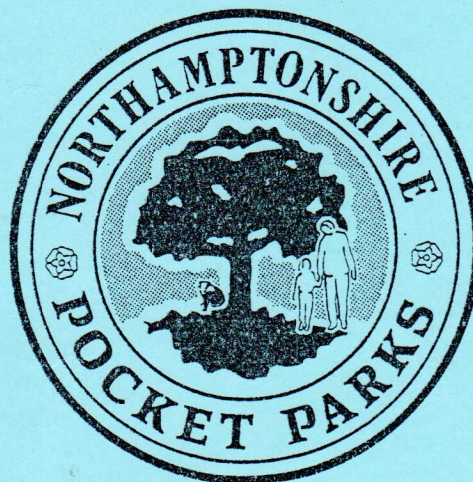


WELFORD POCKET PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN



WELFORD POCKET PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

AIMS

1. To improve and make safe the approach to the village, to Northamptonshire and to the Canal Basin and Welford Marina.
2. To provide an environment for wildlife habitats in accordance with the Biodiversity Action Plan for Northamptonshire.
3. To provide educational opportunities and peaceful recreation for people of all ages, including a circular walk which takes in part of the Welford Arm of the Grand Union Canal.

DESCRIPTION

Location

The site is a crescent-shaped piece of land at the northern end of the village alongside the A5199 (previously the A50), opposite the junction with the Naseby Road.

Map Grid Reference: Map no. 140 SP644808

Size

The area is quite small, approximately 0.19 hectares (0.48 acres).

Access

The main point of entry at present is from the A5199 adjacent to West Street at the southern end of the site. However there is potential for access from the Welford canal basin, at the northern end of the site, by the provision of a footbridge over the River Avon, thus eliminating the need for pedestrians to use the busy road bridge.

Surrounding Land Use

To the west the land is low-lying and boggy. Part of this area comprises a private garden where a pond has been created. Further back is a sewage works. To the east is the A5199 road to Leicester. To the north is the River Avon, the Grand Union Canal and the Leicestershire border. To the south is village housing.

Tenure

The land is to be leased by Northamptonshire County Council to Welford Parish Council for a period of 21 years.

Local Contacts

Sarah Gorrod - 01858 570810
Norman Hills - 01858 575571



History

The original field of about 5.5 acres within which the Pocket Park lies was part of land owned by Baron Webb and was sold to the Earl of Nomanton in about 1834. It was then possibly purchased by a Mr. Wakefield. On the site of the Pocket Park opposite the old Swan Pub stood a cottage now demolished. During the 1930s land was bought by Great Oxendon Rural District Council for a sewage treatment works. During the late 1960s part of the field alongside the then A50 was purchased by Northamptonshire County Council, who removed the hedge, with the intention of realigning the A50. In the 1970s a further piece of land was sold for the new houses at the bottom of West Street. The remaining part of the field has been purchased by an owner of one of these houses. The site of the Pocket Park extends to the River Avon, where the footbridge will be placed across the river alongside the road bridge which replaced a medieval bridge in 1816. The land for the Pocket Park, with modern traffic design in mind, is no longer required by Northamptonshire County Council and has been declared surplus to requirements, so that it can be leased to Welford Parish Council.

EVALUATION

For Conservation

It is hoped that the Pocket Park will provide suitable habitats for a variety of plant and animal life. Meadow areas, left undisturbed for much of the year, should allow a proliferation of wild plants. Existing trees, including willows, can be retained. The boggy ground is suitable for the creation of a pond and wet area, which should provide a habitat for amphibians.

With an increasing variety of plant life occupying different areas in the Pocket Park, it is expected that insect, bird and mammal life will begin to colonise the area.

For Education

It is planned that the area will have signboards describing species of interest which may be seen at certain times of the year, so that all visitors to the Pocket Park will have access to information which will help them to learn about local wildlife. These boards may also have contact numbers so that those who wish to know more can enquire further.

It is also hoped that the local primary school may find the area useful to teach the pupils about wildlife and conservation issues, with the pond being used for dipping and observation.

