

General Proposals

The whole of the coloured area indicated on the enclosed plan will be designated as a natural area.

The purpose of this area is to conserve the rare limestone and wetland flora, and to protect the fauna that has colonised there. Much of the site is still barren as a result of the earthworks recently undertaken, but colonisation of these areas is slowly developing, and they will soon become of great interest in terms of their flora to naturalists and school children alike.

The natural area will be divided into three main categories:-

(1) The Nature Reserve

The general public will not be allowed access into these areas. Permission to enter will only be granted to ornithologists and botanists, or persons belonging to a naturalist society. Access will be available with authorization from the Warden, and prior notification is required.

(2) Study Area

Again the general public will be discouraged from entering this area. Access will only be permitted to those persons mentioned above, and also to school/college parties wishing to undertake studies.

(3) General Access Area

The general public will be allowed access here, but they must exercise care, and not wander from the designated footpath.

The natural area will only be accessible from two locations; an entrance at the north end and one at the south end (see plan). The steep embankment and suggested perimeter tree planting will deter people from entering from the west, and the lake forms a natural barrier to the east. To the north and south of the natural area barrier planting, fencing and the erection of gates will be necessary to regulate the flow of people through the area.

On approaching these entrances sign posts will be erected to inform the public that they are entering the natural area, and that they should pass through it with due care to the plants and animals living there.

LANDSCAPING

Purpose of tree and shrub planting

Barrier planting

Dense shrub planting will create a thicket that will effectively separate the nature reserve from the rest of the natural area, without being out of character with the area as a fence or wall would be.

Structure Planning

Shrub and tree planting within the natural area will firstly serve the purpose of separating restricted access areas from general access areas, and secondly enhance the scenic quality of the area.

Woodland Planting

The proposed woodland planting will delineate the boundary of the natural area and also improve the diversity of habitat for flora and fauna within the park.

All planting in this area will be indigenous species as previously agreed. See planting plan for further details.