



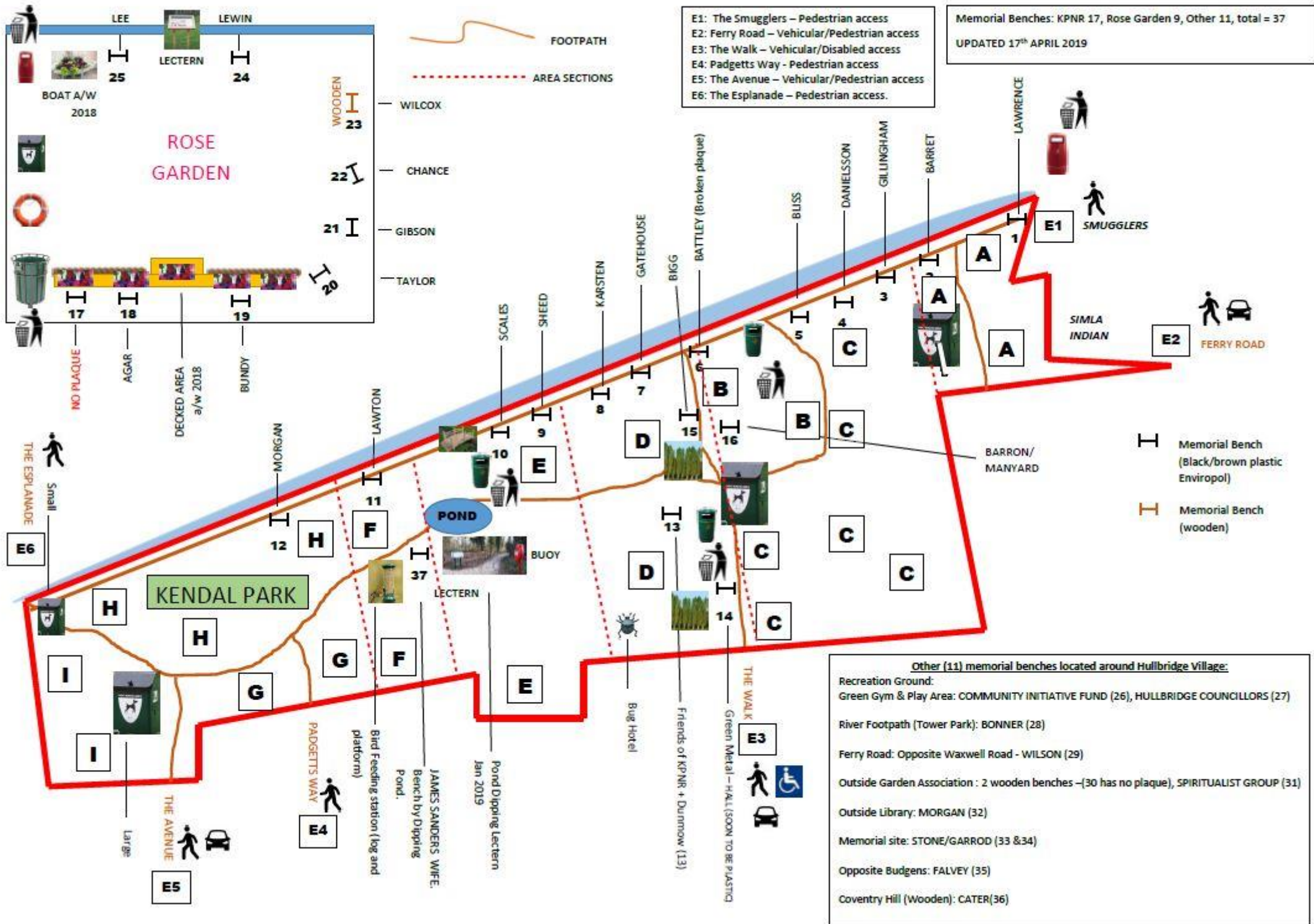
HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

KENDAL NATURE RESERVE HULLBRIDGE

MANAGEMENT PLAN BY HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

2024- 2029

Adopted: 15/04/2024



E1: The Smugglers – Pedestrian access
 E2: Ferry Road – Vehicular/Pedestrian access
 E3: The Walk – Vehicular/Disabled access
 E4: Padgetts Way - Pedestrian access
 E5: The Avenue – Vehicular/Pedestrian access
 E6: The Esplanade – Pedestrian access.

