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1. Introduction

Brundall Countryside Park was established in 2014 by Brundall Parish Council with the purpose of providing a place for the people of Brundall to relax and exercise whilst surrounded by nature. Situated within the Park are 50 allotments, a community orchard, some areas of wildflower planting and a network of mown pathways. The site in total covers approximately 5.099 hectares (12.6 acres).

The Park is currently leased to Brundall Parish Council by Norfolk County Farms, who own the site. It is understood that the lease has a further 11 years to run, expiring in 2034. The Parish Council is applying to purchase the Countryside Park and has consequently asked the Broadland Tree Warden Network to undertake an audit of the existing trees within the Park.

This report covers all trees, fruit trees, shrubs and hedging currently growing within the Park. It also contains proposals for updating the Tree Management Plan which Brundall Parish Council commissioned from The Landscape Partnership in 2015; the proposals include recommendations for tree works that would benefit from immediate attention.

The aim of this survey is to audit the trees, recording their species, current status and environmental value. By mapping the location of the trees within and abutting the Park we aim to facilitate the planning of immediate and future management proposals.

The trees within the Countryside Park are addressed in four separate sections:

- a) trees planted within the Countryside Park in 2015
- b) the community orchard
- c) the allotment trees
- d) boundary planting including trees abutting the site.

2. Trees Planted Within the Countryside Park

Following receipt of a grant from the Forestry Commission, 1,600 trees were planted in the main body of the park in 2015. Those trees were supplied as 1+1 whips providing stronger root systems to meet the demands of establishment on what was previously agricultural land. Each tree was protected by a spiral shelter and supported by a cane. In accordance with the Brundall Countryside Park Tree Management Plan (2015) the shelters and canes have now been removed.

The species that were planted are listed as follows:

400 x oak, predominantly English oak *Quercus robur* but including some sessile oak, or durmast oak, *Quercus petr*aea.

300 x silver birch Betula pendula.

300 x hazel Corylus avellana.

100 x hawthorn Crataegus monogyna.

100 x field maple Acer campestre.

100 x sweet chestnut Castanea sativa.

100 x cherry which appear to include the wild cherry, or gean, *Prunus avium*. plus some bird cherry *Prunus padus*.

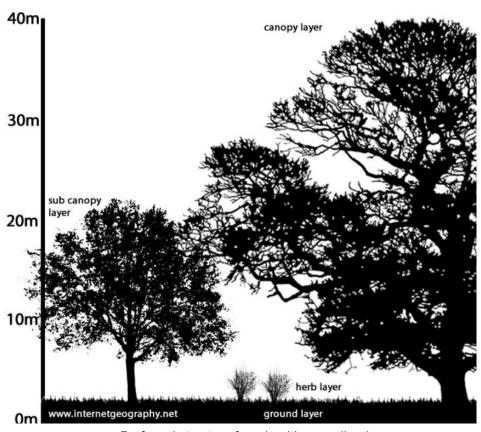
50 x guelder rose Viburnum opulus.

50 x crab apple Malus sylvestris.

50 x myrobalan plum *Prunus cerasifera*.

50 x blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*.



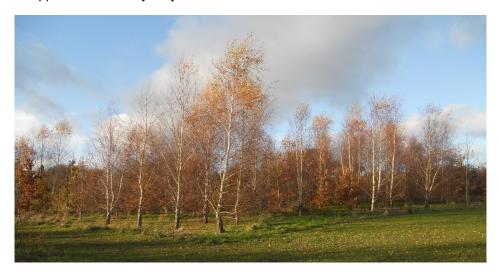


Preferred structure for a healthy woodland

We have yet to locate any planting plans or any pre-planting management proposals for the 2015 planting. Access to those documents might considerably assist our understanding of the aims and objectives of the original planting. We are curious to understand why this particular mix of species was chosen and particularly why such large numbers of oak were planted on quite a modest sized site.

We would also like to understand why the saplings were planted in single species groups rather than the more usual 'random mix' and why the faster growing 'nurse' species, such as birch, were not used to promote the growth of the oaks.

If the whereabouts of any planting plans and/or management proposals is known we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to view them as they would be invaluable to informing future decisions. Perhaps the Forestry Commission might be approached as they may have them on file.



We note that a number of common native species are absent from the planting mix, namely blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, common lime *Tilia* × *europaea*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, whitebeam *Sorbus aria*, wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis* and yew *Taxus baccata*.

A number of these species have poisonous berries or carry thorns which may be why they were not included in the original planting mix. This warrants further discussion as they are all species beneficial to wildlife, useful for creating subcanopies and for enhancing woodland edge planting. Therefore the introduction of some of these species to the Countryside Park would be beneficial, especially in the process of developing sub-canopies within the wooded areas..

In the eight years subsequent to the initial tree planting a number of self-sown sycamores, willows and oaks have begun to establish themselves. Sycamore and willow are particularly invasive species and will need to be managed to ensure designated areas of grassland are retained and to prevent their dominance. The self-sown oaks can be retained where they will help contribute to the development of a sub-canopy within the wooded areas.

There are a number of hedging plants, mainly elder *Sambucus nigra* and field maple *Acer campestre*, that we are pleased to see being encouraged to develop into trees.

At present, The Nuttery is solely planted with hazel *Corylus avellana* and a few self-sown willows which need to be removed. We would suggest planting some additional species there, such as almond *Prunus dulcis*, filbert *Corylus maxima* and English walnut *Juglans regia*.

The hazel in The Nuttery are not thriving. This may be as a consequence of the trees having to compete with the grasses and ground flora that have been allowed to grow up around them. The task of keeping the base areas clear was included in the 2015 management plan but was not undertaken. It would be beneficial, even now, to clear around the trees. The ground cover can be allowed to regrow once the trees are more established.



