

SPA PONDS MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Period: Autumn/Winter 2022

Date: 28.09.2022

Completed by: Andy Hollis

AREA	ACTIVITY
Entrance to site, recently created wildflower area	Hand clear whole area to remove existing vegetation, cutting at the base and removing all arisings. Use grass hooks, hand scythes, shears, (STRIMMER IF NEEDS BE) to cut. Rakes to clear arisings. Then this area will need to be hand weeded to remove as much nettle and dock as possible.
Left Hand side of Bridleway, heading North(approx)	All sycamore regrowth to be removed with loppers or small handsaw. Any medium sized, manageable stems could be removed by hand by those wanting to gain experience, improve skills in hand felling techniques.
Chestnut walk and new hedge area.	Bird and bat boxes can be installed in this area. Provide plenty of cover for birds and position bat boxes on a clear flight path, 2-3 at a time. Remove any low branches and shrubs that may interfere with flight path of bats. Leave newly planted hedge another season before assessing failure, as many plants are growing from the base. On the field side, the newly planted area needs to be cleared of new vegetation, raked and arisings deposited in windrow. Also, windrow to be cut back and the line re-established.
Hazel area at the end of the newly planted hedge.	My inclination is to leave the majority of hazel here, only selective removal, to allow these to grow to a better age and with the potential to produce hazelnuts. Remove small diameter trees in this area to improve light conditions.
Gaps	Dead hedge any areas of gaps with posts created from tree removal elsewhere.
Adjacent Pond 1	Remove overcrowded small diameter trees to improve light. Himalayan balsam removal in pond area.
Bridleway in general	Remove all bramble and overgrowing branches that are growing into bridleway. Beech tree requires crown lifting of small branches.
At corner of field between ponds 3 and 4.	Install bat boxes on the large oak tree. Remove any elder and lower , manageable branches that are in the flight path of bats.
Bottom, Eastern corner of pond 4	Selectively remove smaller oak and birch to create flight path. Soprano pipistrelle known to hunt in this area. Instal multiple bat boxes on trees that are on the flight path, and easily accessible for the bats.
Top of pond 4 Eastern side	Remove selected trees to improve flight path from farmers field, through woodland and into pond area.
Above pond 3 Eastern side.	Install bird boxes in this area, as there is a good understorey – Rowan and Holly, providing shelter.
Top of pond 3 Eastern side.	Remove selective trees to improve flight path to pond. Install bat boxes on Turkey oak.
From pond 1, right side travelling southwards.	Selectively remove small diameter trees to improve light
Other	Look into purchasing helmets for the group, to minimise Health and Safety risks whilst tree removing.