For Recreation

The creation of the Pocket Park includes the siting of a footbridge over the River Avon. This footbridge will allow for a much safer entry point to the village itself and will make a more secure and pleasant stretch for walks which take in Welford and the marina area. Paths through the Pocket Park will allow all sections of the community to pass through what is hoped will be an interesting conservation area.

Rustic benches will allow people to relax and take time to watch the wildlife whilst enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the Pocket Park.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Pocket Park Committee is to provide an area of varied habitats to maximise the biodiversity (variety of life) of indigenous flora and fauna.

Contained within the Pocket Park the following conservation features will be created:

a) **Wildlife Pond**

This is to be excavated using machinery and will be as natural as possible. Hopefully the water level will remain sufficient without a liner. Initially it will be allowed to naturalise without introductions, and great care should be taken not to introduce plants or wildlife which may upset the natural balance.

b) **Small Spinney**

Advice will be taken to provide this feature using suitable indigenous species, hopefully to encourage maximum wildlife.

c) **Bird and Bat Boxes**

These are to be installed within the spinney area as it develops. However, initially nestboxes will be provided in the established trees within the area.

d) **Rustic Benches**

Seats will be provided in the area so visitors to the Pocket Park can observe the features within it.

e) **Wildflower Meadow**

Using annual and perennial species of an indigenous nature, a small area is to be developed as a wildflower meadow with cowslips, teasels, poppies, ox-eye daisies, corncockle etc. (John Chambers selection). The existing bluebells, lady's smock and lesser celandines will be safe-guarded.

f) **Mixed native hedgerow**

This will be predominantly Hawthorn mixed in with other attractive, berry-bearing shrubs such as Guelder Rose, Hazel, Wayfaring Tree, Dogwood and Spindle, which will support a wide range of wildlife. The hedge will be established along the road boundary and will be laid when it has reached approximately 5' in height.

Whilst waiting for the hedge to mature, a knee-high boundary rail will be erected to make the area safer regarding road traffic.

g) **Footpath/Boardwalk**

A substantial footpath with boardwalk over the wetter area is to be installed. This footpath is to be to a high standard which will allow wheelchair access.

h) **Spring Bulbs**

Spring bulbs will be planted and be of the wild meadow type, i.e. fritillary, crocus, snowdrop, etc.

i) **Bunds for Wildflowers**

Natural type bunds are to be formed, giving ideal habitats for wildflowers of an indigenous nature and butterflies.

j) **Wildlife Ditch**

This already exists and will be maintained.

k) **Footbridge**

A professionally constructed footbridge over the River Avon is to be of a standard high enough for Northamptonshire and Leicestershire County Highways to adopt and maintain after installation.

l) **Safety**

Health and safety will be managed by creating a safe site for visitors and volunteers in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974). Advice is available from the County Council's Safety Officer.

