

BOOKER COMMON AND WOODS

PROTECTION SOCIETY

(Registered Charity: No 289871)

28 JULY 1986

PHASE 3 CONSERVATION PROGRAMMERESTORATION & CONSERVATION WORK

At the Annual General Meeting on 21 May 1986 it was agreed that it was highly desirable to restore some run-down areas of Booker Common to their former attractive condition of some 30 years ago. Residents of long standing will well remember how attractive it used to be then.

The three areas under consideration are outside the existing protective bollard screen alongside Bridleway 106 (from the Squirrel Lane/ Glenister Road junction to the Cricket Pitch).

Sir Francis Dashwood, the property owner, has now agreed the proposals put forward at the Annual General Meeting, subject to following the proper procedures.

The Landscape Adviser of Bucks County Council has agreed to provide technical advice as to landscaping, clearance, and tree planting.

Of course tree planting cannot be done until late Autumn, probably around the time of 'National Tree Planting Week'. However there is much preliminary work to be done before then.

AREA 2: (Between Squirrel Lane & the disused Pumping Station)

It is proposed to restore this area to its former attractive appearance of 30 years ago. That is before the builders of the adjoining estates got busy digging trenches and spreading infill and sub-soil across this part of the Common.

- This depredation has been worsened by a minority who have been dumping garden waste on the Common for many years.

i) Section north of the track: It is proposed to:-

- Scrape the surface of waste and scrub (with a mechanical scraper).
- Re-surface with top soil.
- Sow a mixture of grass and wild flower seed (or, if sufficient donations are received, lay 'meadowland' turf with built-in wild flowers).
- Protect the newly conserved area with bollards alongside the track. (This will be done by lifting and repositioning some existing bollards and adding to them as necessary).

(Note: This work cannot begin until the problem of wash-away has been solved. This is caused by storm water from the roads higher up the slope. We are discussing solutions with Wycombe District Council).

ii) Section south-east of the track: (Along the bank between Glenister Road & the disused Pumping Station).

- Scrape away years of accumulated garden waste (with a 'Kubata') and transport it to Booker Tip.
- Fill the gaps in the original hedge with new young trees.
- Plant trees between the hedge and the two-rail fence.
- Between the hedge and the track plant either grass & wild flower seed, or 'meadowland' turf.

iii) Section west of the track: (By the allotment at entrance of the old chalk pit).

- Install protective bollards. (This section has started to become a dumping ground for abandoned cars. Previous experience shows that once it begins others follow suit. It follows that the gap must be sealed to cars as soon as possible).

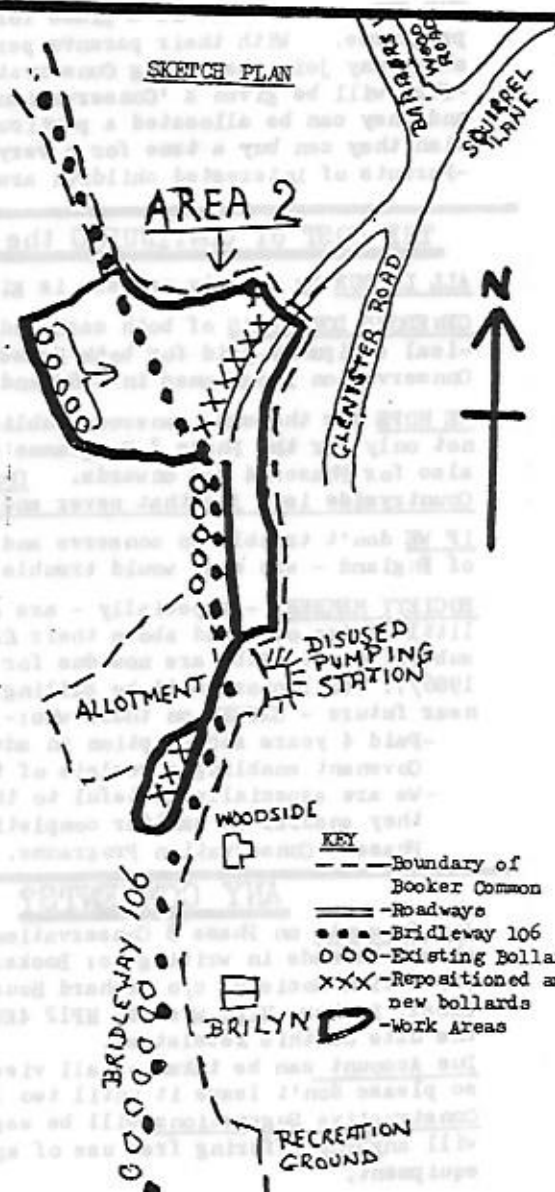
MAINTENANCE of EXISTING PROTECTIVE WORKS

