

ACTION PLAN FOR 2018 - 19

Reserve: Cowdray Avenue Nature Reserve
Date: April 2018

Month/Year	Priority	Volunteers	Ranger/CBC	Contractor	Cost
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	2018/19					
1.	Carry out patrols/inspection including litter pick site, paying particular attention to fence line	Fortnightly	1	X	NP	
2.	Clear at least a quarter of willow/alder growth annually (compartment 6)	Winter	1	X	NP	X
3.	Conduct a walkover survey of the marsh each summer to look for signs of New Zealand Stonecrop – eradicate if found	Summer	1	X	NP	
4.	Observe clay dam ditch to see if it continues to hold back water (compartment 9)	Autumn	2	X	NP	X
5.	Continue to coppice/thin stand of Ash trees (compartment 7). Consider planting with Alder if natural regrowth does not appear	Winter 18	3	X	NP	X
6.	Coppice the four largest trees/shrubs (compartment 9) each winter	Winter 18	3	X	NP	X
7.	Inspect the stream/ditch (compartment 2) at least twice a year for debris which may impede the flow of Highwood's Drain	Autumn & Spring	1		NP	
8.	Maintain 'clover lawn' with regular mowing to maintain short sward (TLG)	May to Oct	2			X
9.	Monitor and maintain (compartment 4) cut back excessive tree seedling growth and bramble scrub as necessary	Winter	3	X	NP	
10.	Engage with special interest groups (CNHS etc) that express a specific interest in visiting the site		3		NP	
11.	Maintain boundary fence	Ongoing	1	X	NP	
12.	Arrange Spring Tidy day with TCV	Each Spring	2	X	NP	
13.	Once cut, treat willow and alder stumps to reduce regrowth (Compartment 6)	Winter/early spring	1		NP	
14.	Conduct annual tree survey of site		1		NP	X
15.	Implement remedial tree work		1		NP	X
16.	Keep a register of work/inspections		1		NP	
17.	Encourage biological recording (breeding Amphibians, Water voles, Dragonflies and Damselflies, Flora (including mosses and liverworts) , bats and general invertebrates)		3		NP	X
18.	Seek approval of management plan proposals regarding alterations to site drainage with EA and ECC		1		NP	
19.	Liaise with EA regarding the annual assessment of drainage systems and the integrity of the river bank		1		NP	X
20.	Continue working with Pat Hatch and Essex Bat Group regarding bat hibernacula		1		NP	
21.	Assess quality of open water.		1	X	NP	
22.	Display ranger details on pill box – check still intact		2		NP	
23.	Clear excessive reedmace from areas of standing water (TCV)	Autumn	2	X	NP	
24.	Strim access path three times a year		1		NP	
25.	Ensure cycle route is clear of encroaching vegetation		1		NP	X
26.	Litter pick road side verge when vegetation dies back (TCV)	Winter/spring	1		NP	X
27.	Strim alternate banks of ditch at far end of site (compartment 9)	Autumn	1	X	NP	X
28.	Ensure management plan is read and adhered to each year	Ongoing	1		NP	
29.	Construct otter holt along river embankment (TCV)	Autumn	2			X

