



## **Newbold Quarry Local Nature Reserve**

### **Management Plan**

**Adapted by**

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**Based on original by Richard Wright**

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Chair

..... Conservation Manager

**Management Plan for Newbold Quarry Local Nature Reserve**  
(reviewed and updated from the plan written in 2001 in July 2007)

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Part 1: Description</b>	
<b>Chapter 1.1 General information</b>	
3	
<b>Chapter 1.2 Environmental Information</b>	
1.2.1 Physical	5
1.2.2 Biological	5
1.2.3 Cultural	7
1.2.4 Ecological relationships and implications for management	8
<b>Part 2: Evaluation and objectives</b>	
<b>Chapter 2.1 Conservation status of the site</b>	9
<b>Chapter 2.2 Evaluation of the reserve</b>	
2.2.1 Criteria for evaluation	9
2.2.2 Summary evaluation of important features	11
2.2.3 The site in wider perspective and implications for management	11
2.2.4 Specified limits	11
2.2.5 Ideal management objectives	11
<b>Chapter 2.3 Factors influencing management (constraints)</b>	
2.3.1 Natural trends	12
2.3.2 Human induced trends	12
2.3.3 External factors	12
2.3.4 Obligations	12
2.3.5 Legal constraints	12
2.3.6 Management constraints	12
2.3.7 Impact assessment	12

## **Chapter 2.4 Operational objectives**

<b>2.4.1</b>	Rationale	13
<b>2.4.2</b>	Operational objectives and outline prescriptions	13

### **Part 3: Prescription**

Annual management	14
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### **Appendix**

Maps	17
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# Management Plan for Newbold Quarry LNR

## Part 1 : Description

### Chapter 1.1 General information

**Site name** Newbold Quarry

**Grid reference** SP 496767 (Car Park)

#### Location

The site is in Newbold-upon-Avon, approximately 2 km north of Rugby town centre, to the east of the B4112 and south of the Oxford canal.

#### Status

The site is designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). It is a grade A county wildlife site.

**Area** 10.5 ha. (26 acres)

**Parish** Newbold-upon-Avon

**County** Warwickshire

**Planning Authority** Rugby Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council

#### Map coverage

1:50,000 O.S. Landranger 140  
1:25,000 O.S. Pathfinder SP47/57  
1:10,000 SP47 North East

#### Access

The reserve is open to the public. Car parking and access is available off Norman road. There is pedestrian access and disabled parking from Avonmere, off Newbold road, and there is additional pedestrian access from Newbold road and from the Oxford canal.

#### Tenure

The reserve is owned by Rugby Borough Council. The site is managed for its wildlife interest by the Trust

#### 1.1.2 Summary Description

The site comprises the water-filled pit and associated spoilheaps from a former cement quarry. The spoilheaps have largely become wooded, but areas of calcareous grassland remain. These are important for wild flowers such as Bee Orchid, Common Milkwort, Carline Thistle, Bird's-foot Trefoil and other plants typical of this type of

grassland. The woodland is generally of poor quality, mainly of Ash, Sycamore and Hawthorn, with a very limited ground flora. The pool has good water quality and supports an important population of native Crayfish, together with a large number of breeding toads. Great Crested Grebe and Coot breed, while wildfowl use the pool in winter, particularly Tufted Duck and Pochard.

The site provides an important area for informal recreation and is well used by local people.

## Chapter 1.2 Environmental Information

### 1.2.1 Physical

Geologically the site is on the Blue Lias formations and the alternating layers of limestone and clay can still be clearly seen in the cliffs bordering the north-east side of the pool. However, as this face is both inaccessible and extremely dangerous, there is no possibility at present of managing it for its geological features. The spoilheaps consist mainly of the calcareous clay which remained after the limestone had been removed. The pool is filled with water mainly from springs, some of which can be seen along the northern bank, with some additional water entering as run-off from a ditch and from the canal. The water level fluctuates considerably, generally reflecting the state of the water table. The water quality remains excellent, with very low turbidity and no indications of eutrophication or pollution.

