

FRIENDS OF WHALLEY MOOR WOODLAND

WHALLEY MOOR WOODLAND

INFORMATION TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS' INTERVENTIONS

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS INTENDED TO ASSIST ALL VOLUNTEERS IN THEIR INVALUABLE WORK, WHETHER DEVELOPING THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WILDLIFE, CREATING AND MAINTAINING SPACES FOR PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING OR DEFENDING THE NATIVE SPECIES FROM ALIEN INVASIVES.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PRINT ANY (OR ALL) PAGES WHICH MAY ASSIST YOU IN YOUR WORK.

MANY IMAGES MAY SEEM SMALL ON THE PRINTED PAGE BUT CAN BE ENLARGED ON SCREEN

THIS IS A CONSTANT "WORK IN PROGRESS". IT WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY (IN THE AUTUMN) AND CAN BE UPDATED AT ANY TIME. PLEASE LET ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER KNOW OF ANY INACCURACY OR CHANGE IN THE DETAILS RECORDED HEREIN.

Whalley Moor Woodland

Information to Support Volunteers' Interventions

Some Historical Background.

As a “Woodlander”, volunteering to “do your bit”, your invaluable contribution to sustaining and further developing the Woodland - as a centre for wildlife biodiversity and as a resource to enrich our physical and emotional well-being - will be further enhanced by having an insight into its history.

The Woodland evolved, largely unplanned, after the closure of Calderstones Hospital's main site during the 1980s. The Woodland's location was previously the site of a railway line, locomotive shed, gas works, small power-station, laundry, brickworks, clay pit (with 2 tramways running between it and the brick works), and an underground reservoir - all with the requisite surface and underground infrastructure. Although the buildings were razed and much of the rubble removed, some was dumped and partially buried on-site. Where there was some associated contamination, the appropriate part of the site was fenced-off. Much of the underground infrastructure, including brick-built access shafts, remains. Some of it protrudes above the surface and in some cases old fencing and other “protections” have become potential hazards (although these have been identified and ameliorations are in hand). Therefore, we need to remember that we are in a new woodland on a disused industrial site not an ancient, natural environment.

That said, considerable efforts have been made by local government officers and determined volunteers to make the woodland as natural and healthy as a habitat, and as safe for all species (humans included) as possible. While much can be celebrated, one side-effect that all volunteers need to know about is that successive rounds of tree-surgery have left significant volumes of felled trunks and branches lying on the woodland surface. This is partly because its removal is not feasible, but also, importantly, because allowing it to rot *in situ* enriches the soil and creates new wildlife habitats. The disadvantage, of course, is that this creates further obstacles for volunteers to consider while on the ground.

The Current Context.

Ironically, securing and enhancing the “naturalness” of the Woodland requires quite a bit of human intervention.

- It is constantly threatened by invasive plants, especially Himalayan Balsam and Sedge, either or both of which could literally overwhelm indigenous plants and ruin the Woodland. No doubt others will arrive in due course.
- The placement of bird boxes and other habitat-improvements for wildlife is a significant recent development.
- Proposals to make other improvements to access require careful preparation.

While most visitors will get what they need through their use of the footpaths, as volunteers we need to have an adequate understanding of the “interior” for most activities.

For Balsam Bashing and Sedge Slaughter, for example, activity often occurs when other the vegetation is full, dense and apparently impenetrable. Several large parts of the Woodland and many underlying features are effectively invisible. Therefore, avoiding injury is important. Also problematic is the logging and tracking of changes in the populations of invasive species; this can be non-existent or wildly inaccurate. Planning priorities for action/attention may be based on incomplete evidence,

co-ordination of effort may be less effective, and volunteers may be unaware of the range of places where a little attention could do a great deal of good.

Therefore, for any volunteering activity we need to ensure that you have the fullest possible picture of the conditions you are dealing with – especially when you can't see what they are.

The Woodland Information Charts.

For some years we have attempted to overcome this by charting the Woodland and dividing it into reasonably self-evident sections. (We now know, reassuringly, that these, closely coincide with the system the local authority's advisers use.)

The starting point is the official illustrated map. Although now outdated in some details it still offers a sound basis for our work.

The datum point and the general approach is to work clockwise from the Fell View entrance (even if it is at the six o'clock position!).

The paths are used to define the edges of each designated area. These are numbered to aid navigation and are marked on the charts. Again, the Fell View entrance is the datum point.

Please Note:

1. The charts are not to scale or fully accurate. They are intended only as a guide. The descriptions beside the chart for each section is intended to clarify the key boundaries and only need to be approximate.
2. Photographs to illustrate the extent and underlying conditions of each section are included.
3. These are augmented by a brief description of any features of which you may need to be aware.
4. On the ground some sections are comfortably navigated but others are very challenging. A "grading" system to assist Volunteers in deciding what is within their comfort zone and physical capabilities is available.

Grade 1: involves some/all of very steep slopes, slippery or otherwise treacherous conditions underfoot, dense undergrowth and/or a profusion of felled wood. Only those with appropriate footwear and protective clothing and the strength to work on such terrain should consider it. (The best example Sections J, K and L, the steeply-sloped side of the railway cutting backing onto the new housing development towards Whalley).

Grade 2: involves some sloped terrain and some pockets of dense vegetation, which, while demanding care are accessible to most people who are physically reasonably agile. (A reasonable example would be left the side of the path in the cutting leading to the stile onto Mitton Road by the bridge.)

Grade 3: generally flat or slightly uneven terrain, perhaps with dense undergrowth and/or a few minor obstacles. Not too difficult to manage by any volunteer, including our Rangers. (An example may be E1. Quite an extensive area with Turkey Lane immediately on the left looking towards Mitton Road.)

