



# Galleywood Common

## Local Nature Reserve

### Management Plan 2007-2017



The presence of Great Crested Newts will require management of the pond and adjacent foraging area (up to 500m) to be carried out in such a way as not to cause damage to the Newts or their habitat. Some management work may need to be carried out under licence issued by Natural England.

#### Napoleonic Defences

See year 2

#### Marsh

- Maintain as marsh
- Remove invading Willow and brambles

#### Year 4 (Oct 2011 – Sept 2012)

- HS2**
- Maintain as heath
  - Remove enriched topsoil to a maximum depth of 100mm

#### Napoleonic Defences

See year 2

- P2 (Mill Pond)**
- Retain large Oaks on boundary with Margaretting Rd, but the lower branches overhanging the pond to be removed



#### History

Galleywood Common recorded in Domesday (1086) at around 500 acres, survives today at around one quarter of this size. The historic racecourse on The Common, was the scene of the Chelmsford races for 176 years from 1759 to 1935, when it reverted to pony racing until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. Galleywood racecourse was one of the oldest in England and the principle racecourse in Essex.

In 1803 defensive fortifications were constructed to the south of Chelmsford in response to the threat of a French invasion by Napoleon, and were intended to block an advance on London from a possible landing on the Essex coast. Two artillery forts were constructed, one at Widford commanding the Clacton Road and one at Galleywood on the racecourse astride the Margaretting road blocking the Maldon Road

The Common was registered as Common land in 1965. When the scheme of Regulation and Management 1965 was made under the Commons Act of 1899. There are three registered Commoners who were granted grazing rights for a combined total of 82 animals. A Commoner is a

person who owns land to which Common rights on Galleywood Common are attached.

The Common was confirmed as a Local Nature Reserve on 14 July 1993. Galleywood Common comprises areas of heathland, mire, grassland, woodland and ponds. The diversity of habitats makes The Common one of the most significant areas of semi-natural vegetation in Essex.

#### What is Lowland Heath?

Lowland heath is a man made landscape, which has developed over thousands of years to produce a variety of unique plant and animal communities. It is considered so important that it features in national, county and local biodiversity action plans. Biodiversity is the term used to describe the total wealth of species and habitats. This leaflet includes a year by year summary of the Galleywood Common Management Plan.

The full management plan can be viewed by contacting Parks and Heritage Services, Civic Centre, Duke Street or by viewing it on the borough council parks web site



[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/index.cpm?articleid=6183](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/index.cpm?articleid=6183) and follow the links. Regular routine maintenance is carried throughout The Common following the annual work listed in the management plan.

The characteristically open landscape of lowland heath is dominated by low growing shrubs (like heathers) and grasses, with areas of bare ground, wetland and scrub. Together they support an array of fauna, many of which are found exclusively in this habitat and the features it contains.

#### Year 1 (Oct 2008-Sept 2009)

- H1 (North)**
- This area is to be maintained as heath by the removal of:
- Leaf and bracken litter
  - Dead trees and stumps by the use of a mini digger or stump grinder
  - Trees overhanging the racecourse to be retained, and to have lower limbs removed

- Mire**
- Continue to maintain as Mire
  - Extend the surface area of the Mire by the removal of trees within 5m of the perimeter around the margins
  - Remove Oak from within the area

- P3**
- Remove 5m band of vegetation around the perimeter, including trees around the south-eastern and south-western edge of the pond, (this would roughly follow the line of the existing pathway)
  - Coppice multi-trunk Birch on the water's edge, leaning at 45 degrees over the pond
  - Remove low overhanging branches from retained trees around the pond, and cut back Goat Willow on the northern bank

#### Year 6 (Oct 2013– September 2014)

- W5**
- Retain as woodland
  - Remove trees from ponds
  - Clear hollows and wet habitats of invading vegetation, by removing primarily, undergrowth, Holly, shrubbery, brambles and Willow
  - Boundary trees to be kept from encroaching on the racecourse, G4 and G16

#### Year 7 (Oct 2014 – Sep 2015)

- W4**
- Retain as woodland
  - Remove undergrowth including Holly, shrubbery, brambles and trees in order to extend the perimeter of the Mire by 5m



#### Year 2 (Oct 2009-Sept 2010)

- HG**
- Promote lowland heath plants such as Hawkweed. Remove an area of turf around the existing heather, some 15m away from the heather and phase further turf removal over a five-year period. Keep the turf stripped areas clear of invading trees and shrubs in order to encourage the establishment of Hawkweed into the newly cleared areas

- H1(S)**
- Continue to maintain as heath by the removal of:
- Leaf and bracken litter
  - Pockets of turf.
  - Invading tree and gorse seedlings.
  - Gorse and tree stumps, by the use of a mini digger or stump grinder.