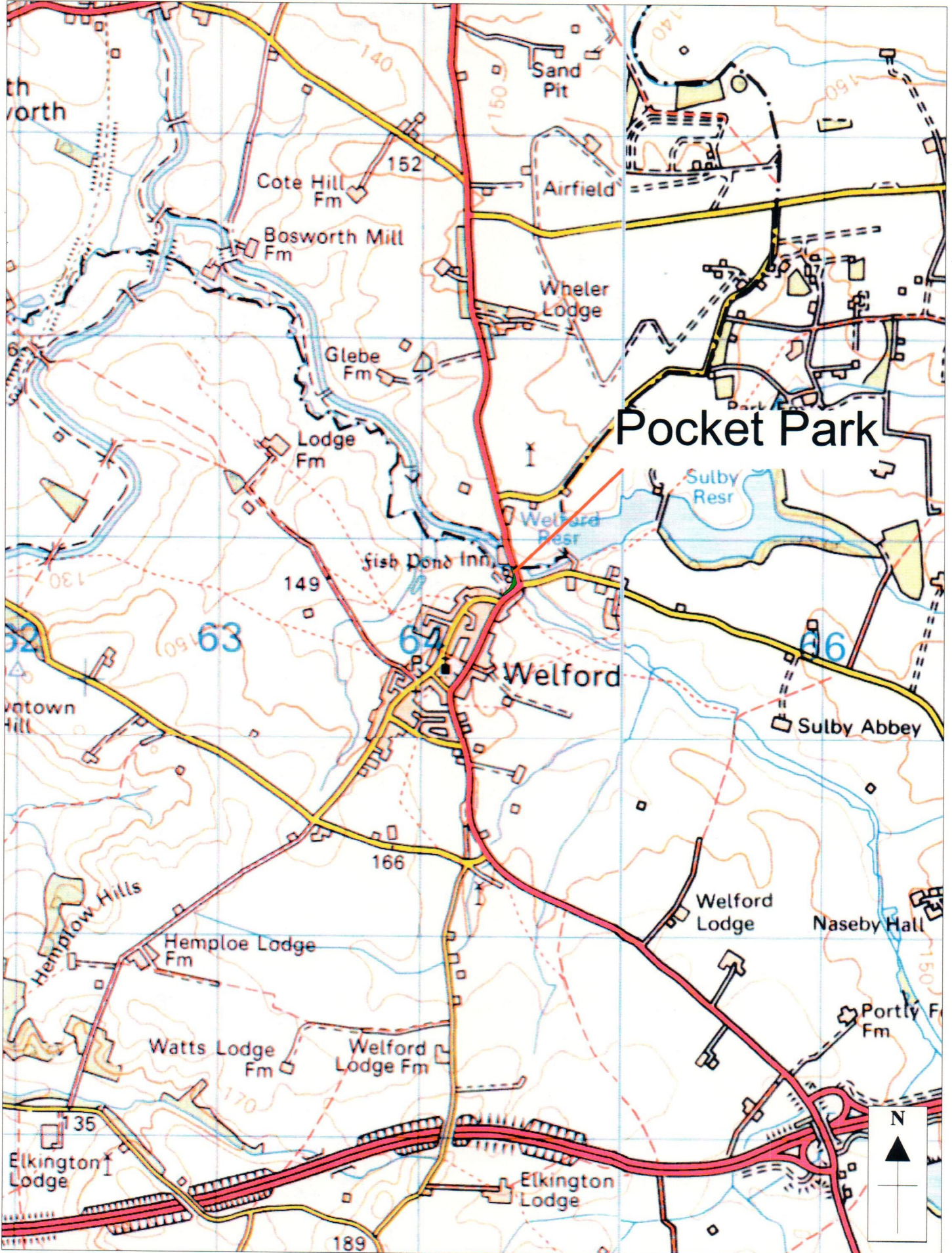
Any accidents involving First Aid provision or other medical treatment should be recorded by the group's First Aider. It should then be included in the Pocket Park Annual Diary to be submitted to the Pocket Parks Officer at the end of each year. This will help the County Council to evaluate future risk assessment and make decisions on how best to reduce accidents.

**WELFORD POCKET PARK
ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

MANAGEMENT OPERATION	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Clear site of debris/rubbish	Spring				
Mow meadow and remove cuttings	Apr.+ Oct.	Apr.+ Oct.	Apr.+ Oct.	Apr.+ Oct.	Apr. + Oct.
Install drains and dig out pond	June				
Create and plant up pond	July				
Install signs	July	onwards			
Install footpath, boardwalk and benches	August				
Install footbridge over River Avon	August				
Sow wildflower seeds	Autumn	Autumn			
Plant wildflower bulbs	Autumn	Autumn			
Plant hedgerow and erect boundary rail	December				
Plant spinney	December				
Aftercare of new trees and hedgerow (keep watered and weed-free)		May-Sept.	May-Sept.		
Make and install bird and bat boxes		January			
Clean out bird and bat boxes ready for nesting season			January	January	January
Clear excess vegetation from pond and ditch		Autumn	Autumn	Autumn	Autumn
Carry out survey of all wildlife using the site; monitor and record change	O N	G O	I	N	G
Encourage use of the site by Welford Primary School	O N	G O	I	N	G
Maintain fences, benches, signs, etc. with environment-friendly preservative	O N	G O	I	N	G
Keep site free of litter	O N	G O	I	N	G
Hold Grand Opening		March			

