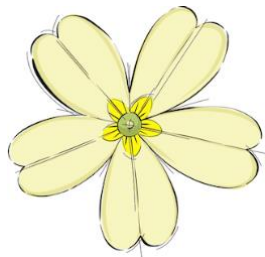


Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan



Site Name:	Primrose Nature Reserve
Date:	30/06/2026
Version:	B



Author: Verity Webster BSc
MSc CEcol MCIEEM



Client: Primrose Community
Nature Trust



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Version Control

The version control is used for updates to the content. Record the initial version and further version control details in this table each time the management plan is altered throughout the management and monitoring period.

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A	DRAFT	Verity Webster 26/06/2026	
B	FINAL	Verity Webster 30/06/2026	

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Authorship Details

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Verity Webster
Ecology and Protected Species Consultancy
Chorley, Lancashire; www.ecologyconsultant.co.uk; tel: 07917 852 401; Email: info@ecologyconsultant.co.uk

1. Project Background

Site Overview PB-B01	
Project type	Nature Reserve Improvements
Development Name and Address	Primrose Nature Reserve, Clitheroe. Ordnance Survey grid reference (centre of site): SD 74094123.
BNG Project Name and Address	As Above
Author Organisation	Verity Webster Ltd
Landowner	Primrose Community Nature Trust
Land Manager	Primrose Community Nature Trust
Responsible person/organisation for creating or enhancing the habitat	Primrose Community Nature Trust
Period covered by this management plan	July 2026 – July 2056 5-year monitoring checks will take place in 2031, 2036, 2041, 2046 and 2051
Planning authority	Ribble Valley Borough Council
Planning reference (if applicable)	
BNG register reference (if applicable)	NA
Central OS grid reference	SD 74094123
Metric revision/title	Rev C_Statutory Metric_Macro_Enabled_1.0.4_Primrose NR. Statutory Metric version used published 23.07.2024
Are any Irreplaceable Habitats present onsite	Yes: ☐ No: ☒

Summary of Management Plan

Habitats to be Retained, Created and Enhanced PB-B02
The on-site survey area comprises a stretch of land on the northwest side of Mealey Brook as it passes through Primrose Nature Reserve and into St James' Church of England Primary School grounds. The footprint of the proposed footpath encompasses a small section of artificially unvegetated unsealed surface and modified grassland within the school grounds, passes through a wall and then runs through an open area of dense bramble scrub and a small portion of lowland mixed deciduous woodland to meet the existing footpath. The development will result in the loss of 0.0058ha of bramble scrub and 0.006ha of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface. Four small rural trees in the school grounds will also be removed. The surrounding lowland mixed deciduous woodland within the nature reserve will be retained and maintained in good condition, with a small area under 25m² impacted by the proposals near the wall dividing the school from the nature reserve. The wet woodland along Mearley Brook will be retained and maintained in moderate condition. Riparian encroachment will be increased from no encroachment to minor encroachment along a short 15m stretch of Mearley Brook. Off-site land will be used for a part of the enhancement. The off-site land comprises an area of tall forb on in the riparian zone of Mearley Brook, and area approximately 5m wide and 79m in length, within Primrose Nature Reserve and approximately 10m southwest of the on-site area. On-site enhancement will comprise: - Enhancement of 0.009ha bramble scrub to mixed scrub of moderate condition. - Enhancement of 0.06km of Mearley Brook from fairly poor condition to moderate condition through appropriate management of the non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam. Off-site enhancement will comprise: - Planting of 19 small native rural trees with an objective to meet moderate condition.
Timescales for Actions PB-B03
Habitat creation will take place in autumn 2026. Monitoring of the newly established trees and scrub planting will take place in years 1-3 Monitoring of Himalayan balsam will take place in years 1-4 Condition assessments of all habitats will be undertaken in year 5 and thereafter every 5 years.
Monitoring Requirements PB-B04
Monitoring will take place every five years. This will comprise condition assessment of the mixed scrub, trees planted and Mearley Brook.

Required Consents and Licences PB-B05

Planning permission

Funding PB-B06

Primrose Community Nature Trust will fund the management of the grounds.

Legal Agreement PB-B07

The HMMP is part of a planning condition.

Site Boundary and Baseline Habitat Classification Plan PB-F01



Site Context Plan PB-F02



Phasing strategy

Will the proposed work measures be delivered in phases? PB-B08 Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Habitat creation will take place from September 2026. The works to the site will commence in July 2026, and restoration and planting will commence in Autumn to allow good establishment of shrub and tree whips.