### 1.2.2 Biological

#### Communities

The site has three main community types: woodland and scrub, grassland and aquatic.

The greater part of the land area is now covered by woodland and scrub. There has been a process of succession from grassland through Hawthorn scrub to woodland which is mainly Ash, Sycamore and tall Hawthorn, with the ground layer heavily dominated by Ivy. This woodland is classified as W8d in the National Vegetation Classification (NVC), *Fraxinus excelsior* - *Acer campestre* - *Mercurialis perennis*, *Hedera helix* sub-community. The woodland is generally floristically very species-poor. The scrub areas are dominated by Hawthorn, large areas being very densely covered with virtually bare ground beneath, but with other areas of relatively scattered scrub with grassland mosaic.

The grassland has been much reduced by scrub invasion, but there are still some fairly substantial areas which retain good floral diversity. The areas which have developed on the calcareous spoilheaps include characteristic species such as Common Milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Quaking Grass *Briza media*, Common Centaury *Centaureum eythraea*, Carline Thistle *Carlina vulgaris*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*. In more shaded areas both Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca* and False Brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* are abundant. There are also areas around the margins of the site on different soils where taller coarser grassland has developed, dominated by False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* but with a range of other grasses present. Characteristic flowers here are Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Ribbed Melilot *Melilotus officinalis*, Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* and Perforate St. John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum*.

The aquatic habitat shows considerable variation according to the depth of the water. Aquatic vegetation is best developed in the shallows at the western end and in the

southern bay. The dominant true aquatics are aliens, Canadian Pondweed *Elodea canadensis* and the Curly Waterweed *Lagarosiphon major*, from South Africa. Both these plants provide a good food source for Coots and Mute Swans. There is also a good growth of the native Spiked Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*. For many years emergent vegetation was very sparse as the water level fluctuated widely when the quarry was used as a canal reservoir. When pumping ceased a limited marginal vegetation developed, mainly of Reed Sweet Grass *Glyceria maxima*, and Common Spike Rush *Eleocharis palustris*. In 1993 extensive planting of marginal vegetation took place around much of the quarry margins in an attempt to add greater diversity. These plantings failed on the northern bank because of shallow substrate over rocks and excessive wave action. However, plants have established very well on the eastern and southern banks with a large bed of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* developing at the eastern end of the pool. Lesser Reedmace *Typha angustifolia* has also become well established. These areas provide additional nesting and feeding areas for birds particularly Coot, further breeding habitat for toads and protection for nymphs of dragonflies and other invertebrates.

### **Flora**

The characteristic flowers of the site have been mentioned under habitats above. The most notable flower which occurs is the Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*. This appears to be largely confined to one area of calcareous grassland where about twenty flowering spikes were present in 2000, with single specimens elsewhere. Other species not previously mentioned are Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*, Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*, Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (in very small numbers), Primrose *Primula vulgaris* (probably introduced) and Common Twayblade *Listera ovata* among a wide variety of commoner species.

### **Fauna**

The most important animal species present is the Freshwater Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. This species has declined greatly throughout Europe through a combination of pollution and a fungal disease which was imported with other crayfish species brought in for commercial production. Isolated waters such as Newbold Quarry are those where the species has the best hope for survival. Crayfish are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The species appears to be still surviving fairly well in the quarry pool, although the only evidence available is occasional accidental capture by anglers.

The pool has a large breeding population of Common toad *Bufo bufo*, with tens of thousands of young toads emerging every summer. There are much smaller breeding populations of Common Frog *Rana temporaria* and Smooth Newt *Triturus vulgaris*. There are also a wide range of invertebrates in the pool, including great numbers of molluscs and crustaceans which are an important food source for wildfowl. Several dragonfly species occur, with particularly abundant Brown Hawker *Aeshna grandis*.

