

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC RECREATION IN MAC'S MEADOW

These guidelines concern the use of the meadow, known as "Mac's Meadow" by members of the village community.

Mac's meadow is located beside the River Ebbles at the junction of Church Lane and Mill Lane. It provides two distinct amenities, a rare and unmolested section of chalk stream and a delightful area of sheltered grassland in a beautiful setting. The meadow is crossed by a public footpath.

The meadow is owned by Mr Ronnie Butler. He has indicated that he intends to protect, maintain and enjoy it as a private facility, for the 'wild' fishing and bankside habitat which the River Ebbles provides. However, Mr Butler is happy for the wider 2.4 acre meadow, through which the public footpath passes, to continue to be available to villagers for quiet enjoyment and informal recreation so long as this is done in a spirit of respect for his rights as the landowner and the need to conserve the quality of the natural environment of the meadow.

It is intended that the wildflower meadow should be enjoyed and appreciated by those who go there and which will provide pleasure to everyone living in the village. The objective will be to promote the establishment of wildflower species native to this area and situation. In addition it is planned to protect the riverbank vegetation to provide a wildlife corridor, which will be a breeding and feeding area for birds, small mammals, moths and butterflies.

The river, its banks, the riverside trees and vegetation are not to be encroached upon for any reason without the written permission of the owner (including, for the northern half of the river and its bank, Mr and Mrs John Gibbon and the Newcastle Estate).

Short-term management

The meadow may occasionally be used for the grazing of sheep. It should also be stressed that it is a legal requirement, under County by-laws, that dogs must be on a lead on any footpath where livestock is present, also during the breeding season for ground nesting birds (beginning of February to end of June). Many waterfowl are in this group.

Bishopstone Parish Council is particularly pleased that the meadow remains available for use by villagers. However, it would emphasise that for this to continue users of the meadow must show proper respect for their surroundings. Damage to the natural habitat must be avoided, no litter left in the field and dog owners are asked to clear up after their pets.

Mike Ash
Clerk

Bishopstone Parish Council
Notice Date: 08/12/2021