of the cut material has been stacked on the edges of the glade to form habitat piles and hibernacula for reptiles and other fauna.

Selective scrub clearance has also helped to define the best route for a path around the site.

# 3.2 Secure Fencing

Installing and maintaining secure fencing around Compartments 1 and 2 of the Pocket Park to reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour has also been a major management task since 2017.

Until 2017 Compartment 1 was almost secure but a breach in the fence in the eastern corner had allowed access along the southeastern edge, but this has now been closed.

Compartment 2 had entirely open access in 2017 but there is now fencing all around this compartment. This fencing also effectively blocks the informal route between Compartment 1 and Compartment 2.

There have been continual attempts to breach the new fences but CTC and Beacon Academy have worked together to repair damage as soon as possible so that the previous levels of anti-social behaviour cannot resume.

# 3.3 Tree Management

Work to reduce the height and width of some of the large cypress trees on the boundary between Compartments 1 and 3 has begun.

Where the trees had engulfed the perimeter fence in the western corner of Compartment 1 the branches have been cut back to the fenceline, exposing the trunks and bare ground under the trees. A group of trees have also been reduced in height to approximately 5m.

This tree reduction work has already been very successful in opening up the top of the Northern Bank (Compartment 2) to more light and reducing the shading of gardens in some neighbouring properties to the north. Climbing plants such as ivy and hedge bindweed are beginning to grow up the exposed trunks of the trees and bramble is becoming more established under the trees.

Ash dieback is a fungal disease of ash trees that is caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (formerly known as *Chalara fraxinea*). The impact of this disease on ash trees is apparent in and around the Pocket

Park and it is likely that most or all of the ash will eventually be affected, though there is the hope that some trees will have natural resistance to the pathogen.

The Forestry Commission publishes guidance on how to manage sites where trees are affected by ash dieback (FC 2019). This document provides a succinct introduction to the disease and summarises current advice on best practice for site managers.

# 3.4 Pond Feasibility Investigations

There are three sites within the Pocket Park where pond creation has been proposed. In 2018/19 small trial pits of approximately 1m depth were dug in each area to investigate whether the water table is sufficiently high to allow any ponds to hold water naturally or whether they would need an artificial liner.

# 3.5 Litter Management

The CTC Ranger has removed an impressive amount of litter and other debris from Compartments 1 and 2 including old fencing, glass, metal and other materials.

This has made a striking improvement on the appearance of the Copse (Compartment 2), especially in the north where a brick structure (now removed) was formerly used for fires and there was abundant broken glass.

### 3.6 INNS Control

The small stands of Japanese knotweed that occur in Compartment 1 have been treated with herbicide during 2019.

### 3.7 Other Actions

The CTC Ranger has already put time into building good relationships with householders whose properties adjoin the Pocket Park as well as with staff from Beacon Academy and the Sir Henry Fermor primary school.

The overall success of the Pocket Park nature reserve project will depend to a large extent on the support and involvement of the local community.

### 4.0 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

# 4.1 Compartment 1 (The Pocket Park reserve/Old Tennis Courts)

## 4.1.1 Pond Creation

There is currently no year-round open, standing water in the Pocket Park although some parts of the site appear to be seasonally wet or damp. Creating new ponds in the reserve is an important aspiration for the early years of this plan. It will increase the habitat diversity of the reserve and provide a valuable resource for a range of wildlife.

