

Sandy Stiltball Site, Main Road, Kelsale cum Carlton, Suffolk

Draft Management Plan dated 23rd February 2021

Summary:

A short section of roadside verge adjoining Main Road, Kelsale and the Village Recreation Ground has been formally designated as a “Roadside Nature Reserve” by Suffolk County Council and marked with white posts at each end in order to define and protect the rare Sandy Stiltball fungus that grows here. The Sandy Stiltball (*Battarrea phalloides*) is nationally rare and protected by law under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Schedule 8 lists plant (and fungi) species that are protected from picking and uprooting or destruction, and selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead, part or derivative).

Kelsale cum Carlton Parish Council has agreed that the site should be protected and managed carefully and sensitively to ensure the long-term survival of the Sandy Stiltball fungus in this location. Management works between the marker posts will therefore only be carried out by or in consultation with the Biodiversity Action Group and according to an agreed plan as set out below:

- The surfaced footpath adjacent to the site will be kept clear of overhanging vegetation and surface debris to enable clear and safe access for pedestrians. This is important for walkers and safety. Work will be carried out by the Parish Council to maintain the pathway as and when required and should not impact the protected area or affect the rare Sandy Stiltball fungus.
- All mechanised cutting of the vegetation within the protected site (between the marker posts) must be avoided, including scalping and disturbance to the ground surface.
- The hedge of suckering elm and other shrubs should not be cut back between the marker posts but allowed to grow up naturally (as advised by the Suffolk Fungi recorder [REDACTED]). Any cutting of the vegetation between the marker posts is to be carried out by hand, and only as and when necessary, primarily for the benefit of the Sandy Stiltball fungus. Works should be undertaken by members of the BAP group in consultation with the Parish Council.
- No cutting of vegetation should normally be carried out between 1st March and 31st August in order to avoid any disturbance of breeding birds.
- The number of new fruiting bodies (reproductive parts of the fungus) will be monitored annually between September and late November by members of the BAP group. Records of the fungi and other species within the RNR will be held by the BAP group on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Litter, fly-tipping, garden waste and other materials such as road and drain debris must be removed promptly but woody debris may be left in situ as this breaks down and is eventually used by the fungus.
- The use of herbicides and pesticides must be avoided along the path, road, gutter or adjacent land along the protected section of roadside verge as marked by the white posts.

- A small sign is to be erected on the site to inform passers-by of the presence of the fungus and the reasons for its protection and management.

Drafted by [REDACTED], based on advice from Suffolk Fungi recorder ([REDACTED]) and with the help of [REDACTED] (local naturalist).

2nd Draft dated: 23rd February 2021