



## Friends of Gedling House Woods

# Meadow management plan

## Principles

The principles of wild-flower meadow management are:

- allow growth from spring to summer
- remove unacceptable weeds using suitable herbicide during growth
- cut late summer to assure seeds are mature and dispersed before cutting
- remove hay to avoid adding nutrients
- graze in autumn to remove growth to about 10cm max

## Management strategies

To prevent incursion of scrub into meadow we need to:

- clear hedgerow bottoms in the late autumn / winter
- mow agreed edge paths regularly to prevent unwanted incursions into the meadow
- clear around meadow trees at ground level
- keep meadow tree branches above head height to allow mowing underneath.

To avoid damage by pedestrians

- mow gate-to-gate paths regularly during growing season to provide a clear channel for pedestrians.

To ensure the meadow management plan is followed in a timely manner:

- use contractors for mowing, baling and removing hay
- use volunteers for small scale clearing
- use Gedling Borough Council for removal of surplus hay that is not in bales.

## Month by month plan

All meadows	
Timing	Activity
January/February	Hedge cutting
March / April	Clear hedge bottoms
April through August	Keep meadow edge and areas under trees clear.

April through October	Path mowing
May / June	Weed pull thistle, etc
May / June	Spot weed kill
July / August	Weed pull ragwort
July / August	Cutting and baling
July / August	Remove bales
September / October	Final clearance at edges
November / December	Grazing
December through to March	Meadow trees – maintain clear trunks to head height so meadow is not shaded by low branches.
<b>Meadow 3 only</b>	
<b>Timing</b>	<b>Activity</b>
July / August	Cut foliage round ant hills at bottom of meadow 3 using strimmers / brushcutters
July / August	Remove spoils from hand cutting
September / October	Final clearance of outside edges