

SINFIN MOOR  
LOCAL NATURE RESERVE  
-  
MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW  
2025

On behalf of  
DERBY CITY COUNCIL

December 2025

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## 1. Introduction

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### 1.1 Background to the site

The approximately 38-hectare site (including the playing fields) lies at a height of around 45 metres above sea level. It consists of a mosaic of habitats: grassland including tall herb fen, wildflower-seeded grassland, improved agricultural meadows, semi-improved grassland, amenity grassland and scrub-invaded grassland. There are also mature hedges, more recently planted hedges, several small areas of planted trees and shrubs, small drains, a stream and a number of small ponds. It is bounded by arable agricultural land to the south, a municipal golf course and some housing to the north and housing and a school to the west. Adjacent to the site in the east there is an area of lagoons surrounded by grassland and tree planting acting as a flood relief feature for a major new development. The underlying geology is glacial lacustrine clay overlying Keuper Marl, creating a poorly drained site. Historically it is a wetland area subject to flooding, though drainage works over the years have reduced the incidence of recent floods. The soils are slightly acidic and peaty, but are waterlogged in places due to the poor drainage. The poor, peaty soils and generally wet character of the site led to its description as 'Sinfin Moor'. The north-eastern part of the site, occupied by playing fields with areas of tree planting and tall grassland, is built on a former waste tip which was subsequently landscaped.

### 1.2 Optimal State

The ideal condition of Sinfin Moor is a long term continuation of the valuable mosaic of habitats already present, with each habitat maintained in the best condition for wildlife.

The valuable species-rich grasslands would be larger in area and enhanced with nectar-rich species for butterflies.

The existing tall rank grassland is relatively stable and a valuable part of the variety of habitats on the site.

The currently species-poor improved silage fields would be managed as traditional late cut, low input hay meadows and revert over time or by enhancement to attractive flower-rich meadows.

There will be a new area of native woodland to further diversify the habitats present and provide foraging habitat for several species while in the early stages of growth.

It would be good to have at least some of the ponds holding water all year, forming a wetland 'corridor' along which species could colonise and supporting a good population of amphibians and invertebrates which would in turn support a greater diversity of bird species.

There would be some crack willow carr with both mature trees and pollard trees as an excellent foraging habitat for reed buntings and warblers. Ivy would be allowed to increase as an outstanding habitat for birds and bats, an early source of berries when other food is scarce and a source of nectar in autumn.

The scrub and hedgerows would have wide grassy margins and contain a variety of native species of varying ages, providing good berry and nut production, good protection for nesting birds and all year round habitat with flowers from early spring through to late summer with fruit all winter.

### 1.3 Background to Management Plans

The previous 2013 10-year Management Plan has informed the past management of this site. This gave full habitat descriptions and provided the objectives for management. A comprehensive list of management operations and a 10-year work programme was produced. Maps showed the existing habitats and the desired state of the site.

### 1.4 Purpose of Review

This review comes at the end of the Management Plan period, which expired in 2024. It is felt that the site has been well managed and has undergone no major changes, so there is no need to completely re-write the Management Plan for the next 10-year period. Instead, the current condition of all the compartments has been assessed and the work done over the previous 10 years has been reviewed. This has led to minor adjustments of the plan to reflect the work done, the current situation and any new opportunities. During the period of the previous plan large areas adjacent to the south of the reserve have been developed as semi-natural habitat, including flood storage lagoons, as part of ongoing development. In reviewing the plan the impact of these new habitats has influenced priorities on the reserve.

### 1.5 The current document

The site evaluation, management objectives and ideal state of the previous (2013) Management Plan remain valid, but as noted, some of the prescriptions are now no longer relevant. In the sections that follow, each objective and the accompanying prescriptions have been reviewed to see what progress has been made and to make suggestions for future action in the next 10-year period. Some prescriptions have been removed, either because the work has now been achieved, are not achievable, or that they are no longer relevant to the current condition of the reserve. The review includes a work programme covering the next 10 years.

## 2. Progress towards meeting the objectives and revised prescriptions

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### 2.1 Compartments

#### 2.1.1 Compartment 1

##### *Summary Description*

Most of this Compartment is tall rank grassland and tall herb with bramble, which is colonising and forming dense clumps. There are some wetter areas, 4 small ponds and several small areas of native woodland creation including Jubilee Wood. Hedges H1, H2 and H14 are part of this Compartment.

##### *Compartment Objectives*

- The Management Plan recommends that the bramble should not take over more than 40% of this area.
- Manage as current mosaic of habitats.
- To maintain the trees, hedges and woodland areas, established and new.
- To maintain the ponds. There is an opportunity to create one or more new ponds in this area.
- To maintain and enhance the small bank of species-rich grassland Area 'A'

##### *Prescriptions*

###### Brambles

Area 1b, the central area – the bramble here has reached as far as desirable, so should be pushed back at the edge against the grassland, and kept at or below 40% cover of bramble. This could be done for example by tractor and flail, cuttings can be left, and work to be done after the bird nesting season and preferably in September/October, as the ground is likely to be driest then.

