

BURSLLEDON WOODLAND PARK

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

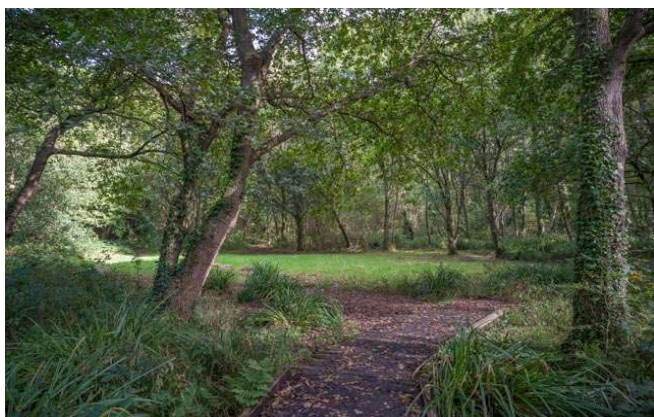
INTRODUCTION

The Woodland Park is a four-acre site of ancient woodland situated in Bursledon at the rear of the *Fox and Hounds*, within the Old Bursledon Conservation and Special Policy Areas and between Hungerford, School Road and Pilands Wood.



The charity's aim is to conserve and improve the Woodland Park for public benefit. It is currently managed by 6 Trustees, who are elected at annual general meetings and supported by Bursledon Rights of Way and Amenities Preservation Group.

Despite the current Covid-19 restrictions, the trustees have continued to meet quarterly as a group to work on the site to progress the actions identified in the Management Plan and determined at the Annual General Meeting in 2020. Site work by the Trustees precedes formal management meetings, which are held outdoors; other precautions are included.

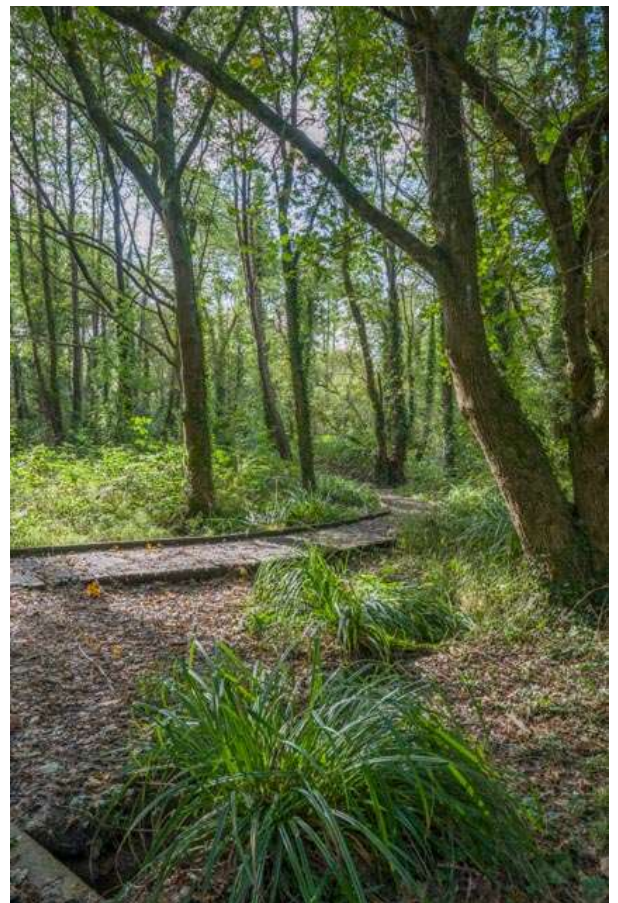


QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

April 11th

- Zurich's public liability insurance was arranged. It required regular tree inspections, land monitoring and risk assessment.
- The need for fund-raising was flagged up.
- An increased number of visitors during Covid lockdown was noted.
- A revision of the Trust's Constitution was begun to formalise new governance arrangements that had been trialled since 2017, when the Trust became trustees-led rather than member-led. Proposed amendments were circulated online for comments and a provisional draft constitution and proposed change of name were achieved.
- Re-instatement and updating of the Trust's website was undertaken by the Webmaster, Steve Porter.

