



Meeting Summary:

Biodiversity Working Group Meeting – 15 Nov 2023

(was Wetlands Committee)

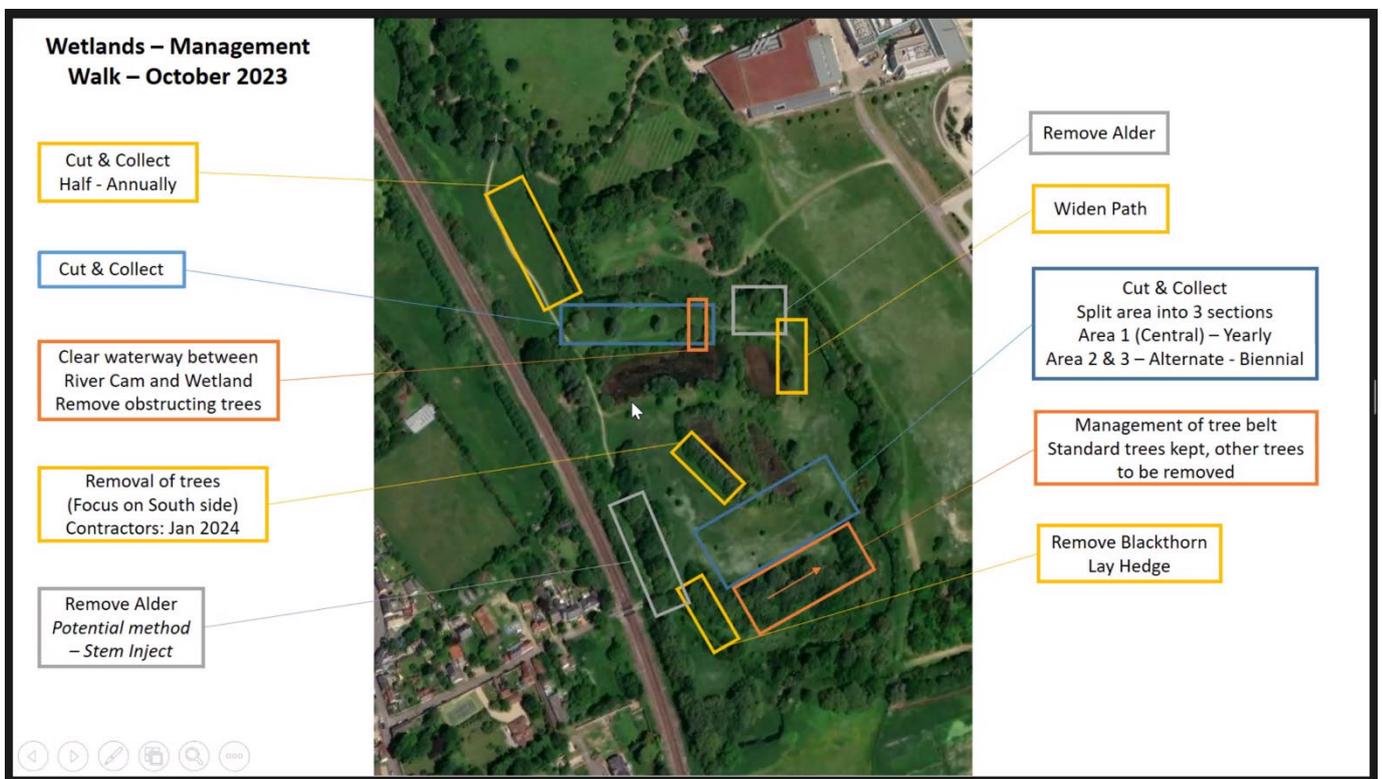


1. General Updates:

- Iain will send through the new schedule for Campus walks for promotion with staff, and shared the opportunity to engage more volunteering activities with the Wildlife Trust.
 - Claire agreed to support promotion of walks through FRED, TV screens & Slack posts.
 - Hester/Engagement Team will work on opportunities for volunteering and promotion.

2. Wetlands Management:

- Hester updated that the tree management stem injection method has been received from Iain and that she met with him and Lee in October to revisit the management plan for the wetlands. They will make amendments with a focus on long-term goals spanning 3 to 5 years that aim to reduce fragmentation across the site, with support from volunteers who have expressed interest to help the grounds team – Lee is currently working through the risk assessment.
- Contractors will spend 5 days in January to remove some trees, along with 3 chain saw operators from the grounds team to clear the water to create better access for birds and wildlife. They will be removing alder next week and widening the path. The top section will be cut & collected, and split into 3 sections – alternating each section per year, as indicated on the slide below:



3. Bird Survey:

- Neil is awaiting bird survey results from one participant and plans to present the findings in the next meeting. Monitoring of bird populations is ongoing.

4. River Improvements:

- William from the Cambridge Trout Club is coordinating efforts to enhance the wild fish habitat along the river, which involves transplanting alder trees further along the riverbank and using brushwood, chestnut, and hazel to bundle up and reinforce the habitat. Lee will support coordinating these efforts with William.
- The Trout Club will also be monitoring to assess insect populations, particularly Mayflies, which are affected by low flows during droughts. Concerns include over-extraction of water and the need for permits for structure installations. Improvement projects include filtering water and enhancing bankside and waterside habitats.

5. Wildlife Trust Update:

- Iain discussed winter walking activities and that a significant amount of data on bat species has been collected during bat surveys. There are plans to send off the data for analysis and to purchase equipment for in-house use.
 - **Iain will provide an update on bat surveys in the next meeting.**

6. AOB

- Emma Mann shared positive feedback received on the educational value of the wetlands walks they have been running recently.
- Lee reported on the removal of a spoil heap from the south end of the site, with plans to preserve some of the removed material to see what species comes up etc, and also updated they are increasing invertebrate habitats, such as securing logs for habitat enhancement etc.

7. Next Meeting:

- 28th February 2024 at 11am