###### Trees

The willow carr area is a non-intervention area to be left except if unsafe branches need dropping.

Redwood Arboretum - Remove remaining plastic spirals, stakes, and any mulch mats that have not biodegraded from young trees in planting areas. The blackthorn on the margins now needs controlling to stop it spreading too far into the open areas.

Jubilee Wood has grown so well that it now needs thinning to let in more light. There is some squirrel damage to the bark on the willows, so these should be coppiced in Year 1 so they grow back to form a shrub layer. In Year 5 the wood may need thinning again, this should be reviewed and exact work decided at the time. The elms put in several years after the initial planting are thriving and don't need any

management at the moment, but at Year 5 the trees surrounding them should be re-assessed for possible thinning.

Continue any pollarding cycles already set up on mature willows.

The 95 trees planted in 1a in 2009 have been regularly weeded and are thriving and should not need any further management during the plan period.

### Ponds

- *Pond 7.* Continue with clearing debris out annually and strim just one side so it is clear of brambles. Some surrounding vegetation should be left standing at the pond edge as amphibian terrestrial habitat. This should be on the side with the trees and cover 25% of the pond margin.

The previous Management Plan suggested re-dredging Pond 7 every 2 to 3 years. This is not thought to be worthwhile now due to the disturbance it receives, and the non-lined substrate.

- *Pond 10.* Continue to remove dumped refuse and fallen branches regularly. Cut down *all* newly grown willows from banks of pond. This is a change from the original management plan, as it is thought important to let light in and prevent early drying out.
- *Pond 11.* Clear brambles annually from the margins so there is access all round.
- *Pond 12.* The allotment pond - suffering perhaps from the least disturbance as there is no easy access - is a good candidate for lining and enlarging to prevent it drying out by June every year. Excavate to enlarge pond into the open area and line with 'Bentonite' matting or loose puddled clay should funding be available. Alternatively an additional pond next to the existing pond could be created.

### Grassland

*The grass verge Area 'A'.* The previous Management Plan asked for this to be left un-mown through the summer and cut just once in autumn, with the cuttings removed, to maintain its wildflower diversity. This regime has not been possible to achieve and the bank has not been mown for several years, apart from a 2m strip along the path. The prescriptions should be amended to leave the area un-mown, unless brambles colonise, in which case mow annually. Tall plants such as meadow vetchling, tufted vetch and meadow crane's-bill could be planted here, as well as shade-tolerant spring flowers such as cowslip. In places the overhanging branches need be trimmed back where they overhang the verge.

### Hedges

The mature hedges H1, H2 and H14 need little or no management beyond continuing to flail them annually. Continue to pollard the willows where they are already pollarded at the end of Hedge 1, on a 4- to 5-year cycle.

### 2.1.2 Compartment 2

#### *Summary Description*

This area comprises small grassy triangular area known as 'Moorfields Triangle' at the side of the cycle track and the larger field known as 'Pond Meadow', a mosaic of re-seeded and neutral grassland containing Pond 1 and an area of woodland.

The 2-metre strip alongside the path adjacent to Moorfields Triangle is kept short by regular mowing and the cuttings are left. In the past plant plugs were planted but as the field is often left un-mown, few if any remain.

Pond Meadow has lost some species diversity as it currently gets mown by a tractor-mounted mower, but there is no management-led input to the timing of this, In the past cuttings have been left in situ. This situation is not ideal; particularly as the meadow management is funded by a Higher Level Scheme (HLS).

Pond 1 is well established and holds water for much of the year but it does dry out to a layer of wet mud at the end of a dry summer. It is dominated by stands of common reed. There is some blanketweed and some rubbish and debris in the pond itself. Fringing vegetation includes purple-loosestrife, soft rush and hard rush as well as saplings of goat willow and grey willow. There is one black poplar remaining.

There is a small wooded area known as Dingly Dell, and a larger area by the pond with mature crack willow, as well as ash, field maple, and a blackthorn thicket. Hedges H19, H16 and H24 are associated with this Compartment.

#### *Compartment Objectives*

- To maintain and where possible enhance the species-richness of the grassland through management by appropriate mowing and sowing or planting of wildflowers.
- To enable the HLS areas to achieve their Targets of Success.
- To maintain the pond as at least a seasonal water body, without loss of open water area.
- To maintain the woodland areas and hedges.

#### *Prescriptions*

##### Moorfields Triangle

The overhanging trees are to be kept trimmed back. As a change to the original Management Plan, due to past management problems, the grass itself should be *left un-mown* unless bramble colonises, in which case it should be controlled by strimming. Species that thrive in tall vegetation and don't need mowing such as meadow crane's-bill, meadowsweet, angelica and great burnet could be planted here as plug plants.

### Pond Meadow

Mow all the previously-mown grassland areas north of Pond 1 by a single annual mowing in late August or September and remove the cuttings. Monitoring of species should be carried out, and if the grassland is not meeting its indicators of success by Year 3 of the HLS, it must first be given the appropriate mowing regime, and can then

planted with species as described in the previous Management Plan:

Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)

Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)

Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)

Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*)

Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*)

Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*)

Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*)

Rough hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*)

Keep the area around the pond as tall un-mown grassland. Cut and remove hawthorn, goat willow and any other small saplings that are colonising.