Mixed Scrub

Bramble scrub structure and diversity will be improved in the on-site area in Autumn (September – November 2026) by planting hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and goat willow (*Salix caprea*).

This will cover an area of 90m²

Small Trees

19 small native trees will be planted in Autumn (September - November 2026) along the River Mearley in the off-site area. These will comprise species that will complement local flora:

Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*).

Watercourse

Management of the Himalayan balsam along Mearley Brook will commence in Spring 2027 at a time when the species is visible, but not in flower. Disturbance in flower can result in greater spread of seed.

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland and wet woodland

There is no requirement for direct management of the lowland mixed deciduous woodland and wet woodland at present, but the objective is to maintain the current condition, so these habitats will be subject to monitoring and dynamic management regime.

The wet woodland condition is likely to be improved due to the increased management of the Himalayan balsam.

Roles and Responsibilities

Ecologist or Other Professional Responsible for HMMP PB-B09

Name or Initials		Ecologist: Verity Webster		
Organisation		Verity Webster Ltd		
Responsibility	Start Date:	04/04/2026	End Date:	04/07/2026

The ecologist Verity Webster BSc MSc CEcol MCIEEM produced the HMMP. She will not be responsible for implementation of the proposals. Primrose Community Nature Trust will responsible for implementation of the proposals and management of the habitats.

Statement of Competency

Verity Webster is a Chartered Ecologist and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

Verity has worked as an ecological consultant since 2007. She has undertaken Ecological Assessments and protected species surveys for a large variety of projects and schemes, producing the required impact assessment and subsequent mitigation, management and monitoring schemes when necessary. She has botanical skills FISC level 4 suitable for NVC survey.

Management Organisation(s) Responsible for Implementing the HMMP PB-B11

Name or Initials		Trustees: Mr John Milne and David Berryman		
Organisation		Primrose Community Nature Trust		
Responsibility	Start Date:	04/07/2026	End Date:	NA

Primrose Community Nature Trust will be responsible for creation and maintenance of habitats on site for the duration of the HMMP or until responsibility has been agreed with another competent association.

Statement of Competency

Works at Primrose Nature Reserve are overseen by the Trustees and Ribble River Trust. The works are undertaken by volunteers, contractors and third parties with appropriate competence.

Land Use Summary

Overview of Baseline Site Use PB-B13
On-site
Rural Trees: The rural trees are situated in the grounds of St James’ Church of England Primary School. These trees provide habitat for wildlife and provide structural and aesthetic interest for students at the school.
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface. This habitat covers the majority of the land within the school. Likely previously grassed, the vegetation has been lost as a result of disturbance, footfall and overshadowing from surrounding trees. Much of the area is covered in woodchip.
Modified grassland: This habitat is present within the school grounds and is utilised for amenity purposes; as a play area.
Bramble scrub: The bramble scrub is present in Primrose Nature Reserve along the northern portion of the site. It provides the function of creating structural diversity, cover and foraging opportunities for a range of wildlife. It also provides a buffer between the reserve and adjacent open land.
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland: The lowland mixed deciduous woodland is the predominant habitat within Primrose Nature Reserve, which is also designated Primrose Lodge Biological Heritage Site. Although the woodland supports sycamore, a species considered non-native within the Biodiversity Net Gain guidance, the woodland has good structure and variety in the species composition of the canopy layer and ground flora, which suggests it is classified as lowland broadleaved woodland, a Priority Habitat. The woodland is of high value to local wildlife, providing an island of habitat within the built-up area of Clitheroe, as well as strengthening the natural habitat corridor along Mearley Brook. It is of cultural interest to the local community and provides all the benefits of natural open space for mental health, physical health, interest in nature and education. Pathways through the woodland ensure inclusivity, allowing bike and mobility access.
Wet woodland: The wet woodland constitutes and ecozone in the riparian zone between the lowland mixed deciduous woodland and Mearley Brook. This habitat provides an important transition between the dry areas and the watercourse and valuable structure to the brook banks, creating microhabitats for a variety of species.
Other rivers and streams. Mearley Brook runs through the centre of Primrose Nature Reserve from the Lodge at the southern end. The brook is of importance to a variety of fish species including bullhead, Atlantic salmon, brook lamprey and eel, as well as mammals such as otter and water vole. The river also provides a habitat corridor facilitating the movement of wildlife through the landscape.

