

Jubilee Pasture

Note – plans have been developed in Inkscape with layered vector graphics so they can be readily altered to show/hide/change/add features as required.

Site description

Area: 1.75 acres, bounded to north/west by narrow road, to east by ditch, hedge and mature trees, and to south by beck and mature trees.

Soil type: Clay, poorly drained with areas of standing water in winter

Soil nutrients: Samples of drier parts of grassland in February 2022 gave measurements of P index 0.9 (very low), K index 2.2 (normal), Mg index 4.1 (very high), pH 5.6.

The low P index suggests a potential for high plant diversity. The wet, slightly acidic conditions should be taken into account when choosing species to introduce.

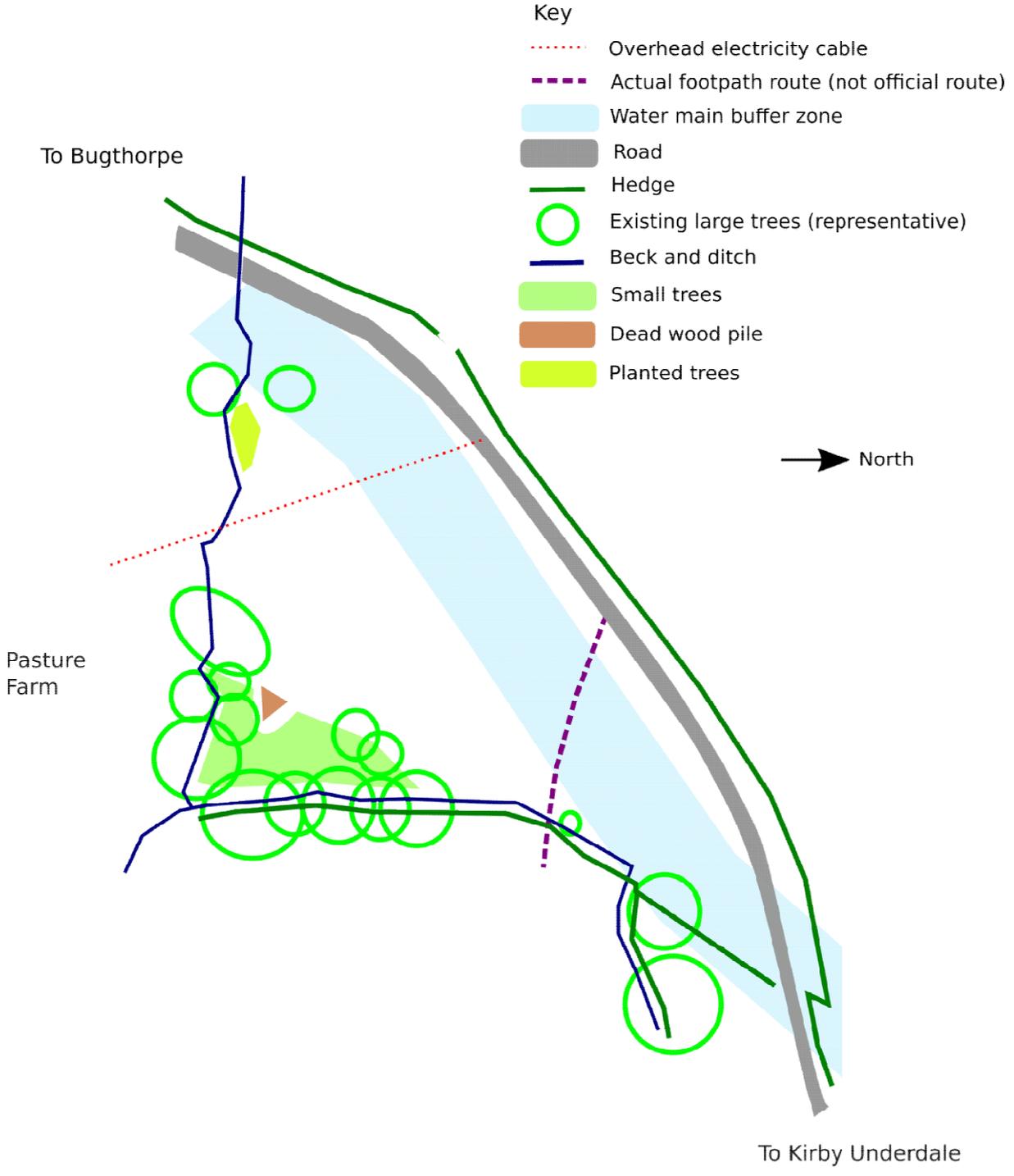
Existing features (Plan 1)