### Pond

The pond has been very successful as a wildlife habitat.

As current practice, remove some of the common reed from the open water area and from part of the margins every year between October and February to maintain the current area of open water (approx a third of the pond area).

### Trees, hedges and woodland

In Dingly Dell and the main block of woodland in this compartment, continue to manage all trees by non-intervention including leaving all ivy on them, all fallen timber and all standing dead wood, unless there is a safety issue.

Cuttings have been taken from black poplars by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, these are to be grown on and replanted.

Continue to remove any trees or other material brought in and dumped.

Continue current trimming management of hedges.

## 2.1.3 Compartment 3

### *Summary Description*

This compartment consists of a single field known as Stile Meadow. The northern half of the field is tall grassland that has been maintained by sporadic mowing but not collecting the cuttings. This is not management-led and has happened so late in the year that the grass is a thick wet thatch that is then left on site. It was not mown at all in

2023, and was mown too late in the year in 2024 (October) to have any benefit. This has caused dominance by tall grasses mostly cocksfoot and false oat-grass with very few herbs in a patchy distribution. This grassland was formerly more diverse. The eastern end retains some diversity; the western (stile) end needs active management. Cowslips have been planted in recent years, and a few remain. In 2024, after being mown, areas of the formerly species-rich western part were sown with hand-collected wildflower seed after hand-raking to provide some open ground. Species in the seed mix included hay rattle, ox-eye daisy, knapweed, ribwort plantain, red clover and rough hawkbit.

Pond 8 Meadow Pond is now 2 small seasonally water-holding ponds in the south-east corner of the meadow, surrounded by an intermittently wet area with scattered alder saplings. The pond area is full of established common reed (*Phragmites*). The surrounding wet grassland contains meadowsweet, hogweed, hard rush, false-fox sedge and great willowherb.

Hedges H3, H4, H12 and H13 bound this Compartment.

#### *Compartment Objectives*

- Grassland: To enhance the flower-rich nature of the grassland through management by appropriate mowing followed by seed introduction.
- Do not allow scrub to extend into the open grassland.
- Stile Meadow Pond: As a change to the previous Management Plan, due to the expense of pond excavation work, maintain the former pond and south-east corner area as a reed and sedge bed.
- Redwood scrub/woodland: maintain as a variable-aged resource at a density of no more than 75% cover with frequent open glades as in previous Management Plan.

#### *Prescriptions*

##### Grassland

After mowing in late summer and removing the cuttings, prepare the site by chain-harrowing or hand raking to open up areas in the sward. Add wildflower seed. This can be by sourced by buying an appropriate wildflower-only seed mix from a reputable supplier or by scattering hay or collected seed from a local species-rich meadow donor site. As for Compartment 2, species could include:

Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)  
 Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)  
 Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)  
 Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)  
 Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*)  
 Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*)

Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*)  
Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*)  
Rough hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*)

The 2024 treatment of raking in hand-collected seed from a species-rich meadow is ideal if this can be done in late summer.

If the winter following sowing is mild and has an extended growing season, add an additional mowing at the end of March if conditions allow and remove the cuttings. Leave until August/September, and then manage the field by a single cut.

Maintain area of meadow by pushing back the encroaching bramble, particularly at the ends of the field. Between the pylons the bramble is close to the hedge and does not need control.

#### Stile Meadow Pond

Manage in future as a reed and sedge bed. Cut one half of the area in one year and the other the following year. Alders colonising will need to be removed every year.

#### Trees and hedges

H12 and H13 - continue to maintain as tall, unmanaged hedges.

H3 and H4 - continue current trimming management with gapping-up where necessary. H3 has been dead-hedged and should continue to be kept weed-free to help establish any further tree planting in and adjacent to the hedge as required.

Monitor hedge growth to inform any future hedgelaying.

### 2.1.4 Compartment 4

#### *Summary Description*

Compartment 4 consists of the Balancing Pond field and two smaller fields to the east. They each consist of scrub-invaded, unmanaged grassland with Yorkshire-fog, red fescue and cock's-foot as the most frequent grass. Hawthorn is scattered throughout. Wayne's Wood in the north-west corner has mature aspen, crack willow, horse chestnut and ash. Paths have been strimmed and rowan and cherry have been planted and maintained here. The wooded area just outside Wayne's Wood has been managed ideally and has sheltered sunny glades with open areas, a varied habitat for birds and butterflies. The Balancing Pond Field has been well managed and achieved the objectives planned at the start of the previous Management Plan in 2014. Triangle Field was grazed in the past but there were problems with flooding. Scrub clearance was done previously, but not in recent years. Several hedges are associated with this Compartment – lane-side hedges H5 and H8, plus H6, H15, H17, and H21.