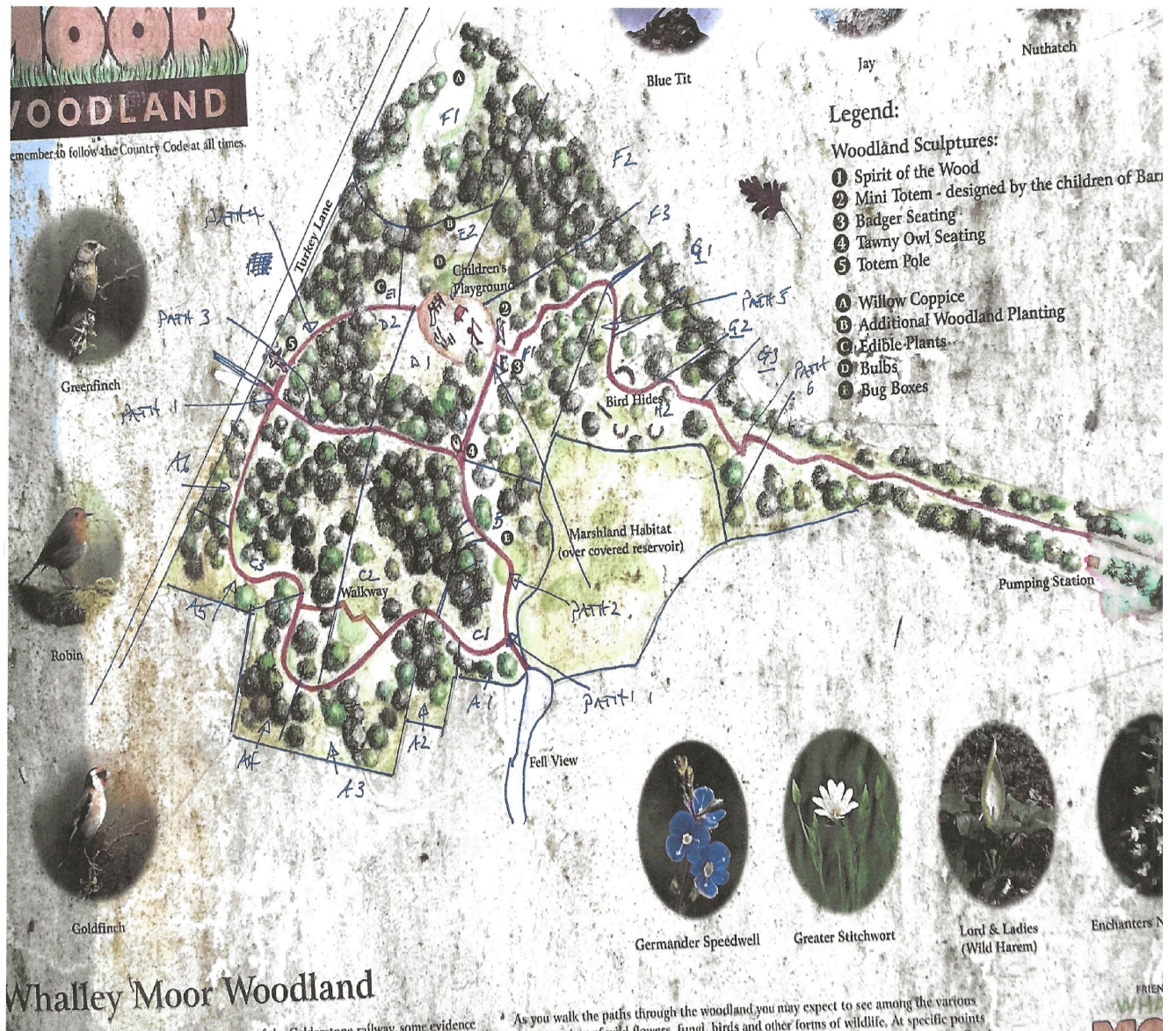
Grade 4: generally flat terrain, perhaps with occasional obstacles like items of felled timber but comfortable to traverse and accessible to almost any person with a normal range of mobility. (Areas C2 and C3 offer pretty good examples.)

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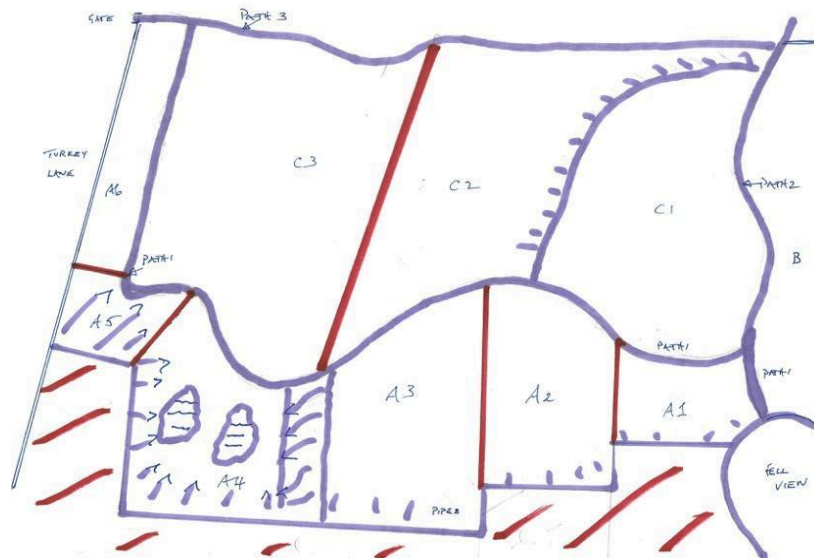
January 22, 2023.

Getting Our Bearings - An Outline of the "Sections"

As noted above, the sections into which we have divided the Woodland coincide very closely with those of tree management experts, but we have applied our own designations and sub-divided them with the intention that this will make it easier for you to manage your work and to navigate the Woodland.



SECTION A



Section A includes all the land to the left of Path 1, which runs from the Fell View Entrance, turns sharp left and leads to the gateway onto Turkey Lane. The boundaries of A1 to A5 inclusive are set by the lines between the path and the boundaries of the gardens behind Fell View and Lakeland View.

A1: (Grade 3-4)

A1 covers the area between the entrance pathway and the end and side of the first house's garden fence. A1 is on the left of the path as seen from the Fell View entrance. As the photographs (Jan 2023) indicate, the land underfoot is quite flat and usually relatively dry. The only obstacles you may encounter are likely to be limbs cut from trees. The bottom photograph shows the path leading to A2 and beyond.





A2. (Grade 2)

A2 is deeper, running from the path to the rear garden fence of the second house. The path-side edge of this section is marked by what, in summer, looks like a substantial mound of earth leading to a slightly elevated section of land. This slope, largely formed of dense vegetation through which we must make a way, can be treacherous. The main part of A2 can be extremely densely packed with plants – native and invasive and including tall-growing nettles and brambles. Underfoot it can be slippery and there are remnants of former industrial kit and cut timber, so while it isn't inherently dangerous, care is advised.



The banking leading up to A2



A taste of the surface of A2

A3. (Grade 2)

A3 is deeper again, running from the path to the side of the garden in A2 and back of the adjacent house. As distinguishing feature is exposed large pipework in the far-left corner when seen from the path. *The pipes have been reported as a hazard and it is hoped RVBC will remove them.*



The distinctive pipework in A3.
The surface of A3 is pretty well identical to that of A2 so caution is advised.



A4. (Grade 2)

A4 includes the slope down from the edge of A3, the low-lying, flat and very boggy area beyond and the slope up to the house behind, ending in a line from the corner of the property jutting out into the woodland and the apex of the curve in the path. The whole area is often slippery with a profusion of fallen/cut timber doesn't help. It

is important to. Note than a distinguishing feature of this patch is that the hollow it contains easily and frequently floods, forming one or two large ponds.





A5 Grade 3 on the flat. Grade 2 on the slope.

A5 runs from that line noted at the edge of A4 and the point where the land levels out. It includes the very steep, often slippery and obstacle-strewn slope up to the property.





Please Note. A metal sheet near the log pile close to Turkey lane has been reported to RVBC. It is hoped that this will be removed.