Feature	Comments
Public footpath	Provides opportunity to link to footpath network.
	Route must not be obstructed.
	Note that actual route on ground differs from route on maps.
Overhead electricity cable:	Restricts tall tree planting underneath.
Water main	Restricts tree planting within 10m.
Beck and ditch	Small beck arising from springs on Cheesecake Wold.
	Ditch draining fields between here and Kirby Underdale.
	Flow increases rapidly and greatly [?] after heavy rain. Beck never dries but ditch does [?]
	Probably no fish present, which is valuable for pond development.
Hedge	Composed mainly of blackthorn. Dog [?] rose present.
	Cut annually [?].
Existing area of mature and small trees in SE corner	Canopy creates areas of full and partial shade.
	Mature trees forming canopy include horse chestnut, ash, sycamore, aspen.
	Small trees developing at the edge of the area include aspen, goat willow (male catkins).
	Trees in the understory include elder.
	Ground flora including ivy, nettle, bramble, cleavers, dog's mercury, arum lily, herb robert, herb bennet, red campion, creeping buttercup, hogweed, male [?] fern, cow parsley, celandine, dock sp., grass spp..
	No current management.
	Includes an old dead wood pile.
Beckside	Beck-level area not studied as to be dug out for beck-fed pond.
	Ground-level area of not recorded yet but no interesting species seen.
	Area of ornamental trees planted by Pasture Farm with mown grass underneath.
Pasture	Cut annually for silage/haylage/hay in July.
	Flora includes wet meadow species such as great burnet and meadowsweet. See separate list of species from monitoring.

Plan 1

Jubilee Pasture, Existing features

Traced from Halifax Estates 1:1000 map and Google Maps satellite image



Proposed Developments

Developments of the site will be consistent with, and seek to achieve, the following aims:

- To create an area where the residents of Bugthorpe, Kirby Underdale and nearby villages, and visiting walkers and cyclists, can enjoy the flora and fauna of the site and benefit from the surrounding landscape.

The site will be visually attractive, in keeping with it being in the countryside rather than a garden, and will allow for people to walk throughout the area.

- To encourage existing plant species of conservation value, and to introduce additional plant species of conservation value.

Species will be native and within their natural range, with some exceptions for non-invasive historically naturalised species such as wild-type snowdrops (not cultivars). Wherever possible, seed and plant material will be obtained from non-commercial local sources to help maintain genetic diversity.

- To create habitats for, and provide food for, invertebrates, birds, mammals, amphibians and fungi.

This will be achieved through vegetation management, creation of a pond and consideration of microhabitats such as dead wood.

Fertilisers (synthetic or organic) and insecticides will not be used. Herbicides will only be used as method of last resort.

- To educate people, especially children, about the nature and history of the local area.

This will be achieved through an information board and through organised activities.

- To commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee of 2022.

This will be marked by an inscribed bench.

The developments will:

- Provide a range of one-off or regular activities in which residents can participate, and so benefit from the social activity and sense of contribution to the project.
- Be planned to ensure that they do not require undue time or cost in future maintenance or management.
- Be under the oversight of Bugthorpe and Kirby Underdale Parish Council but organised by the Friends of Jubilee Meadow. They will be agreed by the owner, Halifax Estates, and tenants of the site, currently Wardell & Sons.

The aims above have been agreed by representatives of Friends of Jubilee Pasture, Bugthorpe and Kirby Underdale Parish Council, Halifax Estates and the current tenants. The proposed developments described below will be refined as the project gets underway in 2022, and as it evolves in future years.