### *Compartment Objectives*

- Manage the Compartment in such a way that is compatible with flood alleviation.
- Maintain tussocky open grassland and current extent of variable-aged scrub in the Balancing Pond Field and the adjacent Triangle Field without further encroachment. Scrub control in Balancing Pond Field will be an ongoing task.
- Maintain Wayne's Wood as mixed woodland.
- Encourage the southern of the two lane-side fields to develop into scrub woodland by regeneration and tree and shrub planting.
- Manage Triangle Field by leaving the hawthorn bushes, but controlling the bramble, creating a path between the bramble and the hedge. The aim for the next 10 years is to reduce the bramble by 50% from its current cover.
- Maintain hedges as part of the extensive network throughout the site with a variety of heights, ages and a good mixture of native species.

### *Prescriptions*

#### Balancing Pond Field

Continue the successful programme of summer cattle grazing to maintain the open grassland areas. Numbers of cattle could be increased from the current 2 to keep the colonising saplings under control. Following on from the cattle grazing, in autumn, open areas can be mown with a motorised pedestrian flail or brushcutters to prevent bramble and hawthorn encroachment. Spring grazing could also be usefully introduced. Create a new ride in a North-South direction through a large, dense block of scrub. Scrub should be controlled, as is current practice, to maintain at around 50% cover.

#### Triangle Field

Push back bramble by 1-2 m or slightly more where it is dense, to reduce the overall cover by 50%. Create a pathway round the field between the brambles and fence. Keep all the shrubs. Graze with cattle in Autumn to maintain the open areas of grassland. Bramble clearance will be a lot of work initially, but after this should only need to be trimmed annually round the margins with a pedestrian flail mower or brushcutters.

The fence along the laneside needs repair to ensure it is stockproof.

#### Hedges

H8 Stop flailing and allow to grow tall, then lay using traditional hedgelaying methods within the 10 years of the Plan, monitoring to inform when this should be done.

H17 is maintained by Severn Trent and DCC Land Drainage Team as part of the management of the watercourse.

The other hedges should be maintained as tall wide hedges with ditches alongside cleared as necessary to maintain existing depth and width.

#### 2.1.5. Compartment 5

##### *Summary description*

This is a triangular field with a bund running across the middle. North of the bund is grassland that was once reseeded with wildflowers, and now has scattered hawthorn shrubs, and bramble encroaching from the edges. It has not been consistently mown in recent years.

South of the bund there is tall neutral grassland, generally more grass-dominated than the re-seeded areas, with false oat-grass, Yorkshire-fog and ryegrass and tall herbs such as cow parsley, hogweed and teasel.

The Compartment has 7 small ponds or seasonal water bodies – Pond 2 Pancake Pond, Pond 4 Doughnut Pond, the 'String of Pearls' ie ponds 5, 6, 13 and 14, and the larger Pond 3 or Mississippi Mud, which is more of a seasonally-wet shallow scrape. The String of Pearls ponds are all very small and now dry much of the year. The area around Mississippi Mud pond does not look to have been mown and is a rich wildflower area that will soon scrub up.

There is also a small area of pole-stage mixed deciduous trees and mature crack willows in this compartment.

A small new butterfly bank - an open sunny area planted with has been established on the north bank since the last Management Plan.

##### *Compartment Objectives*

- As previously, to maintain and where possible enhance the flower-rich nature of the grassland north of the bund, through mowing management, scrub control and planting wildflowers.
- To manage the grassland south of the bund as tall un-managed grassland,
- Mowing only a 1-metre strip on each side of the main path.
- To maintain or enhance all the ponds to allow enough water to be retained in them for as long as possible in the summer, ideally long enough for them to achieve amphibian breeding success. Maintain area around all ponds as open banks with no shading. Keep 50% open water if ponds are water holding all year.
- As in the previous Management Plan, allow the small woodland adjacent to H11 that originated as a tree planting area to continue to develop.
- Maintain the new butterfly area on the north bank.

*Prescriptions*

North of the bund Bramble should be cut round the edges of this area every year before mowing, and the hawthorns should be lopped off low to the ground so the area can be tractor-mown. The bank of bramble on the north side particularly needs keeping in check.

Maintain the existing grassland by annual mowing in late August or September and collecting the cuttings so they are not adding to the fertility.

Once an appropriate mowing and collecting regime is established, tall herbs such as meadow cranesbill, meadowsweet, ox-eye daisy, common knapweed, wild carrot etc can be plug-planted.

Maintain the new butterfly bank on the north bank to have some open ground, some larval food plants and butterfly nectar-providing plants including some of the following: bird's-foot trefoil, black medick, wild marjoram, restharrow, sedum (stonecrop), sheep's sorrel, lady's bedstraw, rough hawkbit, wild thyme and yarrow, with the taller teasel, meadow buttercup, oxeye daisy and red campion around the edges.

South of the bund Maintain as the tall un-managed grassland, mowing only a 1-metre strip alongside the main path.

No management should be needed for the tree area.

Ponds:

Pond 2 Pancake Pond - this has become colonised with greater pond sedge, which has developed into a valuable sedge bed.

Pond 4 Doughnut Pond – clear a proportion of the vegetation choking the pond every year as for Pancake Pond to provide 50% open water.