Investigations into whether new ponds would require artificial liners has been carried out (see section 3.4) and the results indicate that liners will be needed to help ponds hold water all year round. Three suitable pond sites have been identified (see Figure 2):

- In the south eastern corner of the Pocket Park. This should be the largest pond and will become a major feature of the reserve. The pond should be lined with a heavy duty butyl liner and constructed with a deep central zone and shelved margins to maximise its value to wildlife. The pond will need to be fenced with a combination of post and rail fencing and low level stock netting to discourage its use as a dog swimming pool. A bench should be located nearby.
- In the western corner of the Pocket Park, near the entrance, there is a damp hollow within the willow scrub which holds water in winter but dries out in summer. This wet flush appears to be fed by surface water run off from the primary school playing fields to the south. Amphibian spawn and tadpoles were observed here by the CTC Ranger in spring 2019. Enlarging and deepening this shallow pool so that it holds water for a longer period of the year will increase the chances of successful metamorphosis by frog and toad larvae. This pond will need to be lined (at least in the deepened base of the pool) to help retain water through the summer months. A post and rail fence should be installed with low level stock fencing to separate the pond from the entrance area to prevent the pond being used as a dog swimming pool.
- There is the potential to create a small, seasonal, unlined pond outside the reserve fenceline near the site entrance where surface water tends to collect. This area is fed by surface water run off from the school playing field to the south. A pond in this location outside the reserve fence could not be secured so would be more vulnerable to littering and other abuses. It is recommended that creating a pond here is not attempted until the success or otherwise of creating the first two ponds within the reserve fence can been assessed.

# 4.1.2 Glade Management

Willow, ash and gorse scrub has been removed to create a large glade in the central and southern part of the Pocket Park reserve. By autumn 2019 this open area had become vegetated with a mixture of grasses and herbaceous species, along with vigorous woody re-growth.

The vegetation within this new open area and the edges of the glade will need to be managed to prevent the rapid re-growth of dense scrub and to promote the development of a diverse field layer within the glade.

The root-balls of coppiced trees and shrubs within the main part of the glade should be removed where possible so that ultimately the glade can be maintained by annual mowing with the cut vegetation removed. This will cause short-term disruption of the soil but will make long-term management more viable.

There are a large number of sandstone rocks of different sizes within the glade and these should continue to be collected from the open area where they would prohibit mowing and used to create habitat mounds and

hibernacula for fauna in sheltered, unobtrusive corners of the reserve.

Vegetation around the glade edges should be managed by cutting on rotation to promote a dense margin of scrub with a varied age structure. This will require an annual assessment of re-growth rates in the early years of this plan to decide when to cut back sections of woody vegetation to achieve this end.

### 4.1.3 Boundary Habitat Management

### 4.1.3.1 Northeastern Boundary

The northeastern boundary of the Pocket Park adjoins gardens and is currently dominated by dense, young willow and bramble scrub. This area needs sensitive management to improve the age range and structural diversity of the woody vegetation and to reduce shading and ingress of bramble/scrub into adjoining gardens. However, it is important to ensure that vegetation management in this area does not encourage human access into a secluded part of the reserve which could adversely affect neighbouring properties.

Creating a long, narrow glade along this boundary by coppicing willow and other woody species would help to reduce shading and diversify vegetation structure. The glade should have no obvious entrance gap from the main part of the site.

The integrity of the fencing along the northeastern boundary should be reviewed and may need to be strengthened to ensure that there is no informal or uncontrolled access to the reserve.

### 4.1.3.2 Southwestern Boundary

The southwestern boundary of the Pocket Park adjoins the surfaced public footpath. The reserve fence lies within willow scrub at the bottom of a steep bank whilst the bank itself supports a mixture of tussocky grass, bramble and oak saplings. There are small fragments of quite flower-rich sward especially at the southern corner of this bank. Some experimentation will be needed to find the most successful mowing regime for this area.

Initially the young oak saplings on the upper part of the bank should be removed. These trees would create excessive shade in the southern part of the reserve and would tend to become unstable on the steep bank if retained to maturity.

The tussocky grass and bramble vegetation on the bank should be managed by cutting back on rotation in up to four blocks. A light touch will be needed to promote a diverse mixture of tall herbs and grasses with bramble and scrub along the reserve fence. This will provide valuable habitat for a range of fauna whilst maintaining a barrier to the reserve fenceline.

