

Fairfield Association
Flora, Fauna and Orchard Management Group [FFOG]
Meeting held virtually by email
Effective date of meeting: 10 September 2020

Participants: Graham Brandwood, Dave Brookes, Steve Bullen, David Elliott, Glenys Ferguson (Mins), Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Clio Graham, Sue Nieduszynska (Chair), Ian Procter, Hilary Short,, Peter Tilley, Chris Workman

1. **Apologies:** Mick Short
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** Approved.
3. **Matters arising from Minutes:**
 - 3.1. **Orchard Neighbours:**
 - 3.1.1. **Letter:** **Hilary** has drafted a letter (which she will share with Ian) to neighbours along both the Orchard boundary and the Hay Meadow and Lower Sowerholme boundary.
 - 3.1.2. **Brash disposal:** There has been no further clearance work and the neighbour is still depositing his grass cuttings in the Orchard. **Ian** to contact **Hilary** about communicating with him.
 - 3.1.3. **Oak tree:** The work has now been done, with overhanging branches cut back to the fence line by the Tree Surgeon. **Hilary** will contact the Tree Surgeon to initiate the process of obtaining a Tree Preservation Order.
 - 3.2. **Re-location of dog waste bin:** This appears to have stalled within Lancaster City Council. The dog poo situation on the Flora path does not currently seem a problem, so no further action at present.
4. **Management:**
 - 4.1. **Arable update:** As mentioned at previous meetings, the farmer who holds the arable contract with the FA has handed responsibility for Flora Field to another farmer. The latter harvested the barley on 20th July. This was 11 days early (according to the NE Agreement) as he wanted to get the crop in at the same time as his other barley field, whilst the weather was fine. Sue notes that the two farmers work closely together and it is not clear who will have the contract in future. **Sue** will add more detail – such as harvest date – to next year’s arable contract. The margins could not be cut at the same time as the crop, so **Sue** has still to arrange for this and the cut of the beetle banks.
 - 4.2. **Grazing matters:**
 - 4.2.1. **Cattle monitoring:** A bull was introduced to the herd on 26 July for a temporary period. Herd size on 10 September was 27 animals (1.62 LU/ha) – there is no NE size restriction at this time of year. The cattle have been in the Hay Meadow to graze the hay-making aftermath.
 - 4.2.2. **Hay making:** The hay was cut on 29th August and the task completed on September 1st, yielding 15 bales (10 down on last year). Because of concern about the dampness and rotting of some of the bales in previous years a small group of Volunteers turned the grass/hay with rakes (the Contractor’s Spinner is too

large to get through the Cromwell Road gate). In future, a group of Volunteers will be put on stand-by for this task: a rapid reaction force who can be called in at the last minute (**Glenys** to add reminder to Arrangements Calendar).

4.2.3. Review meeting with the Graziers: This was held on 10th July and involved Dave, Hilary and one of the two Graziers. Dave's notes have been shared with FFOG members. Glenys has reworked the cattle spreadsheet to reflect the Graziers' plans for the herd. This was passed to Dave, Hilary and Sue soon after the meeting.

Ian will arrange for the brash along the Hay Meadow fence to be cleared once the summer growth binding it in has died back. (This job was a casualty of the lockdown.)

The Grazier intends to cut the LGGS hedge in either November or February. Ian points out that the Volunteers' work trimming back this hedge on the reserve side has resulted in lots of lower level growth. He fears that the proposed work will adversely affect this and also the stand-alone trees within the hedge.

Graham has queries and concerns about a) what happens if the proposed actions to reduce the size of the herd are not taken and b) the use of the water trough to ease the strain on School Pond, particularly as the haylage bales have been placed at the bottom of the Gun Range potentially co-locating feeding and watering.

Glenys will forward Ian and Graham's full comments to **Hilary** and **Dave** for response and any further communication with the Graziers.

4.3. Woodland and hedges:

4.3.1. Tree Surgeon: a) progress No further activity to report.

b) predator perches: In addition to the possible perch between Upper and Lower Sowerholme (July 4.7.2,) there is another at the top of a sycamore on the west side of West Field. Both of these sites are high, well beyond the capabilities of Volunteers, and inaccessible, especially to a cherry picker. Removing these perches will be expensive. There was no disagreement with Ian's suggestion that monitoring is continued as they are only potential threats to ground nesting birds. **Steve** and **Clio** to monitor and **Dave** to report to NE as necessary.

4.3.2. Environment Agency tree planting offer: Numerous phone calls, message left on mobile and landline. No response to date. **Peter** will continue his attempts to make contact.