String of Pearls ponds, nos. P5, P6, P13 and P14 - the area around the String of Pearls ponds should be kept open by strimming back the bramble and tall herb. Due to the potentially contaminated land of the former tip, no digging here is feasible and lining is very expensive.

Maintain as seasonal ponds.

Pond 3 Mississippi Mud pond - after the 'hay' cut, the area around this pond will need strimming every year, with the cuttings removed.

### 2.1.6. Compartment 6

*Summary description*

This compartment consists of two formerly semi-improved species-poor agricultural silage meadows, which have been diversified to species-rich grassland by re-seeding under the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Agreement. The fields were to have been managed by a combination of late summer mowing for hay followed by aftermath grazing in order to maintain the wildflower-rich sward. However, successful management has been compromised by the extensive development of ragwort throughout both fields. As it is poisonous to livestock it means that the hay crop cannot be used as fodder and has to be discarded, making the operation expensive. Ragwort control was tried by hand

pulling over several summers with little success. This is mainly because the species is hoary ragwort, which forms a network of extensive runners that are very difficult to pull effectively, unlike the single plants of common ragwort. Grazing by sheep is often used as a method of control for common ragwort and the hoary ragwort did seem to decline after a period of relatively heavy sheep grazing. This, however, had to be paused due to problems with sheep-worrying by dogs. More recently the fields have been winter grazed by cattle alone, which does not control the ragwort. There have also been problems with the effectiveness of the cut-and-collect management in the past with the fields often poorly mown with cut grass left behind. Recent management has been altered to cattle grazing instead of mowing. In 2024 the cattle arrived on 17<sup>th</sup> October and were moved to the Balancing Pond field on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

The surrounding and internal hedgerows are H7, H9, H10 and H11 are tall and un-managed with plenty of crab apple amongst the hawthorn and a ditch alongside H9 and H11.

#### *Compartment Objectives*

- To enhance the flower-rich nature of the grassland in the 2 fields.
- To maintain the hedgerows with a wide grassy un-mown margin adjacent to each one.

#### *Prescriptions*

##### Grassland

The ideal aim for management for these 2 fields remains a late summer hay cut. It is hoped this can be achieved within budgetary constraints and can be carried out effectively.

The fields should be cut between 15<sup>th</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> August. It is important to use an offset, tractor-mounted mower to make a clean cut. The crop should be left for a minimum of 2 days to wilt in the sunshine before being collected and removed completely.

Once the fields start to grow back in early autumn they should be grazed to remove the aftermath growth. Sheep grazing at this time will prove to be the most effective way of suppressing the ragwort. The sheep will graze the ragwort re-growth, depleting the plant's resources over time. Sheep are able to withstand the toxins in ragwort better than cattle, but the same sheep should not be used in following years. Due to the potential for sheep-worrying by dogs it may be better to graze sheep and cattle together to make people more aware of the grazing livestock in these areas.<sup>1</sup> Cattle should not be grazed if the hay crop has not been fully removed as any ragwort left to dry will

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<sup>1</sup> The legal definition of sheep-worrying includes not only attacking livestock but chasing them in such a way that a dog may cause injury or suffering, and simply being loose in a field where there are sheep.

be eaten and it still contains toxins. Livestock should be taken off before the fields get wet in the winter. If grazing takes place when the ground is wet it will poach the surface allowing more ragwort to colonise. Depending on how the ragwort grows back in the spring, another short period of sheep grazing may be beneficial, through April or early May, before the fields are shut up for hay.

If in any year a cut for hay is not feasible, then as an alternative grazing alone may be used. In this case the fields will need to be heavily grazed from 1<sup>st</sup> August. There will be a substantial amount of grass by then so cattle will be needed to cope with the volume, but sheep should also be grazed to control the ragwort, as above. Stocking levels should be around 6 cows and 10 sheep in each of the 2 fields in turn, left on long enough to reduce the sward to around 5cms. It might be difficult to achieve an even height; the fields may be left looking tussocky. In this case the fields may need to be topped after the animals have been taken off. They should be taken off before the fields get wet in the autumn. Depending on how the ragwort grows back in the spring, another short period of sheep-grazing may be beneficial, through April or early May.

#### Hedges

H7 Stop flailing and allow to grow tall. Lay using traditional hedgelaying methods within the 10 years of the Plan, with monitoring to inform when this should be done. The small blackthorn thicket that extends from the hedge into the field should be retained but not allowed to spread any further. The margins will need cutting back regularly to control it.

Other hedgerows – continue with current monitoring of condition, but no management should be needed over the 10 years of the Plan, beyond any gapping up or ditch-clearance needed, or control of suckering growth into the fields.

### 2.1.7 Compartment 7

#### *Summary description*

This large compartment is mainly made up of the short regularly-mown amenity grassland of the playing field within which are football and cricket pitches. Around the edges are areas of previously mown but now tussocky or scrubby grassland and small mixed-species copses and shelterbelts, one with a badger sett and one with a concealed pond known as 'Secret Pond'. There is a small area of ruderals and perennials called 'Coronation Meadow' within this Compartment. Hedge H22 bounds the north of this area, with H20 to the south and H18 to the east. H23 is not owned by Derby City Council and has been removed by adjacent development.