Only two species of aquatic bird commonly breed. A single pair of Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* nest successfully every year, usually rearing two broods of two to four young. Several pairs of Coot *Fulica atra* also nest but until recently had

little success in rearing young, the majority of which were apparently predated by Pike *Esox lucius*. However, as the marginal vegetation has spread, the Coots have had much greater rates of breeding success, presumably because of the increased cover. In winter, the resident birds are joined by flocks of other species, particularly Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Pochard *Aythya ferina* and Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* are regular visitors but do not breed, possibly because of a lack of suitable nesting sites.

A variety of songbirds also breed on the reserve, including the nationally declining species Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* and Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*, together with commoner species such as Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*, Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*, Great tit *Parus major*, Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* and Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*.

The most noticeable mammal on the reserve is the Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* which maintains open areas of grassland by grazing. Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi* occurs regularly and produces well-worn tracks in winter.

Compared to some similar grassland sites Newbold Quarry has a relatively poor butterfly fauna. This is probably because the grassland areas are small and generally exposed to strong winds, the more sheltered areas having become converted to woodland or scrub, though management is reversing this to some extent. The site is also somewhat isolated from other areas from which colonisation could occur. The commonest species is actually Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* which occurs in the more wooded areas together with the usual Nymphalidae. Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* is found regularly but in small numbers, while Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina* and the Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* may be abundant in the longer grass on the margins of the reserve. A number of other species are recorded irregularly or in small numbers. The site has not been well surveyed for moths, but the nationally notable Six-belted Clearwing *Bembecia scopigera* has been recorded. Other insect orders have been fairly well surveyed but no other notable species have been found.

### **Warwickshire Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species**

The main habitat action plans which relate to the nature reserve are lowland calcareous grassland, hedgerows, scrub and carr and quarries and gravel pits.

The main species action plan that relates to the nature reserve is the white clawed crayfish.

### **1.2.3 Cultural**

#### **Past Land Use**

The site was quarried for limestone for the cement industry up until approximately 1920. The workings were abandoned due to flooding. Up until the late 1970s, water was pumped from the pool to top up levels in the adjacent Oxford Canal. This



caused a considerable drop in water levels during summer months. Subsequent more stable water levels have produced a much richer aquatic environment.

### **Public use**

The site has always been popular with local people for dog-walking and other informal activities. This leads to some problems with dog fouling and litter and to occasional vandalism. It has also long been a well-known site for angling, although in recent years the number of anglers appears to have declined.

### **Education**

The site is occasionally used by the local primary school for educational visits on an informal basis. However, in view of the dangers inherent at the site it is not suitable for promotion as an educational reserve.

#### **1.2.4 Ecological relationships and implications for management**

The reserve is one of a number of post-industrial sites managed by the Trust, several of which are also on calcareous clay. In common with most such sites, management to maintain the 'ideal' state and to prevent further succession could potentially use very considerable resources indefinitely. The flora and butterfly species are less important than at Trust reserves at Harbury Spoilbank and Stockton Cutting, probably because the site is relatively isolated. It is probably best to accept that much irreversible loss of grassland has taken place and to concentrate resources on maintaining the remaining areas and increasing structural diversity in the scrub, woodland and wetland habitats.

## **Part 2: Evaluation and objectives**

### **Chapter 2.1 Conservation status of the site**

The site has been designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) by Rugby Borough Council.

### **Chapter 2.2 Evaluation of the reserve**

#### **2.2.1 Criteria for evaluation**

##### **Size**

Although the site as a whole is reasonably large, a large proportion is occupied by low quality woodland, and the surviving areas of grassland are limited. The pool is large enough to maintain the populations of crayfish and toads, but there is little potential for more territories of breeding aquatic birds.

##### **Diversity**

The site has aquatic, grassland, scrub and woodland habitats, but the latter are of very low diversity. The grassland areas have a reasonably diverse flora for their size.

##### **Naturalness**

The site is wholly artificial having arisen from human activity. However, the communities which have arisen are largely natural although there has been some recent colonisation by non-native trees and shrubs and also some planting of ornamental species by the Council.