A6 (Grade 4) runs from the end of A5 along the remaining length to the left of Path 1 on one side and the fence along Turkey Lane on the other. A6 ends at the pathway onto Turkey Lane. As with A1 the land is basically flat, relatively even and usually

quite dry. Fallen or cut tree branches are the principal obstacle a volunteer is likely to meet.



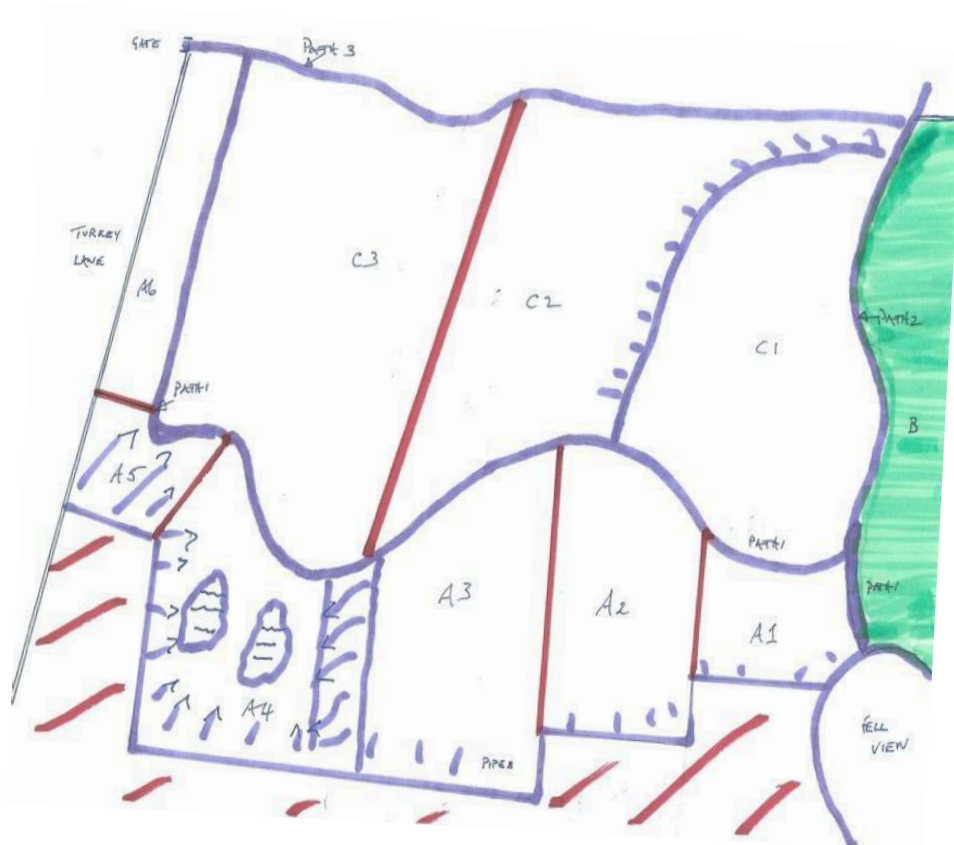
The image above shows the gateway onto Turkey Lane. The image below show path 1 running parallel to Turkey Lane.



SECTION B

Grade 4.

Path 2 begins at the point where Path 1 turns left, and runs to join Path 3 (the one that runs more or less directly from the Turkey Lane entrance where it meets Path 1). Section B occupies the area from the right hand edge of Path 2 to the covered reservoir and a line extended from the end of Path 3.



At first glance it doesn't appear very large, and can be easily overlooked, but it has quite a sizeable area not accurately illustrated in this outline chart. It doesn't tend to be affected heavily by Balsam but is prey to incursions by sedge. Its most obvious feature is the platform.



Section B to the right at the Fell View entrance. The area rises gently from the path and platform and becomes generally level where it meets the Marshland habitat covering the reservoir.

The terrain is quite level but contains significant numbers of trees. There are plenty of brambles but these don't significantly hinder movement. There are no significant accumulations of logs and other obstacles, and few signs of old infrastructure or reported hazards. The ground, inevitably, is uneven but not difficult to work.





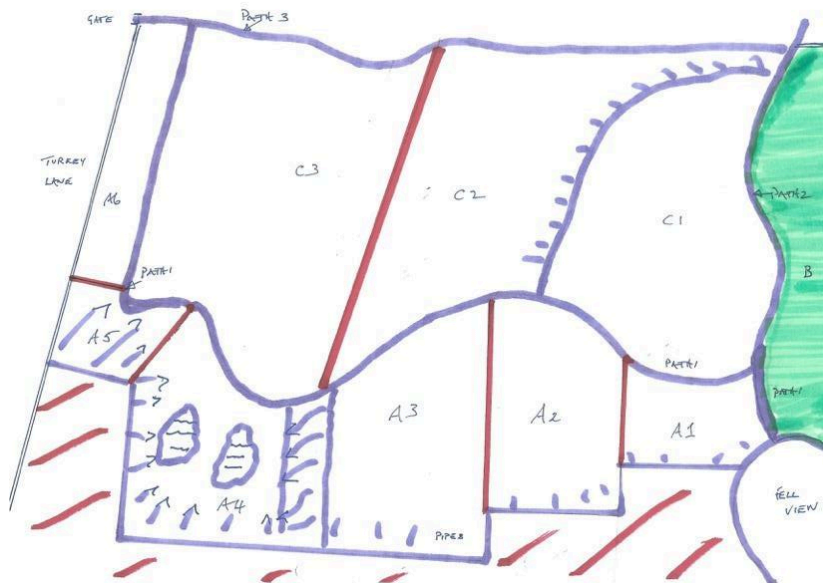
Near the border with the Marshland
Habitat.



Sedge!

SECTION C

This occupies the area bounded by Paths 1, 2 and 3.



C1 is the higher, broadly rectangular area besides path 1 and 2, and the slopes down from there.

C2 and C3 occupy the remaining lower, flat land.

C2 lies to the LEFT of a line between the central point in the curve in Path 3 (near it the path's own mid-point) and the centre of the curve marking the boundary between A3 and A4.

C3 lies to the RIGHT of that line.

C1 (Grade 1 throughout), although some parts look misleadingly straightforward. At the junction of Paths 1 and 2 (where the “Welcome” Boards stand) and along much of Path 1 (to the right) it appears to be relatively easy to enter and quite flat. In fact there is dense, sharp undergrowth and extremely uneven ground beneath it.



The beginning of C1 to the right of the path. C1 from path 1. However, when viewed from down path 2, more of its nature is seen. Among the dense concentration of trees and undergrowth some old infrastructure remains. When leaving path 2 there is a profusion of felled timber, undergrowth and a sharply rising mound which forms C1. The height and steepness of the rise are not immediately obvious from the image below but can be very slippery and strewn with undergrowth. There are times of the year that it is difficult to penetrate. Trees also inhibit access.