*Compartment Objectives*

- Maintain the tall grassland.
- Control scrub from encroaching on to open grassland.
- Manage the Secret Pond so it maintains some open water.
- Maintain 'Coronation Meadow' as an area of annual flowers.
- Maintain mature trees.
- All hedges should be managed to provide shelter and nest sites with a variety of heights, ages and a good mixture of native species. Some of the hedges (H22) should be laid in rotation, others (e.g. H18) left to form tall dense hedgerows.

*Prescriptions*

Maintain the tall grassland by a continuation of the current mowing regime, which leaves extensive edge areas un-mown all summer.

These should have a single autumn mowing and the cuttings removed. Developing scrub should be removed every 2 years.

All the vegetation on the south side of the Secret Pond should be cut back for some 3 metres to let light in. This will be a large single task then annual maintenance to tackle the re-growth.

Coronation Meadow – there are 2 options here – (a) Manage by raking off and removing the dead vegetation and rotavating it every spring then sowing with cornfield annuals every year. Or (b) Manage as an area of open grassland with perennials by a single autumn cut and rake.

H18 - simply allow the blackthorn to sucker out and form a dense copse. There needs be no other management.

Manage the other hedgerows on a hedgelaying cycle as currently, with monitoring to decide when the next hedgelaying should be.

## 2.2 Educational Use

Use of the site for educational purposes remains a key aim. Part of the Friends of Sinfin Moor Park's Vision Statement is to see the Park used as an educational resource. The Friends group lead walks around the site, which are open to the public, to observe and learn about the natural environment, passing on their expert knowledge of wild flowers, trees, galls, birds and butterflies. The presence of cattle in the fields attracts school parties, interest groups and members of public to walk down the lane and observe and study them and their habitat. Working parties led by the Group and Derby Parks Volunteers help participants to grow in their understanding of land management.

A variety of educational activities have taken place over the course of the previous plan and these have changed and developed as user groups have come and gone. The site is currently used by local schools as a location for nature exploration activities. The Friends group have produced a Environmental Activities Pack, providing activities and resources to support visits to the Nature Reserve.

The site is ideal for the location of on-site interpretive material, with three interpretive boards already located on the site. Any further boards should be carefully planned and positioned.

While encouraging public access onto the site the following should be addressed:

- All paths and desire lines need to be maintained.
- Regular rubbish collection and appropriate siting of bins, including dog waste bins, is important to maintain the area for public use.
- Regular safety checks will be needed of trees, water bodies, access infrastructure and paths with appropriate management if necessary.

## 10-year Work Programme Years 1 to 5

Compartment	Management Prescription	Priority: Essential	Priority: Desirable	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Compartment 1	1b: Control brambles to under 40% cover	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Redwood Arboretum: Remove remaining plastic spirals, stakes and mulch mats from young trees.		•	•				
	Jubilee Wood: Coppice damaged willows to form a shrub layer		•	•				•
	Jubilee Wood: Assess trees around elms for thinning		•					•
	Jubilee Wood: assess and thin trees.	•			•			
	Continue willow pollarding cycles already set up (4- to 5- yearly)		•	•				•
	Pond 7: Continue clearing debris out annually. Strim just one side to clear brambles.		•	•	•	•	•	•
	Pond 10: Remove dumped refuse and fallen branches regularly. Cut down <i>all</i> newly-grown willows from banks of pond.	•		•		•		•
	Pond 12: Excavate to enlarge pond into the open area and line with 'Bentonite' matting or puddled clay.		•			•		

	Area 'A': Leave the area un-mown unless brambles colonise, in which case mow.	•		•		•		•
	Area 'A': Plant tall plants as well as shade-tolerant spring flowers such as cowslip.	•		•				
	Area 'A': Trim branches where they overhang the verge	•						
	Hedges: Continue to flail as current practice.	•		•	•	•	•	•
Compartment 2	Leave Moorfields Triangle unmown unless bramble encroachment requires strimming	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Plant species that thrive in tall vegetation here		•	•				
	Mow all grassland previously mown in Pond Meadow in autumn, removing cuttings	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Once mowing regime established, plant species as recommended		•	•				
	Remove some common reed from pond and margins in winter to maintain current extent of open water	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Manage Dingly Dell by non-intervention; continue to maintain all nest boxes.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Continue current trimming management of hedges		•		•		•	

Compartment	Management Prescription	Priority: Essential	Priority: Desirable	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Compartment 3	Mow grassland in late summer and remove cuttings	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Only once mowing regime established, prepare site and add wildflower seed as prescribed.		•		•		•	
	Manage former pond as reedbed, cutting one half one year and the other the following year.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Remove colonising alders near pond every year	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Maintain H12 and H13 as tall unmanaged hedges		•					
	H3 and H4 continue current trimming and gapping up	•		•	•	•	•	•
Compartment 4	Spring and Summer cattle-graze Balancing Pond field	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Use motorised flail to control saplings and bramble in autumn	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Create new ride through dense scrub		•	•				
	Triangle Field Control bramble as prescribed, trimming annually.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	H8 stop flailing, allow to grow tall. Lay within the 10 year plan		•					•
	Other hedges clear ditches and maintain as tall wide hedges		•		•		•	