Memorial Benches: KPNR 17, Rose Garden 9, Other 11, total = 37
 UPDATED 17th APRIL 2019

Other (11) memorial benches located around Hullbridge Village:

- Recreation Ground:
- Green Gym & Play Area: COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND (26), HULLBRIDGE COUNCILLORS (27)
- River Footpath (Tower Park): BONNER (28)
- Ferry Road: Opposite Waxwell Road - WILSON (29)
- Outside Garden Association : 2 wooden benches –(30 has no plaque), SPIRITUALIST GROUP (31)
- Outside Library: MORGAN (32)
- Memorial site: STONE/GARROD (33 &34)
- Opposite Budgens: FALVEY (35)
- Coventry Hill (Wooden): CATER(36)

KENDAL NATURE RESERVE – HULLBRIDGE

Vision Statement

Kendal Park NR will be maintained with biodiversity in mind to encourage the local wildlife associated with its woodland, scrub and grassland areas. The pond will be maintained and be a focal point that is full of wildlife and safe for everyone- including children- to enjoy. The NR will complement the habitats of those of the neighbouring River Crouch, which is internationally important for wildlife.

Kendal Park NR will feel safe and welcoming for all users. The network of wide paths and benches will be maintained.

The NR will be a place to help all users to appreciate and understand their local wildlife.

Young people from Hullbridge will be encouraged to use the LNR more which will improve their understanding of wildlife and encourage them to be sympathetic to their local surroundings, as well as increasing the likelihood of it being looked after in the future.

The site should be a show case for Hullbridge to long distance walkers using the coastal footpath on its northern edge.

Kendal Park was first designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 1995. Details can be found from Natural 1.15England at: http://www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/Lnr/Lnr_details.asp?C=0&N=&ID=1495. The site is maintained by Hullbridge Parish Council. Rochford District Councils owns the land, but the Hullbridge Parish Council has a 199 year lease agreement to manage it.

The overall management aims for this Plan are as follows:

To maintain & enhance the existing wildlife habitats and species of the site, including its woodland, grassland, and pond, especially given its importance as the only such area in the locality. This includes habitat management operations that will help conserve and to promote the site's value for a range of locally important species; contribute to maintaining the site's status as an LNR and to ensure legal obligations in relation to wildlife legislation are met. To provide safe opportunities for informal countryside recreation and environmental education.

Overview

Kendal Park NR is dominated by broadleaved deciduous secondary woodland, and grassland, scrub and one man-made pond in the middle. There are two open grassy areas near the eastern entrance. The site is rather isolated from similar habitats as there is very little of these habitats in the Hullbridge area, thereby making their retention and enhancement more important. The woodland largely comprises ash standards of a similar age with a few mature oaks. The scrub layer contains predominantly native species including hawthorn, field maple and blackthorn. Unfortunately, Ash Dieback Disease has been found within the woodland and this needs to be considered in managing the site.

Kendal Park NR contains several clearly defined and open access points. It is well used by the local community. The NR contains a network of wide paths across the site and a number of entrances connect it to the adjoining residential areas. A public footpath runs along the northern boundary adjacent to the river and it is assumed that this is also used by people walking longer distances. A line of trees and scrub runs between this footpath and the rest of the site, creating a degree of separation between the path and the rest of the site. This may help to reduce disturbance of wildlife-especially birds-using the River Crouch.

An electricity substation is situated near the eastern entrance and an east-west electricity cable crosses the length of the site from the substation. A strip of land above this electricity cable is required to be kept clear of woody vegetation.

The broadleaved woodland is relatively recent in nature, and it used to be a plot land area (for growing of vegetables) until the 1930s. After World War II it was no longer used for this purpose, and it consequently became scrubbed up. It has now developed into a predominantly single-aged ash woodland with an open grassy meadow area in the centre.