About half way along the bottom of this embankment a notch is cut out of the banking leaving a deep, very steep-sided, slippery and log-and-bush strewn hollow. This is perhaps

the most difficult to reach centre of Balsam growth and can be extremely difficult to penetrate. The pictures above right and below left give only a slight idea of its nature.



As the end of the elevated area swings round to join Path 1 it falls away steeply, generating another steep-sided and difficult to access hollow where Balsam thrives.



Another view of the steep drop into the hollow.





In addition to the dense vegetation, especially, nettles, brambles and trees the surface of C1 is uneven and pitted by holes and gaps between densely packed felled timber.

NB. The Debris Survey (January 2023) identified 2 metal drums, metal links, posts and a spindle on the surface and reported these to RVBC to request their removal. Please continue to be vigilant.

Sections C2 and C3 are fundamentally one environment **Grade 3-4**. The terrain is broad, flat, mostly firm unless the rainfall has been very heavy, and easy to navigate. There are significant numbers of trees of various ages and abundant new growth. However, care must be taken as elsewhere: there are patches of damp and uneven ground and plenty of felled timber to fall over. Low growing brambles etc tend to grasp one's ankles, too.



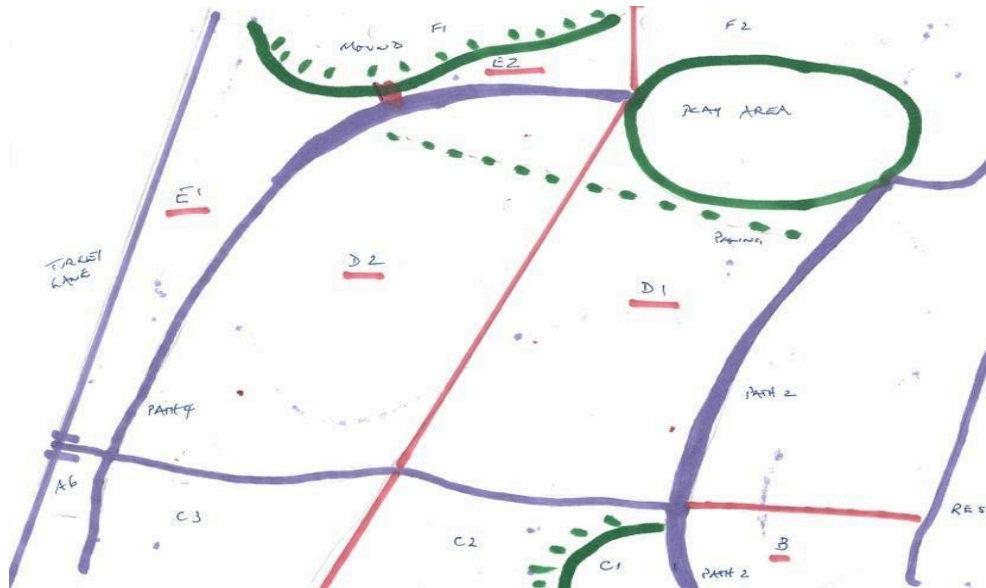


SECTION D

Section D comprises the flat area lying between Path 2 (beyond its junction with Path 3) to the Playground, Path 3 and Path 4 (which begins at the “crossroads” with Paths 1 and 3 and forms the main route to the other entrance to the Playground).

D1 is most easily seen as the terrain occupy the area backing onto the length of the Playground and running to the central point of the curve on Path 3 (continuing the boundary between C2 and C3).

D2 lies to the RIGHT of that line – with one’s back to the Playground.



As with C2 and C3 the “division” into two sections is arbitrary and artificial, designed only to parcel up task into manageable pieces. Much of the terrain in D1 and D2 is relatively straightforward but there are possible problems to look out for.

NB. D1 and D2 are bounded on the Playground side by a newly renovated wooden palisade fence and “Keep Out” signs. These indicate an area where contamination from the former buildings and infrastructure remains in the soil.





Seen from the playground through the fencing. Fencing seen from inside D1 (and D2)

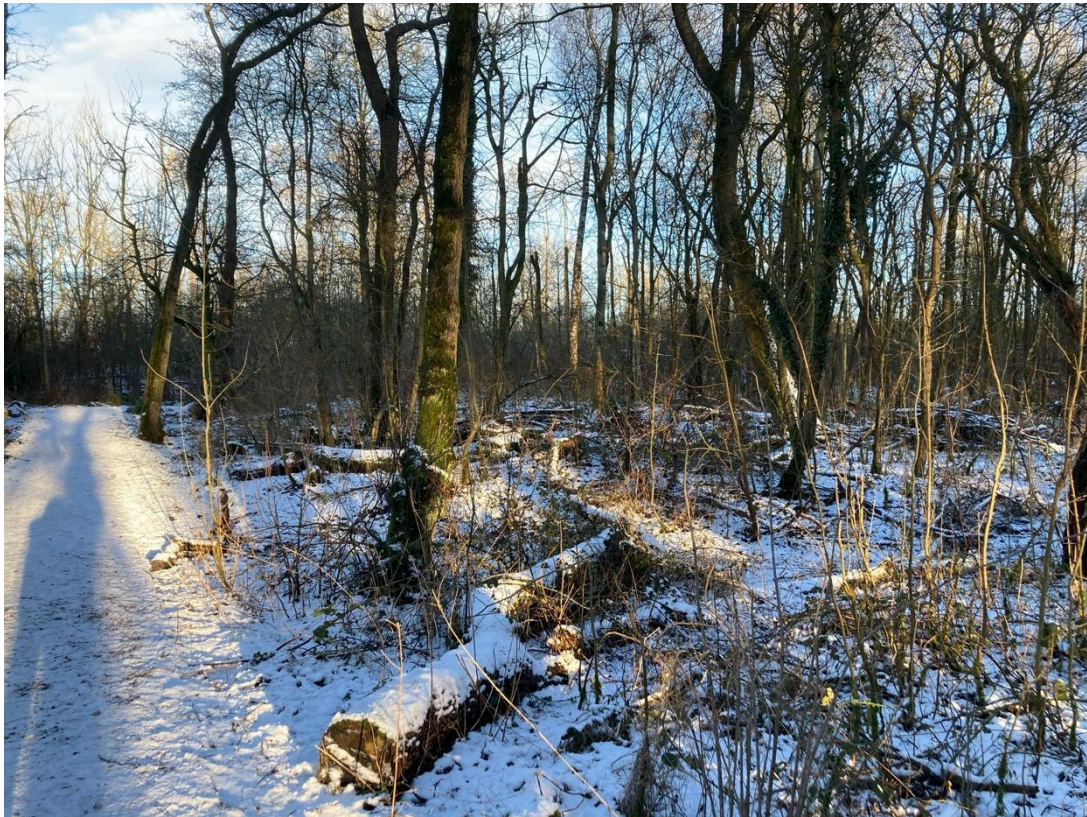


The terrain is basically flat but can be very uneven, especially where cut timber and low growing shrubs cover the ground. There are parts where tree density is quite great and in summer the undergrowth can both limit balsam growth and make isolated “targets” difficult to reach.





