

MANAGEMENT REPORT

(taken from the monthly reports to the Trustees and Management Committee sent in by Strutt & Parker)

Grazing - It is good to report that our grazier, Butch Joint, has recovered from his illness and over the past months has replaced his previous flock with Jacob Sheep. There should be 250 of them by next autumn.

Sluices, hatches, channels and drains - A new works schedule for 2008/9 has been drawn up to cover the ongoing work on sluices and hatches. New vandal proof locking mechanisms have been fixed to hatches near the Town Path. A SWAG grant of £2,000 has been most gratefully received from Salisbury District Council which will contribute towards the cost of a new sluice on Upper Seven Acres. Mike Whitlock is to be congratulated on his completion of the new bridges and gates in and adjacent to Rose Cottage.

Copses and tree works - Work on the pathway through Rotary Copse is continuing and nest boxes will be positioned over the winter. A programme for pollarding a boundary hedge replacement will commence shortly.

Town Path - In spite of the wet summer water flow has only been sufficient to keep the channel open. Clumps of Himalayan Balsam, which is a notifiable noxious weed, continued to grow in the bank and nothing was done about them by Wiltshire County Council. However the new tarmac promised last autumn did materialise. It was deemed to be only a 'cover up' job as it was a very thin layer laid straight over the existing surface (twigs, stones, weeds and all!) How long it will last is a matter of conjecture but it is an improvement much appreciated by cyclists, wheelchair users and pram pushers.

Rosemary Allen