By legal agreement the Society acts as agent for Wycombe District Council and responsible for the maintenance and repair of the protective works installed by the Society during 1984/5. For its part the Council accepted ownership of the works to ensure that they would be covered by a Public Liability Insurance for as long as they exist.

AREA 1: For safety reasons Bucks County Council Highways Department have ordered a substantial number of trees to be felled alongside Hornes Lane and Lane End Road. Some trees formed an integral part of the protective bollard screen.

The Society must fill these gaps with additional bollards otherwise the protective works will be rendered useless and deep penetration of the woodlands by motorists for rubbish dumping will begin again.

This work will be done as soon as the felling programme is completed.



- AREA 3:** (Between Bridleway 106/Willow Avenue/Recreational Ground)
- From between the trees scrape away the accumulation of garden waste and transport it to Booker Tip.
 - Remove scrub and deformed growth.
 - Coppice suitable trees. (Coppicing means cutting back trees to ground level. This stimulates healthy new growth).
 - Plant new trees where practicable.
 - In the open area at the northern end of Willow Avenue, scrape and level the surface, and sow a mixture of grass and wild flower seed.
 - Install bollards in the gaps.

- AREA 4:** (At the north-east corner of the cricket pitch - between Bridleway 106 and the track on its western side).
- Scrape away the accumulation of garden waste and transport it to Booker Tip.
 - Remove all scrub and secondary growth.
 - Retain all naturally growing saplings of Oak, Beech, and Wild Cherry.
 - Lay out a new plantation primarily of Beech Trees.

NOTICE BOARDS

Notices will be displayed informing that these are newly restored areas, and appealing to all to care for them for the benefit of the public. (i.e. NOT to dump garden waste or any other rubbish in the restored woodlands, or indeed, anywhere else on the Common).

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Those who wish to help preserve this corner of England are invited to contact Allan Duggin (phone High Wycombe 25665).

Of course it is understood that all who volunteer to work may not be available on the actual work days. Nevertheless please let us know if you intend to work provided you are available at the time. This will give us a good idea of the potential work-force available.

As usual, volunteers will be asked to work in 1/2-day shifts on Saturdays/Sundays. But if any can work more than one shift - so much the better.

THE CHILDREN: there is a place for them too in this Conservation programme. With their parents permission those of 6 years of age and above may join the 'Young Conservationists'.

-They will be given a 'Conservationist Badge': they can plant trees; and they can be allocated a particular patch to look after. If they wish they can buy a tree for a very nominal sum.

-Parents of interested children are invited to phone High Wycombe 25665.

THE COST of CONTINUING the 'Conservation Programmes'

ALL LABOUR by Society members is given voluntarily.

GENEROUS DONATIONS of both cash and free loan of mechanical equipment paid for both Phases 1 & 2 of our Conservation Programmes in 1984 and 1985.

WE HOPE for the same generous public response in future, not only for the Phase 3 Programme detailed above, but also for Phases 4 and onwards. Conservation of the Countryside is a job that never ends.

IF WE don't trouble to conserve and protect this corner of England - who else would trouble to do so?