Near the “boundary” between D1 and D2, towards the centre of the section, is an area which frequently forms a pond. It is not deep but very muddy and requires caution.



D2 seen from Path 4 – a fairly typical view.

Gradings:

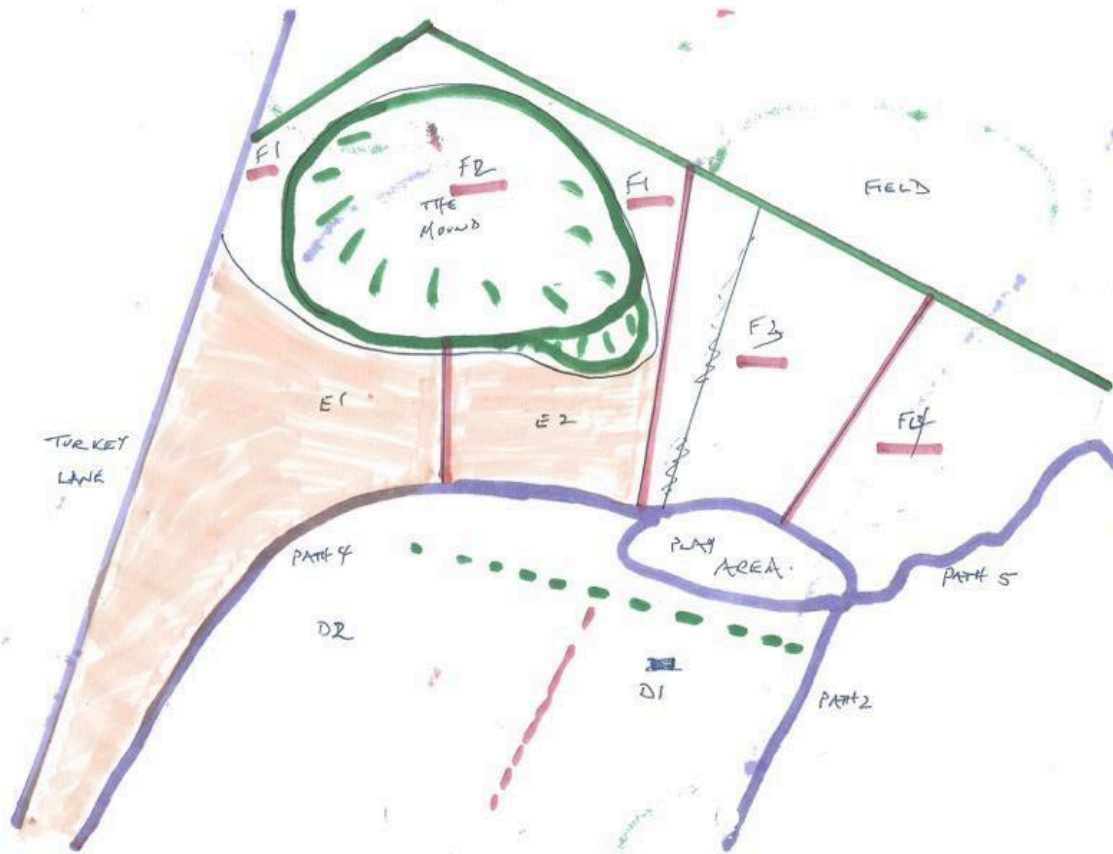
The area around the fencing should be avoided where possible.

The area around the “pond” and the areas dominated by felled timber **Grade 2**.

The remained of D1 and D2 **Grade 3-4**. (**Grade 3** when the vegetation is especially dense in high summer).

SECTION E

Section E is bounded by Turkey Lane on the left and Path 4 on the right and runs from the gateway onto Turkey Lane to the base of the feature which might be described as “The Mound” (the core of Section F). It is an extensive piece of terrain (coloured orange below).



E1 runs as far as the narrowest point between the base of the Mound and Path 4.

The character of E1 is not consistent. Moving from the Turkey Lane entrance towards the mound, the terrain is flat – but can be very uneven and with fallen/cut timber (below, left) and vegetation forming obstacles, especially in summer. This is true by the boundary fence along Turkey Lane where Balsam enters – and space is limited.



The further one goes towards the mound, the denser the trees and undergrowth become, and the greater the chance of encountering quite significant wood piles formed from previous bouts of tree surgery over several years.





However, there are also relatively flat and unchallenging areas. (Below)



As the Mound is approached, the slope becomes increasingly steep and usually densely covered by brambles and other hard-to-penetrate plants. The image below gives an imperfect impression of both.



The clearly flat areas without significant obstacles are perhaps fairly graded as **Grade 2 and Grade 3 in the easiest parts**. The more challenging parts, including the areas around log-piles and slopes are closer to **Grade 1**.

E2 lies beyond that point, bounded by Path 4 and the base of the Mound to a line running from the entrance to the Playground and the corner of the Mound. This is very approximate but has been a useful indicator in the past.

The ground rises across the width of E2 and is quite densely packed by shrubs and other undergrowth. It is a challenging environment at its worst and generally **Grade 3 (at its easiest)**(see below) **and at least Grade 2 in its more demanding areas.**



On the approach to the Mound it is possible to encounter hazards, some of which date from the site's prior function. Stone slabs and barbed wire are among items reported to RVBC for

removal. Some “human activity” including den-building may also be encountered. Nothing is particularly dangerous but, as ever, caution and forethought are advised.

SECTION F

This is one of the more demanding parts of the Woodland site. It includes all the higher ground constituting and sloping away from the Mound. It extends from the edge of Turkey Lane and behind the Playground to the point where Path 5 is closest to the boundary fencing. (Path 5 begins at the point where Path 2 meets the entrance to the Playground and runs in the direction of the railway cutting and Mitton Road bridge.)