Summary of interests

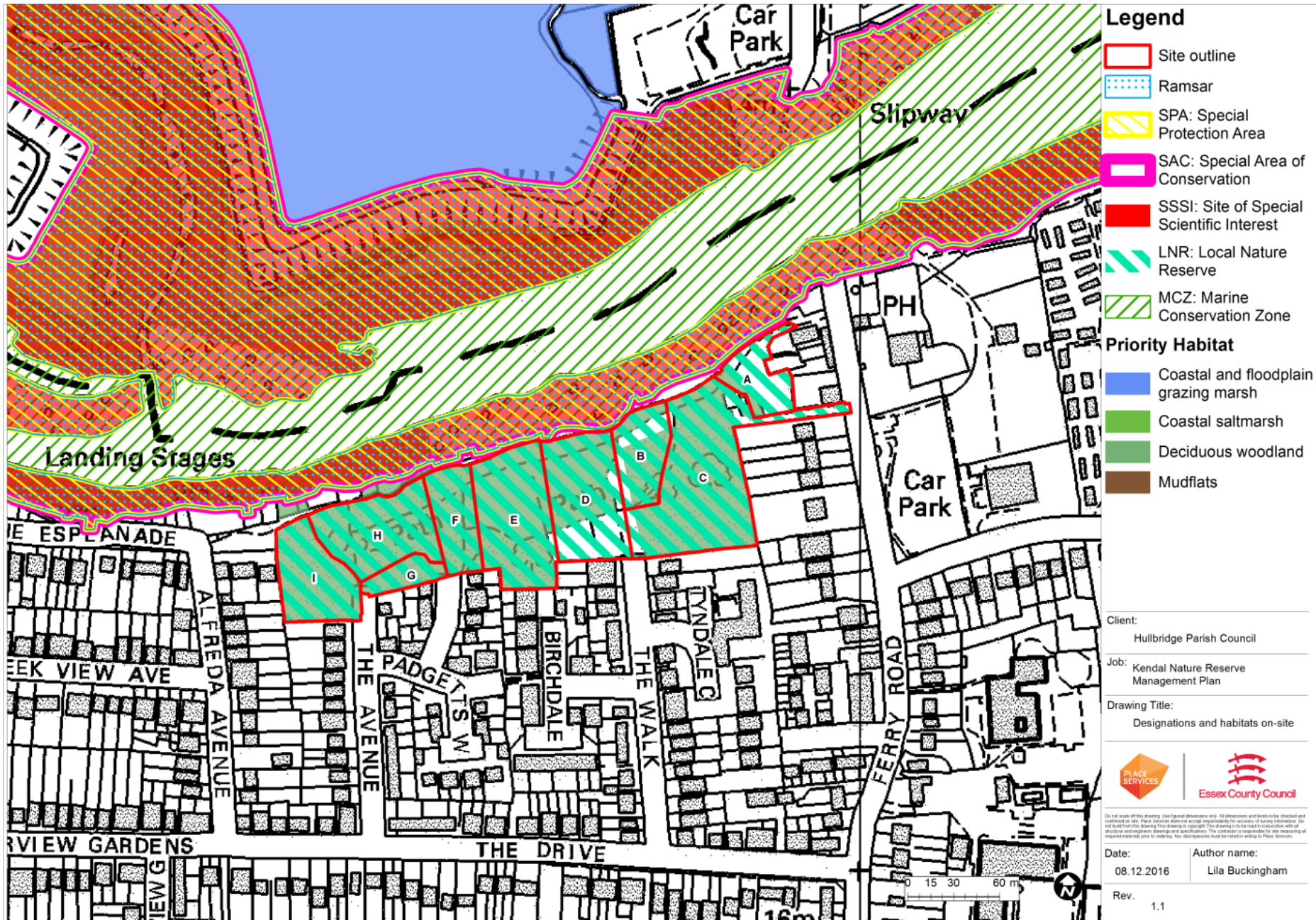
The site is very popular with dog walkers every day of the week. These are predominantly people who live in Hullbridge.

Signage and information about the site help to encourage appreciation and understanding of the site.

Long distance walkers use the boundary footpath adjacent to the River Crouch. This through-traffic may be increased by the anticipated promotion of the Essex Coastal Footpath.

The NR is surrounded by a residential area on three sides and numerous neighbouring gardens back onto it.

The River Crouch is internationally important for wildlife (birds and coastal/ estuarine habitats) and is popular for recreational purposes. There is a legal requirement (European Habitats Directive¹) to consider the potential impacts upon this site from encouraging more visitors to the NR. This includes the potential for cumulative impacts with any projects in the area.





Legend

Compartments

Client: Hullbridge Parish Council
 Job: Kendal Nature Reserve Management Plan
 Drawing Title: Site compartments



Do not scale off this drawing. Use figured dimensions only. All dimensions and levels to be checked and confirmed on site. Place Services does not accept responsibility for accuracy of survey information. Do not build from the drawings. This drawing is copyright. This drawing is to be used in conjunction with all structural and engineers drawings and specifications. The contractor is responsible for site measuring all proposed materials prior to ordering. Any discrepancies must be noted in writing to Place Services.