4.3.3. Specimen tree for Paddock: The long running debate on the Paddock specimen tree has been concluded (Oliver's further investigation – instigated July 4.3.5 – producing reassuring advice from a local Forestry Consultant). The funding is available for the purchase of a wild service tree and protective timber. This will be done in the autumn when other surrounding understorey saplings will be added from the plants already ordered for the hedges (**Ian**).

4.3.4. Consultation with NE on Field Expedition P8, P16, P19A: Permission for Black Poplar by Lucy Brook was refused by NE (P8). Planting aspen and alder

buckthorn in the Pony Wood extension (P16) has been approved (**Ian** to implement). Filling in three of the corners of West Field (P19A) on the understanding that “scrub” does not exceed the specified height of the hedge has been approved but subject to permission from the RPA (request submitted by **Dave** 9th August).

4.3.5. Tree order for autumn planting: A full report was circulated on August 6th. **Ian** is progressing this in early September.

4.4. Fingerpost by canal: Replaced. **Peter** and **Winston** have now taken on the challenge of installing **David's** whiteboard for recording wildlife sightings.

4.5. Rush cutting: The rushes were cut on 13th August by a new Contractor. 12 large bales (estimated a 300- 500 kg/ bale, i.e. 4-6 tonnes) were taken off. However, because of the wet conditions, the tractors caused rutting in Carr House Meadow, Big Meadow and the Hay Meadow. Also, some cut rush was unable to be collected up.

Ian has organised Volunteers to scythe additional rides and rake excess rush either to the edge of the field if fairly close or onto existing rush to minimise re-seeding into the grazing area.

The rushes have now been machine cut three times, the first using a softrak machine, the other two with tractors. On both of the last two occasions there has been a problem with the use of heavy plant in wet conditions. There was no disagreement with **Sue's** suggestion that any future cut is done with a softrak machine, as used by other conservation organisations, although this will require forward panning and is likely to be more expensive.

Graham's latest inspection (5.1) reveals that there is already considerable regrowth. **Sue** has asked the Graziers to encourage the cattle to eat it by confining them for periods within Big Meadow. In addition to this immediate measure, FFOG members have suggested that a) advice is sought, b) electric fencing might be worth exploring to confine the cattle more closely and c) weed wiping and other control measures (already the subject of considerable discussion at previous FFOG meetings) be revisited if necessary.

Sue will ask **Richard Storton** (see 4.9) for advice and for up to date information on the local availability of a softrak machine. Interested members of FFOG will be convened to review the rush situation on site in early Spring 2021 and devise a management plan for approval at FFOG May 2021 (**Glenys** for Arrangements Calendar).

4.6. Bamboo control: **Graham's** update circulated. **Graham** and **Ian** have started control work on the largest stand of bamboo as it the easiest to tackle and the lessons learnt can be applied to the others. It is proving a difficult task. The stand has been cut down with a chainsaw and a trench dug to prevent rhizomes spreading out. But it is already putting up more shoots, despite the addition of a tarpaulin. **Sue** has informed the neighbour that work is proposed on the stand of bamboo close to his boundary (and also close to the reedbed, July 5.1).

Dave has provided advice on the use of vinegar (mentioned by **Graham** as a possible alternative action). **Glenys** to forward this to **Graham** and **Ian**. They have also been sent the response **Sue** received from **NE** to her request for advice. This implies that

bamboo must be kept out of the reedbed (bamboo is not otherwise on the list of invasive species that require control) and that NE is unlikely to give permission to use chemical methods of control.

Sue will re-contact the neighbour, explain the difficulties of controlling bamboo and acquire his contact details. **Graham** and **Ian** then to liaise with the neighbour directly and explore the options for tackling the stand of bamboo nearest his property.

4.7. Flora Field lapwing project: Following on from July item 4.8, a field visit was convened (limited in numbers because of Covid restrictions) to consider ideas on site. The outcome was reported by Dan Haywood (paper circulated). There was no objection to going ahead with the project outlined, which aims to make the arable field more attractive to lapwings by adding scarified areas and improving the water areas. However, some points were raised by meeting members:

- A JCB would be unsuitable: a minimum 3ton tracked 360 excavator is required.
- it is unclear whether the work will be that depicted in Fig. 2a or the more extensive work shown in Fig. 3.
- Is a pond/scrape on the northern boundary (top of Lower Sowerholme slope) likely to hold water? Is extra clay needed?