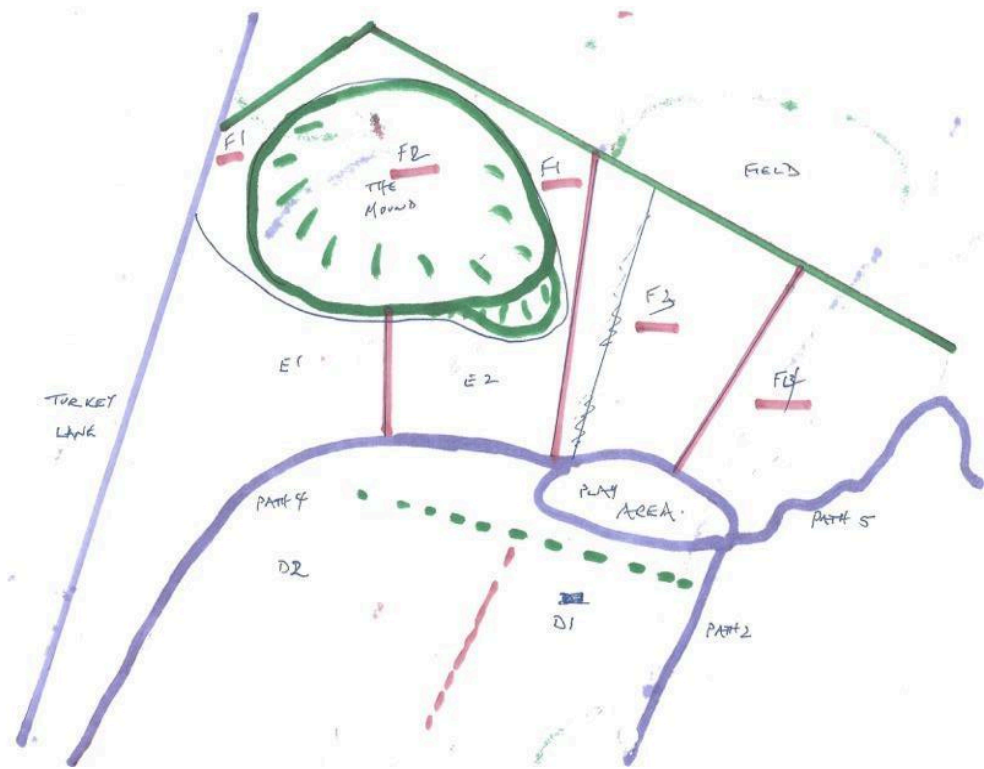
It has proved useful to divide the Section into 4 smaller divisions. (This is a slight variation on the full-size illustrated reference map.)

F1 occupies the strips of territory behind and to either side of the Mound. It follows the fence boundary beyond E1, along Turkey Lane, turning right to join the field boundary fence behind the Mound as far as a line running up from the Path 4 entrance to the Playground.

F2 is all the sloping ground around, and to the top of the Mound. In other words, it IS the Mound.

F3 runs from the boundary of E2, broadly running from the Path 4 entrance to the Playground to about 2/3 of the length of the Playground. (There is no clear feature to help to distinguish this edge).

F4 continues this area behind the Playground to the point where Path 5 is closest to the iron fence field boundary (close to the small water treatment works).



Overall, then, Section F is a large area with sharp slopes and uneven, slippery surfaces. Across its length, from the “front”/ Playground side, it appears – and is – very steeply-sloped, on often wet and slippery earth, densely covered by trees and shrubs and generally forbidding.

F2. The approach to the Mound (F2) and the start of F1 to the left – and up the slope.



Across the frontage of the Mound.



These images do not do full justice to the slope. **GRADE 1** (See also F1 and Alternative Approaches at the end of this Section).

However, viewed from the top the nature of the slope is a little clearer are the surface obstacles. The top is manageable but not easy. **Grade 1.**





F3. Is very similar in nature to F2 and differs only in that the terrain slopes down in the direction of the cutting. Its approach from the playground is forbidding, the slope not much lower or less steep than the main body of the Mound and it is equally covered in dense undergrowth, growing trees and felled trunks and branches. It is, on its top surface and facing **Grade 1**



An Identifier for F3 is this newly truncated tree - and what you have to get through to get to it.



F4 offers a “gentler” terrain. Looking back to its contact with F3 (below, left) the contrast is reasonably clear. The slopes into it are smaller and much less troublesome, tree density is lighter and the undergrowth, while still dense in summer, is easier to manage than that in F2 and F3.



That is not to say it is always easy. **Grade 2. Grade 3 if careful**
HOWEVER, not all is as bad as it may seem at first glance.

Firstly, the only infestation of Balsam known in Section F appeared only in 2022, in the area around the tall, truncated tree in F3 referred to above. The clump appeared shortly after the tree surgeons had visited that tree and we believe they carried the

see there. Therefore, while regular visits by volunteers in their various projects may be necessary it is not impossible.

There is another route into F1, F2, F3 and F4 which is far more accessible.

Running behind the entire section – and Section G – is an unofficial, unmade track/footpath. This links to F1 at the Turkey Lane side and eventually joins the formal Path 6 at the entrance to the cutting, near the path up to Pendle Vale. It runs close to and parallel to the iron boundary fence so is easy to find. It is well trodden and easily followed throughout the year. It can be very wet, muddy and slippery so that good footwear is, as ever, advised.

The reverse slopes of sections F and G are much less steep and carry a far lighter load of shrubs, including brambles, nettles etc., and trees (vertical or felled). Mounting into F4, F3 and F2 is much easier.



The shallower reverse slope leading down to the footpath behind Sections F & G (left), and the site of the path and boundary railings.



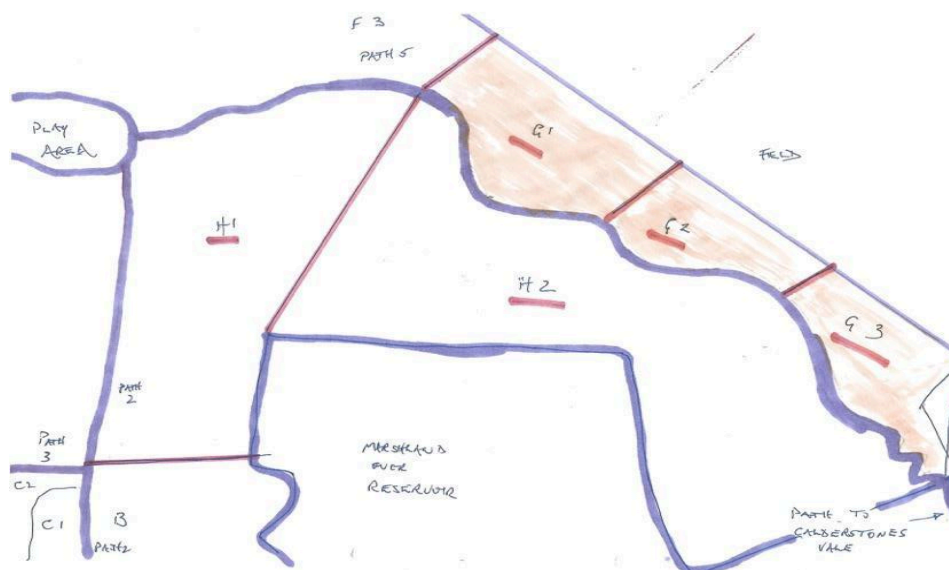
The more approachable slopes onto F and G.

Working in this area and using it to work on the tops of each section, **Grade 3, but perhaps encountering some Grade 2.**

NB The January 2023 Debris Survey identified and reported to RVBC for action, at least 2 hazards in the area, an old mattress dumped over the fence near the water treatment works and, close by, a decayed metal fence above the surface and capable of causing injury.

SECTION G

This area abuts F4 and lies to the left of the winding and sometimes steeply descending path 5 to where it becomes Path 6 into the cutting and meets the “new” path from Calderstones Vale. There is a lower and broadly parallel unofficial track running beside the fence line where the external boundary is the metal fence (often but not always in view from the path).



