

Bantock Park – Nature Improvement Area Proposals

The restoration of historic field hedgerows & meadow creation at Bantock Park:

Up until the 20th century the area which is now Bantock Park comprised a typical rural landscape of small rural fields divided by native hedgerows. The gradual suburbanisation of this part of Wolverhampton from the late 19th century saw the area become utilised as a park, playing fields and allotment gardens. With these changes many of the defining features of the historic landscape were lost. The proposed project will see historic hedgerows re-planted and small areas of the grassland converted to meadow.



This frequently wet part of the site has been allowed to naturalise over the last few years and some meadow species have been introduced. The area will be diversified through the addition of a parasitic flowering plant called Yellow-rattle which weakens grasses and allows other flowering plants to establish. Some seed-rich hay from a local old meadow will also be spread on the area to introduce new species.

The western section of this hedgerow was lost in the 1960s. This will be replanted with a native-mixed hedgerow and hedgerow flowers will be sown.

A hedgerow is depicted on historic maps in this location up to the 1960s. This will be re-instated through the planting of a native-mixed hedgerow dominated by Hawthorn with Hazel, Field Maple and Oak. Individual trees can be allowed to grow on as mature trees, whilst the remainder will be managed as hedgerow shrubs. A mix of hedgerow flowers will also be sown.

This little-used area of grassland will be treated with herbicide in early summer to weaken the existing sward. In late summer hay from a species-rich meadow will be spread on the area and within 2-3 years a flower-rich meadow will establish. Species will include orchids and cowslip. The meadow areas will require an annual late summer hay cut with the cuttings removed.



A well-managed donor meadow

