



Friends of Selsdon Wood

Working to improve our wood

To Meike Weiser & Simon Levy

14.1.13

DRAFT SELSDON WOOD FRIENDS MANAGEMENT PLANS last updated 28.10.10

It is over 2 years since we last updated this plan and quite a lot has been achieved by the FSW and the Council in this time:

1. The name board project is complete. Should we consider naming/ numbering the 5 fields?
2. We have produced a Red & Green Walk leaflet.
3. We have produced a dedicated seat and bench map – which probably needs updating.
4. We have produced draft checklists of plants, fungi, birds. – but we lack someone to look after these.
5. After the National Trust would not finance a new notice board, against the wishes of the local Centre, we erected notice boards at 7 of the 9 gates.
6. We erected 3 commemorative plaques to mark the 50th Anniversary, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Croydon's Centenary.
7. We cleared the area around Linden Glade to encourage butterflies.
8. Many dangerous holes and metal obstructions were dealt with by the Council or FSW.
9. The Council with help from the Friends continued clearing dangerous or obstructive trees.
10. Jon Wren arranged that intruding saplings in the Centenary plantation and around all fields was cut during the 2011/12 winter.
11. We had cut the first year's growth of bracken & bramble in the Gorse plantation but we did not think it necessary last year.

DRAFT SELSDON WOOD FRIENDS MANAGEMENT PLANS 14.1.13

The Friends are undertaking 4 main projects. It is apparent that the aims of forestry, conservation and local obligation cannot always be the same. Each site plan must decide the emphasis. It is hoped that the Council can provide the Friends with the necessary technical advice and take notice of the limitations of the Friends to fulfil the plan. The following shows the current situation and then suggests future management.

We would appreciate comment.

1. LAUREL:

This has been almost completely cut down and treated in Court Wood with the invaluable help of Cyril Whatmore and Pat Crooke. This included re-cutting trees cut down by BTCV who did not treat the stumps.

Further management:

We will continue to treat Laurel wherever we can find it. I hope to find someone who will plot the laurel over the rest of the site. We expect that after a suitable interval (2 to 5 years?) a team covers the ground again.

2. COPPICING:

We continue to extend our area with the help of Cyril. Neale Fox is co-ordinating the 'sale' for donations for a limited amount of timber. This is mainly from our coppice plot with a little from timber felled by contractors or the FSW for safety reasons. Another charcoal burn is planned for this May.

Further management:

- ▶ Friends will extend the coppice.

3. CENTENARY PLANTATION:

The Friends have been following the guidelines set by Croydon Council – to restore the commemorative plantation as far as possible. As this is a commemorative plantation we can accept that many trees are deformed.

Further management:

- ▶ We hope that a bi-annual cutting regime can be repeated during the 2013/14 winter.

- ▶ Friends will control hawthorn, blackthorn, rose & blackberry.
- ▶ Should oak whips be planted where there are gaps?
- ▶ What selection should take place with the oaks?

4. JUBILEE PLANTATION

The Council erected a new fence and gate and cut down a number of large trees at the lower west end. The FSW erected a deer fence round the lower end and planted 240 whips. The Selsdon brownies planted 60 to mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

Further management:

- ▶ Friends will control saplings and unwanted seedlings. Stinging nettles etc will be cut each winter and again at the beginning of June to encourage butterflies.
- ▶ Most other trees to be coppiced/ pollarded to knee height on a 1/3 rotation by the Friends.
- ▶ Old man's beard is a major problem that threatens the project.

5. GORSE PLANTATION

Further management:

- ▶ Friends will continue to monitor the bracken, bramble and sapling growth.

David Malins & Ted Forsyth

SELSDON WOOD COUNCIL WORK LIST OUTSTANDING

Croydon Council has the following projects underway:

1. The repair of the fence beside the North gate to The Bridle Path.
DM