Date:	Author name:
08.12.2016	Lila Buckingham
Rev.	1.1

Habitat Descriptions

A public footpath runs along the northern boundary of the site, adjacent to the river. There is a line of trees running between the path and the rest of the site, creating a degree of separation between the path and the rest of the site. It was lined with privet, hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, elder and ash.

There are numerous paths crossing the site and several entrances to the site. **Area A** is the main eastern entrance and there are two points of access from Ferry Road. This contains relatively open areas of nutrient enriched grassland with patches of scrub. The grassland contains false oat grass, creeping thistle, stinging nettle, and bindweed. This grassland was seeded with wildflowers in 2015, but it is still quite rank (2017) due to the soil being enriched and the wildflowers have largely been outcompeted by more competitive species. These grassland patches are now being kept short with areas for wildflowers and some of the scrub and trees removed to make the entrance feel safe and welcoming to visitors and to open up views to the river.

The western entrance-is also kept short by regular strimming during the summer months.

WOODLAND/TREES (Areas B to I)

Much of the woodland present within the site is relatively young and of relatively low ecological value that lacks a well-established history of traditional woodland management, Woodland management is ongoing, including small scale coppicing and tree planting. The broadleaved deciduous woodland which dominates the site largely comprises mature ash standards which are mostly of a similar age and height. It also contains mature oaks and an understorey of dog rose, elder, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, silver birch, and grey/ white poplar.

There are pockets of dense scrub while other areas are more open in nature, where areas have been opened up with tree clearance/ coppicing. The ground flora largely is representative of more recent woodland and comprises cow parsley, nettles, ground ivy and brambles. Some of the ground flora is likely to have come from neighbouring gardens. Log piles have been created to encourage wildlife.

The site is ash dominant and has had confirmed outbreaks of Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). However, no positive identification of ash dieback was made at the time of inspection (2017) by the arboriculturist. Checks are made regularly and where trees are diseased and dangerous they will be removed. Ash trees will be surveyed twice a year, once when new leaves are on the tree in late spring, possible blackened leaves and once in the autumn when bark lesions are present on infected trees and leaves are no longer present. Log piles is of ecological value for fungi and invertebrates and can be a valuable shelter.

Some of the mature trees are covered in dense ivy. Ivy is beneficial to biodiversity such as invertebrates, birds, and bats, however it also prevents to fully assess tree condition. Some ivy may need to be removed by severing the ivy stem near at the bottom of the trunk.

As the tree specimens are at a similar age and height, continue to coppice of the next 15-20 years by doing a small section every year or larger section every 4/5 years during November – February for Ash and non-native species. Planting of mixed native species to encourage varying levels of canopy and reduce Ash. New plantings should be given a bark mulch to discourage competition –

don't use plastic. Boundary – at least twice a year (spring/autumn) the growth is cut back away from the Boundary at least 1 metre/3 feet. Annual Tree Survey to be undertaken with tree contractor with a more in-depth survey to be carried out on a three yearly basis.

Area B contains predominantly tall ash trees, with a hawthorn and blackthorn understory, ivy and cow parsley, remote sedge, herb bennet, broadleaved plantain, and hairy violet (a garden escape).

Area C comprises ash woodland, with a hawthorn and blackthorn dense understory; cow parsley, dandelion species, herb bennet, bristly oxeye, and dock, creeping buttercup.

Some coppicing was undertaken in winter of 2015/16. Areas B and C were coppiced on either side of the path that crosses between the two compartments. The other parts of Area C contained dense scrub, largely of blackthorn and it contained evidence of camp building toward the southeastern corner.

There is a badger sett on the southern boundary of this Area C with 10 or more entrances.

Cow parsley is dominant, and this makes people feel unsafe due to its height and dense nature. It can also smother other ground vegetation. To reduce its dominance, the most important thing is to cut it before it sets seed. It should be raked off if possible, too. The focus for this work should be near the paths.

Area D GRASSLAND/ MEADOW comprises a predominantly open meadow area, partially divided into two by a north-south line of Lombardy Poplars with some scrub. There has been some grass/wildflower seeding in the past and seeds are annually distributed. Part of it is nutrient enriched. The southern section of D contains well maintained shrubs including patches of gorse. There is a line of mature oak trees running north-south along the western boundary of this Area.