In alternate years the tussocky grassland in each section of the bank should be cut back and the cuttings removed in late autumn. Areas with a more herb-rich sward could be mown more frequently at the beginning and end of the growing season and cuttings removed, which would help to reduce the amount of bramble in the sward.

A strip of approximately 1m alongside the path should be mown at monthly intervals to keep the sward quite short and avoid vegetation spreading onto the footpath.

# 4.1.4 Willow Coppicing

The remaining large block of willow scrub in the north of the Pocket Park reserve should be managed to diversify its age structure and increase the complexity of the vegetation.

Cutting small, non-adjacent blocks of willow in a chequerboard pattern will achieve this over time and also help to discourage access by people into newly cut areas.

### 4.1.5 Path Creation

A circular path around the Pocket Park will be created over the winter of 2019/20 as part of the infrastructure of the reserve. Wherever possible the hardcore and inert material that is present in places on the reserve will be used to construct the path bed and it will be surfaced with crushed sandstone from a local source.

### 4.1.6 INNS Control

Japanese knotweed is present in the southern part of Compartment 1 and control of this invasive species has already commenced.

Targeted control of Japanese knotweed in the reserve using the herbicide glyphosate will need to continue for the foreseeable future. CTC must comply with their legal requirements when managing this invasive species and there is updated guidance available from numerous sources, including the DEFRA pages of the UK government website (see references).

## 4.1.7 Interpretation

Interpretive signage is needed at the entrance to the reserve. This should include a plan of the Pocket Park, some information about its wildlife and a specific plea to keep dogs out of the ponds so that they are able to develop into good wildlife habitats.

# 4.2 Compartment 2 (The Copse)

### 4.2.1 Minimal Intervention

This small wooded area has suffered considerable and prolonged vandalism, littering and other abuses. Perimeter fencing has been erected around The Copse but it is regularly breached and the CTC Ranger has needed to reinforce the fencing and apply anti-climb paint throughout 2019. These efforts to prevent public access to Compartment 2 have the full support of the Beacon Academy.

The woodland habitat is already showing the benefits of greatly reduced public access and removal of a significant amount of rubbish. Ground flora and shrub layer plants are less trampled and the severe damage to trees and shrubs has now ceased.

For the duration of this plan this small woodland should remain as a minimal intervention zone, not only to allow further undisturbed recovery of the vegetation and fauna but also to break the pattern/habit of access by humans. Management should be restricted to essential tree safety work and reinforcing boundary fencing.

The woodland edge vegetation that adjoins the grassy bank of Compartment 5 (section 4.5) should be allowed to develop unchecked on the top of the bank. This will eventually create a dense, scrubby barrier with an abundance of blossom, fruit and seeds that will be of value to wildlife.

## 4.2.2 Anti-social Behaviour & Litter Management

Regular inspections and litter picks will be needed in all areas of the Pocket Park whenever possible to keep the amount of rubbish to a minimum and to ensure that any rubbish bins installed are not allowed to become over-full.

Compartment 2 has been a particular focus for anti-social behaviour in the past and it is likely that a continued effort will be needed to prevent breaches in the fencing.

# 4.3 Compartment 3 (The Northern Bank & Streamside Zone)

# 4.3.1 Tree Management

Within Compartment 3 there is a row of mature cypress trees along the top of the bank where it meets the reserve fence. The dense row of conifers is valuable as a visual screen between the reserve and adjacent housing as well as acting as a deterrent to humans entering Compartment 3. The trees are also likely to have some value for wildlife, particularly for nesting birds.

However, mature cypress trees can also have adverse impacts, especially their tendency to suppress ground level vegetation by casting dense shade and thick deposits of leaf litter.

The work that has already begun to reduce the height and spread of the conifers should be continued over the life of this plan. The row of trees should be tackled in manageable sections, depending on the resources available each year for tree surgery, starting at the western end where the trees are nearest to houses and gardens.

