

Update on Apostle's Meadow for Sep 2026

The meadow has been cut earlier than planned so we will re-sow yellow rattle in the autumn and wildflower seeds again in the spring to start to establish a wildflower meadow. We hope that some of the seeds will be in the soil – the meadow cut will have reduced the spread of thistles though. There was very little ragwort to be seen. The aim is to increase the biodiversity in the meadow and provide paths for people to enjoy the space.

The meadow has survived the drought but the blackthorn look dead. There are also 4 or 5 dead lime trees in the long hedgerow that have not survived the two long hot summers. The oaks have survived, the other whips are growing and the Ecotone planted shrubby areas are all growing well. The hedge is overgrown and needs a tidy up to allow replanting and for light to reach the young whips. We plan to do this using a contractor and include spreading existing and new woodchip.

Tasks for the autumn include:

- Strim hedgerows and mulch.
- Purchase replacement trees x 5 and replace dead blackthorn.
- Mulch Ecotone trees
- Buy picnic and /or benches to enjoy the view
- Sow yellow rattle in autumn
- Seek proposals for naturalistic play equipment. To include land drainage proposal.
- Apostle's meadow sign and information sign. Good dog behaviour sign.
- Check woodland paths and tree health.
- Liaise with the coppicing team for next steps during the winter

We will be reviewing the **finances** for the maintenance of the meadow at the Finance Committee as we have a commitment to ensure that we spend the Section 106 funding in the designated time.

Cathie to organise a **budget meeting** for Apostle's Meadow plans.

Three quotes have been sought for meadow tasks:

- George Crump
- Greenaways
- Phil Nott

Please let me know any ideas or feedback.

Many thanks

Cathie Eberlin