

# Friends of Miss Whalley's Field

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## Management Plan 2021

**The Friends group was set up as a charity to protect the urban green space in Lancaster called Miss Whalley's Field.**

Nearest Town: Lancaster  
Reference : D 485620  
Total Area: 5.4 Hectares

### **1 . Background**

In 1938, Miss Whalley bequeathed a sum of money to purchase a piece of land in accordance with the provisions of the Recreation Grounds Act 1859, "for the use and enjoyment and benefit exclusively or mainly of children residing in the said Borough of Lancaster". She bequeathed the money to commemorate the death of her father and brother who died of his WW1 battlefield wounds on 1st December 1917.

The land was acquired in 1951. Shortly afterwards, by an order of the Minister of Education, trusteeship of the land together with an endowment fund for its upkeep was transferred to Lancaster Corporation, to be held in perpetuity as public ground, (Trust covenant dated 3rd September 1951 between the executors of Miss Whalley's estate and the Mayor, Aldermen and citizens of Lancaster).

Miss Whalley's Field is located 1.0 km east of Lancaster city centre and sits between the Freehold and Ridge areas of Bulk Ward.

The field is comprised of rough grassland, a closer mown flat area, stands of trees and a small apple orchard.

The site is roughly rectangular, measuring approximately 280 metres east – west and 90 metres north - south.

Drainage discharges into a small watercourse known as the River Midge then ultimately via culverts into the River Lune estuary.

Access to Miss Whalley's Field is via public roads which border the east (Derwent road) and west (Keswick road). A path (mown by Lancaster City Council) runs east – west and is mainly used as the through route. Other smaller grass tracks cross the site and provide access.

The field has been managed by Lancaster City Council since the Field was trusted to Lancaster City by Miss Whalley in 1951. The Friends of Miss Whalley's Field group was established in April 2015 with the aim to keep the spirit of this gift alive through encouraging and recording local use of this land to protect it for future generations.

## **2. Securing The Field's Future**

### 2.1 General Aims

- To protect the Field from development and to ensure that it remains a community resource in perpetuity
- To maintain and improve the flora & fauna on the field
- To improve access for all.

### 2.2 Actions required to achieve General Aims

- Maintain and protect our status under “The Fields in Trust” deed and register this with the Imperial War Museum.
- Maintain and protect our Lancaster Green Spaces status.
- Attain Town Green Status as per “The Commons Act 2006”.

## **3 Communication**

### 3.1 Aims

- i. To ensure that all relevant parties are kept informed of the historic background of the field and the need to protect it
- ii. To ensure that all interested parties are informed of, and where appropriate involved in, plans for the Field and all related activities and events

### 3.2 Actions required to achieve Communication aims

- Work to the Constitution and review as required.
- Arrange Annual General & Committee Meetings.
- Maintain an up-to-date list of members & organisations (subject to data-protection legislation) to allow the effective communication of information relating to the Field.
- Establish and maintain a web site ([www.misswhalleysfield.org.uk](http://www.misswhalleysfield.org.uk)) and a Facebook presence ([www.facebook.com/MissWhalleysField/](http://www.facebook.com/MissWhalleysField/))
- Establish links with like-minded groups both locally and further afield as necessary.
- Inform pupils of local schools about the significance of the Field and involve them in activities wherever possible.
- Maintain public notice boards to display information on the Field itself.
- Contribute to articles in local & national media as the opportunity arises.

## **4 Funding**

### 4.1 Aims

- i. To ensure that sufficient funding is secured to deliver the objectives of the group.
- ii. To manage funding in a manner which inspires confidence in the group's organisation and probity and attracts potential grant funding.