In each section branches on one side of the trees should be cut back to the main trunk to increase the amount of light that can reach the trunk and the ground below. This will promote the growth of climbing plants such as ivy, hedge bindweed and honeysuckle up the bare trunks. The climbers will provide sources of nectar and pollen for insects whilst reducing the negative impact of shade and leaf litter on the ground below the trees.

The height of the trees should be reduced to a more manageable 4-5m in order to reduce the shade cast on nearby gardens and on the strip of land alongside the ditch/stream.

In the longer term it may be worth considering whether to selectively remove at least some of the mature trees to promote better growth of native, broadleaved trees and shrubs along this edge of the Pocket Park.

### 4.3.2 Ditch Maintenance

The Streamside Zone along the lower edge of Compartment 3 should be a minimal intervention area with no public access for the duration of the plan. Routine ditch maintenance will be needed to ensure that there are no major blockages in the culvert or the stream channel that could increase the risk of flooding of adjoining properties.

In future the feasibility of creating a small pond in the northern part of Compartment 3 could be investigated.

# 4.4 Compartment 4 (The Hedgerow & Ditch)

# 4.4.1 Selective Coppicing & Fencing

This small compartment in the southwest of the Pocket Park site comprises the narrow strip of land between the surfaced footpath and the fences and gardens on its northern side. Only limited and low-key management will be needed along this ditch and old hedgerow to maintain a shrubby corridor of useful wildlife habitat.

Selective coppicing of the old hazel stools and other tall shrubs alongside the fenceline will help to promote overall dense growth alongside the ditch whilst preventing too much shading of adjacent gardens. As a general rule every 3<sup>rd</sup> coppice stool should be cut on a long (7 years+) rotation.

It would be advisable to install a post and rail fence on the ditch edge adjoining the garden of The Chequers at the beginning of the footpath to define the extent of CTC ownership/management.

# 4.5 Compartment 5 (The Buffer Zone)

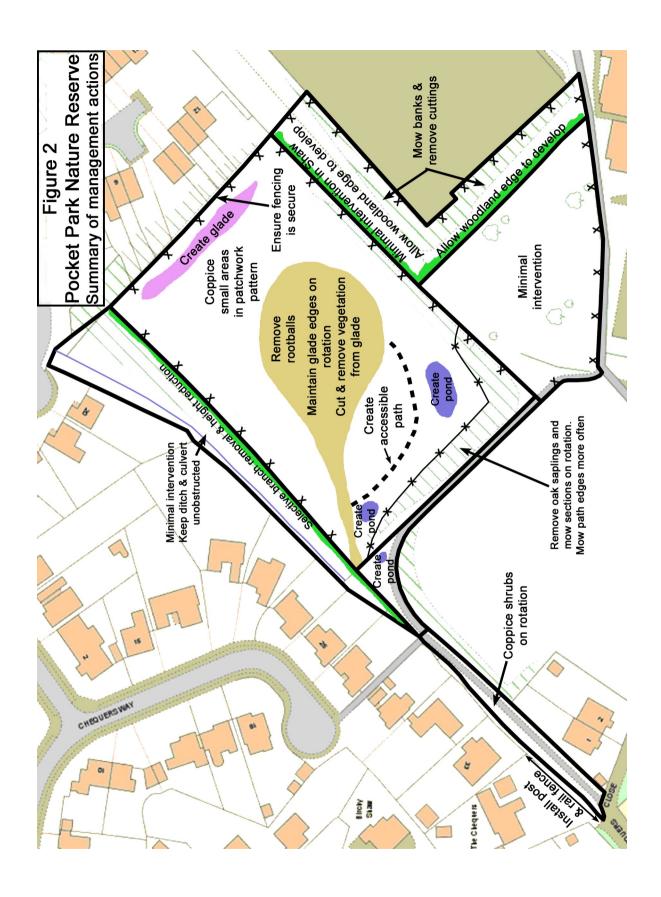
### 4.5.1 Minimal Intervention

Compartment 5 will be managed by the CTC Ranger via an informal arrangement with Beacon Academy but is not included within the formal management agreement with ESCC. The Buffer Zone comprises the grassy banks between Compartments 1 and 2 of the Pocket Park and the sports pitch fencing. It also includes the narrow woodland shaw adjoining the reserve perimeter fence.