It contains several wildflowers and grasses including black knapweed, fleabane, meadow vetchling, willow herb, hoary ragwort, creeping buttercup, red clover, meadow foxtail, field bindweed, creeping thistle, false fox sedge, crested dog's tail, agrimony, *Holcus lanatus*, cocks' foot, timothy, *Phleum birtolonii*.

The Meadow is cut regularly leaving large wildflower beds which should be cut end of July and the arising's left and removed 3 days later and then cleared a second cut either in September or March/April, fertilisers must not be added.

Areas E and F contain dense woodland predominantly ash high standards. It also contains elder, hawthorn, grey or white poplar, field maple, and ground flora included cow parsley, nettles, wood avens, herb bennet, scented mayweed and selfheal. There is also yellow archangel, but this is a garden escape, rather than the native ancient woodland indicator.

The pond was replaced in spring 2022 and is situated within Area E, Himalayan Balsam was previously found at this location which is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow this species in the wild. This needs to be removed with urgency and in the correct way.

This has been managed and dealt with by a specialist 2017/2018 and the area is regularly monitored.

Adjacent to the new pond there is a bog area as an inlet pipe bringing water from the residential area feeds it and previously it went straight into the old pond reducing water quality and may explain the Himalayan Balsam.

The new pond is deeper and larger than the original and trees have been managed in this area to allow light and this new water source it is hoped will encourage wildlife and invertebrates. For guidance look at Freshwater Habitats Trust.

Area G contains ash woodland. It is shaded with cow parsley, alder and nettles. It was dominated with cow parsley.

Area H has been partly coppiced. This has created open areas. Log piles have been created. Around 100 trees were planted in 2015, including field maple, spruce, oak, hornbeam and holly but most lost to vandalism. Hard and soft sow thistles, wood false brome, scented mayweed, herb bennet, wood false brome, scented mayweed and broadleaved plantain.

Area I is predominantly ash, hawthorn, dogwood, and ivy and cow parsley and pendula sedge. This area is being left without any management-also called minimum-intervention. There has been tree planting, perhaps ten years ago. This area should be checked for health and safety.

Wildlife

Bats

It is likely that bats will occur within Kendal Park NR. Trees may be used for roosting and all areas of the site and the River Crouch-might be used for foraging and commuting.

All bat species are protected under both European and national law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) and under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981; as amended), respectively. It is an offence to kill, harm, capture, possess or sell them (alive or dead), disturb them, or destroy any of their breeding or resting places.

Birds

Breeding birds vary in their requirements, with different species favouring different habitats, including scrub or tree vegetation, grassland, coastal habitats and buildings. Kendal Park NR contains a variety of habitat, all of which might support breeding birds, particularly the woodland and scrub. Birds (all species) are protected under national law by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981; as amended). It is an offence to kill, injure, take or possess (alive or dead) any wild bird; take, damage or destroy a nest that is in use or being built; or take, destroy or possess an egg. Certain species are protected under Schedule 1, where the nest is protected even when not in use.

Vegetation clearance work should not be undertaken during the nesting season-i.e. March to August inclusive.

Badgers

There is a large main badger sett (more than ten entrances) which appears to be thriving. It is situated on the southern site boundary and the badgers are alleged to be damaging neighbouring properties. The tunnels may stretch under the boundary fence.

European badgers *Meles meles* require habitats in which to build their setts, and in which to forage. Badgers preferentially chose sloping banks with easy-dig substrate (such as sand) for sett building where foraging habitat (e.g. grassland) is available in close proximity.

There are no other known setts in the vicinity, but this could change as badgers are mobile animals and the site is suitable, though it lacks the sloping banks that are often used.

Badgers are protected under national law by the Protection of Badgers Act (1992). It is an offence to kill, injure, take (or attempt to do the above), sell, mark or cruelly ill-treat a badger; possess a dead badger; damage, destroy, cause a dog to enter or obstruct access to a badger sett; or disturb a badger when occupying a badger sett.

The sett needs to be kept under regular observation.

The sett should be left alone with minimal intervention as any work in the area could disturb the badgers, work with a 20 metre protection zone. Rubbish should be removed from sett entrances. Methods to move the badgers or prevent expansion into neighbouring gardens (e.g. with a metal underground fence) are complicated and costly. They would require a licence and would need to be supervised by a badger specialist. There is also no guarantee that they would not return.