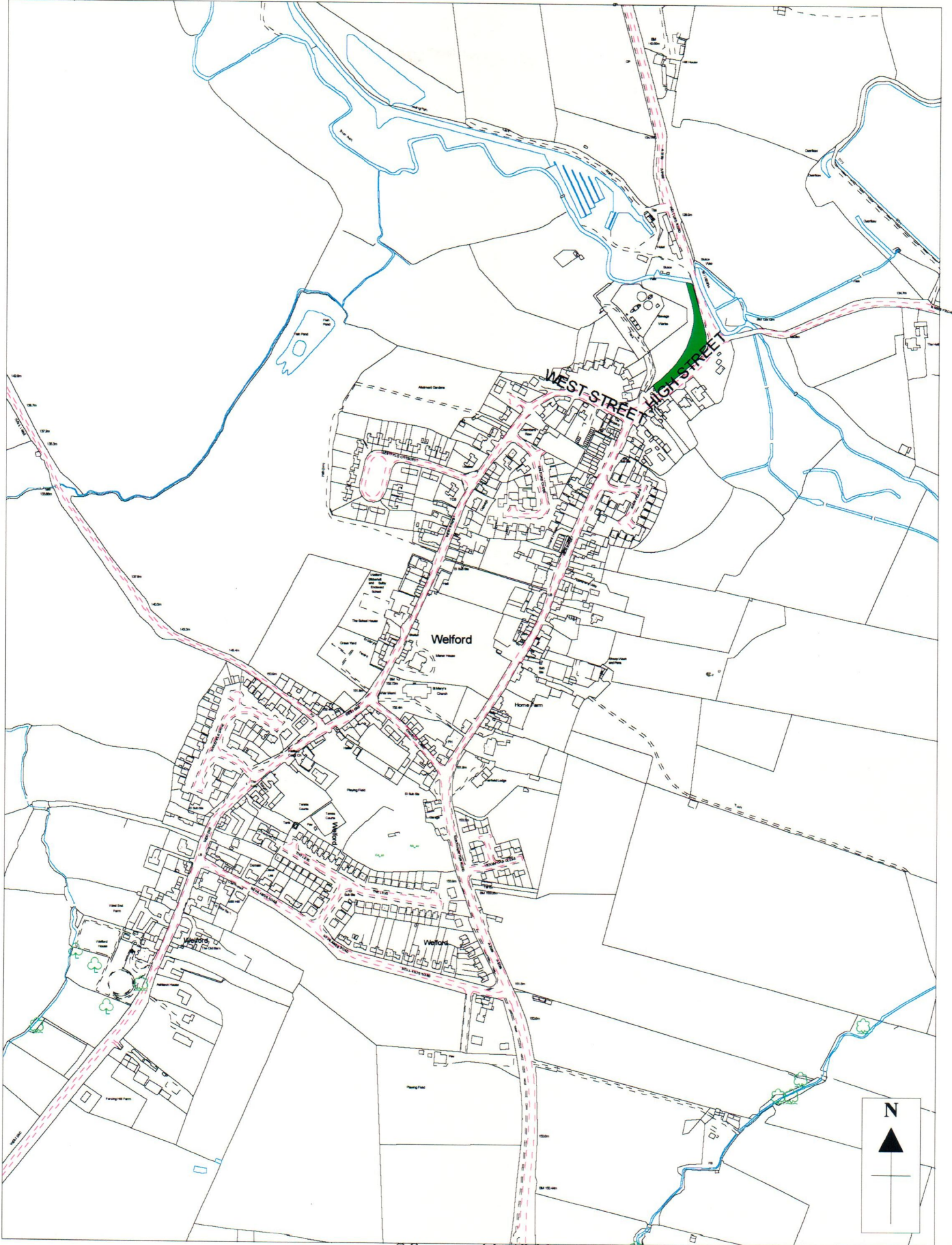
Create boggy area

Sept.