Off-site Tall forb: The tall forb habitat forms the riparian zone on the far (east) side of Mearley Brook. The riparian zone is an important habitat determining the quality of the brook and what wildlife it can support. At present the tall forb, composed of common and widespread species will support a variety of wildlife and provides added variety to the surrounding habitat mosaic.
Overview of Proposed Site Use PB-B14
<u>Created habitats Off-Site</u> Rural trees. 19 small native trees will be in the riparian zone of Mearley Brook. These will provide structural interest to the habitat for wildlife and the general public. The trees will add to the riparian zone structure along the brook and will ensure stabilisation of the banks where at present there is only tall forb. Co-benefits include added carbon sequestration and reduction in flood risk.
<u>Created habitats On-Site</u> Developed land; Sealed surface Creation of the additional 95m stretch of footpath will provide many benefits comprising improved and inclusive public access to the nature reserve, providing increased area for enjoyment, improved mental and physical health and use for education. The additional access will facilitate use of the reserve by the public, increasing its use as well as the area that is usable. Improved use of the reserve will result in increased public interest and will encourage volunteering, improving community engagement.
<u>Enhanced habitats On-Site</u> Mixed Scrub: Mixed scrub will improve the structure and diversity of the existing bramble scrub. This will ensure a greater variety of food sources from berries and nectar for wildlife. Creation of glades with patches of tall forb and grassland will ensure development of a habitat mosaic, further improving variety and habitat niches for wildlife including invertebrates, birds and mammals. The added structure, which will increase the height of the scrub will also provide additional buffer to the open land to the north, providing screening and protection of the woodland and brook from potential future development. Other rivers and streams: 60m of Mearley Brook will be enhanced by managing the non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam. This will increase the condition of the riparian zone and brook. Management of the Himalayan balsam will allow native flora to recolonise the banks. This will also indirectly ensure the improvement of the wet woodland which is within the riparian zone.
<u>Retained, maintained habitats</u> Lowland mixed deciduous woodland: The existing lowland mixed deciduous woodland will be retained and maintained in good condition. This priority habitat will retain the much needed function as described above for local wildlife and local residents. Wet woodland: The wet woodland will be retained and maintained in moderate condition. The function of the woodland in relation to the brook and also as a transitional habitat will be maintained. There is likely to be some enhancement long-term due to the management of the Himalayan balsam.