3. Aims and Objectives of Brundall Countryside Park _____

The Countryside Park Group (originally known as Friends of the Countryside Park) have set out some key themes which underpin the management and the use of the Park.

- 1. The Countryside Park is not a 'town park'.
- 2. The Park's unique attractiveness lies in its naturalness.
- 3. The Park should offer a variety of perspective and ensure the maintenance of significant areas of cover for wildlife.
- 4. In general, a policy of non-intervention should be adopted.
- 5. It is intended that the Countryside Park will gradually evolve, not only in its appearance as the trees mature but also in the way that it is used.

Managing the trees to meet these objectives is best achieved by developing a robust and achievable tree management plan that allows for the following.

- 1. Maintaining the individual nature of the different areas of tree planting within the site.
- 2. Enhancing the distinct diversity of plant species (trees, shrubs and ground flora) within each area.
- 3. Managing the planting structure and the edge planting of those distinct areas so as to provide a diversity of habitats across the site.

Developing a variety of well-structured and distinct planting areas will, over time, provide both 'open' and 'closed' tree canopies along with their associated subcanopies of younger trees and coppice. Development of a thriving internal shrub layer provides supportive habitats and protection (from predators, dogs and park users) for wildlife. Encouraging the development of transitional 'woodland edge' planting with a field layer of flora and a ground layer of mosses and liverworts facilitates the provision of food plants (flowers, seeds and berries) is also attractive to wildlife.

Managing the wooded areas for diversity and variety is beneficial and attractive for both wildlife and park users.

Two small wild flower swards have been established on the margins near the tree planting areas. We noted that the wildflowers have not been cut this year. This will be detrimental to wildflower development in the following season. These areas need to be cut by hand (preferably a scythe) at the end of September and the arisings left on site to provide a seed bank for the following years. The Countryside Park Group are taking action on this matter.

4. Tree Management Proposals

Our initial survey, undertaken in November 2023, established that the 2015 saplings had been planted on a grid at approximately 2 to 3 metre centres, mainly in small groups of the same species. In those areas surveyed to date most of the 2015 saplings have survived and (apart from the hazel in The Nuttery) are growing into healthy young trees. We will continue our survey over the winter months and finalise our audit in early 2024.

Planting young trees on a grid, in close proximity to each other is an arboricultural method that encourages vertical growth as the trees compete for light. We would suggest that silvicultural practices are more in keeping with the Countryside Park's stated objectives of developing natural woodland, rather than a timber crop.

Having been planted in 2015 as 1+ 1 whips, the trees are now approximately 10 years old. They are mostly in good condition, growing well and are ready to be thinned. It is usual practice for densely planted saplings to be thinned by 50% within 10 to15 years of their being planted. This facilitates the healthy development of the retained trees and provides the opportunity to develop a varied woodland structure.

Thinning is more cost effective if undertaken early while the trees are still of a moderate size. Trees that have not been thinned tend to be spindly and poorly formed, resulting in closed canopy systems that are less attractive to wildlife and become more difficult to access and manage as the trees mature.

For reasons of cost, where possible healthy arisings from the thinning should be retained on site. Some arisings can be used to create habitat piles. The remainder can, with agreement, be chipped and delivered to the allotments for use by the plot holders or as a mulch around the orchard fruit trees. Diseased arisings should be removed from the site.

Careful communication will be required to inform park users about the intended works and re-assure them of their necessity and value.

5. The Community Orchard

In 2015 an orchard was planted where the community orchard is situated today. It comprised some 40 trees but the trees received no aftercare and the majority died.

The 56 fruit trees and perimeter hawthorn hedge which make up the current Community Orchard were funded by the Broadland Tree Warden Network and procured from the East of England Apples and Orchards Project. The trees and the hedge were planted by the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall in early 2023 and are being managed and maintained by them in accordance with the Management Plan they produced, a copy of which is available on Brundall Parish Council's website.

The Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall have recently installed an entrance gate at the southern end of the orchard. The gate, the former pedestrian gate to the allotments, is intended to discourage dogs from being allowed into the site.

A requirement of the consent by Brundall Parish Council to establish the current orchard was that a picnic area be located within the orchard. An area on the eastern side of the enclosure has been designed to accommodate that. Young fruit trees can easily be damaged and encouraging recreational activities in close proximity to them increases the risk of their incurring accidental damage. The Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall will monitor the orchard trees, but a delay in promoting the picnic area until the fruit trees are better established would help alleviate this risk.

The Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall suggest planting one or two small trees in the picnic area to provide shade during our increasingly hotter summers.

6. Allotments

The allotment area has two fully mature English oaks *Quercus robur* and two fully mature sycamores *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Native oaks are known to be the premier tree for hosting our native wildlife.

Before the Countryside Park was established, the land was farmed and those four trees were previously ploughed around with a fair amount of debris, in the form of soil and vegetation, mounded up around their bases. We are pleased to understand that allotment holders are discouraged from adding to these mounds as they could encourage unwanted fungi and basal growth.

The four mature trees were surveyed earlier this year by the Parish Clerk and one of the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall as part of an on-going programme of tree safety checks undertaken at the behest of Brundall Parish Council. There were no specific concerns about the trees.

Plot holders have planted numerous and varied fruit trees within their plots which contribute to the biodiversity of the park and provide a good food source for mammals, birds and insects. The recent bird survey undertaken by the Biodiversity Sub-Group illustrates the value of the allotments in providing nesting sites. A number of fruit trees have also been planted in the allotment's communal areas.

The allotments are bounded by a mixed native species hedge which is becoming well established. It is a significant feature within the Park acting as a wildlife corridor. The hedge is cut annually by volunteer plot holders from the allotments (including the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall). A small number of fruit bearing hedging plants are being allowed to develop into young trees to provide food sources for wildlife.