Compartment	Management Prescription	Priority: Essential	Priority: Desirable	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Compartment 5	North of bund: Control bramble from edges and trim hawthorns before mowing	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Mow species-rich grassland in early autumn, collecting cuttings.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Plant suitable tall herbs		•		•		•	
	South of bund: Mow only a 1 metre strip alongside main path	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Maintain butterfly bank with some open ground	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Pancake Pond: Maintain as sedge bed	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Doughnut Pond: ensure 50% open water by vegetation clearance	•		•		•		•
	String of Pearls ponds: strim bramble around ponds.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Mississippi Mud: Strim area around pond in autumn	•		•	•	•	•	•

<b>Compartment</b>	<b>Management Prescription</b>	<b>Priority: Essential</b>	<b>Priority: Desirable</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
Compartment 6	Hedges: H7 stop flailing and allow to grow tall. Lay within 10 years		•					
	Trim margins of blackthorn thicket alongside H7 to stop it extending		•	•	•	•	•	•
	Grassland: Ideally, mow for hay, collect and remove crop.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Aftermath graze sheep and cattle.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	If fields cannot be mown: heavily graze fields down to 5 cms. with sheep and cattle after 1 August and again in spring.	•		•	•	•	•	•
Compartment 7	Maintain tall grassland by continuing current mowing regime, leaving unmown areas	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Remove developing scrub every 2 years	•		•		•		•
	Cut back all vegetation on south side of Secret Pond and maintain annually	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Coronation Meadow: Cut and rake annually as a minimum	•		•	•	•	•	•
	H18 allow blackthorn to sucker and form copse, other hedges as current hedgelaying cycle	•		•	•	•	•	•

