

## Glington NRP Grassland Management Options

Area	Target state	Outline management proposal	Costs	Stakeholders
1	Short grassland on west facing slope, with a high diversity of annual species and bare ground suitable for solitary bees and wasps.	Maintain current management regime	None	PCC
2	Short grassland with Bee Orchid colony allowed to flower and set seed.	Fence off grassland immediately around Bee Orchids in early April. No cutting in this area from April to end July. Mow at the end of July and remove arisings. The remainder of the grassland should be managed as present and the whole area should be kept short in winter.	Temporary fencing / markers	Glington PC for temporary fencing; PCC for mowing.
3	Short grassland to maintain visibility	No change in mowing management. Stop use of glyphosate weedkiller on kerbs.	None	PCC
4	Early-flowering Hay Meadow	Keep grassland short between November and April, by mowing in late September/ October and mid/late March, ideally removing arisings. Stop mowing area until mid-July and then take a hay-cut, removing all arisings to a compost area. Continue for two years and review progress. If necessary consider enriching the sward in Yr 3, either by using green hay from a nearby site or introducing locally grown plug plants.	Removal of arisings - possibly using local volunteers; purchase of plug plants in Yr 3 if necessary. If these are locally grown by residents or volunteers, the costs would be small. Commercial produced plug plants from Boston Seeds cost c. £90 for 150 or £274 for 500 plants in a collection. Their Clay Soils or Long Seasons Meadow Collections would be suitable if locally sourced plants are not available. Individual species cost £18 for 25 plug plants or £72 for 150. It is assumed that PCC would continue mowing the area but if they were not willing to co-operate then there would be a cost for contractors.	Glington PC; Langdyke Trust for volunteers, PCC / contractors for mowing for temporary fencing; PCC for mowing.
5	Interpretation boards	It is essential that local people understand why the management of this area is changing, so it is proposed that two noticeboards are erected. A seat could also be provided to encourage people to appreciate the wild flowers.	Two noticeboards including design printing and construction (RA to suggest costs?). One seat that can be bolted into the ground.	Langdyke Trust; Glington PC
6	Short grassland to provide habitat for annual species and prevent tall grassland from encroaching on the cycle-way.	Maintain current mowing regime for a width of 2-3m from cyclway edge.	None	PCC

7	Tall grassland bordering the drain with abundant great willowherb and common knapweed	Maintain current mowing regime, with a strip of short grassland c. 1.5 m adjacent to the cycleway edge	None	PCC
8	Late-flowering Meadow	The soil in this area appears rather fertile so if possible it should be cut several times in Year 1, with the cuttings removed to try to reduce fertility. In the autumn of Year 1 the area should be raked to create bare ground and locally sourced Yellow Rattle seed should be sown. The grassland should be mown in April to a height of 70-100mm to avoid the young Yellow Rattle plants, and then allowed to be left uncut until July, when seed has been shed. If required, plug plants of a small range of later-flowering species that can tolerate more fertile conditions can be planted in groups in the autumn of Year 2, to provide a seed source to colonise the remaining grassland; suitable species include Common Knapweed, Ox-eye Daisy, Lady's Bedstraw, Hedge Bedstraw, Field Scabious and Hedgerow Crane's-bill. From Year 3 onwards the grassland should be cut twice a year in mid-May and late September / October, with all the arisings removed to the composting site.	Removal of arisings, raking of area to create bare ground; sowing Yellow Rattle and planting plug plants - possibly using local volunteers; purchase of plug plants in Yr 2 if necessary. If these are locally grown by residents or volunteers, the costs would be small. Commercial produced plug plants from Boston Seeds cost £18 for 25 plug plants of an individual species or £72 for 150. It is assumed that PCC would continue mowing the area but if they were not willing to co-operate then there would be a cost for contractors.	Glington PC; Langdyke Trust for volunteers; PCC / contractors for mowing for temporary fencing; PCC for mowing.
9	Mature Blackthorn to provide early nectar source	Allow young blackthorn to mature, cutting as necessary to prevent any encroachment onto cycleway.	None	PCC
10	Early flowering woodland ground flora under tree canopy	Plant a variety of native (or near native) woodland bulbs and herbaceous species in the shade of the trees using species such as Snowdrop, native Bluebell, Primrose, Wood Anemone and Violets. Do not mow from November to end June, but maintain a moderately short sward (c. 50-70mm) during the summer and early autumn.	Commercially produced plug plants from Boston Seeds cost £18 for 25 plug plants of an individual species or £72 for 150, while bulbs are c. £32 for 100 (varying by species). It is assumed that PCC would continue mowing the area but if they were not willing to co-operate then there would be a cost for contractors.	Glington PC; Langdyke Trust volunteers; PCC

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| 11 | Bee banks to provide nesting habitat for solitary bees and wasps. | One or two banks should be constructed in sheltered areas ideally with a south-facing aspect. Suitable material for bank construction would be free-draining sand or limestone, or a mixture of the two, mixed with nutrient-poor subsoil if necessary to increase cohesion. The bank need not be large: a few square metres would provide more than enough nesting space considering the foraging area available. The slope need not be steep, and will be determined in part by the resting angle of the chosen material. Small-scale variations in the angle of slope are preferable to a regular incline.   | Material could be waste from a local quarry. The banks could be constructed using volunteer labour. Vegetation management and re-exposure of bare ground will be needed at intervals, unless the banks become popular as a focus of recreational activity (thought could be given to placing them where people might be tempted to walk or cycle over them). The frequency and amount of such management will depend on the materials used and the size and steepness of the banks, and could involve either partial clearance every year or two or more major restoration at longer intervals. Tasks using local volunteers should be sufficient. | Glington PC; Langdyke Trust volunteers |
| 12 | Dead wood to benefit invertebrates                                | One or two sizeable standing trunks could be introduced, which can be partially buried in the ground to ensure that they are not vandalised or removed. This is a relatively low priority, because it introduces a habitat which is not currently present, or which is present to a very limited extent, but could be considered if suitable trunks become available, especially if they would not otherwise be put to good use. Ageing of the planted trees on the site, or their premature death through disease, will eventually provide similar habitat. Smaller-scale dead wood, for example in the form of untreated wooden posts, could more easily be introduced and maintained, and would provide habitat for common wood-boring beetles and then for a range of hole-nesting bees and wasps. Such posts would need to be placed in sunny positions, and care would need to be given that they did not get in the way of mowing machinery. | Unknown.   | Glington PC                            |

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