

Bramble management in field 2

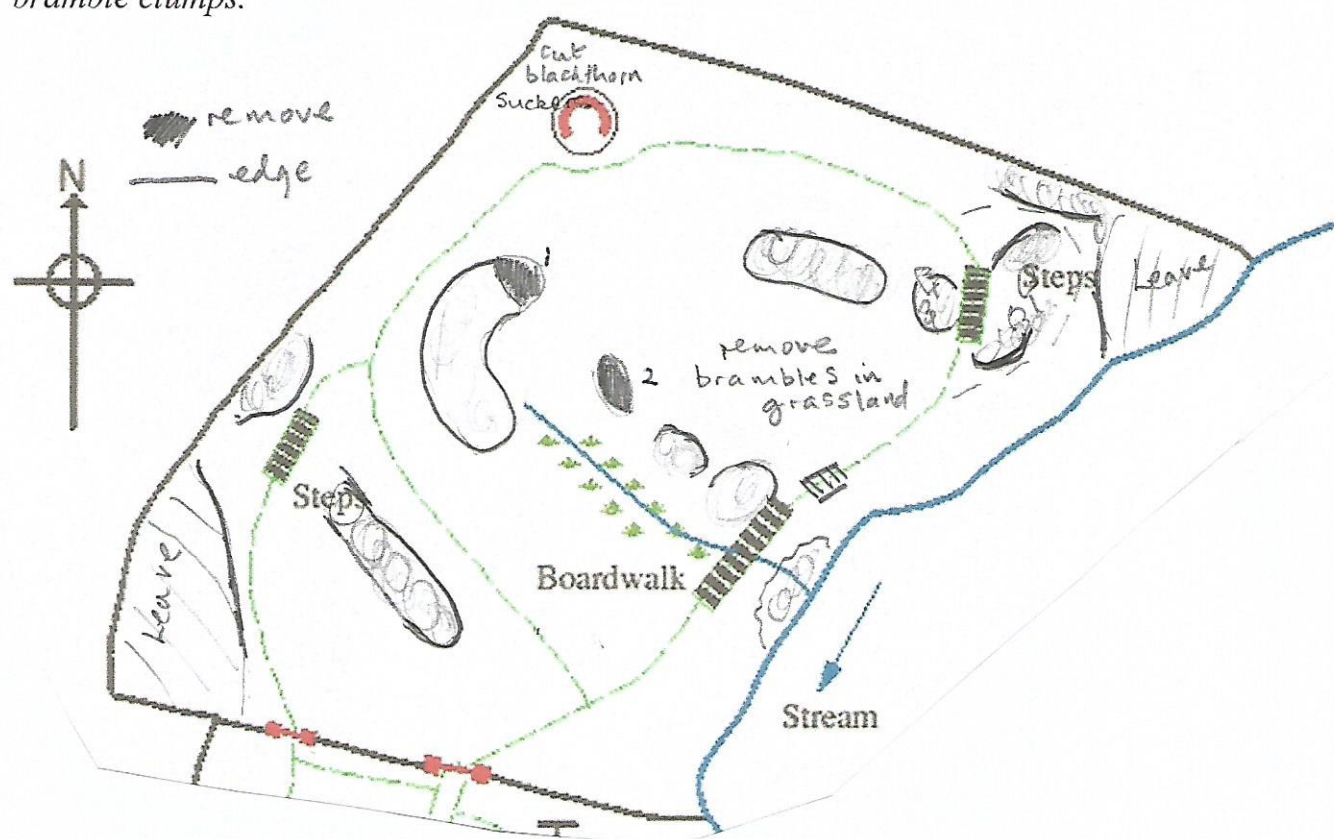
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Below is a sketch map showing the places where brambles need some attention. There are only 2 areas where patches of bramble need removing marked 1 and 2. Area two is being tackled by Alex (DofE) with his Dad.

Otherwise the aim is to prevent the spread of brambles into the grassland and remove any new or re-growing plants within the grassland (particularly on the left beyond the boardwalks)

So the other clumps of bramble just need **'edging'**:

cut back brambles which are growing out towards the grass and pull up any that have rooted. Some may be running under the grass and have rooted more than once; it is these which we particularly need to remove. The cut/pulled up stems can be thrown back over the bramble clumps.



For future management we should, retain all current clumps of brambles (apart from 1 and 2 on map) in Field 2 in order to preserve cover for small birds, mammals and insects and meet our obligations to Natural England under the scrub management agreement. However, continue to tackle brambles encroaching into the meadow from the existing clumps.'

Along the field boundaries we should leave bramble growth within 0.5/1.0 meter inside the existing fencing in Field 2. Once again, encouraging wildlife and also sealing any small breaches in the external fence and enhancing sheep-proofing. An added advantage might be that this could deter folk from cutting the fence and making unauthorised entry into Field 2'. Our scrub management plan suggests *'leaving the boundaries of the field as they are (2010) and just cutting back to prevent encroachment. Scallop the edges and try to produce a vegetation gradient.'* We therefore need to leave the vegetation including nettles within a meter of the fence (perhaps cutting the front part once a year) and then try to improve the adjoining grassland.