Sue has written the first draft of a detailed implementation plan, circulated to the Lapwing Group on 20 August with a request for volunteers to take on the various tasks (**Group members** to contact Sue). This will be developed, including addressing the points detailed above, for November FFOG (**Sue**).

4.8. Use of willow in wetland areas: No report. Will be taken off the agenda until Dave has something ready to come to FFOG (**Glenys**).

4.9. Nettles and thistles: There is a developing problem with nettles and thistles in various parts of Flora Field. In particular:

- they have become dominant in the bird seed margin along the top path by Pony Wood and are spreading into the crop area. There is a reservoir of these plants in the “buffer zone” and between the fence and the path. (Photographs on the FA’s Dropbox.)
- there is an infestation of thistle in the wildflower margin along the Aldcliffe Road wall, to the southern end
- thistles are spreading considerably on the Lower Sowerholme boundary, and the balance between thistle and knapweed appears to be changing

The FA is required by NE to control these “undesirables”. Moreover their spread into the crop area may make it harder to resist a request by the arable farmer to use herbicide. Given that the margins – especially the new ones around Pony Wood – were created out of what was a fertile field, there is concern that the problem will get worse.

Sue has asked **Graham** to add monitoring of the margins to his monthly inspections. He agrees that control work should to be started as soon as possible. **Sue** will invite FFOG members (max. 6) to a meeting on site to discuss strategies. She has already sought advice from Richard Storton (who offers only cutting and pulling repeated over

several years as an alternative to herbicide) and more may be forthcoming if he visits (Sue).

4.10. Approved plant access routes: Prompted by some damage caused by a tractor using the Hay Meadow for access as part of the rush cutting exercise, Sue and Dave are identifying approved routes for contractors onto the reserve. (Any other route only to be used in consultation.) **Dave** is producing a map, which will also show double gates and indicate where there are limitations such as the bollard, narrowness or wetness of access.

4.11. 'No entry' type notices: **Sue** and **Hilary** are writing and posting on gates notices to deter public access to the nature reserve fields. They are also reviewing the 'Emergency' notices in the boards.

4.12. Orchard owl box: The owl box on tree 533 at the Towneley Close entrance has fallen off. Here it only housed squirrels. There was no objection to **Ians N.** and **P.** relocating it to tree 522 in the wilderness area of the Orchard.

5. Monitoring:

5.1. Maintenance and HLS habitat inspections: Two reports circulated. Rush regrowth dealt with in 4.5 above. Graham also notes that the West Field scrape does not appear to be holding water again, although there is no significant outflow into Lucy Brook.

FFOG Sept 2019 4.5 agreed to the creation of a wildflower patch either side of the Fauna path boardwalk at Ash Tree corner. The ground has now been cleared and is ready for autumn sowing. However the spare seed from Flora Field (July 4.1) is not suitable. Graham and Oliver have identified an appropriate mix (native seed, suitable for heavy clay/silt loam and a damp shady location) and this has been purchased. **Graham** intends to sow in October.

In Upper Sowerholme, bulrushes need removing and there are three small silver birches that could potentially be re-located to Pony Wood. **Ian** plans for WWG to spend a couple of September sessions clearing the channel and associated ponds including the bulrushes. Assessment of the silver birches will take place at the same time.

Graham will now be monitoring and reporting on the state of the reserve on a monthly basis over the winter.

5.2. Progress with surveys:

5.2.1. Odonata: Three reports (circulated) received from Phil Hendry since the last meeting. Phil was concerned to observe brown hawkers failing to oviposit in Cromwell's Pond as it was choked with horsetail. **Graham** has started to implement Phil's advice to keep a small patch of clear water (min 1 sq ft) in the ponds through to the end of October.

5.2.2. Meadow and Breeding Birds: Surveys still to be submitted. **Sue** to follow up. Following the Ecologist's advice (July 5.2.1), Graham has checked the stems of the marsh orchids. They are hollow, confirming they are *southern* marsh.

5.2.3. Bumblebees: Spreadsheet of results circulated. Oliver only managed two surveys of the hay meadows, in May and late June. He comments that it has been an odd year for bees in hay meadows everywhere in N Lancs. The April/May drought has affected flowering times and nectar availability (from yellow rattle in

particular) causing bumblebees to divert to gardens. His first survey of all the margins in Flora Field in late July produced patchy results but revealed that Phacelia and Fodder Radish are popular with bumblebees, and Common Knapweed a magnet for Red-Tailed Bumblebees.