##### **Rarity**

Calcareous grassland is a scarce habitat in Warwickshire, although there are other sites which have considerably larger areas of similar type. Unpolluted still waters with low nutrient levels are also scarce. Freshwater Crayfish is a declining species.

##### **Fragility**

The whole land part of the site is in danger of becoming poor quality woodland if it is not managed. Human pressure by trampling is also detrimental to the grassland.

##### **Typicalness**

The site is generally similar to other post-industrial sites on the Lias clay, a habitat which is of particular importance in the county.

##### **Position in an ecological unit**

Newbold Quarry is one of a series of similar sites in the east and the south of the county. Nearby there are other former cement quarries in the Parkfield Road area, though these have generally been redeveloped or are scheduled for future development. Further a field there are a number of sites in the region of Southam and Bishop's Itchington, including Trust reserves at Stockton Cutting and Harbury Spoilbank.

### Potential value

The value of the site could be increased considerably if scrub invasion of grassland can be halted and the scrub and woodland structure enhanced.

### Intrinsic appeal

The site is visually attractive with its mosaic of grassland, woodland and pool, while the floriferous grassland areas are particularly appealing.

### 2.2.2 Summary evaluation of important features

Features	Importance		
	National	Regional	Local
Crayfish	High		
Calcareous grassland			Medium
Butterfly assemblage			Medium
Dragonfly assemblage			Medium
Bee Orchid			Medium
Wetland birds			Medium

### 2.2.3 The site in wider perspective and implications for management

The calcareous grassland which develops on exposed Liassic clay is highly characteristic of the Felden area of Warwickshire, a region which generally has few high quality habitats. Management of all such areas on Trust reserves is important to retain the full range of diversity within the series. The pool, though important, has little potential for management away from the margins. Although the woodland is of poor quality, woodland is generally scarce around Rugby and there is some potential for enhancement.

### 2.2.4 Specified limits

The grassland areas are already only a fraction of their original extent and no further loss should be allowed. Where scrub is spreading within the grassland it should be eliminated. All open areas within the woodland should be retained.

### 2.2.5 Conservation objectives

#### Conservation objective 1

To maintain and enhance the grassland and to maintain a balance between grassland and scrub

The grassland is the most valuable terrestrial habitat on the site. It can be divided into two types, calcareous grassland growing on the Liassic spoil and mesotrophic grassland growing on neutral soils mainly on the periphery of the site. The grassland areas are marked on map 3.

Areas 1 - 5 are calcareous and generally kept short by rabbit grazing. The required management is simply control of scrub invasion. Area 6 is regenerating calcareous

grassland on recently bare substrate. This should also be kept short by rabbits, but may require initial strimming. Area 7 is mesotrophic grassland originating from recent scrub clearance and subject to domination by tall herbs. Areas 8 and 9 are mesotrophic grasslands of the NVC type MG1 (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). Areas 7 - 9 require scrub control, but also need annual strimming and removal of cut material to lower fertility and prevent domination by rank grasses and tall herbs.

Within the grassland are areas of scrub. These provide valuable shelter on what is a generally exposed site. The scrub should be managed by controlling its invasion into the grassland, and by coppicing on rotation to diversify the scrub structure and prevent excessive shading.

### **Conservation objective 2**

To increase and maintain diversity in the scrub habitat

A large part of the site is occupied by scrub, mainly hawthorn. This is often so dense that the ground below is virtually devoid of vegetation and the scrub species themselves are leggy and with little leaf except at the top. These areas should be managed by rotational coppicing, with priority given to scrub blocks adjoining the grassland.

### **Conservation objective 3**

To increase and maintain diversity in the woodland

The woodland at present is of very low value. Canopy cover is virtually complete, and the ground is largely devoid of vegetation apart from ivy. The woodland could be considerably enhanced by thinning, but the labour requirements would be high relative to the benefits. A large clearing was created by adjacent building works and this should be maintained. Management of the woodland should generally have a lower priority than that of other habitats.