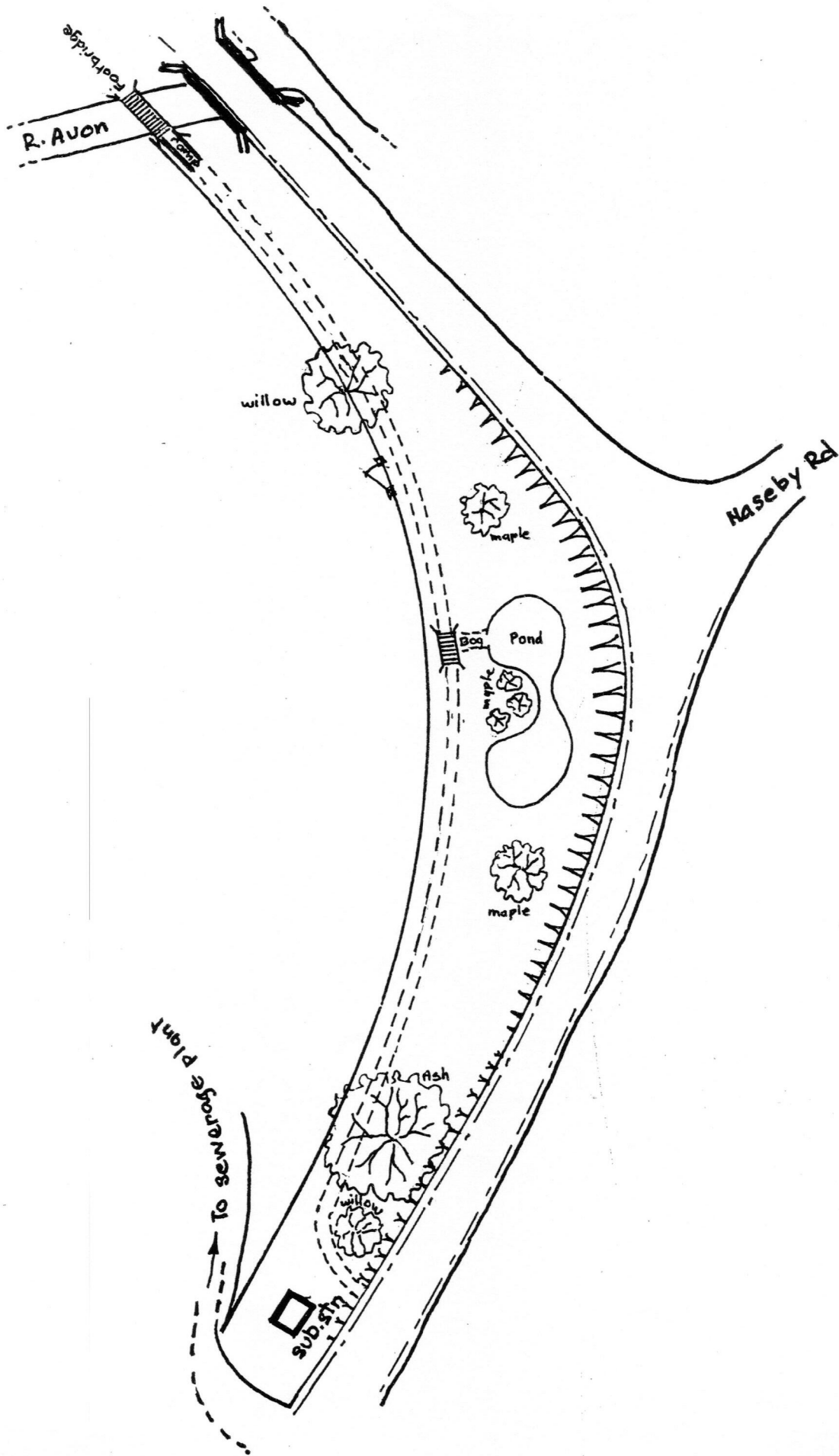


Welford Pocket Park

Scale 1:6152







SITE OF WELFORD POCKET PARK

Not to scale

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
COUNTRYSIDE
SERVICES
24 NOV 1999

MRS J. R. SIMKINS
60 HIGH STREET
WELFORD
NORTHAMPTON
NN6 6HT
Tel. 01858 575762

Dear Sue.