Zones for proposed developments (Plan 2)

Number on plan	Description
1 Existing trees	Manage existing area of trees to increase diversity of understory. This may include reducing ground cover of ivy. Depending on how they develop through the year, other species such as nettle and cleavers may need to be reduced. This may need to be managed on a regular basis.
	Species which may be introduced at appropriate times of year, in the first year or later years, in areas with an appropriate degree of shade: wild garlic, wood anemones, bluebells, violets, primroses. FIRST PLANTING COMPLETED including primroses and violets. May do further plantings in the future.
	Spread of aspen may need to be managed in future years.
	Leave dead wood pile undisturbed.
2 Pond	In first spring, dig out a pond in the sunken area beside the beck (to be constructed by Halifax Estates following the methods they have used previously). Allow natural colonisation of the new habitat.
	In first spring, transplant marginal vegetation from local sources [?] e.g. marsh marigold, butterbur [?].
3 New trees and shrubs	In first spring, plant trees from Woodland Trust. Plant in a random pattern with areas of higher and lower density. Plant taller species nearer the existing trees. COMPLETED (planted silver birch, rowan, oak sp, wild cherry, field maple, grey willow).
	In first spring, plant spring flower species suited to partial shade e.g. snowdrops, aconites. . FIRST PLANTING COMPLETED including snowdrops and aconites. May do further plantings in the future.
	In first autumn, plant shrubs in clusters within new tree area. Choose species which will provide floral resources e.g. guelder rose, spindle, hazel, alder buckthorn.
	Trees may be managed in future years to prevent the whole area becoming inaccessible as they grow together.
	Tree guards to be removed as soon as possible.
	Future management of grass etc [?] Poss need to cut as would cut a verge, at least where spring flowers are planted.
4 Beckside	Beckside vegetation – Shrubs to provide screening for Pasture Farm and floral resources e.g. dogwood, male goat willow [?]
5 Near bridge	Currently area of dense uncut vegetation, primarily meadowsweet. No particular plan for this area.
6 Pasture	Pasture to be converted to flower-rich meadow (over the course of a number of years), through altered management and introduction of material from local hay meadows.
	In first spring, reduce vegetation and create some disturbed soil to encourage germination from seed bank, ideally by grazing. ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY COMPLETED. Due to the weather, by the time the soil and animals were ready for grazing, various desirable species had already started growing and cuckoo flower was flowering. It was therefore decided that spring grazing would be counterproductive. Instead, small areas were raked to remove dead vegetation (primarily grass) and micro areas within these were disturbed manually. This was not considered likely to be particularly effective due to a mat of roots covering much of the soil, and disturbance of this simply revealing solid clay rather than a friable tilth. Therefore, only a small proportion of the site was covered.

	In first spring, sow seed from Lower Derwent Valley in pots. IN PROCESS. Seed sown and seedlings now being potted up as they develop true leaves. Most species yet to be identified.
	In first summer, cut hay and harrow then spread green hay, ideally from Bishop Wilton Poor Land.
	In first autumn, plant out pot-grown plants if ready.
	In first year after hay spreading, possibly cut several times to reduce dominance by established species.
	Ongoing management as per traditional hay meadow i.e. cutting after seeding, removal of plant material, followed by grazing if possible.
	Determine appropriate way ahead following spring and summer monitoring of plant species present. Possible spreading of additional hay and planting of further pot-grown plants in future years.
7 Bench	Bench commemorating jubilee. To be positioned to give a view of the pond and meadow, and not overlook Pasture Farm.
	To be secured if it is expensive.
	Possibly to be associated with a living willow sculpture [?].
8 Sign	Information sign. Position and content to be decided. To be designed by school [?]