5.3. Photographic recording of ash dieback: The detailed report mentioned at the last meeting (July 5.3) was circulated along with a map giving location numbers. The photographs are held at <http://fairfieldassociation.org/ash.htm>. Where dieback was found (25 trees), it has been graded: 11 trees where it was judged extensive. The large, mature ash trees appeared clear, with the exception of tagged tree 538 where the dieback was assessed as minimal. This survey will be repeated annually, **Glenys** to add reminder in Calendar.

6. Volunteer activities:

6.1. Reports for July and August: Ian's full reports for July and August attached. Work under the 'dispersed group' protocol has been productive and successful. Lots of work has been done by Associate Volunteers.

6.2. Proposed tasks: No objections to the task list circulated, which has also been considered by the Volunteer Tasks Sub Group given the short time to the Saturday session.

From 14 September, the permitted size of public gatherings will be tightened to a maximum of six. This is actually how the FA has been operating since resuming volunteering after the lockdown. However, in consultation with the FA and FFOG Chairs, **Ian** has modified the assembly of Volunteers for WWG and Saturday sessions. They will gather as teams of no more than six by staggering start times and pre-allocating people to their teams. Apart from this, the 'dispersed group' protocol for volunteer working (reproduced as an Appendix below) remains in place.

7. Standing items:

7.1. Arrangements:

Ian will:

- Assess mortality of Pony Wood planting and arrange for replacement as necessary.
- Clear Anna's Stone.
- Arrange flailing of north (& west?) hedges of West Field with neighbouring farmer
- Be alert for falling temperature to remove West Field pump before it freezes.
- Review and update first aid equipment and remind First Aiders of what there is and where it can be found at November Volunteer session. Plus annual check of defibrillator including battery.
- Consider commissioning annual tree survey and safety checks (last end Nov 2019) (with **Hilary**).

Sue will:

- Commission winter bird survey.
- Remind Lancashire County Council to do end of season work on Long Pads path vegetation.
- Consider an 'event' for national Tree Charter Day (end Nov?) (with **Hilary**).

Glenys will:

- Arrange flush counts to start October (incl. liaise with Graziers).
- Request beehive report for next meeting.

7.2. Financial control

Ian has various items in the pipeline.

- a) Timber costs for specimen tree and West Field corners £553 of which £173 covered by donation.
- b) Fence posts and wire. 50 posts (for new hedge and replacement of broken posts) @ £3.84 (incl VAT) = £192. Reel of barbed wire. £41.
- c) Hedging stakes. 200 (initial estimate) @ £12 per 25 = £96
- d) Defibrillator. The battery and pads expire on 8th September and so I have just ordered a replacement. £74. (Note, this is a recurring expense, the battery and pads last for 2 years or until the defibrillator is used).

Rush cutting £720 – item 4.5 (Sue). Dave:has updated the annual revenue budget to include £350/yr for rush cutting by machine, assuming this happens once every three years at significantly increased cost compared to this year's tractor.

Wildflower seed – item 5.1. Kindly donated by Graham.

7.3. Organised events for notification to FA: None.

7.4. Morecambe Bay Facilitation Fund partnership: Nothing to report.

8. Date/place of next meetings: on or around Thursday 5th November, Thursday 14th January 2021, format and location tba

Ian Procter's Report on Volunteer Activities:

1st July 2020

This was the first 'dispersed group' volunteer session after the Covid-19 lockdown.

The protocol for this is attached as Appendix I.

On an improving summer morning two separate teams of 6 formed the Wednesday Work Group (WWG).

Team A worked under Keith's direction continuing the summer pruning of the Orchard fruit trees.

Team B cleared the Long Pads footpath between Lucy Brook and the Flora Field double gates of overhanging vegetation. This included closing off the path using the West Field gates and a steward directing pedestrians through the field. This worked well.

8th July 2020

Again, two separate groups of 6 formed the dispersed group WWG on a pleasant summer's morning.

Team A continued the summer pruning of the Orchard fruit trees.

Team B

- Scythed the thistles in School Fields
- Ragworted in School Field
- The resulting bags were transported direct to Graham's car and thence to the tip. A record 28 bags!

11th July 2020

On a pleasant summer morning the monthly Saturday volunteers met under the 'dispersed group' working protocol.

- One group of 5:
 - Did a ragwort sweep through Big Meadow and more or less finished off the ragworting of the School Fields for this phase of the summer.
 - Continued to collect yellow rattle seed from the Hay Meadow.