The whole section, despite its divisions for our convenience, is an homogenous entity. It continues the slope from “The Mound” (F2) to the Mitton Road entrance. It is sometimes steep, is heavily wooded and shrubbed on the “inward” side and not always easy to penetrate and work from this direction. Access from the unofficial footpath is better but not always is work easier once one gains access. The whole section is best seen as **Grade 2 with significant elements of Grade 1. Younger volunteers and vulnerable people should not work here.**

It contains deep, often slippery slopes and gullies running broadly parallel to path and field boundary. There is a mass of felled and fallen timber and brambles and other shrubs are in profusion.

G1 runs from F4 to a point where a track leads towards the fence about 1/3 of the way along.

G2 runs from there to the beginning of the descent.

G3 is the descent to the end-point at the junction with Path 6 and Calderstones Vale Path.



G1 from the reverse slope. Not difficult but on the top it compares with F2 and F3.



These logs lie in an unseen but deep gulley, probably the riskiest place on the site.



SECTION H

At the point at which the photo was taken the land is flat but it rises quite sharply and is increasingly covered by trees and undergrowth.



From the Playground it veers right and is similarly occupied but easier to access. However it is no less densely laid with growing trees, shrubs and felled timber.



Throughout this is best seen as a challenging but manageable-with-care **Grade 2**.

H2 runs opposite G2 and G3 with its “back” against the Marshland Habitat over the covered reservoir. It is different from H1 in that it is generally flatter, less densely covered by trees and shrubs and, despite some densely undergrown parts, easier to work. **Grade 3-4**



H3 is in many ways simply a continuation of H2. Use the unofficial path to the Platform as a guide to where it begins. It is fundamentally flat, not too densely populated by anything and easy to work. Do note, however, that there are areas of relatively dense planting. Underfoot is usually pretty secure but it is a very damp area after heavy precipitation. **Grade 3-4.**



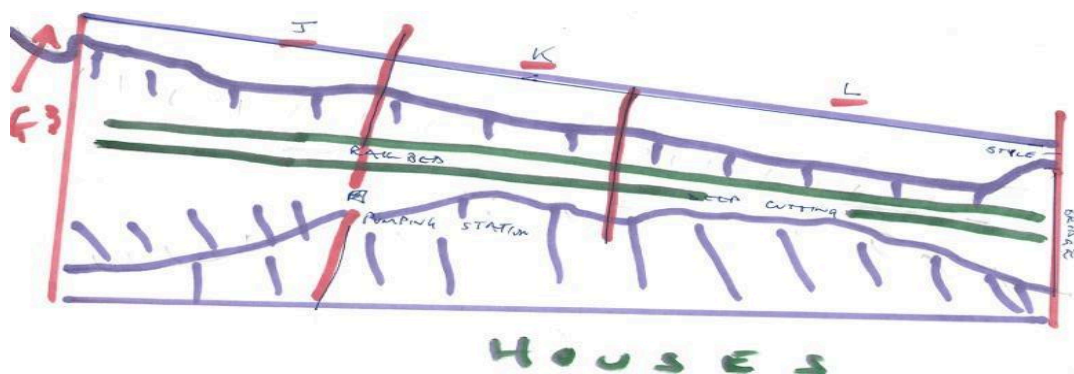
The houses of Fell View are seen in the distance.



Sections J, K and L

(There is no Section I.)

These three sections are the railway cutting.

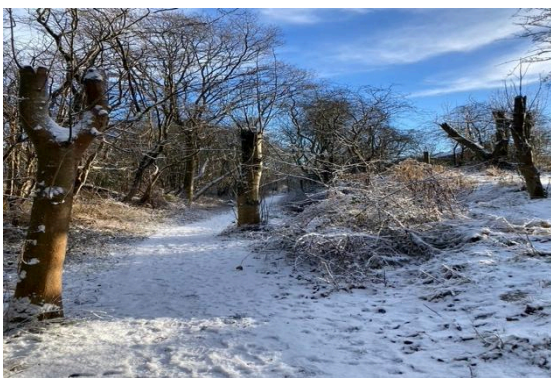


SECTION J

Section J is the first element of the former railway cutting when approached from the heart of the Woodland moving towards Mitton Road.

It runs on both sides of Path 6 and includes the adjacent slopes to the iron boundary fence on the left (looking towards Mitton), and property boundaries on the right. It runs from the

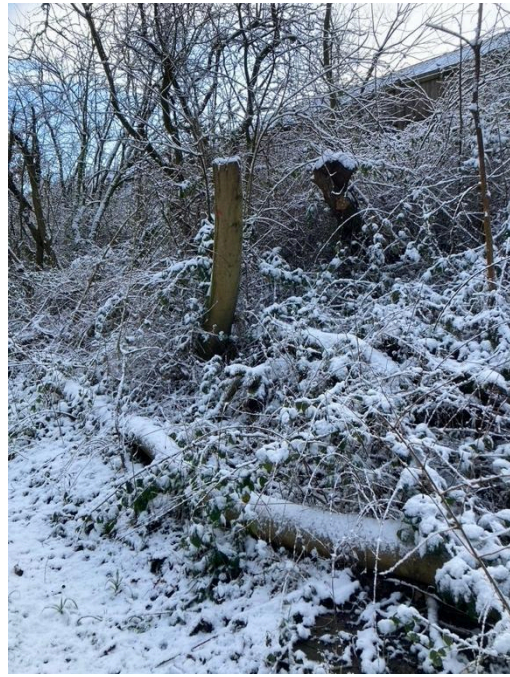
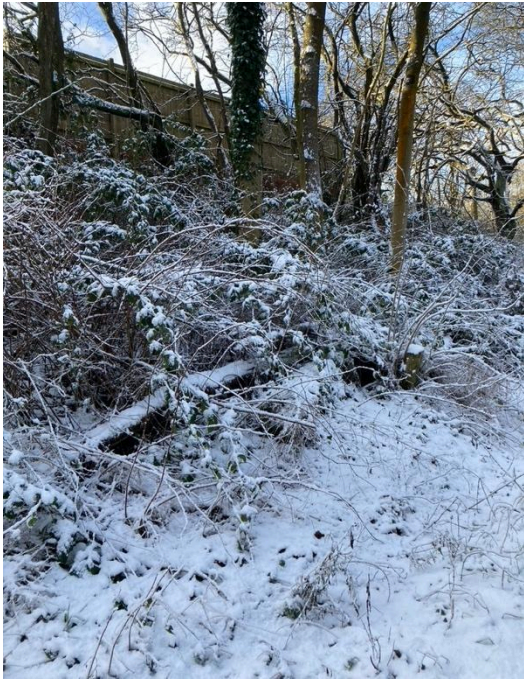
junction of Path 5 and the path from Calderstones Vale to the pumping station. It begins as a narrow interest but gradually widens.



The entrance to Section J looking back from the direction of Mitton Road.