7. Boundary Planting - Including the Car Park

The ecology and amenity of the Countryside Park benefits from a number of significant mature trees that sit adjacent to its boundary. Those trees are mostly owned and maintained by others.

On the northern boundary with Postwick Lane, within the highway verge, there are two mature English oaks *Quercus robur*, a mature European beech *Fagus sylvatica*, two semi-mature fir trees and a young lime *Tilia* spp. We believe these trees are the responsibility of the Highway Authority at Norfolk County Council. However, because the trees overhang the Park they will be surveyed later this year by the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall as part of the on-going programme of tree safety checks undertaken for Brundall Parish Council.

There is a dead larch *Larix* spp situated adjacent to the European beech in the north-eastern corner of the site, which could be reduced in height and retained as a 'standing monolith' which would be beneficial to wildlife. A standing monolith is a tree that has been reduced to its main stem (ie without branches).

The northern boundary is secured by significant stretches of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* forming thickets which are of benefit to wildlife. Bramble flowers are a food source for honey bees and bumblebees plus other wild animals. Leaves are eaten by certain caterpillars as well as some grazing mammals, especially deer. Ripe berries are eaten and their seeds dispersed by several mammals such as fox and badger and small birds. The other boundaries also contain smaller but equally valuable sections of bramble.

On the eastern boundary, situated just inside the Country Park's north-eastern entrance gate, there is a single mature ash *Fraxinus excelsior*.

A number of mature trees grow within the gardens which abut the eastern boundary of the site. They include some species which are not represented within the Park, namely horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, Lawson cypress *Chamaecyparis lawsonian* and yew *Taxus baccata*. The notable 'Margery Palmer Oak' *Quercus robur*, featured in the book "Trees of Brundall and Braydeston", is also located along this boundary.

The southern boundary of the site abuts the Norwich to Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft railway line. Some six mature oaks *Quercus* spp overhang the Park from the railway embankment. The southern boundary is also overhung by two hazel trees *Corylus* spp, three sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and one cherry *Prunus* spp.





The western boundary of the site abuts mixed native broadleaf woodland that surrounds an adjacent property. There is scope there for the development of a significant band of woodland edge planting that could be of significant ecological benefit to numerous species, particularly butterflies. At present that boundary is unmanaged and beginning to be dominated by self-sown sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, oak *Quercus robur* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*.

The car park is enclosed by a mixed native species hedge. In November 2023, at the request of the Parish Council, an allotment volunteer and Broadland Tree Warden for Brundall reduced the hedge by 50% in order to improve the view into the Park so that the proposed new signage would be more easily visible. The reduction in height will also cause the base of the hedge to thicken. Plants within the hedgerow have been left to develop into trees, namely thirteen field maple *Acer campestre*, two spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and two hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.



8. Policy Paper for Management of the Country Park V1.4 _

This policy paper is based on lengthy discussions that involved the then Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk of the Parish Council, Greg Chandler, leader of the Friends, former Councillor Heidi Thompson, Jason Kidman (who was responsible for the tree-planting), Robert Rice (of Garden Guardian) and Sid Cooper from the Forestry Commission. It was approved by a meeting of the Friends of the Countryside Park on the 18th July 2015.

- 1. The Countryside Park is not a 'town park'.
- 2. The Park's unique attractiveness lies in its naturalness.
- 3. The Park should offer variety of perspective and ensure the maintenance of significant areas of cover for wildlife.
- 4. In order to meet the conditions of the Forestry Commission, a small area around each planted tree should be weeded annually either by hand, by mulching or by careful use of a weedkiller. Any weeds that are growing within the tree guards must be removed
- 5. But, in general, a policy of non-intervention should be adopted. The grass and undergrowth in all parts of the woodland will die down naturally each winter.
- 6. Neither the edges of the Park nor the edges of the parkrun track should be cut. Hard-edge fencing should be kept as 'green' as possible.
- 7. Heidi Thompson's key dictum: "The 'weeds' are not weeds; they are wild flowers, and should be allowed to grow naturally".
- 8. The parkrun track, the glade and the avenues into the glade will be kept cut.
- 9. To provide variety, there will be two narrow footpaths hand-cut through the area close to the apple orchard and the hazelnut grove.
- 10. To enable access to the apple orchard (for pruning and fruit-picking), there should be an annual hay-cut in August or September, with the cuttings raked off to a pile at the edge.
- 11. The Friends have already sown a large area with wild flower seed; its progress will be monitored and managed appropriately.
- 12. The parkrun track will be maintained in good condition for safe running.
- 13. It is intended that the Countryside Park will gradually evolve not only in its appearance as the trees mature, but also in the way that it is used.

Schedule of tasks for the Parish Council and the Friends

- i. In 2015 and annually, remove any weeds growing inside the tree guards.
- 2015 and after: create and maintain by hand-cutting one or two narrow footpaths through the undergrowth at the Southern end of the woodland and to the side of the orchard.
- iii. Possibly 2015, definitely 2016: Hay-cut the apple orchard area annually in August or September, raking off the cuttings to a pile at the edge.
- iv. 2015/6: Monitor the development of the Friends' wild flower seeded area.
- v. In April/May 2016, clear a small area around each tree to encourage healthy growth.
- vi. In April/May 2016, possibly use a chippings mulch around some of the trees.
- vii. Encourage the emergence of ideas for people to enjoy the Park.
- viii. In 2016, perhaps, throughout the year make a record (with photographs) of the Park's wild flowers. The end-result could be put on-line.
- ix. Keep the Park's management policy under review.

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Brundall Countryside Park is a much used and appreciated amenity to the residents of Brundall and beyond. It is a hub for numerous quiet pastimes and activities such as walking, dog walking, bird watching, running, quiet contemplation on the newly installed benches and seats, allotmenteering and volunteering.