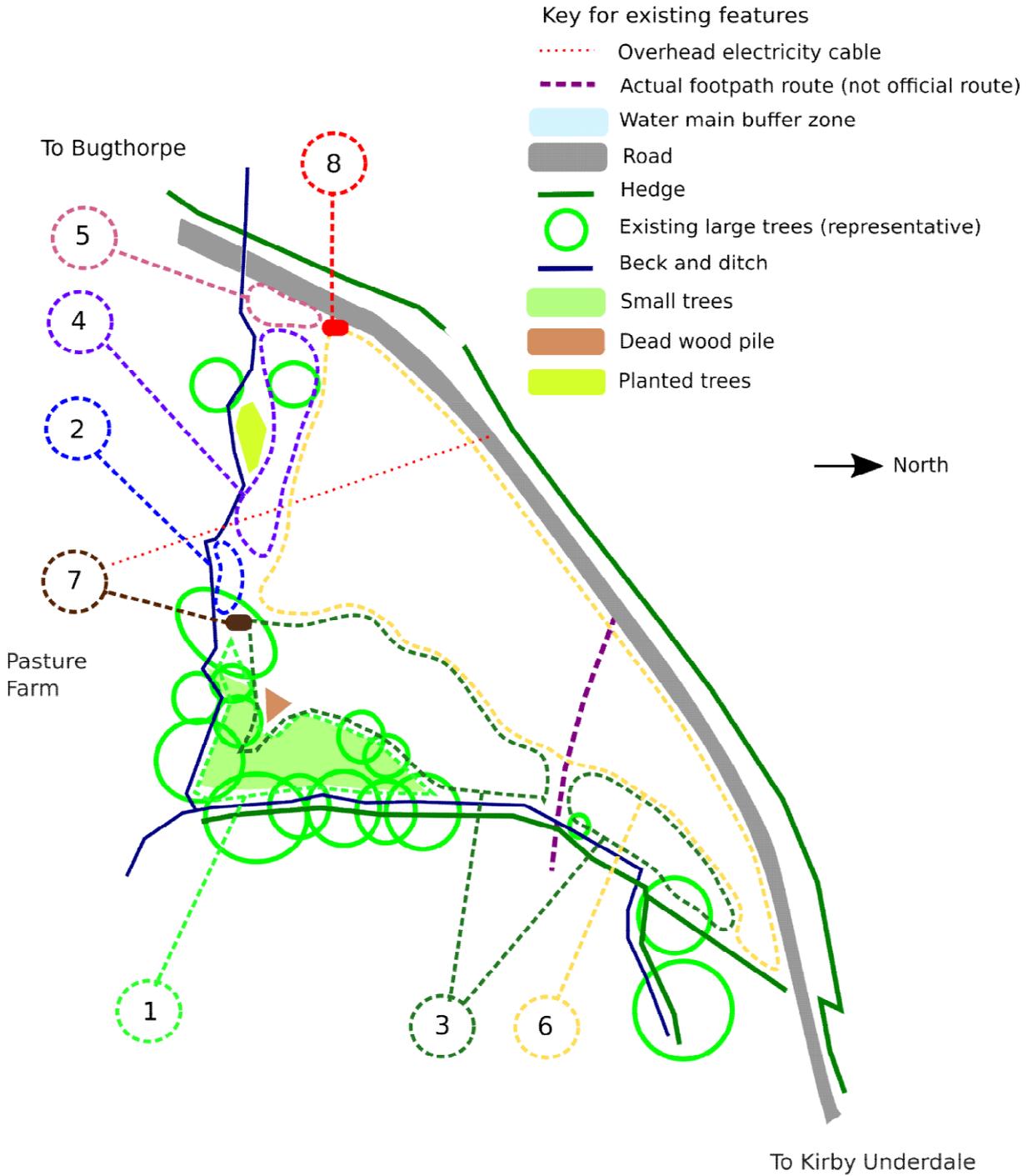
Also poss somewhere cowslips, honeysuckle, dog rose, crab apple?

Plan 2

Jubilee Pasture, Proposed Zones for Development

See accompanying text for descriptions of each zone.

Traced from Halifax Estates 1:1000 map and Google Maps satellite image



Updated 13 May 2022

Wildlife-based activities

See separate timetable for full list of activities including bench, picnics etc., and see action plan for evaluation activities relating to heritage lottery funding if received.

Potential activities for Friends of Jubilee Pasture in 2022.

- Spring flower planting in suitable areas of new trees: snowdrops, aconites, primroses [done] .
- Reducing ivy and other dominant species in wooded area, followed by planting of bluebells, wild garlic, wood anemones [some in spring, anemones in autumn?].
- Growing on plants if LDV seeds germinate [through summer].
- Help set up electric fence for grazing [summer, exact time to be determined by timing of hay cut].
- Spreading of green hay [summer, exact time determined by source meadow].
- Planting of pot-grown plants if ready [autumn].
- Shrub planting [autumn].
- Woodmeadow Trust propagation workshop [autumn, if funded].

Other Activities

- Planting of Woodland Trust trees [done, Halifax Estates].
- Spring grazing [alternative undertaken due to conditions, Katherine Robinson].
- Try germinating LDV seeds and pot up desirable forbs [in process, Katherine Robinson].
- Pond construction [Halifax Estates, if funded].
- Preparing grassland for hay spreading [Wardells?].
- Approx. monthly monitoring of flowering species [Katherine Robinson].