

To receive a report from Saltash Environmental Action and consider any actions or associated expenditure.

Elwell Woods

SEA received a visit from the professional ecologist from Land&Heritage, Tim Harrison-White. He noted the range of wildlife habitats that Elwell Woods offers, which gives the opportunity for close observation of Nature, including by children. He suggested the theme of 'enhancement'

General comments included suggested collaboration from various organisations of amateur enthusiasts. Surveys of wildlife reporting to online databases would enhance the area's recognition. We hope to pursue this idea. He suggested that the best vistas should be identified and preserved.

In the **orchard**, he noted that the present apple trees have dwarfing rootstock which is not the most appropriate, and they could be replaced over time with standard apple trees. The grass here could be managed as meadow, with a central mown path.

The orchard hedge is markedly overgrown, and SEA volunteers have started to manage this.

He noted the invasion of a foreign plant species, Winter heliotrope, and recommended a series of 3 chemical treatments. Land&Heritage subsequently provided an estimate of £512.40 inc VAT for the first treatment only, and SEA will seek other estimates and report back to Council.

He recommended that the **bramble area** could benefit from cutting to ground level in 7 segments in rotation, in order to provide wider variety of habitats. Volunteers have already effectively made a start on this, and next Winter we will request help from Council Services with a brush-cutter.

The **wooded area** consists largely of single-age sycamore trees. It could provide more varied habitats if these were thinned and other species planted. so SEA will seek wider opinions on taking this forward. He made technical suggestions for planting of understorey and woodland edge.

Some standing water would add significantly to the habitats of Elwell Woods, most appropriately by digging a scrape to be lined.

We are inviting local residents to come forward to consult on these issues, and will report back to Council.

Adrian White
SEA