The Park's ecological value increases year on year as the trees, hedges and other flora become established. It now contributes significantly to enhancing the connectivity between the river valley, Low Farm Wood and the adjoining Brundall landscape.

We would reiterate the following statement from the 2015 Management Plan:

"Whilst some management tasks are necessary in order to maintain a habitat in good condition, the overall ethos for the Countryside Park is 'non-intervention where possible".

This policy will generally benefit the wildlife that uses the Park allowing a diversity of plants to grow throughout the site and providing shelter throughout the colder months. This is judicious in that, as well as leaving the site to re-wild itself and develop its own habitats and ecology, it also reduces maintenance requirements.

We welcome and support the proposal to purchase the Park. Our concerns are securing the necessary provision of resources to ensure the professional and experienced management and maintenance of the Park for future generations.

To summarise this report, we believe the three immediate requirements for the future management of the Countryside Park are to

- a) thin the trees in the wooded areas;
- b) develop the diversity of the distinct areas within the site; and
- c) secure necessary management resources in respect of: professional advice, skilled workforce and sufficient finances.

The Broadland Tree Warden Network was pleased to be asked to undertake this survey and put forward tree management proposals. Should those proposals be accepted, the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall will be happy to assist in their implementation and continue to be involved in the day to day site management.

The Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall believe that working with the Biodiversity Sub-Group of the Environment Committee of Brundall Parish Council will complement and enhance the management of the trees within Brundall Countryside Park, as proposed in this document, for future generations

10. Comparison of Brundall Countryside Park Management Plans 2015 and 2023______

	The Brundall Countryside Park Management Plan 2015 which is © The Landscape Partnership July 2015	Proposed Brundall Countryside Park Management Plan 2023 comprising this document, the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall written report and a Tree Management Survey Plan of the site.	Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall	Timing	Personnel
4		Brundall Countryside Park			
4.1		Key data, features and information			
		Brundall Country Park key data			
		Site name	Brundall Countryside Park		
		Statutory designation	None		
		Central Ordnance Survey Grid Reference	TG312083		
		Area	5.099ha (12.6 acres)		
		Site owner	Norfolk County Council		
4.1.1		Key contact	Parish Clerk		
		Friends Group	The Countryside Group. Updated from: Friends of Brundall Countryside Park - here and throughout the remaining updates to this document		
		Parish	Brundall		
		District	Broadland		
		Planning Authority	Broadland District Council		
		Main Users	Park runners, 'allotmenteers'	, walkers, dog walkers	s, amateur naturalists

	The Brundall Countryside Park Management Plan 2015 which is © The Landscape Partnership July 2015	Proposed Brundall Countryside Park Management Plan 2023 comprising this document, the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall written report and a Tree Management Survey Plan of the site.	Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall	Timing	Personnel
4.1.2	Brundall Countryside Park has recently been created (2014) on gently sloping land that was formerly in agricultural use. The northern end of the site is relatively dry, whilst the southern end of the Park can become damp during wet periods. The Countryside Park has been arranged with approximately one half of the land supporting 50 allotment plots with associated facilities and car park area. The remainder of the land has been planted with a mixture of native broadleaved tree and shrub species, fruit and nut trees to create a community woodland and orchard with wildflower area and pathways. A wide circuit walk follows the perimeter of the Park, with a further route cutting diagonally across its centre which also provides access to the high voltage cables overhead. A pond/bunded area has been developed in the northeast corner of the Park which may take run-off water from Postwick Lane which is adjacent to the northern boundary. There are five mature Oak trees within the Park and these are situated within the allotments area. Other standard trees occur on the northern boundary of the Park. A hedgerow of native species has been planted around the allotment area.	Brundall Countryside Park was created in 2014. It is situated on gently southward sloping land that was formerly in agricultural use. The northern end of the site is relatively dry, whilst the southern end of the Park can become damp during wet periods. The Countryside Park has been arranged with approximately one half of the land supporting 50 allotment plots with associated facilities and car park area. The remainder of the land has been planted with a mixture of native broadleaved tree and shrub species, fruit and nut trees to create a community woodland and orchard with wildflower area and pathways. A wide circuit walk follows the perimeter of the Park, with a further route cutting diagonally across its centre. A pond has been developed in the northeast corner of the Park to take run-off water from Postwick Lane which is adjacent to the northern boundary. A soakaway has also been installed in the southwestern corner to help drain the adjacent track, which becomes waterlogged in the winter months. There are two mature Oak trees and two mature Sycamore trees situated within the allotment area. There are also a number of mature trees situated on the boundary of the Park; some grow within the Park, others abut the boundary. The western boundary is edged by the woodland which surrounds an adjacent property	Proposed text update by Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023	n/a	n/a
4.1.3	The pathway around the perimeter of the Park, along with the wide central pathway is used every Saturday morning throughout the year, to create a 5km circuit for Brundall park runners to enjoy. These pathways are amenity grade grass and are maintained as a short sward.	The pathway around the perimeter of the Park, along with the wide central pathway is used every Saturday morning throughout the year, to create a 5km circuit for Brundall park runners to enjoy. A soakaway has been installed in the southwestern corner of the site to help drain the adjacent track, which becomes waterlogged in the winter months and it is intended To construct two French drains to further help drain the path into the soakaway. The pathways are amenity grade grass and are maintained as a short sward.	Proposed text update by Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023	n/a	n/a
4.1.4	The Countryside Park is in the early stages of development and as such the habitats have not yet matured. However, the vegetation in the Park will already be of benefit to common invertebrates, providing a food source for a variety of species, as well as shelter through the colder months. The mature trees will be of great value to invertebrates, in particular, the mature Oaks within the allotment area, since these are known to be able to support a vast number of species. The allotments themselves will also provide a food source for insects, through the vegetables, flowers and fruit that are grown there.	The Countryside Park is still in the early stages of development and as such the habitats are only just beginning to form. However, the vegetation in the Park will already be of benefit to common invertebrates, providing a food source for a variety of species, as well as shelter through the colder months. The mature trees will be of great value to invertebrates, in particular the mature Oaks within the allotment area and on the boundary, since these are known to be able to support a vast number of species. The allotments themselves will also provide a food source for insects, through the vegetables, flowers and fruit that are grown there.	Proposed text update by Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023	n/a	n/a