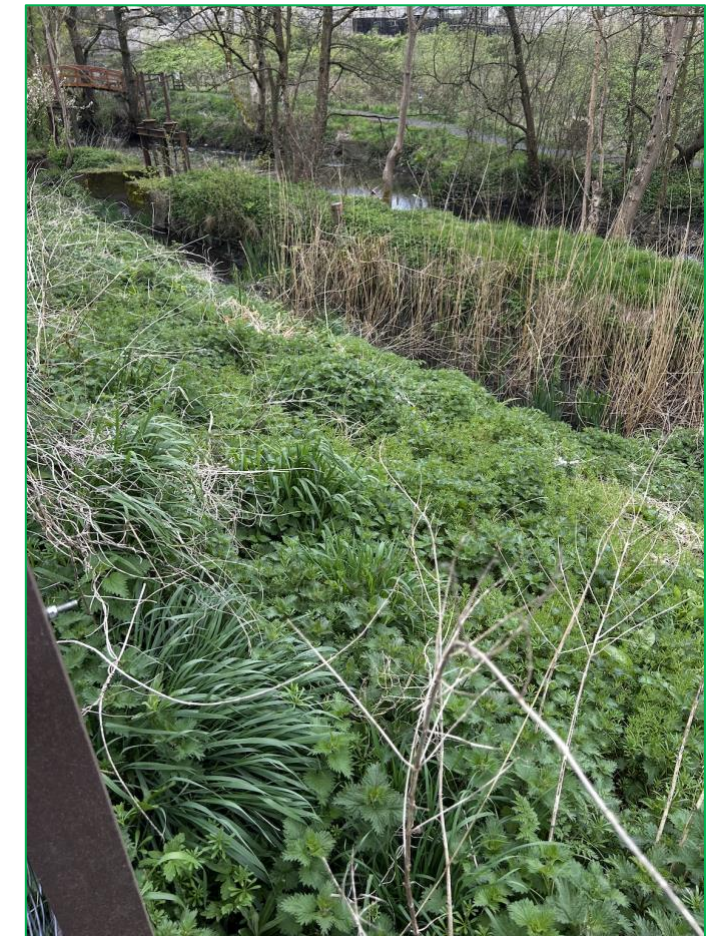
Site Context Photos PB-F03



Wet woodland along Mearley Brook



Existing bramble scrub



Tall forb where small individual trees will be planted

Site Baseline, Environmental Information and Associated ImpactsPB-T01

Baseline and environmental information including impact assessment can be found in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (April 2026, Verity Webster Ltd.).

2. Planned Management Activities

Management Plan Aims and Objectives PM-B01

Aim: To create improved heterogeneity of habitats that will support and improve existing ecological functionality of Primrose Nature Reserve. The measures must be attainable and straight forwards to maintain with measurable monitoring outcomes for volunteers at the Primrose Community Nature Trust.

The objectives below will allow the aim to be achieved.

Ecological Condition Objective

To improve species richness and structural heterogeneity through:

- Creation of 90m² of mixed scrub with at least 3 woody species and a mosaic of open glades of tall forb and grassland
- Planting of 19 native trees with at least 5 species of local provenance along the riparian zone of Mearley Brook currently only supporting tall forb.
- Improvement in condition of 90m of Mearley Brook by managing more intensively the Himalayan balsam. This will result in improved ecological value of the site over time.
- Maintaining the condition of existing lowland mixed broadleaved woodland and wet woodland supporting the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and ensuring maintained condition of Primrose Lodge Biological Heritage Site.

Community Engagement Objective

To improve community engagement and enjoyment of natural space through

- Improved accessibility for community engagement and enjoyment through creation of the new footpath
- Creation of a greater habitat mosaic to increase opportunity for wildlife for community enjoyment and interest.
- Ensure management is feasible and achievable for volunteers, with measurable outcomes for ease of monitoring.

Principles Informed by Design Stage

Design Principles Informed by Baseline Information PM-B02

Primrose Nature Reserve is a community reserve managed by volunteers and enjoyed by the general public in Clitheroe. The reserve is in close proximity to St James' Church of England Primary School, providing an ideal opportunity for use as an educational site.

The enhancement and maintenance of habitat on site is guided by the fact that the site will be utilised by the public and maintained by the volunteers.

The reserve is located on Mearley Brook, which itself is a habitat corridor for wildlife. The surrounding woodland and scrub provides important habitat for a variety of wildlife. The position of the reserve in the centre of Clitheroe and on Mearley Brook enables important functionality in facilitating movement of some species such as bats, birds, fish, water vole and otter through the landscape, and providing an important island of habitat for less mobile species such as hedgehog.

Diversification of the scrub will ensure a mosaic of habitat for a variety of species. Planting of trees along Mearley Brook bank will ensure improvement in the bank vegetated structure and stabilisation long-term. Species of local provenance will be used for planting.

The site is designated as Primrose Lodge Biological Heritage Site for the habitats and species present as well as for historic interest as the grounds for the former Primrose Print Works.

Maintenance of the existing Priority Habitats is an important element of the proposals. The proposed footpath design intentionally avoids impact on the woodland and minimises disturbance of the riparian zone of Mearley Brook.

Primrose Lodge BHS is identified as an Area of Particular Importance under the Lancashire LNRS, which describes the following objective for the BHS:

Habitat restoration, enhancement and positive conservation management within Biological Heritage Sites, which:

- *supports the qualifying features of the BHS,*
- *maintains and enhances any irreplaceable habitats present,*
- *supports other existing habitats and species of the site,*
- *increases the ecological value of the site,*
- *is informed by the BHS site description and other information available from the BHS Partnership, and*
- *gives consideration to any available advice from the BHS Partnership.*

The proposals support these objectives.