### **Conservation objective 4**

To enhance and maintain the aquatic marginal vegetation

The planting of marginal emergent vegetation at the eastern end of the pool has greatly increased the value of this part for nesting birds, breeding toads and invertebrates, particularly dragonflies. The southern bay has limited marginal vegetation apart from a narrow fringe of reed sweet grass. Because of the secluded nature of this bay, planting more marginal vegetation has great potential for benefiting breeding birds in particular. Reed would appear to be the best option, and potentially a sizeable reedbed could be created in this bay.

### **Conservation objective 5**

To maintain and enhance populations of significant species

Most of the significant species will require little management other than the general habitat work described above. Other species should be regularly monitored to detect

any population changes. A possible addition to the fauna is the Grizzled Skipper butterfly. The principal food plant, Wild Strawberry, occurs in great profusion while recent management work has increased the amount of suitable sunny sheltered habitat. An introduction of the species might well be successful if a suitable donor source can be located.

### **Conservation objective 6**

To provide and maintain access and interpretation facilities for visitors

The site is well used by local people and others. There is a good network of footpaths which require occasional maintenance and repair. There are several interpretation boards around the site which are sometimes subject to vandalism and also suffer long-term deterioration.

### **Conservation objective 7**

To meet all legal and other obligations

The primary obligation is to ensure the safety of the site for visitors, especially children. Because of the inherent dangers of the site, the various fences also require regular inspection and repair when necessary, as do the viewing platform and the disabled anglers' platform. As there are also legally protected species present on the site, particularly Crayfish and Great-crested Grebe, measures should be taken to ensure that these species are protected.

## **Chapter 2.3 Factors influencing management (constraints)**

### **2.3.1 Natural trends**

The whole site is subject to conversion to scrub and woodland. This natural succession is being held back partly by the grazing of rabbits, but active ongoing management will also always be required.

### **2.3.2 Human induced trends**

Trampling of grassland is reducing floral diversity in places while nutrient enrichment by dog faeces is also evident in places. Some naturalness has been reduced by the planting of non-native shrubs. Potential for water born disease spread by fishing tackle resulting in a threat to the white clawed crayfish.

### **2.3.3 External factors**

The water level in the quarry pool is dependent upon the level of the underlying water table which is subject to considerable annual variation. There is also considerable run-off from surrounding land at times of heavy rain with the potential for pollution. Considerable housing development has taken place around the site in recent years, reducing the amount of adjacent good habitat, particularly for toads.

### **2.3.4 Obligations**

No operations can take place which will increase the potential safety risks at the site.

### **2.3.5 Legal constraints**

The Wildlife Trust is limited in work which can be undertaken since there is no legal agreement with the Council on the management of the site.

### **2.3.6 Management constraints**

The main constraint is the shortage of labour to carry out practical tasks. The Trust is limited to the use of volunteer workers. Certain parts of the site are dangerous or difficult to work on because of the steep slopes and the slippery nature of the clay.

### **2.3.7 Impact assessment**

The most important factor influencing the management of the site is the shortage of labour. Efforts should be made to overcome this by involving more local people, by using workers from community service and by raising funds for particular projects e.g. from landfill tax. Wherever possible, projects should be planned such that they are not liable to be affected by vandalism or by increased public use e.g. trampling or dog fouling. It is also important that the Trust and Rugby Borough Council work more closely in co-operation and to this end a proper written agreement is required which clearly sets out the responsibilities of each party.

## **Chapter 2.4 Operational objectives**

### **2.4.1 Rationale**

The site could benefit considerably from a much greater management effort, in particular in the scrub and woodland areas which are presently of low value. However, with the limited resources available it is clear that most management should concentrate on the grassland, more open scrub and water margins which are the most valuable habitats.