Squirrels

There is a large population of grey squirrels in the nature reserve, these are popular with residents and visitors who often hand feed them. The size of the population will be monitored, and any concerns relayed to the Environmental Health Team at Rochford District Council.

Reserve Furniture

Wooden barriers, way markers, bridge, notice boards, seats to be treated with wood preservative annually and kept in a good state of repair as necessary.

Litter control to be carried out, litter / dog bins emptied regularly.

Bird / Bat / Owl Boxes/ Dormouse boxes

Wildlife to be surveyed also bird, bat, dormouse and owl boxes to be monitored.

Reserve Management Objectives and Actions

Objective	Actions required	Responsibility	Timing for Works to occur	Years to be undertaken
A strong welcoming entrance to the LNR.	Maintain welcome signs, information boards and benches	HPC	Monthly checks for existing signs	1-5
Ash Dieback Management	<p>Allow re-growth of coppice stools if they are not affected by Ash Dieback.</p> <p>If affected by Ash Dieback, treat them and plant other species to replace them.</p> <p>Monitor for Ash dieback symptoms.</p> <p>It is recommended that a survey be done twice a year, once when new leaves are on the tree in late spring to identify blackened leaves and once in the autumn when bark lesions are present on infected trees.</p> <p>Sever Ivy on ash within falling distance of path and if manage other areas where there is heavy cover.</p>	HPC	November to February	1-5
Footpaths Maintenance	<p>Maintain wide footpath; Cut back vegetation/scrub overhanging encroaching onto paths. Remove dead wood.</p> <p>Cut back cow parsley in spring regularly- and before it sets seed- near to footpath.</p> <p>Rake it off and leave in piles.</p> <p>Replenish cockle shell on footpaths</p>	HPC	Spring / Autumn	1-5
Rough areas Management	<p>Maintain the extent of the woodland. Minimum intervention areas in non-coppiced areas.</p> <p>Check for dangerous trees, as part of the annual tree inspection, especially near boundaries and paths.</p>	HPC Qualified Arboriculturalist	Annually	1-5
Badger Sett Ensure compliance legislation for legally protected species. Maintain and protect	<p>Minimum intervention near badger sett.</p> <p>Remove rubbish dumping on/ near badger sett and regularly check for rubbish dumping.</p>	HPC	Weekly	1-5

badger sett.

Wildflower Grassland Manage to maximise wildlife interest and enhance as a wildflower meadow. The grassland area should contain a diverse range of grasses and wildflowers	. Cut to 50-75mm in late July and again in late March or April. Leave arising's for 2-3 days if possible before removing from site or leaving in habitat piles just inside the wooded areas.	HPC	September and late March /April	1-5
Bug Hotel / Area D	Existing areas of scrub to be maintained with scalloped edges to benefit butterflies. Prevent scrub encroachment onto grassland. Cut back on a 10 year rotation in small sections.	HPC	October to February	1,3,5
Maintain Bug Hotel	For wildlife /education			
Trees	Retain existing line of mature oaks and ash trees between Areas D and E, Removal of old tree guards and mulch mats Maintain the extent of the woodland. Manage it to create a more diverse woodland structure to maximise wildlife interest and prevent over reliance on ash. Continue to undertake small scale coppicing if no Ash Dieback. Small scale tree planting should only include other species of locally native trees.eg oak, hornbeam, field maple, hazel, blackthorn and hawthorn.	HPC Qualified Arboriculturalist	Annual tree inspection November - February	1-5
Pond	Provide a pond that is managed to produce overall maximum wildlife interest; does not contain Himalayan Balsam and is safe for groups to use for educational purposes. Open up the area surrounding the pond by removing trees near the pond to let in light, prevent roots damaging pond liner; to prevent leaf fall into pond and prevent trees from taking water from surrounding area. Create a 'glade'. Clearance of Himalayan Balsam every year until completely eradicated. Cut and remove before flowering. Follow strict procedures for cutting and	HPC Specialist contractor	As required	1-5