The shaw in this Compartment should be an area of minimal intervention apart from essential tree safety work. In the first years of this plan bramble should be allowed to spread outwards naturally from the edge of the shaw. The intention should be to discourage access along this route which was formerly used as a shortcut to the public footpath.

# 4.5.2 Grassland Management

The grassy banks in this Compartment should be managed by annual, late season mowing with removal of cut material to allow the wildflowers and grasses present to flower and set seed. Particular care should be taken alongside the school's fencing to keep the fenceline clear and visible.



# 5.0 SURVEY & MONITORING

# 5.1 Photographic Monitoring

Fixed point photographic monitoring of all areas of the Pocket Park should be set up as soon as possible to provide a permanent record of the early stages of this project.

If possible regular ground level photography should be supplemented by periodic aerial photographs, taken using a UAV (drone), to provide a record of the changes in vegetation structure over time.

# 5.2 Vegetation Surveys & Monitoring

Botanical records are being added to the site baseline dataset by local resident Kevin Crook. In addition, the 2017 vegetation survey and assessment should be repeated in the life of this plan since a much larger area of Compartment 1 is accessible and habitat creation/management work is underway.

A botanical survey of Compartment 5, especially the grassland component, should be carried out in year 2 or 3 of this plan to assess the impacts of the annual mowing regime.

# 5.3 Fauna Surveys & Monitoring

Targeted wildlife surveys by experienced volunteers or contractors should be carried out as time and resources allow. These should focus on fauna that are likely to occur in the reserve or which may be attracted to the new habitats that are being created in the Pocket Park.

Birds and their breeding status are being recorded on periodic visits to the site by local volunteers. This information is extremely useful to inform management and should be continued.

Observations of butterflies encountered during site visits in 2019 have also been made by Kevin Crook. Ideally this valuable recording effort should be registered as a regular butterfly transect around the site following the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme methodology (<a href="https://www.ukbms.org">https://www.ukbms.org</a>).

Over the span of this management plan as a minimum surveys of reptiles, amphibians, odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) and moths should be considered. These groups are relatively easy to survey, charismatic animals and include species that are most likely to benefit from the changes in vegetation that will take place through habitat management and creation.

There is the possibility that dormice occur in some compartments of the Pocket Park (Dolphin Ecological Surveys 2017). In future a dormouse survey using nest tubes or footprint tunnels could be carried out in the minimal intervention, wooded areas of Compartment 2 and Compartment 5 where public access is restricted. This is not currently a high priority as it is more important to allow these areas to recover from excessive access but could be considered when resources become available.

## 5.4 Data Recording

Written records should be kept of all management activity that takes place on the Pocket Park. When the management plan is reviewed in 2023 the records will help to inform any changes or modifications needed to the management regime.

Anyone who already records wildlife should be encouraged to submit their records both to the CTC Ranger and also to the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre (SxBRC) via the iRecord website/app (<a href="https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/">https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/</a>). Visitors to the site should also be encouraged to join in with survey and monitoring activities at the Pocket Park.