	The Brundall Countryside Park Management Plan 2015 which is © The Landscape Partnership July 2015	Proposed Brundall Countryside Park Management Plan 2023 comprising this document, the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall written report and a Tree Management Survey Plan of the site.	Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall	Timing	Personnel
4.1.5	The presence of invertebrates may attract bats to forage for them within the Park, particularly around the perimeter of the Park and around the mature Oaks in the allotment area. Birds may also find a food source within the habitats at the Park, such as the seed producing plants and the invertebrate populations. Small mammals may also use the grassland and wildflower habitats for foraging.	The presence of invertebrates may attract bats to forage for them within the Park, particularly around the perimeter of the Park and around the mature oaks in the allotment area, and if there are suitable cavities within them, bats may be able to roost there. Small mammals may use the grassland and developing wildflower habitats for foraging. Birds are also finding a food source within the developing habitats of the Park, such as the seed producing plants and the invertebrate populations. A survey undertaken by the Biodiversity Group in 2023 indicates that the allotments are providing nesting habitats for several bird species. The survey also shows that the stands of trees within the newly planted areas of the Park are beginning to providing nesting opportunities for birds.	Proposed text update by Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023	n/a	n/a
4.1.6	At present, the standard trees within the Park will offer some nesting opportunities for birds and if there are suitable cavities within them, bats may be able to roost. As the vegetation within the Park matures, particularly the woodland areas and hedgerow, there will be many more opportunities for nesting birds. In the future the habitats of Countryside Park should become a valuable asset to local wildlife, if they are managed appropriately.	If managed appropriately, as the vegetation within the Park matures it will provide diverse habitats attractive to a wide variety of flora and fauna. The Countryside Park has the potential to become a valuable asset to local wildlife and a treasured amenity for local residents and other Park users.	Proposed text update by Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023	n/a	n/a
4.2	Intended use and aspirations	Intended use and aspirations			
4.2.1	The Friends of the Countryside Park have set out some key themes which will underpin the management and the use of the Park. 1. The Countryside Park is not a 'town park' 2. The Park's unique attractiveness lies in its naturalness 3. The Park should offer a variety of perspective and ensure the maintenance of significant areas of cover for wildlife. 4. In general, a policy of non-intervention should be adopted 5. It is intended that the Countryside Park will gradually evolve – not only in its appearance as the trees mature, but also in the way that it is used.				
4.2.2	The design and management of the Countryside Park steers the attractiveness of the Park towards users seeking quiet recreation. The main user groups are likely to be: • Dog walkers • Runners • Amateur naturalists • Families • 'Allotmenteers'				

	The Brundall Countryside Park Management Plan 2015 which is © The Landscape Partnership July 2015	Proposed Brundall Countryside Park Management Plan 2023 comprising this document, the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall written report and a Tree Management Survey Plan of the site.	Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall	Timing	Personnel
4.2.2 continued	cover for wildlife, energetic/loud activities would conflict v possible damage to habitats. Therefore, such activities h spaces in which these could take place, e.g. ball games. encourage activities that could disturb the peacefulness	ave been discouraged through the lack of large open Picnic benches will not be provided as these may also of the Park. Sitting benches may be installed to allow esting place if needed. Activities that are encouraged at the	Proposed text update by Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023	n/a	n/a
4.3	Management tasks	Management tasks			
4.3.1	The different habitats within the Park require their own specific management tasks. Many of the habitats within the Countryside Park are in their infancy and so it is particularly important to manage these habitats appropriately, in order for them to successfully mature. Inappropriate management techniques can cause problems for plants trying to establish themselves and can allow more dominant species to take over. Inappropriate timing of management tasks could result in disturbance to wildlife that might be relying on that habitat for food or shelter. Whilst some management tasks are necessary in order to maintain a habitat in good condition, the overall ethos for the Countryside Park is 'non-intervention where possible'. This policy will generally benefit the wildlife that uses the Park; it will allow a diversity of plants to grow throughout the site and will provide shelter throughout the colder months. Management tasks are set out by habitat in a table below. Additional information that relates to good practice whilst carrying out certain tasks, follows the table.			n/a	n/a
4.3.2	Table 4.3.2 below identifies a) the habitat, b) the management task required for that habitat, c) the timing for the task to be undertaken, and d) the personnel responsible, at Brundall Countryside Park. Refer to Figure 02 Phase 1 habitat survey for location of habitats (habitat descriptions are in Section 2 above).	The table below identifies a) the habitat, b) the management task required for that habitat, c) the timing for the task to be undertaken, and d) the personnel responsible at Brundall Countryside Park.	Proposed text update by Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023	n/a	n/a