I hope you will find the
enclosed information helpful

PLANTS BIRDS FOOT TREE FOIL

BLUEBELLS

BUTTERCUPS

BULRUSH

COW PARSLEY

HEDGE PARSLEY

CLOVER

CELANDINE

DOCK

DEAD NETTLE

DANDELION

DAISY

FORGET ME NOT

GROUND ELDER

LADY-SMOCK

MALLOW

MEADOWSWEET

RED CAMPION

SPEEDWELL

TEASEL

THISTLE

VETCH

PLANTED DAFFODIL

BULBS.

GROUNDSEL

GOSSEGRASS

~~BIRDS FOOT TREE FOIL~~

BUTTERFLIES

ORANGE TIP

BRIMSTONE

TREES

SEVERAL ACER

LARGE ASH.

OLD WILLOWS (REMOVED)

BRAMBLE & ELDERBERRY (REMOVED)

BIRDS

COLLARED DOVES

BLUE TITS

WRENS

BLACKBIRDS

SPARROWS

KINGFISHER

GRASS SNAKE (DEAD)

SINCE POND WAS MADE

DAMSELFLIES

DRAGONFLIES

WATERBOATMAN.

FROGS.

Regards. June Simkins

**WELFORD POCKET PARK
SPECIES LIST**

Plants

Birds Foot Trefoil
Bluebells
Buttercups
Bulrush
Cow Parsley
Hedge Parsley
Clover
Celandine
Dock
Dead Nettle
Dandelion
Daisy
Forget Me Not
Ground Elder
Lady's Smock
Mallow
Meadowsweet
Red Campion
Speedwell
Teasel
Thistle
Vetch
Planted Daffodil bulbs
Groundsel
Goosegrass

Butterflies

Orange Tip
Brimstone

Trees

Several Acer
Large Ash
Old Willows (removed)
Brambles and Elderberry (removed)

Birds

Collared Doves
Blue Tits
Wrens
Blackbirds
Sparrows
Kingfisher

Grass Snake (dead)

Since pond was made

Damselflies
Dragonflies
Waterboatman
Frogs

Wildflower Meadow

Campion - *Silene Dioica* – (white/red)
Cornflower
Corncockle
Cornmarigold
Cowslips
Dropwort
Dogwoods (red)
Forget-me-not
Fox & Cubs
Foxglove
Greater Knapweed
Geranium Pietanse
Harebell
Hypericum Androsenum (wild)
Linaria (pink/blue)
Oxeye Daisy
Poppies – various
Sheeps Bit
Thistle
Verbascum (Mullein)
Vipers Bugloss
Violet

Bluebell/Woodland

Anemone – Wood (*Numerosa*)
Bluebell – Non-Scripta/*Scilla Siberica*
Columbine – *Aquilegia Vulagris*
Cowslip – *Primula Veris*
Crocus – species (variety)
Lungwort – *Pulmonaria Officinalis*
Mallow – (Pink)
Narcisus – Tête a tête/Jetfire/Ice Follies
Fortune (field types) mixed
Primrose – *Primula Vularis* (wild)
Snowdrops
Thistle
Violet (sweet) – *Viola Reuiniaria* *Viola Adorata*

Walk/Ditch

Campion - (red)
Comfrey – (blue/white)
Dogwood – (yellow)
Fritillary - Snakeshead
Geranium Phaeum – (black)
Honeysuckle
Lungwort – *Pulmonaria* (blue)
Narcisus - various
Violet – (Heartease)

Butterfly Meadow

Berberis - Tuxifolianana
Buddleia - various
Campion - red
Comfrey – blue - white
Privet
Roses various – *Canina/Rugosa/Moyasi*
Valerian - pink

Pond Area

Fritillary - Snakehead
Iris - yellow
Lythrem – pink
Nemesia – yellow/blue
Valerian (white)

Pond

Marsh Marigold
Waterlily
Watersoldiers

2002
Badger tracks
Moorhen in pond

