

Thornhill North Common Management Plan

This leaflet sets out the key issues and aims for management of the North Common, as identified by the North Common Trustees in 2010, and community consultation in 2011 and 2012.

The North Common is an area of common land on the north side of Thornhill, owned by the community of Thornhill, as represented by the North Common Trustees. It is an important wildlife site, and is valued for recreation.

Aims for Management:

- *To enhance environmental quality, biodiversity and habitats*
- *To improve the North Common as a place for recreation*
- *To create a balance between*
 - *preservation*
 - *conservation*
 - *restoration*
 - *wildness*
- *To keep management achievable and affordable*
- *To ensure the North Common remains viable, both financially and in terms of community interest*
- *To involve the Thornhill Community in maintaining the North Common as a valued asset to the village*

Issue 8: Community involvement

Lack of community involvement, through lack of communication ⇒ increased communication of Management issues and aims. Advertising of/invitations to work days around the village and local papers. Getting other village groups involved.

Issue 9: Funding

Lack of resources to carry out essential maintenance ⇒ Fundraising, seeking grants for specific works, increasing community volunteer inputs.



Please help us to maintain and improve the North Common by:

- *reporting issues or damage*
- *making suggestions*
- *getting involved*

Contact us:

North Common Trust Chair: Alan Bain
Secretary: Calum Fraser 850 220
Other Trustees: M Ritchie, I Berry, M Brown,
F MacDougall, B Dower, M Steedman, J Ashworth,
D Cumming.

Issue 1: Water

Waterlogged paths and occasional flooding ⇒ Works to improve drainage.

Issue 2: Paths

Waterlogged and muddy, overgrown ⇒ Drainage works and maintenance works, including introduction of boardwalks, culverts and bridges.

Issue 3: Trees and scrub

Undermanaged scrub and scattered trees ⇒ Tree thinning and coppicing, scrub control including gorse. Maintenance of low vegetation under powerline (wayleave). Removal or burning of cut material, balanced with habitat creation with piles.

Issue 4: Ground level vegetation

Dense thatch of grasses smothering wildflowers, some species taking over ⇒ Cutting or burning of thatch, identify problem species and tackle them.

Issue 5: Boundaries and hedges

March fence boundary and hedgerows need to be maintained ⇒ Maintain vegetation and wall/fence boundaries, including mixed species hedge planted in 2012.

Issue 6: Thornhill Orchard

New orchard planted March 2012 ⇒ Maintain trees, fruit to be for village use.

Issue 7: Monitoring

Out of date or incomplete records, lack of knowledge of what lives on the North Common ⇒ Maintain regular surveys of wildflowers and bumblebees, record other aspects such as trees and invasive species.