	The Brundall Countryside Park Management Plan 2015 which is © The Landscape Partnership July 2015	Proposed Brundall Countryside Park Management Plan 2023 comprising this document, the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall written report and a Tree Management Survey Plan of the site.	Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall	Timing	Personnel
Habitat	Management Task	Management Task	Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall Notes and Comments 2023	Timing	Personnel
	Keep tree guards free of weeds until trees are established i.e. first 2-3 years – pull the weeds out by hand, trying to avoid disturbing the roots of the tree.	When new trees are planted keep the tree guards free of weeds until trees are established i.e. first 2-3 years – pull the weeds out by hand, trying to avoid disturbing the roots of the tree.	Proposed text update by Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023		
	Clear a small area of vegetation from the ground around each tree by hand OR apply a thick (50mm) layer of bark mulch around each tree until the trees are established (2-3 years)	When new trees are planted and it is appropriate keep clear a small area of vegetation from the ground around each tree by hand OR apply a thick (50mm) layer of bark mulch around each tree until the trees are established (2-3 years)	Proposed text update by Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023		
	Check trees for dead branches, breaks, signs of disease or weakness. Prune as appropriate, always pruning back to live wood. No pruning to be carried out in late winter/early spring sap flow period or between March-August for bird nesting season (where adequate tree cover exists), unless for overriding H+S reasons. Brash can be stacked in piles in undisturbed positions around the perimeter of the woodland area or Park.	Check trees for dead branches, breaks, signs of disease or weakness. Prune as appropriate, always pruning back to live wood. Unless for overriding Health and Safety reasons, no pruning to be carried out in late winter/early spring sap flow period or during bird nesting season (where adequate tree cover exists), which, due to climate change, may now be longer than the previously accepted March-August window. Healthy brash can be stacked in piles in undisturbed positions around the perimeter of the woodland area or Park.	No known annual checks undertaken as yet. While undertaking their tree audit the Tree Wardens have noticed a number of trees in need of basic pruning (removal of dead, diseased, dying wood).	Once per year in Autumn	Brundall Tree Wardens, The Countryside Group or Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council)
Woodland	All plants that die or are vandalised or stolen are to be noted and replaced during the next appropriate season. Refer to the planting drawings for the correct planting species, size to match surrounding plant sizes.		Not undertaken. While undertaking their tree audit the Tree Wardens have noticed a number of trees in need of basic pruning (removal of dead, dying or diseased wood). The original planting drawings are not available.	November to February	Brundall Tree Wardens, The Countryside Group or Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council)
		Identified areas of young trees are to be thinned by up to 50% by taking out or coppicing the weakest trees. Propose new planting and introduction of new species to assist development of a more diverse sub-canopy and shrub layer.	The trees were planted 8 years ago and are now ready to be thinned. A rolling program of thinning to be undertaken over the next 5 years as recommended by the Tree Wardens report and Tree Management Survey Plan of Nov 2023. Proposed text update by Brundall Tree Wardens 2023	Years 10 -15	Brundall Tree Wardens, The Countryside Group or Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council)

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Woodland, nuttery and orchard	For the vegetation beneath and between the trees in the woodland areas, leave to grow and die back naturally throughout the season's year would be necessary. This type of management would only be necessary until the woodland canopy closes over e.g. first 5-10 years.			n/a	n/a
ground flora	If certain plants become a nuisance, spreading seed to neighbouring properties and allotments (e.g. creeping thistle, ragwort, groundsel), carefully strim around each tree and flail between each row. To keep vegetation at a manageable level three cuts per			Three cuts per year in: mid- May, June and late-July until	Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council)
Wildflower meadow	The sward should be cut to the ground (approx. 10cm) using a strimmer or reciprocating mower and the arisings (cut material) should be raked off and removed from the meadow. The arisings could be composted, removed from site or stacked in habitat piles in undisturbed positions around the perimeter or in the corners of the Park.		This task has not been completed this year. If the wildflowers remain uncut it will be detrimental to their future development and contribution to the biodiversity of the Park.	Once per year in August - September	The Countryside Group/Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group
	If deemed necessary, remove invasive and all- encompassing plants by hand before they set seed e.g. creeping thistle, prickly sow-thistle.			Spring	and Brundall Parish Council)
Amenity	Mow parkrun paths fortnightly through the growing season and then as required during the dormant season.		Undertaken by contractors	Year round	Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and BPC)
Amenity grass (paths)	Mow informal paths through woodland and orchard areas monthly through the growing season or as required.		Undertaken by contractors. Grass cutting in the orchard is managed by the Tree Wardens with the assistance of allotment volunteers.	Growing season	Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council). Grass cutting in the orchard: Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall

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	Hazel trees can be left unmanaged OR they can be coppiced (cut to the ground). If coppicing, it is advised to cut a proportion of the shrubs on rotation so that not all trees are cut down at the same time. Each shrub should be coppiced once every 7-10 years. A good example would be to coppice a third of the trees in year 3, another third in year 6 and the final third in year 9, thus creating a good age mix of stems.		The hazel trees were planted 8 years ago but are not yet sufficiently established to warrant coppicing. Clearing the competing grasses from around the base of these trees is recommended to help encourage their establishment.	Coppice after the nuts have finished, e.g. November.	Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall, The Countryside Group or Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council).
Hazel nuttery	If coppicing, once established, cut poles could be sold to allotmenteers and the community for use in their gardens. Profit can be put back into the management of the site.				
		Plant additional nut trees. Suggested species walnut, almond and other varieties of hazel.	Our initial survey suggests that a fair number of hazel trees have not survived and need to be replaced. Additional species have been suggested to increase biodiversity.	Autumn 2024 onwards	Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall, (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council).
Orchard	Pruning of fruit trees varies between species. Getting pruning right in the early years of establishment can make for more productive and healthier trees in the long-term. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) provides useful guidance notes on its website on how to prune fruit trees https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/plant-care/pruning. Some of their guidance notes have reproduced in Appendix 03 of this Management Plan.	Orchard Fruit trees to be pruned in accordance with the Orchard Management Plan 2022. Pruning of fruit trees varies between species. Getting pruning right in the early years of establishment can make for more productive and healthier trees in the long-term. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) provides useful guidance notes on its website on how to prune fruit trees https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/plant-care/pruning .	The original community orchard failed due to lack of aftercare. Broadland Tree Warden Network supplied and planted 56 replacement fruit trees and an enclosure hedge in the spring of 2023. The orchard and its hedge are being managed by the Brundall Tree Wardens in accordance with the agreed Orchard Management Plan 2022	Varies	Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall in consultation with Brundall Parish Council