- A group of 6
 - Cut down and cleared a branch of the aspen at the bottom of the Towneley Close path. It had been overhanging the fruit trees.
 - Cut back the vegetation surrounding the apple trees alongside the Orchard / Pads footpath hedge to leave about a metre-wide area at the base of each tree.
 - Trimmed along the Orchard paths where there was overhang and cleared away the debris.

15th July 2020

On a wet, humid morning two teams of 6 met as 'dispersed groups'.

- Team A continued the summer pruning of the fruit trees.
- Team B
 - Cleared around the hedge saplings planted last winter alongside Lucy Brook and Anna's Pond. Fallen whips were straightened and protectors removed by the cows replaced. About a 90% success rate which given the Spring drought is most satisfactory.
 - Cleared debris from the trimming of the Long Pads from the hedge to allow light to the bushes.
 - Finished the trimming back of paths in the Orchard.

22nd July 2020

The WWG met on what threatened to be a wet morning but stayed dry in the following dispersed working teams

- Team A included 5 volunteers who tackled the clearance of the strip of land behind the fruit circle preparatory to planting it this winter.
- Team B included 3 volunteers who scythed the thistles in Lower Sowerholme.
- Team C included 3 volunteers who collected yellow rattle seed from the Hay Meadow, pulled out some ragwort and took the soon to seed flower heads off thistles between the stock fence and the Fauna path.

29th July 2020

The WWG enjoyed a pleasant summer's morning.

- Team A included 6 volunteers who scythed thistles and nettles in West Field, Big Meadow and the Paddock.
- Team B had 3 volunteers who made a start to removing the invasive bamboo in Upper Sowerholme.
- Team C included 4 volunteers who
 - Did a sweep of Big Meadow for ragwort
 - Trimmed back the Pads and Long Pads footpaths for overhanging vegetation.
 - Removed self-seeded sycamore saplings from Pony Wood. NOTE
 - There are remarkably few given the number of trees and sycamore's usual invasiveness.
 - There are two near bird box P5 which need spades to dig out.
 - Trimmed back overhanging vegetation along the Pony Wood path
 - Check out the bird cherry for grass growing within their tree protectors.

Associate volunteers in July

- (back end of June)
 - litter picking around the Reserve
 - Posted notices on Long Pads path warning of clearance work on July 1st.
- Cleared the potential wildflower areas at Ash Tree Corner. (X 2)
- Ragworted in the hay meadows and Lower Sowerholme. (Two sweeps)
- Cleared dock from the hay meadows, bagged it up and transported it to the shed.
- Completed the clearing of vegetation enveloping our saplings in the Old Damson copse.
- 20 bags of ragwort to the tip. (Plus three other tip journeys: ? number of bags)
- Collected yellow rattle seed from the Hay Meadow
- Thistles scythed at the top end of the Hay meadow. (X 2 sessions)
- Mowed the Orchard grass (X 2)
- Finished off (for now!) scything the thistles in the School Fields.
- Continued the Orchard fruit trees summer pruning.

- Repaired the fence between the Hay Meadow and Upper Sowerholme to make it cow proof.
- A temporary wire fence erected around the heeled in saplings in the Hay Meadow to protect them from cattle.
- Various fence posts replaced / repaired.
- Trimmed back the Pads path between the Orchard and Big meadow.
- Pulled ragwort out of the Big Meadow bog area. (X 2)

5th August 2020

The Wednesday Work Group (WWG) had to be cancelled because of heavy and continuous rain.

8th August 2020

In Ian's absence Graham led the Saturday volunteer session with five other volunteers.

- A start was made on the second trimming around the Pony Wood path saplings.
- Ferns and ramsons, sourced in Upper Sowerholme, were replanted in Pony Wood.

12th August 2020

The WWG was cancelled due to holiday commitments.

19th August 2020

The WWG resumes after an unprecedented two week break on a fine summer's morning. The volunteers are split into teams.

- Six form a scything group to re-scythe the nettle beds in Pony Wood.
- Two volunteers rake up afterwards.
- Six volunteers are armed with shears.
 - On the outward and return journey to Pony Wood, the Pads footpath and Orchard paths are trimmed back.
 - The hedge saplings along the Pony Wood path are trimmed.
- One volunteer starts to dig out a section of the Pony Wood nettles to see if this can be practically achieved. A start is also made on retrieving the old fence buried in thick grass.

26th August 2020

The WWG meets on a dry morning after yet another deluge of heavy rain. Everything is very wet, especially the Big Meadow which I have never known as wet. We welcomed back Richard and Martin C. after long absences, sadly, fleeting visits as work commitments constrain.

