

The Cricket at Haughley Green

Report from the Working Group – May 2022

Members of The Cricket Working Group volunteer to improve the wildlife management of The Cricket in Haughley Green. The Cricket is widely used by local residents for walking, playing and socialising; and this only increased during Covid.

Since 2009 it has been monitored in line with a Management Plan provided by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and along with the wildflower survey additional trees were planted and many birdboxes were erected. There are two distinct areas, scrub and meadow, with the separate play area. Over 115 species of grass and wildflowers are found on The Cricket. It is an amazing site!

Over the last two years, there has been less working group activity mainly due to Covid and the cycle of maintenance has been disrupted. However the group recommended the following programme of work to the Parish Council in order to bring maintenance back in line with the overall plan:

- Cut back scrub area (every three years)
- Clear overgrown footpaths
- Cut back hedges within the Cricket



Figure 1 Sheep's sorrel

Regular work that is undertaken includes:

- Conservation cut of the meadow twice a year
- Monitor and clear birdboxes
- Ad hoc repair of play equipment
- Check on the pond
- Monitor litter
- Monitor wildflower areas
- Check the memorial trees

On 5th March 2022 an oak tree was planted on The Cricket in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

For 2022/23 the plans are to:

- Continue with maintenance
- Undertake a new wildflower survey
- Plant further trees and hedging as necessary
- Update the bird-boxes



Figure 2 Cowslip

The Parish Council arranges the annual ROSPA inspection for the play equipment and a project is underway to update this particularly to add some equipment for older children.

Separately Haughley Green residents, via events held on The Cricket, had raised funds towards traffic calming, a total of £2,150, which is currently held with the Parish Council.



Figure 3 Bee orchid



Figure 4 Adders Tongue Fern



Figure 5 Star of Bethlehem

Jubilee tree planting – Viv Sydell and Rachel Eburne – 5th March 2022