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	Keep tree guards free of weeds until trees are established i.e. first 2-3 years – pull the weeds out by hand, trying to avoid disturbing the roots of the tree.			Once per year in early summer until hedges are established	Orchard Hedge: Brundall Tree Wardens. Allotment Hedge: Allotment
Hedgerow	Clear a small area of vegetation from the ground around each tree by hand OR apply a thick (50mm) layer of bark mulch around each tree until the trees are established (2-3 years)			Once per year in early summer until trees are established	volunteers and Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall. Remaining hedges: The Countryside Group or Contractors.
Ü	Check trees for dead branches, breaks, signs of disease or weakness. Prune as appropriate, always pruning back to live wood. No pruning to be carried out in late winter/early spring sap flow period or between March-August for bird nesting season (where adequate tree cover exists), unless for overriding H+S reasons. Brash can be stacked in piles in undisturbed positions around the perimeter of the woodland area or Park.	Check trees for dead branches, breaks, signs of disease or weakness. Prune as appropriate, always pruning back to live wood. Unless for overriding Health and Safety reasons, no pruning to be carried out in late winter/early spring sap flow period or during bird nesting season (where adequate tree cover exists), which, due to climate change, may now be longer than the previously accepted March-August window. Healthy brash can be stacked in piles in undisturbed positions around the perimeter of the woodland area or Park.		Once per year in autumn	Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall, The Countryside Group or Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council).
Mature standard trees	Mature trees should need little care. Inspections of trees close to paths and other areas used by the public should be undertaken by an appropriately trained person to identify any risks to health and safety.		An audit of mature trees owned or managed by Brundall Parish Council is currently being undertaken by the Parish Clerk and Richard Farley, one of Brundall Parish's Tree Wardens. At present the two oak's and two sycamores within the allotment enclosure have been surveyed.	Preferably when trees are not in leaf	Appropriately trained (e.g. Lantra Basic tree survey and inspection) and competent Contractor

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Mature	Arboricultural work and maintenance operations must avoid harm to ground flora, over wintering bird habitat, bats and reptiles.			Plan works to trees well in advance and avoid bird nesting season (at minimum May between beginning of March and beginning of August - but likely extended due to climate change). Ideally aim to carry out tree works between October and March, and consult a competent ecologist when planning any works.	Competent ecologist and fully insured professional arboriculturist contractor.
standard trees continued	Where pruning or felling is required, trees should be inspected by a competent ecologist for their potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds, prior to any works taking place.	Where major pruning or tree felling is required the trees should be inspected prior to works commencing by a competent ecologist for their potential to support roosting bats and nesting birds, prior to any works taking place.			Competent ecologist (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council).
	All tree works must be carried out by an 'Arboricultural Association' approved contractor working in accordance with BS 3998:1989 'Recommendations for Tree Work'.	All major tree works must be carried out by an 'Arboricultural Association' approved contractor working in accordance with BS 3998:1989 'Recommendations for Tree Work'.			Fully insured professional arboriculturist contractor (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council and in consultation with the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall.
	Felling and thinning as part of the management process should comply with the requirements of the Forestry Commission with regard to Felling Licences.	Felling and thinning as part of the management process should comply with the requirements of the Forestry Commission with regard to Felling Licences.			

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Mature standard trees continued	Emergency works to trees for reasons relating to health and safety issues. In these circumstances, it may not be possible to plan in advance. Try to seek advice from a competent ecologist at the time.	Major emergency works to trees for reasons relating to health and safety issues. In these circumstances, it may not be possible to plan in advance. Try to seek advice from a competent ecologist at the time.	No known emergency works have been undertaken within the Park.	n/a	Competent ecologist and fully insured professional arboriculturist contractor, holding a current NPTC Certificate (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council and in consultation with the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall).
Pond (bunded area in north east corner of Park)	It is unlikely that this area will hold any water throughout most of the year. It may become damp in the wettest months. It therefore does not warrant any pond management techniques. It is recommended that this area be left to develop its own flora without management.		The soakaway pond held water for most of this year	n/a	n/a
Roadside verges	The first metre of verge from the edge of the highway is managed by Norfolk county Council. The verge vegetation is reasonably diverse and to encourage this diversity of wildflowers, it is recommended that vegetation outside the 1m strip along the road (i.e. vegetation closest to the Park) is managed by a single cut in late summer with cut material (arisings) being removed from the area and composted, removed from site or stacked in habitat piles in undisturbed positions around the perimeter or in the corners of the Park.		It is not known if the road side verges are cut as specified here	Once per year in August - September	The Countryside Group/Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council)
Bird boxes	To provide additional nesting habitat for local birds while the woodland is still young, place 1-2 woodcrete (durable and long lasting) nestboxes on each mature standard tree in the Park e.g. 1 x Schwegler Nestbox 1B Ø 32mm and 1 x Schwegler Nestbox 1B Ø 26mm (preferably with predator protection grill). Place boxes 2-4m from the ground, facing between north and east and ensuring they are not obscured by vegetation. Ensure box is hanging vertically or tilt very slightly forward so rain can't readily get into the hole.		It is not known if bird boxes have been installed	Autumn – early spring	The Countryside Group/Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council)
	Remove old nesting material/unhatched eggs/dead chick water to kill parasites and infections then allowed to dry). can be placed in the dry box to encourage over-winter sh	small handful of clean hay or wood shavings (not straw)		Autumn	The Countryside Group