### 4.2 Actions required to deliver Funding Aims

- i. Maintain suitable banking facilities and any necessary insurance for the Group
- ii. Prepare an annual budget for the group including funding sources - subscriptions (if any), grant funding, gifts in kind etc. and projected expenditures.
- iii. Identify and develop contacts with organisations and individuals prepared to support the group's activities; prepare grant applications as necessary. Develop contacts with potential donors in kind and manage such relationships professionally.
- iv. Ensure that accurate records of the group's financial affairs are maintained and available for inspection at the AGM and other times as required

## **5 Community Aims & Working with Lancaster City Council.**

### 5.1 Aims

- i. To ensure that access to the Field is available to all
- ii. To organise community events to involve like-minded people in the conservation, protection and use of the field
- iii. To involve families and school groups in managing the field in order to widen the recognition of the legacy bequeathed to the children of Lancaster
- iv. To liaise with the County and City Councils to agree the roles of all parties

### 5.2 Actions to deliver Community and Local Authority aims

Organise and assist with a programme of events to include the following, or similar:

- i. Wild flower meadow installation and bulb planting.
- ii. Tree management & clearance of scrub & brambles.
- iii. Path management & litter picking.
- iv. Community events including the community bonfire organised by the Gregson Community Centre.
- v. Surveys.
- vi. Remembrance Day Observation.
- vii. Local & National Initiatives.

## **3 Year Plan for Miss Whalley's Field April 2020 – April 2023**

Each specific point may be completed or started earlier or later than the specified time frame. This 3 year plan outlines objectives and is not a formal time limited project plan.

### **April 2020 – April 2021**

1. Work to establish Jean Argles wood by maintaining/managing the 750 native trees and shrubs planted in February 2020.
2. Maintain the bulb planting along the main pathway.
3. Decide on the position and nature of additional seating – install if funding can be obtained.
4. Consider the future of the memorial garden, improve the layout and agree a maintenance regime.
5. Discuss, plan and agree funding for a drainage scheme for the Field (NB: this may be the first phase of several schemes).
6. Consider and get approval for a small “wetland” area adjacent to the River Midge at the bottom of the Field.
7. Consider the installation and position of new wild flower meadows and protection/enhancement of existing established areas.
8. Consider revamping the notice boards
9. Assist with community events, for example Remembrance day, local school activities national/local initiatives and the annual Gregson bonfire/activities.
10. Organise working parties to, for example, cut back willow and brambles and scythe the orchard and other relevant areas.
11. Work with partner organisations to raise the profile of the Field, for example by involving the Press, MP, Councillors etc.
12. Continue to work in close partnership with our key partner, Lancaster City Council and with local schools. Establish links with other potential partners/funder organisations.
13. Improve/maintain communications by regularly updating the web site, Facebook, notice boards and email circulation.
14. Review and record progress.
15. Update 3 year plan

### **April 2021 - April 2022**

1. Carry forward any items not completed in the previous year's plan.
2. Establish links with the potential Derwent Road Group with our specific remit to minimise damage to Field boundary and improve access safety.
3. Decide if we want to continue with the Town Green application.
4. Cement relationships with the 3 local schools (or other schools/organisations) to encourage the use of the Field by the community.
5. Arrange for additional volunteers to be trained in scything.

6. Consider the installation and position of new wild flower meadows and protection/enhancement of existing established areas.
7. Assist with community events, for example, Remembrance day, local school activities national/local initiatives and the annual Gregson bonfire.
8. Organise working parties to, for example, cut back willow and brambles and scythe the orchard and other relevant areas.
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### **April 2022 April 2023**

1. Carry forward any items not completed in the previous year's plan.
2. Organise and contribute to the management of Jean Argles wood.
3. Organise and assist with additional potential wild flower planting and low level bush planting along the Field perimeter.
4. Assess the success of the drainage scheme and establish if additional measures are required.
5. Consider how to further improve access for all, e.g.the entrances at the bottom of the Field.
6. Look towards succession planning by encouraging younger volunteers to become more involved and join the Committee.
7. Publish a 3 year plan 2023 – 2036
8. Consider the installation and position of new wild flower meadows and protection/enhancement of existing established areas.
9. Assist with community events, for example, Remembrance day, local school activities national/local initiatives and the annual Gregson bonfire.
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