Habitat and Condition Targets PM-T01

Baseline Habitat Type	Target Habitat Type	Parcel / Feature Refs	Baseline Condition	Targeted Condition	Years to Targeted Condition	Condition Assessment Targets	Comments
Bramble Scrub	Mixed Scrub	Mixed Scrub	NA	Moderate	5	Moderate condition will be targeted by achieving a pass in criteria A, creating a good example of the habitat type, ensuring no non-native species (criteria C), and ensuring a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland with tall forbs (criteria D). Criteria B, ensuring good age range of shrubs and E, creation of glades are not directly targeted but the habitat will be managed to achieve these elements over time.	Additional woody species will be planted; at least 3 are required to meet criterion A. All species will be native. No single species will comprise more than 75% cover. Glades will be created to allow a mosaic of grassland with scrub, meeting condition D, and also E. The site will be managed to ensure absence of non-native invasive species, meeting condition C.
Individual trees	Urban Trees	Scattered tree planting.	NA	Moderate	19	Moderate condition will be targeted by achieving a pass in criteria A (native species), B (good canopy cover), D (good tree health) and F (oversailing vegetation)	19 small native species trees will be planted oversailing vegetation. The trees will be spaced at least 5m apart to allow them to reach full canopy.
Woodland and forest	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	On-site.	Good	Good	0 - Maintain	Good condition will be maintained.	Minimum intervention will be required. The woodland condition will still be assessed over the 30 year period and if necessary management will be included where required.
Woodland and forest	Wet woodland	Woodland in the riparian zone of the watercourse.	Moderate	Moderate	0 - Maintain	Moderate condition will be maintained, with attention criteria A (age distribution of trees), criteria C (absence of invasive species), criteria J (woodland vertical structure), criteria L (amount of dead wood).	Managing the non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam will aid retention of the condition of the woodland. Maintaining and encouraging age distribution of trees and dead wood is also important. Tree health (H) is not as good as it could be due to the presence of ash dieback. However, several of the ash trees are mature and provide important dead wood opportunities.
Rivers and lakes	Other rivers and streams	Mearley Brook	Fairly poor	Moderate	2	Improvement in the watercourse will take place by managing the invasive non-native species present.	Riparian zone encroachment will be increased along a 15m length of the bank due to the footpath. Condition of the bank top will be improved with planting and control of Himalayan balsam.

Habitat Retention

Measures to be Implemented to Protect Retained Habitats PM-03

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland:

The lowland mixed deciduous woodland will be retained and protected during work with the use of Heras fencing to protect the root protection zone of trees and ensure no accidental damage to the ground flora. Pathways in and out of the site will be minimised to ensure protection of the ground and matting will be used to track machinery to ensure minimal damage. The woodland is currently managed under a Management and Maintaenance Plan produced by the Ribble Rivers Trust (June 2019) to ensure that there is no trees that pose a threat to the public. Replanting takes place if trees are removed.

Wet woodland:

The wet woodland will be retained and protected during works with the use of Heras fencing to protect the root protection zone of the trees and ensure no accidental damage to the gorund flora. There will be no necessity to track machinery through the woodland. The woodland is currently managed under a Management and Maintaenance Plan produced by the Ribble Rivers Trust (June 2019) to ensure that there is no trees that pose a threat to the public. Replanting takes place if trees are removed.

Tall forb:

The tall forb in the off-site area will be retained and the trees planted within this habitat. This will not be directly managed and will be allows to develop scrub over time. However, the scrub will be managed to ensure there is a mosaic of habitat present long-term.