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Bat boxes	Place at least 3 boxes (e.g. Schwegler Bat Box 2F) on trees within the line of mature Oak trees within the allotment area. Ideally, boxes should be positioned at least 4-5m from the ground facing south or southwest. For greater appeal to bats, groups of 2-3 boxes can be placed on the same tree, each facing a different direction so bats can choose the best temperature box for their needs. Don't place boxes in line with a direct source of artificial light.	Place at least 3 boxes (e.g. Schwegler Bat Box 2F) on trees within the line of mature Oak trees within the allotment area. Ideally, boxes should be positioned at least 4-5m from the ground facing south or southwest. For greater appeal to bats, groups of 2-3 boxes can be placed on the same tree, each facing a different direction so bats can choose the best temperature box for their needs. Don't place boxes in line with a direct source of artificial light. See Bat Conservation Trust guidelines.	It is not known if bat boxes have been installed	Any	The Countryside Group/Contractors (as deemed necessary by The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council)
	See Bat Conservation Trust guidelines in Appendix 04.		Remove section as added to above section	Any	The Countryside Group
Habitat/ hibernation piles	To provide habitat for insects, toads and hedgehogs, logs and branches can be placed in a pile in a shady part of the Park, e.g. along the western boundary next to the wooded area. Also add bark and leaves to the pile. Leave to rot naturally. Add new branches to replace the rotted ones, as necessary. See Appendix 05 for details.		In October 2023 a group of allotment volunteers placed the arisings from their cutting of the allotment hedge in three heaps along the western boundary	Any	The Countryside Group
Insect towers	These interesting looking structures can be built in sunny spots to provide shelter for various invertebrates including different types of bee. Find some long logs or posts and bury vertically into the ground so they are in a stable upright position. On the sunny side of the logs, drill holes of different sizes into the logs. Different insects will prefer different sized holes. See Buglife's website for good ideas.		No undertaken as yet	Any	The Countryside Group
Seating	If installing benches, use sitting only benches (i.e. not picnic) to prevent long stays and loud activities and prevent food waste and rubbish getting into the surrounding environment.		Three seats have been installed, one of which is a memorial seat for a recently deceased park runner. It is intended to install a single picnic bench within the orchard enclosure. It is suggested that installation of the bench be delayed until the orchard trees are well established and then use of the bench be monitored to assess its impact on the orchard.	n/a	n/a

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	The footpath routes around the Countryside Park are fairly obvious due to the wide width of the paths, therefore it is not considered that it would advantageous to install markers.			n/a	n/a
Signage	Signage at the entrance to the Park could alert visitors to the wildlife and habitats at the Park, the requirement for quiet recreation pursuits only and the need to keep dogs under control (prevent disturbance to ground nesting birds, and mammals).		Currently in hand. The graphics for the sign have been agreed and the sign is currently in production. It will be installed within the Park, situated in a position easily visible to those visitors arriving via the car park	To be installed early 2024	The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council
Cycle Racks		Brundall Parish Council Land Management Minutes 15th June 2023: The Deputy Clerk, Cllr Tungate, Cllr Buckley, and Stuart Harper had a site visit on Tuesday to look at a position for the new proposed entrance way into the park from the car park, and location for the notice board and cycle racks.	Text updated by the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023	Any	The Countryside Group and Brundall Parish Council
4.4	Scope of the Management Plan and general notes				
4.4.1	This Management Plan covers the various 'soft landscaping' areas found within Brundall Countryside Park, i.e. the habitats described in the Phase 1 Habitat Survey in Section 2 above and Table 4.3.2 above. It does not cover any areas of 'hard landscaping' i.e. buildings, roads, pathways, car parks etc.				
4.4.2	Detailed prescriptions for general management tasks are not given in Table 4.3.2 above. Such tasks, e.g. litter picking and bin emptying, should be carried out as frequently as necessary to keep the Countryside Park in good order and to prevent rubbish from impacting the local environment or causing harm to wildlife.				
4.4.3	Composting may be carried out using existing site composting facilities. Fine organic debris may be composted according to good horticultural practice and used as soil improver once it is sufficiently broken and composted so that it does not remove nitrogen from the soil in the initial months. Composting of any waste material or stacking of grass clippings must not take place within the root protection areas of trees as heat and lack of oxygen will destroy the roots. Grassland areas shall not be treated with compost.				

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4.4.4	Brundall Parish Council must satisfy themselves that any Contractor they employ to carry out works on their behalf must be fully insured, adequately trained and competent with suitable equipment in good working order.				
4.4.5	Best practice guidelines must be followed where applicable and where a British Standard exists for relevant tasks, these should be adhered to. British Standard's which may apply include: BS 3882 'Topsoil' BS 3998 1989 'Recommendations for Tree Work' BS 7370 Part 4 'Pruning'				
4.4.6	Botanical surveys carried out at the site have provided a detailed list of the plants recorded and a Phase 1 habitat survey provides a general record of the habitats present, during 2015, and their potential to support uncommon or protected species. These surveys give a good level of basic information about the site that can be built upon over time. It is unlikely that these surveys could be repeated annually but any biological information that can be gathered and recorded will help to build on the knowledge of the site, and how it reacts to the management it is subjected to. Events/activities such as moth nights, bird walks, bug hunts, plant hunting, fungi forays and mammal tracking can gather additional and interesting data in large volumes. If one of each event could be held on a regular basis e.g. annually, bi-annually this would be a valuable asset.				
4.5	Monitoring and review of the Management Plan	Monitoring and review of the Management Plan			
4.5.1	This Management Plan is intended to cover a five year rolling period. Therefore assuming that the plan comes into force in 2015, it would next be updated in 2020, then again in 2025, 2030 and so on.	This Management Plan is intended to cover a five year rolling period. Therefore assuming that the plan comes into force in 2015, it would next be updated in 2023, then again in 2028, 2033, and so on.	Text updated by the Broadland Tree Wardens for Brundall 2023		
4.5.2	However, this Management Plan should be treated as a working document and as such it should be updated or reviewed as the need arises, or at least annually. Updates and reviews could be chronicled on a page at the front of the document in order to keep track of changes. This may be important as it would serve as a reference to how habitats have responded to changes in management techniques or timings.				