### **2.4.2 Operational objectives**

1. To maintain and enhance the grassland and to maintain a balance between grassland and scrub
2. To increase and maintain diversity in the scrub habitat
3. To increase and maintain diversity in the woodland
4. To enhance and maintain the aquatic marginal vegetation
5. To maintain and enhance populations of significant species
6. To provide and maintain access and interpretation facilities for visitors
7. To meet all legal and other obligations

## Part 3: Prescription

### Annual management

#### 1. To maintain and enhance the grassland and to maintain a balance between grassland and scrub

Outline Prescription	Project	Priority	Timing	Implementation
1.1 Identify areas to be cleared of scrub and clear by appropriate means	1.1.1 Cut scrub to ground and treat stumps with herbicide.	1	Oct – Feb	Trust
1.2 Cut areas of grassland annually and remove cut material	1.2.1 Strim grassland areas 7, 8, 9 in autumn, rake and remove cut material	1	Sept	Volunteers
1.3 Survey grassland in detail and establish monitoring schemes	1.3.1 Monitor structural change by use of fixed point photography	3	Jun - Aug	Warden

#### 2. To increase and maintain diversity in the scrub habitat

Outline Prescription	Project	Priority	Timing	Implementation
2.1 Coppice scrub in blocks on rotation	2.1.1 Cut back scrub as close to ground as possible	1	Sept – Feb	Volunteers
	2.1.2 Remove cut scrub, leave large timbers in woodland as dead wood habitat, dispose of or burn brash	1	Sept – Feb	Volunteers
2.2 Monitor scrub regrowth and changes to ground flora	2.2.1 Record height and cover of scrub regrowth annually	2	Mar – Jun	Volunteers
	2.2.2 Monitor arrival and abundance of ground flora annually	2	May - Aug	Warden

#### 3. To increase and maintain diversity in the woodland

Outline Prescription	Project	Priority	Timing	Implementation
3.2 Open up woodland areas by selective felling of trees and coppicing of shrubs	3.2.1 Identify and mark trees to be felled, preferentially selecting alien species and heavy shade bearers	2	Aug	Warden
	3.2.2 Obtain felling licence if required	1	Aug	Trust
	3.2.3 Fell selected trees, leave large timbers as dead wood habitat, remove or burn brash	2	Sept – Feb	Trust
	3.2.4 Coppice shrubs, particularly hawthorn, remove or burn brash	2	Sept – Feb	Volunteers
3.3 Monitor changes in ground flora in managed areas	3.3.1 Survey opened areas annually and record ground flora species and abundance	2	May - Aug	Warden
3.4 Manage existing woodland clearing to retain open character	3.4.1 Use brushcutter to clear areas of bramble on rotation	2	Sept – Feb	Volunteers
	3.4.2 Strim and remove cuttings from tall herb areas	2	Aug	Volunteers

3.4.3 Coppice shrubs around edge of cleared area	2	Sept- Feb	Volunteers
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#### 4. To enhance and maintain the aquatic marginal vegetation

Outline Prescription	Project	Priority	Timing	Implementation
4.1 Monitor extent and spread of existing marginal vegetation.	4.1.2 Check annually to measure spread of each species	2	Jun - Aug	Warden
4.2 Plant up selected areas with suitable marginal species	4.2.1 Select areas suitable for further planting	2	Mar – May	Trust
	4.2.2 Dig out suitable material, particularly where it is encroaching on fishing platforms	2	Jun	Trust
	4.2.3 Plant in selected areas	2	Jun	Volunteers
	4.2.4 Monitor establishment and spread	2	Jul - Sept	Warden