- Napoleonic Defences**
- Coppice trees along the ditches and mounds over a period of three years, by working on one third each year. Allow stumps to regenerate and manage subsequent growth by coppicing thus allowing roots to bind the earthworks together. Increased light levels will allow other shrubs and grasses to establish, providing further stability to the topsoil. Each section to be reviewed prior to commencement of works on the following section.
  - Install knee rail fence around the earth works in

- B1 of Management Plan 1 to be incorporated into this area

#### Year 8 (Oct 2015-Sept 2016)

- W6**
- Retain as woodland
  - Remove trees from a 2m perimeter around the Marsh, but retaining a screen next to the B1007
  - Keep cleared areas free of invading trees
  - Trees overhanging the racecourse to have lower limbs removed

No work to be carried out to the tip area unless a health & safety hazard is identified.

#### Year 9 (Oct 2016-Sept 2017)

No work other than regular routine work carried out each year (see below)

#### Year 10 (Oct 2017-Sept 2018)

No work other than regular routine work carried out each year (see below)

Regular routine work carried out each year in the following areas:

- H1 (North)**
- Removal of leaf and bracken litter
- H1 (South)**
- Removal of leaf and bracken litter
- W3**
- Keep ride/fire break clear by felling
- B4**
- Cut and remove grass twice a year in B4
- Bracken**
- Control Bracken using horse pulled roller in spring (and again in summer if necessary)
- G1-G16**
- Routine grass cutting (regimes vary)
- Gorse**
- On going thinning and coppicing
- Race Course Fence**
- Routine repair and replacement of rotten posts

order to discourage bikes and to manage the flow of pedestrians.

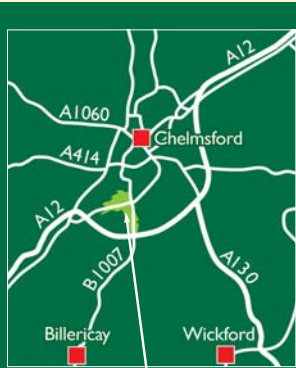
- Excavate and dispose of landfill adjacent to the earthworks
- Provide interpretive signage to explain the management work and significance of the works.

#### Year 3 (Oct 2010- Sept 2011)

**HS1(North)**

Maintain as heath. Where the original surface of The Common is exposed in this area heathland flora and fauna survive. Parts of the area have, at some time in the recent past (within 30 years) had a shallow covering of some 100mm of imported topsoil added. This topsoil supports grass but not heathland species associated with The Common. It is proposed to remove this covering of topsoil by careful use of a mini digger in order to expose the surface of The Common that has been buried for some 30 years. This work would be carried out with close liaison and agreement on site with Galleywood Common Liaison Group.

- P1**
- Retain stand of Birch on the south-western boundary, between the pond and path. Coppice group of Birch growing out of the eastern bank at water level and adjacent Bracken every 2-3 years.



#### How to find Galleywood Common

This leaflet has been produced with the support of:

The Galleywood Common Association.  
Contact: Bob Villa 01245 258559

Galleywood Parish Council  
[www.galleywoodparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.galleywoodparishcouncil.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01245 358898

[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/parks](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/parks)



### GALLEYWOOD COMMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

**LEGEND**

	FOOTPATHS		BRIDLEWAYS
	GRASSLAND		LOWLAND HEATH
	MEADOW		HEATHER SEEDED AREAS
	WOODLAND		WETLAND HABITAT MIRE AND MARSH AND WET LOWLAND HEATH
	PONDS		CAR PARKS