

Path cutting programme

At a previous meeting it was agreed that a path cutting programme be drawn up in order to avoid the paths becoming overgrown and inaccessible during the summer months. In the past this has been done on an ad hoc basis which has not been very successful.

This is a provisional suggestion which tries to balance the need for access to all areas of the reserve with the limited time available to our wardens. If adopted it would need to be reviewed and if necessary amended in the light of experience.

No.1 bed

Main path and path to Maher's land at the eastern end of the bed to be cut twice a year, say in May and August. I have discussed this with Dave Riley and he is happy with this.

No.2 bed

The upper path is usually cleared by M.S.C. so the only bit that we need to clear is the short path down to the canal track near the viaduct. This becomes overgrown with giant hogweed and so constitutes a hazard. Suggest clearing in May and August. This could be combined with the schedule for No.1 bed

No.3 bed

The main circular path should be mowed three times, say in May, July and September. It should not be cut before May in order to encourage dandelions which attract spring butterflies. If the outer banks are to be maintained, this to be done in April, June and August.

No.4 bed

The permit holders' path and centre path to be cleared three times, say April, June and August. The bund around the east cell to be cleared at the same time.