SOCIETY MEMBERS - especially - are asked to donate a little extra over and above their £2 annual household subscription. Subs are now due for financial year 1986/7. Collectors will be calling on members in the near future - EXCEPT on those who:-

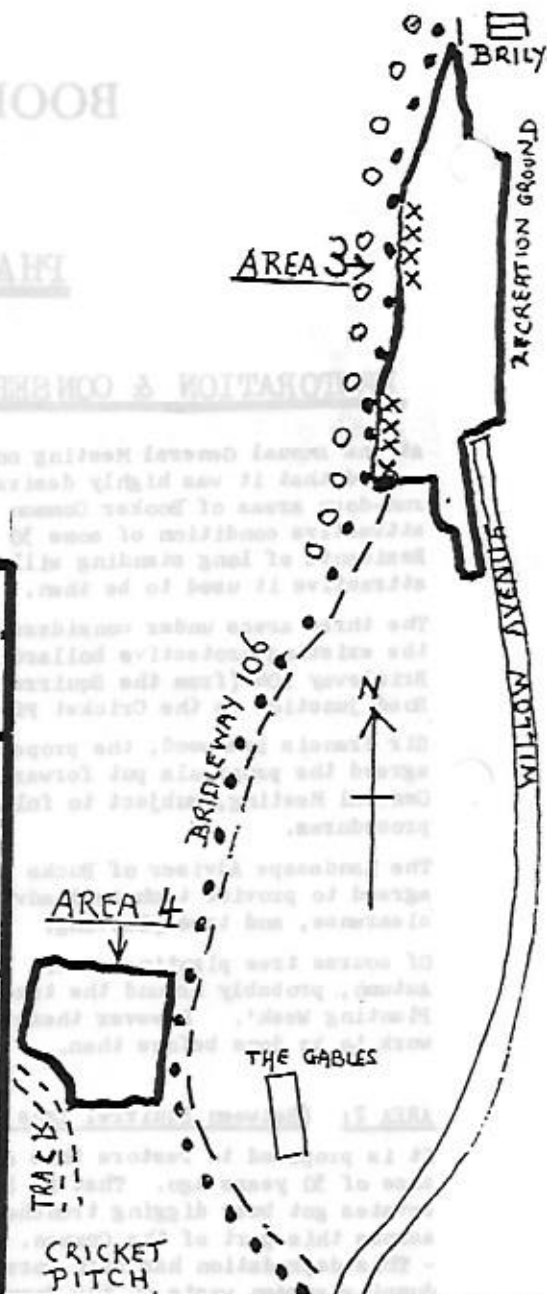
- Paid 4 years subscription in advance and signed a Covenant enabling a reclaim of tax already paid.
- We are especially grateful to these members because they ensured an earlier completion of the 1985 Phase 2 Conservation Programme.

ANY COMMENTS?

Any Comments on Phase 3 Conservation Programme above should be made in writing to: Booker Common & Woods Protection Society, c/o Orchard House, 6 Barbers Wood Close, Booker, High Wycombe HP12 4EW, within 21 days of the date of this Newsletter.

Due Account can be taken of all views before the event, so please don't leave it until too late.

Constructive Suggestions will be especially welcome, as will anybody offering free use of appropriate mechanical equipment.



IS GARDEN WASTE - RUBBISH?

Some people believe that garden waste does no harm to the indigenous woodland ground flora. But professional woodsmen say that garden waste is harmful to woodlands.

'The Woodland Trust' manages some 120 Woodlands throughout the Country for the benefit of the public. (They add to this number each year). They are supported by the Countryside Commission and individuals such as David Bellamy and David Attenborough. So it is reasonable to accept that they know what they are talking about.

EXTRACT FROM 'WOODLAND TRUST' NEWSLETTER:-

".....Those who think that dumping garden waste into woods and other places causes no damage - since the material is degradable and soon disappears - are mistaken. Garden rubbish is a visual intrusion just as much as paper or building rubble. If dumped in quantity and over a long period it can swamp the indigenous flora and alter the character of the soil, which in turn affects the flora.

Most importantly garden waste may contain the seeds of plants which may establish themselves and become a problem. This is because they can dominate the native plants and hybridise with them and so reduce the quality of native populations of flora.

So those with gardening neighbours and friends, please ensure that they burn their rubbish at home, (compost it) or take it to the local authority tip." -NB in our case please take it to Booker Tip. it