www.bursledonwoodlandparktrust.org.uk



June 27th

- Eric Reid was elected Chair to replace David Lennox, who had resigned prior to a move to Norfolk. An outdoor farewell party was arranged to thank him for his valuable service. Steve Porter was elected Vice-chair to replace Eric Reid, the former vice-chair.
- The trustees were advised of the need to comply with the Charity Commission's procedures for *Changing your Charity's Governing Document* by One Community, Eastleigh. *It was agreed that a special meeting be called in September to consider the matter further.*

September 5th

- A Tree Survey was undertaken by an Arboriculturalist, as recommended by the Management Plan, and an offer to monitor the trees by Nick Bernier, the Bursledon Parish Council Tree Warden, was accepted with thanks.
- Fundraising was explored and it was agreed to get estimates for tree works identified by Nick Bernier in a monitoring report.
- Trustees accepted an offer by Lin Essaye, a local ornithologist, to recruit volunteers to assist with a Bird Count in the Woodland Park. Her first report will be at the AGM.
- Trustees agreed to monitor users of the park, by observation, to assist with development and implementation of public benefit policy.
- A Special Meeting of the trustees was called to consider changing the charity's structure from an unincorporated association to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Foundation. The trustees agreed to seek guidance from the Charity Commission.

October 3rd

- Trustees agreed the Minutes of the Special Meeting, but to defer further consideration of the change of structure until the Charity Commission's advice had been received.
- Trustees approved a progress report of the Bird Count, which included an offer to record and supply a photographic diary for the website, which was accepted by the trustees.
- Steve Porter's offer to revise the Tools Inventory and to dispose of the damaged strimmer was accepted.

TRUSTEES WORKING PARTY REPORT

During the past year, periodic quarterly work mornings and other *ad hoc* hours of labour were undertaken by trustees in accordance with the Woodland Management Plan prepared in the summer of 2020 on behalf of the Woodland Park Trustees.

It included removal of non-native, invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and Mombretia. Fortunately, occurrence of these non-native species was not significant and the plants could be carefully removed and dried thoroughly prior to incineration.

Within the woodland, a particularly large tree toppled, straddling the link path between the northern bridge and woodland glade. The tree trunk was beyond the working party group's brief to tackle with handsaws, so an alternative path diversion was created around it, enhancing the enjoyment of the path.



At the beginning of 2021, it was noted that the woodland glade had become particularly waterlogged, with run-off seemingly increased from the higher land to the east, whereas run-off onto the link path from the *Fox and Hounds* car parking area had appreciably decreased.



In order to preserve the meadow-like feature of the woodland glade grassland, a drainage cut-off ditch was hand-dug around the periphery of the glade to intercept the flows of discoloured, brown water.

The cut-off ditch proved successful at capturing over-land flows so that the grassland recovered during the year enabling it to be cut by scythe.



In the autumn, works to repair the boardwalk and bridges were undertaken with some of the rotten treads replaced, loose mesh fixed and new areas of replacement mesh nailed in place.



The path between the *Fox and Hounds* and *Pilands Wood* was widened and muddy hollow areas were filled with stone to raise the levels, improving ease of use for pedestrians.



The two bridges over the stream have remained intact following previous vandalism of parapet rails and it was decided not to replace them, the rails not being considered essential, and risk further vandalism.

Altogether, this has been a successful year in meeting recommendations in the *Woodland Management Plan* and maintaining the *Woodland Park* in a safe condition for the public to use for movement and recreation. It has been pleasing to note increased use and evidence of care by users in the collection of litter. Unfortunately, there is occasional fly-tipping and the responsibility for removing it remains unresolved.

Eric Reed, Chair
Diane Andrewes, Hon. Secretary
6 November, 2021