	disposal.			
Boundaries	Remove trees within 20 metres of pond. Manage hazel to west of pond (every 5-10years) Ensure neighbours are not adversely affected by the LNR and vice versa	HPC and Specialist arboriculturist	November to February Twice weekly checks	1-5
All Areas	Annual tree check to ensure that trees are not excessively overhanging boundaries. Clear vegetation from boundaries by 1 metre Remove any rubbish dumped. Liaise neighbours when required. Ensure compliance legislation for legally protected species.	HPC or Tree Surgeon	September–February	1-5
All Areas	Any vegetation removal or tree management to be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season, (or preceded by a survey for nesting birds). Health and safety and to maintain an attractive site. Keep site clear of litter and debris	.	HPC Monthly	1-5
All Areas	Health and safety	All site trees to be inspected by a qualified arboriculturist, and recommendation report obtained to identify any health problems or necessary arboricultural health and safety works.	Once every year	1-5
Environmental education and interpretation	Provide opportunities for environmental education and public access.	HPC	Annually	1-5
Local Community Involvement	Liaise with local schools and Essex Wildlife Trust. Increase local interest and involvement in the LNR and increase the level of help and support from the local community. Maintain / develop relationships with neighbouring landowners.	Consult local community on plans for the LNR; hold work parties to help manage the site. Possibly offer guided walks and children's activities as described above (Environmental Education and Interpretation)		

Management Proposals and Recommendations

Description:	Broadleaved Woodland/ trees
Objectives:	Maintain the extent of the woodland and manage to maximise wildlife interest; reduce the cow parsley; prevent spread of Ash Dieback and prevent over reliance on ash. Ensure compliance with protected species legislation.
Management summary:	Monitor for Ash Dieback and remove trees and treat trees where necessary to prevent its spread. Leave other dead and dying trees, where safe, for bats, invertebrates and birds. Coppice small areas where no Ash Dieback; leave some wood in habitat piles. Small scale tree planting of locally native species. Cut down cow parsley before it sets seed, especially near the paths. Rake off if possible and leave in habitat piles.
Description:	Wildflower grassland (Area D) at the centre of the site.
Objectives:	Manage to maximise wildlife interest and enhance it as a wildflower meadow.
Management summary:	Cut at from mid-July end of the summer and remove the arising's, preferably 3 days later. A second cut can be undertaken in September or March/ April. Do not add fertilisers. Leave arising's in piles at the edge where safe to do so.
Description:	Pond in Area E
Objectives:	Provide a pond that is managed to produce overall maximum wildlife interest; and is safe for groups to use for educational purposes. (Pond Dipping)
Management summary:	Creating a new pond and bog area providing dipping platform for children to use and seating/picnic area.
Description:	Legally Protected and Controlled Species
Objectives:	Ensure compliance with legalisation. Aim to eradicate Himalayan balsam. Remove any Himalayan Balsam found in the pond area.
Management summary:	Ensure badger sett is not disturbed; remove any rubbish near the sett, particularly the items blocking the entrances. Avoid cutting back trees and scrub during the bird nesting season (March to August). Assess trees for roosting bats prior to tree works.
Description:	Health & safety
Objectives:	Provide a site that is safe and accessible for visitors to use.
Management summary:	Maintain signs and clear paths and regularly check paths regularly for obstructions; ensure entrances gates are maintained and kept clear. Annual health and safety tree inspection by a qualified arboriculturalist. Implement tree safety policy requirements and record safety checks.

Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*)

Up-to-date information should be sought from the .gov.uk website or by going straight to <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara>.

The Chalara toolkit can be found at: <http://www.observatree.org.uk/toolkits/chalara-ash-dieback-toolkit/>

The following information can be found at: <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-92PJKX#13encouragingregeneration>:

Increasing resilience of woodland to Chalara

The single best strategy is to increase the genetic and age diversity of your woodland. Developing stands of mixed species should make your woodland less vulnerable to disease, and adopting a continuous-cover approach, where practicable, is one way to promote higher levels of species and age diversity.

Encouraging ash regeneration

Planting ash is currently not possible because of the restrictions on moving planting material, but it would not be recommended even if these restrictions were lifted.

Natural regeneration is the preferred method of replacing ash stands. Tolerance of Chalara dieback of ash is likely to be highly heritable, so natural regeneration from tolerant trees is the preferred option for replacing the species in areas which retain sexually mature trees (more than 30 or 40 years old).

Guidance on the successful use of natural regeneration can be found in 'Managing Native Broadleaved Woodland', (£30 from The Stationery Office) or in 'Growing Broadleaves for Timber' (£13.50 from Forestry Commission Publications - quote stock code FCHB009.)

Regeneration from coppice

Regenerating a stand using coppice shoots from felled, infected trees is not recommended. Chalara can be isolated from roots, and it is thought to be highly systemic, so coppice regrowth from the infected trees is also likely to be infected.