# **REFERENCES**

Dolphin Ecological Surveys 2017. Survey of proposed Pocket Park Nature Reserve in Crowborough. Unpublished report to Crowborough Town Council

FC (2019) Managing Ash Dieback in England. DEFRA

Latest guidance on control of Japanese knotweed <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-japanese-knotweed-from-spreading">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-japanese-knotweed-from-spreading</a> Accessed 24/9/2019

# **POCKET PARK FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN 2019 to 2023**

MANAGEMENT TASK	AREA	TIMING	MING YEAR				
POND CREATION			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Main, lined pond in south east corner of the reserve	Compartment 1	November to January	✓				
Secondary, lined pond in western end of the reserve	Compartment 1	November to January	<b>✓</b>				
Small, unlined pond outside the reserve fence near the entrance	Compartment 1	November to January			<b>✓</b>		
GLADE MANAGEMENT			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Remove tree and shrub root-balls from the glade where possible	Compartment 1	November to end of February	✓	✓	✓		
Take sandstone rocks from the glade to create habitat piles/hibernacula	Compartment 1	All year round	<b>✓</b>	✓	<b>✓</b>		
Mow glade vegetation in autumn and remove or stack cut material. Leave unmown areas of tall herbs on the glade edges	Compartment 1	Late September /October		✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>
Cut back sections of woody species on the glade edges on rotation to promote dense, bushy growth	Compartment 1	November to end of February		✓	✓	✓	✓
BOUNDARY HABITAT & GRASSLAND EDGE MANAGEMENT			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Create a long, narrow glade along the northeastern boundary	Compartment 1	November to end of February		✓			
Assess boundary fence along the northeastern boundary and block access points if necessary	Compartment 1	November	<b>✓</b>				
Remove oak saplings from the southwestern boundary bank	Compartment 1	November to February		✓	✓		
Cut and remove areas of tussocky grassland and bramble on southwestern boundary bank on rotation	Compartment 1	October		✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	<b>✓</b>

MANAGEMENT TASK	AREA	TIMING	YEAR				
Cut and remove areas of herb-rich grassland on southwestern boundary bank twice per year	Compartment 1	April and October		✓	✓	✓	✓
Mow 1m swathe along the path edge on the southwestern boundary bank regularly	Compartment 1	April to October		<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>✓</b>
Cut and remove vegetation on the grassy banks next to the sports pitches	Compartment 5	September/October		✓	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>
TREE & SHRUB MANAGEMENT			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Coppice small areas of willow in a chequerboard pattern	Compartment 1	November to end of February		✓	✓	✓	✓
Cut back branches on one side of groups of Leyland cypresses and reduce their height to c.5m	Compartment 3	November to end of February	✓	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	✓	✓
Coppice every 3 <sup>rd</sup> large coppice stool on a 7+ year rotation	Compartment 4	November to end of February		✓	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>
OTHER MANAGEMENT			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Path Creation Create a circular route using on site material and crushed sandstone	Compartment 1	Winter	✓				
INNS Control Continue control of Japanese knotweed	Compartment 1	June/July	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Minimal Intervention Essential safety work and prevention of anti-social behaviour only	Compartments 2, 3 & 5	All year round	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>
Ditch Maintenance Clear culvert and channel of blockages	Compartment 3	As necessary	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	✓
Post & Rail Fencing Install post and rail fencing to control access in selected areas	Compartment 1 (around ponds) Compartment 4 (along garden/ditch)	Winter months	✓	✓			
Interpretation Install an interpretive board at the site entrance	Compartment 1	Spring		✓			

MANAGEMENT TASK	AREA	TIMING	YEAR				
<b>Litter Management</b> Regular litter picks and emptying/inspection of bins.	All compartments	All year round	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SURVEY & MONITORING			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Take fixed-point photographs regularly	All compartments	Whenever possible	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Take aerial photographs of the whole site	All compartments	Winter & Summer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carry out surveys of selected fauna when resources allow	All compartments	As appropriate		✓	✓	✓	✓
Carry out repeat vegetation survey when resources allow	All compartments	May to September		✓			<b>✓</b>
Continue to keep clear records of management actions	All compartments	All year round	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Encourage visitors to submit wildlife records to CTC and to SxBRC via iRecord	All compartments	All year round	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW Assess progress and review management actions for a new 5-year plan	All compartments	September					✓