#### 5. To maintain and enhance populations of significant species

Outline Prescription	Project	Priority	Timing	Implementation
5.1 Monitor populations of selected flowering plant species	5.1.1 Locate and count flowering spikes of Bee orchid, Common spotted orchid and Twayblade	1	May	Warden
5.2 Monitor populations of butterflies and dragonflies	5.2.1 Make at least monthly counts along fixed route of butterfly species	3	Mar - Sept	Warden
	5.2.2 Walk accessible shore line at least monthly and count numbers and species of dragonflies	3	May - Oct	Warden
5.3 Implement plan for introduction of Grizzled Skipper	5.3.1 Assess location and area of most suitable habitat	3	All Year	Warden
	5.3.2 Consult with Butterfly Conservation on suitability of site and method of introduction	3	All Year	Warden/ Butterfly Conservation
	5.3.3 Make introduction if and as recommended	3	May	Warden/ Butterfly Conservation
	5.3.4 Monitor success by counting adults in appropriate season	3	May - Jun	Warden
5.4 Monitor breeding and wintering water birds	5.4.1 Locate all breeding birds, count number of young hatched and number reaching adulthood	2	Apr - Jul	Warden
	5.4.2 Make weekly counts of numbers and species in winter	2	Oct – Feb	Warden
5.5 Monitor other breeding bird species	5.5.1 Use breeding bird survey methods to estimate number and species breeding	2	Apr – Jul	Warden
5.6 Monitor toad breeding	5.6.1 Count number of adult toads present in breeding seasons	2	Feb – Jun	Warden



	5.6.2 Make daily visits to identify emergence date	1	Jul	Warden
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## 6. To provide and maintain access and interpretation facilities for visitors

Outline Prescription	Project	Priority	Timing	Implementation
6.1 Inspect paths annually for deterioration and take any remedial action required	6.1.1 Walk all paths annually and note any deterioration, particularly due to clay erosion from banks onto paths	1	All Year	RBC
	6.1.2 Repair by resurfacing, clearing clay and fitting retaining boards	1	Mar – May	RBC
6.2 Keep paths clear of overhanging vegetation	6.2.1 Strim long grass etc. along side of paths	1	Jun – Jul	RBC/Trust
	6.2.2 Remove overgrown hawthorns from very heavily shaded dark paths	2	Sept – Feb	Trust
6.3 Inspect facilities for disabled regularly and take remedial action	6.3.1 Inspect condition and ease of opening of gate and take remedial action	1	All Year	RBC
	6.3.2 Inspect state of toilet, clean and repair as required	1	All Year	RBC
	6.3.3 Inspect fishing platform for safety, repair as required	1	All Year	RBC
6.4 Maintain existing interpretation boards and replace if necessary	6.4.1 Inspect interpretation boards for deterioration and vandalism	1	All Year	RBC
	6.4.2 Clean off graffiti with suitable solvent	1	All Year	RBC
	6.4.3 Replace boards if badly damaged or deteriorated	1	All Year	RBC/Trust
6.5 Conduct guided walks on a biennial basis	6.6.1 Conduct guided walk mid-July on alternate years	2	May	Warden

## 7. To meet all legal and other obligations

Outline Prescription	Project	Priority	Timing	Implementation
7.1 Inspect site regularly for safety and take immediate remedial action where necessary	7.1.1 Visit site at least once weekly and report any damage to fences or other potential hazards to RBC	1	All Year	Warden
	7.1.2 Carry out annual health and safety inspection	1	All Year	RBC
	7.1.3 Take any remedial action required as soon as possible	1	All Year	RBC
7.2 Keep site reasonably clean and free from litter	7.2.1 On weekly site visits, report any fly-tipping or other major litter problem	1	All Year	Warden
	7.2.2 Empty litter bins and pick up other litter on regular basis	1	All Year	RBC

7.3 Protect crayfish and birds	7.3.1 Make information available to anglers on the protected status of crayfish	1	All Year	RBC/Trust
	7.3.2 Report any apparent interference to crayfish or birds	1	All Year	Warden
	7.3.3 If nest sites of aquatic birds are excessively disturbed, provide alternative sites in quieter locality	2	Mar - Aug	Trust
7.4 Draw up a legal agreement between the Trust and RBC	7.4.1 Hold a joint meeting to discuss issues relating to the management of the reserve	1	All Year	RBC/Trust
	7.4.2 Draw up and sign a mutually agreeable form of agreement setting out relative responsibilities	1	All Year	RBC/Trust