- Three volunteers head back to Pony Wood to finish off the scything of the nettles and clearing them to piles.
- One volunteer does further work on the invasive bamboo in Upper Sowerholme. Graham will present an updated report to FFOG.
- The redundant wire fence in Pony Wood is finally retrieved from enveloping grass and is now ready for transportation as scrap.
- Six volunteers worked through the Orchard trimming back overhanging vegetation, exaggerated by the heavy rain and impeding the mowing of the grass as well as the free passage of people.
- Four volunteers scythed in Big Meadow including the corners where the machine had not reached, winding rides through the swamp and round the edges of the scrapes.
- Having finished in the Orchard the six took up rakes to clear cut soft rush in Big Meadow left by the machines and the scythers.

31st August 2020

Seven volunteers, responding at very short notice, rowed up and tedded the two hay meadows to assist the drying out of the hay. A mammoth task by hand. Now that we know that the job can't be done by machine which is too big to get into the field, we must be better prepared in future and have as big a team as possible on standby.

Associate volunteers in August

- Reset the pond / scrape markers in Big Meadow ready for the machine cutting of the rush (X2).
- Ragworted Big Meadow
- Ragworted the Big Meadow marsh.

- Ragworted the hay meadows X 2, plus removing thistle.
- Mowed the Orchard grass.
- Placing the marker stakes for the rush cutting.
- Assisting the rush cutter.
- Repaired and reinstated the finger post sign on Aldcliffe Road.
- Repaired the Pony Wood gate so that the bolt slides home.
- Sorted out the loppers and shears and put aside the defective ones.
- Sharpened a chain saw.
- Continued to conduct the hedge survey.

Protocol for dispersed group working as updated 25th June 2020

(Now modified to include pre-allocation to subgroups with staggered start times – see 6.2)

1. General points

- 1.1. Anyone displaying symptoms of illness should not engage in any of the following activities.
- 1.2. All work should be carried out maintaining the two-metre rule separating all individuals not of the same household.
- 1.3. Volunteers should preferably wear their own gloves. If necessary, pairs of gloves can be loaned to volunteers for the duration.
- 1.4. Tools. Where possible, volunteers should bring their own tools and keep them for their sole use. FA tools cannot, with some important exceptions, be allocated to specific individuals. We are likely to be looking at a long period of time and a large number of potential volunteers using a limited number of tools. It is thus important to have a cleaning procedure in place. There is no water supply to the shed but disinfectant is available and tools wiped over after use. This will be the Volunteer Organiser's (VO) responsibility.
- 1.5. Wheelbarrows should not be used down the narrow Pads footpaths.
- 1.6. Volunteers should be responsible for supplying their own hand sanitizer.
- 1.7. Volunteers should make their own decisions about the wearing of face masks.
- 1.8. It seems now unlikely that an age-based Government restriction will be used. Insofar as it is then volunteers must obey the law.

4. Tasks to be done in dispersed groups following social distancing rules.

4.1. *Protocol*

- 4.1.1. The maximum number of volunteers at a session will be 12. If a session includes more than 7 people then subgroups of up to 6 people will be formed with specified tasks and leaders responsible for co-ordination and health and safety.
- 4.1.2. There will be a 'booking in' system. For the Saturday sessions Jonathan's email list will be used to advertise a session and invite volunteers to apply. For the Wednesday Work Group the text list will be used. The VO will make decisions as to which applications are accepted and inform people accordingly. Decisions will be made on the basis of skill levels and turn taking.
- 4.1.3. The meeting place for the session will be the Stump Circle.
- 4.1.4. As is normal, prior to the session, the VO will gather the necessary tools for the session in barrows at the shed yard. The VO will ask a small number of people booked in for the session to wait at the shed fence to push the barrows down to the Stump Circle.
- 4.1.5. The VO will give the usual outline of what tasks are to be tackled and reinforces the social distance rules along with any normal health and safety advice.
- 4.1.6. Once tooled up the group must maintain social distance whilst travelling to the work site and whilst undertaking the work. As far as possible the barrows will be left at the Stump Circle and tools carried by individuals.
- 4.1.7. If necessary, the First Aid barrow will be stripped down and the contents carried by individuals.
- 4.1.8. At each session a notice should be displayed near the group stating that work necessary for the maintenance of the Reserve is being undertaken and that social distancing is being followed.
- 4.1.9. Individuals should supply their own refreshment but there will not be a communal break.