If the aim is to reduce infection pressure on a site, or allow space for natural regeneration of ash or planted trees of other species to establish, it is recommended that coppice stumps are killed using approved herbicides.

Options if there are no tolerant mature ash trees on site

If there are no apparently tolerant mature ash trees left on a mixed-species site, and regeneration has failed, and if there are enough trees of other species to form a closed stand within 10 years, it is likely that your management objectives can still be achieved without carrying out further regeneration.

In other cases the stand should be regenerated by planting alternative species, until Chalara-tolerant strains of ash can be made available.

Where ash trees are tolerant to Ash Dieback:

Woodland owners in particular can help by:

- Not felling any mature ash trees unless necessary for public safety or timber production reasons; and
- monitoring their ash trees' health over the coming years, and reporting to the Forestry Commission or the Living Ash Project any which appear to be little affected by the disease.

Chemical control methods

There are currently no fungicides or other chemicals approved for use in UK forests for controlling *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. We are working with manufacturers of some products to identify whether any of them might have value in some situations.

Information for Parish Councils from EATALOG (East Anglian Tree and Landscapes Officers' Group)

Ash Dieback is a fungal pathogen specific to Ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) Ash dieback has infected and killed a large proportion of ash trees in Europe. It was first discovered in the UK in nursery stock in 2009 and has recently been discovered in ash trees growing in woods and plantations especially in Eastern England. It is thought that the fungus spores have been carried on the wind from Europe to infect trees here.

It is unlikely that the disease can now be eradicated from Britain, and it will ultimately infect most of our ash trees in a similar way to Dutch elm disease in the 1970's. There are hopes that perhaps some ash trees may show some form of resistance, but this is largely aspirational.

Ash Dieback is now firmly established in North Norfolk and in other local authority areas in East Anglia. Council officers are sharing information between authorities so that a well informed and consistent approach can be made in terms of managing the disease on publicly accessible land and in the provision of advice to the public.

Parish Councils will be responsible for ensuring their Ash trees are managed to prevent them becoming an unacceptable risk to people and property. The most efficient and defensive able way of doing this is by carrying out regular tree surveys. The information from the survey will also highlight cases of Chalara in the parish that can be reported to the Forestry Commission to aid the national database.

It is recommended that a survey be done twice a year, once when new leaves are on the tree in late spring to identify blackened leaves and once in the autumn when bark lesions are present on infected trees. Website links to identification and reporting are given at the bottom of the page.

A standard tree assessment form is also attached that can be modified for individual parish use. The form should be easy to use and provide the information required so that the parish Council can make informed decisions regarding the management of Chalara in their area. Information and guidance on the latest national action plan regarding Chalara is available here: www.defra.gov.uk
For further local information contact Rochford District Council's Tree Officer.

Guidance on best treatment/disposal methods for Himalayan Balsam

Advice from the Environment Agency (August 2016):

It can be controlled by digging out the whole plant and its root system, preventing the plant from flowering and spreading. This is effective as the plant is shallow rooted. This is best done before it flowers in June.

The plant must be cut below the lowest node to prevent regrowth and flowering. Cutting it above the lowest node will only temporarily stop it spreading and may cause the seeds to spread further if done when the plant flowers.

Cutting should be repeated annually until no more growth occurs.

Chemical control

Himalayan balsam can be controlled by the herbicide's glyphosate or 2,4-D amine. This can be applied to the plant most effectively before June, before the plant flowers.

More than one application is often necessary to prevent the plant spreading in future years.

If using herbicides on or near water, you must only use glyphosate-based products that are approved for aquatic use, and must get our permission first.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-use-herbicides-in-or-near-water>

Disposal options

Himalayan balsam waste should be collected and dried out. It can then be taken to a licensed site for disposal or burnt on site.

The weed can be burnt on site under controlled conditions. If the waste is burnt, you must take into account any local by-laws for nuisance or pollution that may occur as a result of the activity. Businesses burning Himalayan balsam waste may need a D7 exemption for burning waste in the open.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-exemption-d7-burning-waste-in-the-open>

Private individuals burning Himalayan balsam waste don't need a D7 exemption, but they must comply with its key conditions.

Composting

Himalayan balsam can be composted on the site where it is produced, but only in the early stages of flowering and when no seed pods have developed. Its best composted in late spring as the plant flowers between June and October and seed pods appear in mid-summer. It should not be placed in green waste bins.

Review KNR Management Plan five years.