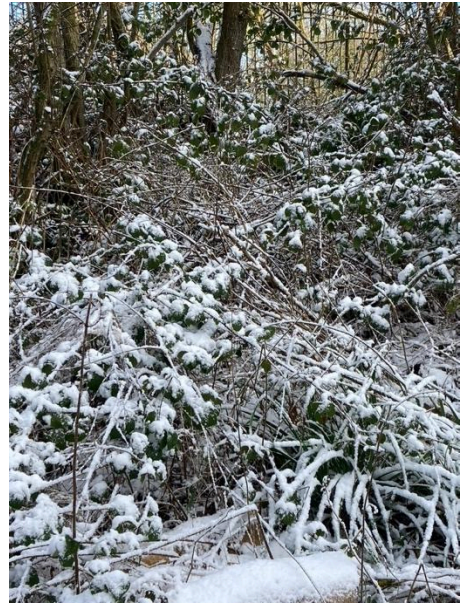
And towards Mitton Road.

The sharp slope up to the housing is more navigable in this section than in K and L but made more demanding by dense undergrowth and felled wood. This is at best a **Grade 2** and can be **Grade 1** in bad weather.



On the left of the path moving towards Mitton Road the land rises towards the iron boundary fence. The depth gradually narrows and the slope likewise varies. Generally this is a relatively straightforward section to work but has plenty of ground to cover and areas of quite tightly packed undergrowth. Generally this may be seen as **Grade 2** (maybe 3 in parts on a good day!). It may show signs of sedge but needs to be watched for balsam.







SECTION K

This section runs from the pumping station to the beginning of the brick lining of the track side.

The right-hand side leading up to the houses becomes still steeper and perhaps deeper, more densely packed with undergrowth and greater volumes of cut wood, many of which are larger and more densely packed than in J. This is the most obviously a **Grade 1** working area.





On the left of the cutting the terrain is not as demanding as on the right but is still very densely populated by troublesome undergrowth and tricky to maintain a foothold when wet. **Grade 2** at best but perhaps best treated as **Grade 1**



SECTION L

The rest of the cutting to the now filled-in tunnel. This is an environment of contrasts.

To the right of the cutting the challenges make this almost beyond **Grade 1**. The slope is at its steepest, the density of vegetation greatest and the volume of felled wood at its most packed and challenging. From the right side of the cutting this tall embankment sweeps round to include the filled-in bridge to make an amphitheatre-like structure.





The slope becomes slightly less severe but accessibility is still very demanding. The former track bed is best seen as **Grade 2**. It is generally level and accessible, although in very wet weather it can flood. It also gathers the water channelled down from the spring in Section J. It can be a very slippery and marshy area when wet. There are abundant obstacles including dense vegetation, sprouting trees and fallen/cut timber.





The track-bed is bounded by a relatively low parapet of brick or stone.



This helps to stabilize the banking but makes access more demanding. The banking is steep, dense in undergrowth and clearly **Grade 1**.



On the shallower banking on the left of the cutting a path runs from the entrance from Mitton Road. To its left is a narrow strip of land adjoining the boundary fence. It is not often infected by balsam but needs to be checked regularly. Sedge also “travels” along its length. However, this stretch is **Grade 2**.





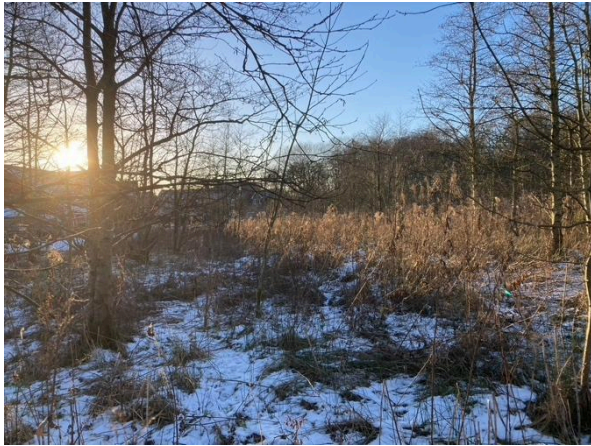
The Marshland Habitat

This area has not much occupied our attention in times past but is likely to be more a factor from here on. It is, of course, flat and easy to work. **Grade 4.**

However, as part of the former site there are various man-made hazards which we have requested are removed. These include metal frames, concrete fenceposts and other fencing material. Please beware.



With Fell View in the background.



SUMMARY OF GRADINGS – BY AREA

Grade 1: involves some/all of very steep slopes, slippery or otherwise treacherous conditions underfoot, dense undergrowth and/or a profusion of felled wood. Only those with appropriate footwear and protective clothing and the strength to work on such terrain should consider it. (The best example Sections J, K and L, the steeply-sloped side of the railway cutting backing onto the new housing development towards Whalley).

Grade 2: involves some sloped terrain and some pockets of dense vegetation, which, while demanding care are accessible to most people who are physically reasonably agile. (A reasonable example would be left the side of the path in the cutting leading to the stile onto Mitton Road by the bridge.)

Grade 3: generally flat or slightly uneven terrain, perhaps with dense undergrowth and/or a few minor obstacles. Not too difficult to manage by any volunteer, including our Rangers. (An example may be E1. Quite an extensive area with Turkey Lane immediately on the left looking towards Mitton Road.)

Grade 4: generally flat terrain, perhaps with occasional obstacles like items of felled timber but comfortable to traverse and accessible to almost any person with a normal range of mobility. (Areas C2 and C3 offer pretty good examples.)

AREA	GRADING	G1	Front 1-2. Rear 2-3
		G2	Front 1-2. Rear 2-3

A1	3-4	G3	Front 1-2. Rear 2-3
A2	2	H1	2
A3	2	H2	3-4
A4	2	H3	3-4
A5	3 on flat /2 on slope	J	2 but can be 1
A6	4	K	Right of path 1 + Left of Path 1
B	4	L	Right of path 1+ Left of path 2
C1	1	Marshland Habitat	4
C2	3-4		
C3	3-4		
D1	2 by pond 2 by log piles 3-4 overall		
D2	2 by pond 2 by log piles 3-4 overall		
E1	1 by log piles 2 in densest areas 3 in easiest parts		
E2	2-3		
F1	3		
F2	Front 1. Rear 2-3		
F3	Front 1. Rear 2-3		
F4	2-3		

BY GRADINGS

1	C1 E1 by log piles F2 (Front) F3 (Front). J (Right) K (Right) L (Right).
1-2	G1 (Front). G2 (Front). G3 (Front). J, (Left and Right) K (Left) L (Left)
2	A2. A3. A4. A5 (Slope) D1/2 around pond and log piles H1

	J (Left and Right – but Right can be 1)
2-3	E1 (apart from log-piles). E2 F2 (Rear). F3 (Rear). F4 E2 G1 (Rear). G2 (Rear). G3 (Rear)
3	A5 (Flat). F1
3-4	A1 . C2. C3. Most of D1. Most of D2. F1. H2. H3
4	A6, B, Marshland Habitat.