



## 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, if possible, 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
- brushcut and strim all boundary edges regularly to prevent incursion of unwanted incursion species into the meadow
- brushcut and/or strim around meadow trees at ground level to prevent unwanted growth
- keep meadow tree branches above head height to provide light for grass growth and 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 in-house volunteers for all above strategies
- use contractors for mowing, baling and removing hay
- use volunteers for small-scale mowing of hay that contractors can't reach, removing is for compost.

## Month by month plan

All meadows	
Timing	Activity
October through to January	Hedge cutting
January / February	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, bramble, dock, thistle
August	Cutting and baling
August	Remove bales
September / October	Final clearance at edges
September / October	Removal of remaining hay by hand to compost
November / December	Grazing, if possible (currently paused – no sheep available)
December through to March	Meadow trees – maintain clear trunks to head height so meadow is not shaded by low branches.

### Meadow 3 only

Timing	Activity
July / August	Cut foliage round ant hills at bottom of meadow 3 using trimmers / brushcutters / motor scythe
July / August	Remove spoils from hand cutting
September / October	Final clearance of path round outside edge of meadow