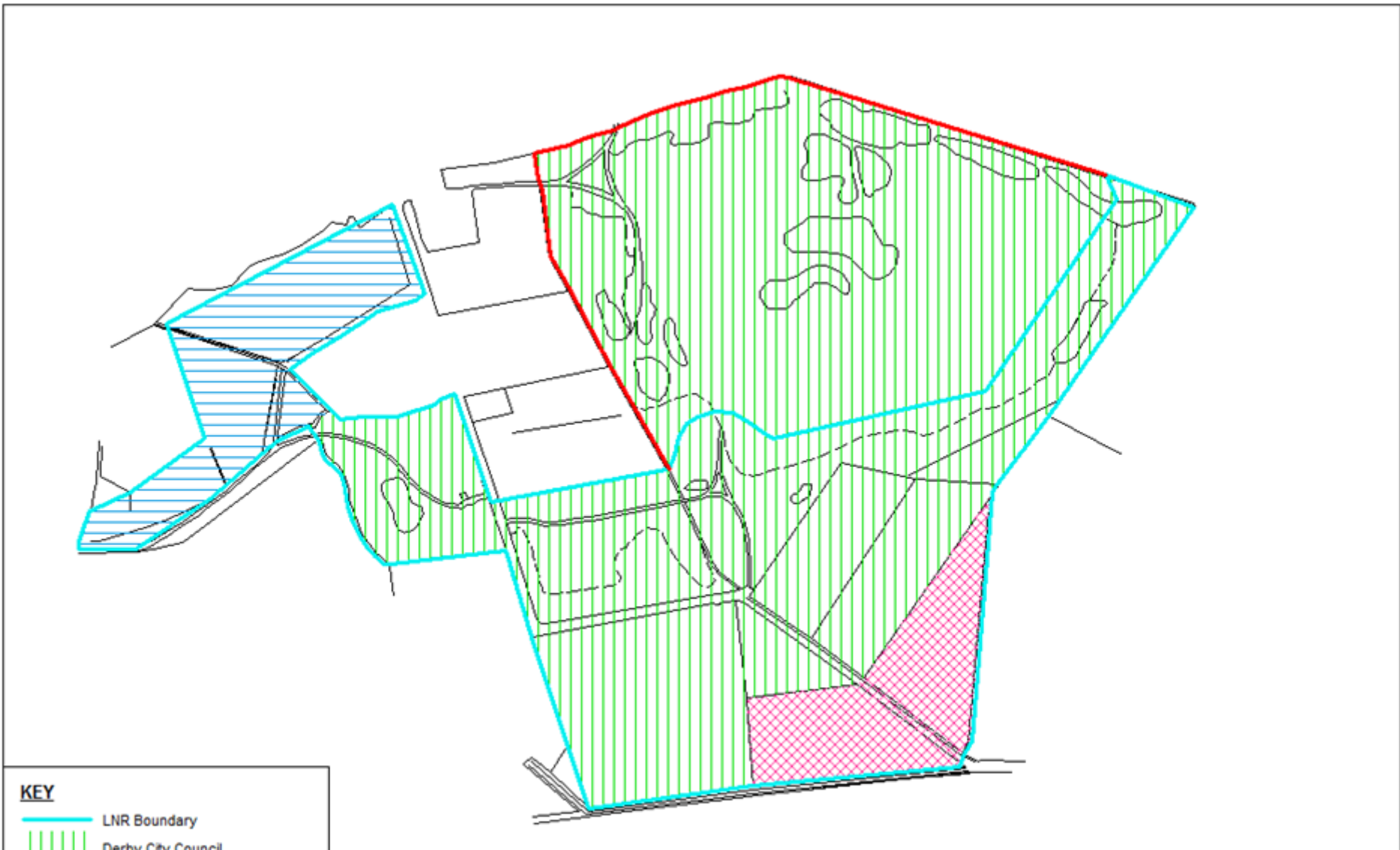
## 10-year Work Programme Years 6 to 10

Compartment	Management Prescription	Priority: Essential	Priority: Desirable	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Compartment 1	1b: Control brambles to under 40% cover	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Jubilee Wood: assess and thin trees.	•						
	Continue willow pollarding cycles already set up (4 to 5 yearly)		•				•	
	Pond 7: Continue clearing debris out annually. Strim just one side to clear brambles.		•	•	•	•	•	•
	Pond 10: Remove dumped refuse and fallen branches regularly. Cut down <i>all</i> newly-grown willows from banks of pond.		•	•	•	•	•	•
	Area 'A': Leave the area un-mown unless brambles colonise, in which case mow.	•			•		•	
	Hedges: Continue to flail as current practice.	•		•	•	•	•	•
Compartment 2	Leave Moorfields Triangle un-mown unless bramble encroachment requires strimming	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Mow all grassland previously mown in Pond Meadow in autumn, removing cuttings	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Once mowing regime established, plant species as recommended		•	•				





<b>Compartment</b>	<b>Management Prescription</b>	<b>Priority: Essential</b>	<b>Priority: Desirable</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>
	Remove some common reed from pond and margins in winter to maintain current extent of open water	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Manage Dingly Dell by non-intervention, continue to maintain all nest boxes.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Continue current trimming management of hedges		•		•		•	
Compartment 3	Mow grassland in late summer and remove cuttings	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Only once mowing regime established, prepare site and add wildflower seed as prescribed.		•		•		•	
	Manage former pond as reedbed, cutting one half one year and the other the following year.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Remove colonising alders near pond every year	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Maintain H12 and H13 as tall unmanaged hedges	•		•	•	•	•	•
	H3 and H4 continue current trimming and gapping up		•	•	•	•	•	•

<b>Compartment</b>	<b>Management Prescription</b>	<b>Priority: Essential</b>	<b>Priority: Desirable</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>
Compartment 4	Spring and Summer cattle-graze Balancing Pond field	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Use motorised flail to control saplings and bramble in autumn	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Maintain new ride through dense scrub		•	•	•	•	•	•
	Triangle Field Control bramble as prescribed, trimming annually.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	H8 stop flailing, allow to grow tall. Lay within the 10 year plan		•				•	
	Other hedges clear ditches and maintain as tall wide hedges		•	•	•	•	•	•
Compartment 5	North of bund: Control bramble from edges and trim hawthorns before the annual mowing	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Mow species-rich grassland in early autumn, collecting cuttings.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Plant suitable tall herbs		•					
	South of bund: Mow only a 1 metre strip alongside main path	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Maintain butterfly bank with some open ground	•						
	Pancake Pond: retain as sedge bed	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Doughnut Pond: ensure 50% open water by vegetation clearance	•		•	•	•	•	•
	String of Pearls ponds: strim bramble around ponds	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Mississippi Mud: Strim area around pond in autumn	•		•	•	•	•	•

<b>Compartment</b>	<b>Management Prescription</b>	<b>Priority: Essential</b>	<b>Priority: Desirable</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>
Compartment 6	Hedges: H7 stop flailing and allow to grow tall. Lay within 10 years		•					
	Other hedges: Monitor, but no management should be needed		•					
	Grassland: Ideally, mow for hay in late summer. Collect and remove crop.	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Aftermath graze with sheep and cattle	•		•	•	•	•	•
	If fields cannot be mown: heavily graze fields down to 5 cms. with sheep and cattle after 1 August and again in spring.	•		•	•	•	•	•
Compartment 7	Maintain tall grassland by continuing current mowing regime, leaving unmown areas	•		•	•	•	•	•
	Remove developing scrub every 2 years	•			•		•	
	Cut back all vegetation on south side of Secret Pond and maintain annually		•	•	•	•	•	•
	Coronation Meadow: Cut and rake annually as a minimum	•		•	•	•	•	•
	H18 allow blackthorn to sucker and form copse, other hedges as current hedgelaying cycle		•	•	•	•	•	•



**KEY**

-  LNR Boundary
-  Derby City Council
-  Derby Homes
-  Rolls Royce

**Plan 1. Boundaries and Ownership**

Not to scale

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