

REPORT ON TREES AT BOUNDARY TO RYEDALE VIEW PLAY AREA

4 July 2017

The area is in good management, paths are mown for access but there is a sense of "wild" about the site which is good both for wildlife using the site as habitat and for visitors. Some evidence of littering but I'm sure that is in hand. The coppicing carried out along the southern boundary 2 or 3 years ago has sprouted and is now 6- 8 ft in height. Several of the stems in the next section of trees along the boundary have been subject to damage from bark stripping since their planting date and a few are now leaning over the adjacent garden. The boardwalk section of the internal path is quite slippery I can't remember if it had a wire covering on it previously but this may be worth considering. The other trees on site appear on initial inspection to be of fair health.

Maintenance proposals

Path/boardwalk and picnic area

The path, bird feeding station, bug house and picnic area need regular cutting back of overhanging vegetation between May and September at least on a monthly basis.

The boardwalk section is slippery with algal growth and would be much safer with a covering of rabbit netting to give walkers grip.

Southern shrub belt

A short rotation coppice regime on the trees nearest the house (mostly Ash, Field Maple and Hawthorn) to be continued to retain the plants in situ and encourage better growth of the more recently planted species such as Hazel and Guelder Rose. This coppicing could be cyclic in nature (every 5 -10 years) all along the boundary of the site where required, now the initial cutting has been carried out over the small section overhanging number 12 it would seem wise to coppice a small number of ash stems leaning towards the garden of number 12 and selectively fell a small number of damaged trees over the next 2 or 3 years and perhaps control nettle or bramble growth also. Some specimen trees should be retained within this zone where appropriate. This work would restore a more effective barrier between public access land, it would also develop a valuable area of species diverse shrub woodland good for many birds and insect species, an added benefit would be to manage the potential hazard of the trees as they get older and larger in the immediate vicinity of a neighbouring property. Should funds become available this area would be a good location for the planting of native woodland wildflower species in order to increase biodiversity.

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