

THREE YEAR MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR BECKFORD NATURE RESERVE

Compiled by John Clifford

These proposals are based on the ideas put forward by Worcestershire Wildlife, Harry Green, John Clarke, and Wade Muggleton. At this stage they can only be proposals, as so much revolves around the weather, number of volunteers, finance for contractors work, and other miscellaneous items.

WINTER OF 2008/2009

VOLUNTEERS WORK

If the level of the lake permits, coppice alder and field maple in front of the hide to improve the visibility over the lake. Coppice alders to selected areas of alders and willows on north side of lake. (I would propose that we should carry out a trial area to ascertain if this work is suitable for volunteers) and it is suggested that if this trial is successful the work should be done in three blocks over three years and should only be carried out using hand tools. **NO CHAIN SAWS.** Clear cultivated brambles in designated areas particularly lakeside area on north side of lake at exposed bank and at grassed area on west end of lake to encourage regeneration of grassland wildflowers and insect life. Lightly strim grassed area on north side of lake for wildflower and insect life regeneration. Make good surfaces of footpaths with woodchips as required.

CONTRACTORS WORK

Cut down four Leyland Cyprus to east of hide shredding arisings for use in path maintenance. If funds permit cut down white poplar suckers on north side of the lake opposite island, paint stumps with Roundup or similar systemic brushwood killer with a possible second treatment to regrowth in the spring.

WINTER OF 2009/2010

VOLUNTEERS WORK

If lake conditions permit, and previous trial is successful, continue with coppicing alders and willows from edge of north side of lake (second block). Continue clearing cultivated brambles in areas designated. At a later date possibly treat with systemic brushwood killer to areas cleared in previous year. Coppice or remove young sycamore trees at south west corner of lake. These are likely to cause expensive problems if they fall into the lake in future years. Make good surfaces of footpaths with woodchips as required.

CONTRACTORS WORK

Cut down white poplar suckers from northwest corner of lake and treat with systemic brushwood killer as before described. Shred arisings as before. If funds permit and water level of the lake allows, coppice fifty percent of alders on the island. Neatly stack logs as future habitat for invertebrates etc. Cut top growth of grass on north side of lake in Autumn to encourage wildflower regrowth, but not to disturb insect hibernation and habitat.

WINTER OF 2010/2011

VOLUNTEERS WORK

If lake conditions permit, continue with coppicing third block of alders and willows on north side of lake. Continue clearing cultivated brambles in designated areas as previously mentioned, and as agreed.

CONTRACTORS WORK

If water levels permit coppice remaining alders on island as described for previous year. Carry out selective thinning to young oaks on north side of the reserve, retaining the best trees. Ditto to ash trees to east end of lake removing those badly forked as they are a potential danger.. The trustees could possibly derive income from the last two items as firewood.