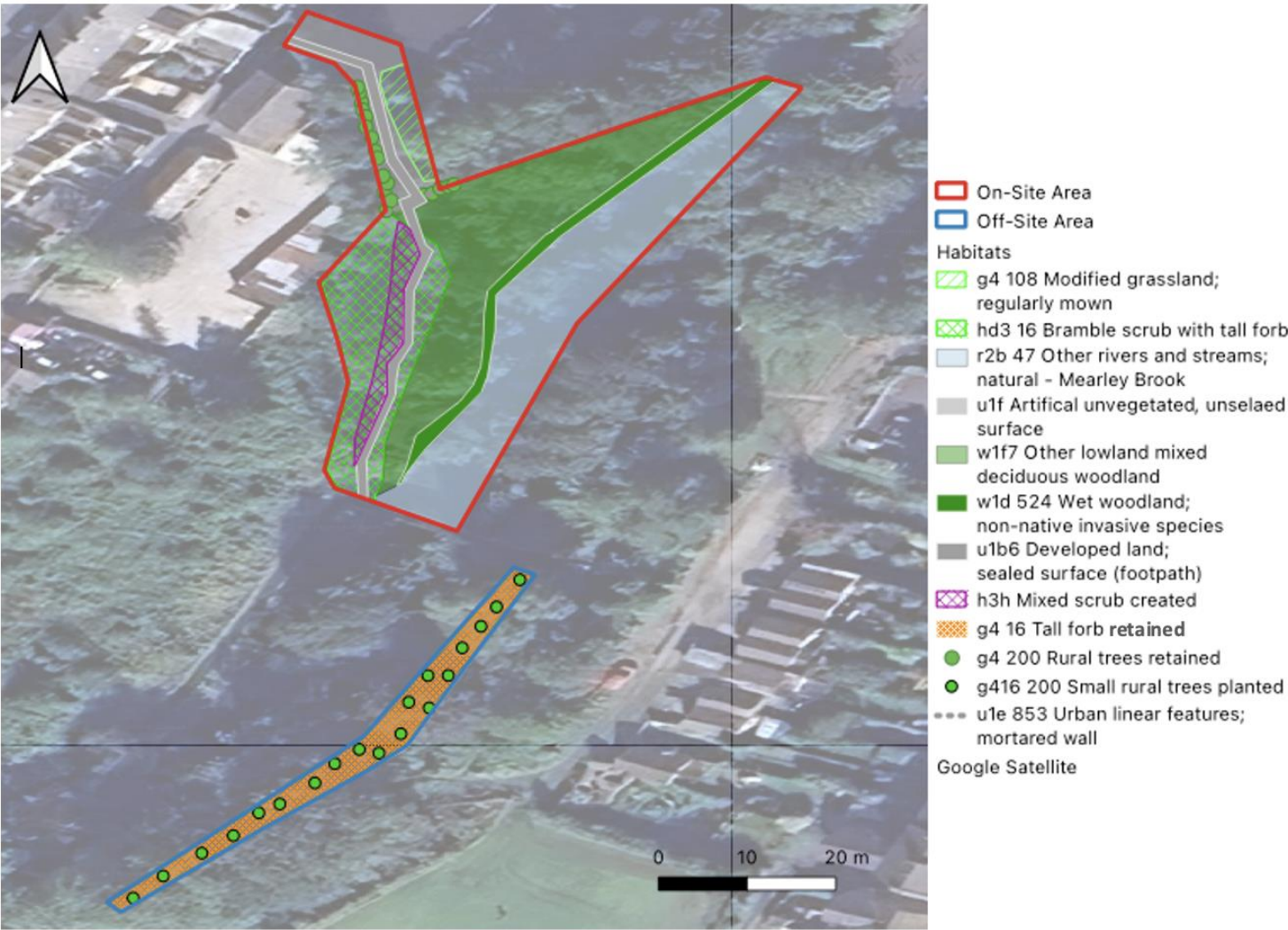
Bramble scrub

Bramble scrub in the wider on-site area will be retained and left insitu unmanaged.

Mearley Brook:

The brook will be protected during works to prevent any accidental pollution. This protection will include installation of Heras fencing, provision of on-site plant nappies and checking and storage of machinery.

Habitat Retention Plan PM-F01



Creation, Enhancement and Management Targets and Prescriptions

Habitat Creation, Enhancement and Management Plan EM-F01



S

Scrub

Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary (SC-T01)

Target Habitat:						
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Parcels	Creation approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type – the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species, - No single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>, sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	Mixed Scrub		In an area of 90m2, cut down a significant (approx. 80%) of bramble to create individual patches. Plant hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>) and blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) whips approx. 50cm apart to encourage dense growth of scrub. Leave open glades with small pathways from the new footpath to create a mosaic. These should be accessible to prevent ingress of scrub, and will naturally colonise with grasses and tall forb over time.	Keep glades and the edge of the scrub (especially along the footpath) short, cut once per year in the autumn to allow development of a grassy boundary and tall forb. Prevent smothering of new whips with bramble for the first 3 years to ensure new woody species have a chance to establish. Replace new woody species with new saplings if they die in years 1-3.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.	No				This is not specifically targeted, but will develop over the 30 years of the management plan.
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of suboptimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	Mixed Scrub			A check for non-native invasive species should be undertaken every spring/summer. In particular Himalayan balsam must be managed as this is the species most likely to colonise the area.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	Mixed Scrub		Leave open glades with small pathways from the new footpath to create a mosaic. These should be accessible to prevent ingress of scrub, and will naturally colonise with grasses and tall forb over time.	Keep glades and the edge of the scrub (especially along the footpath) short, cut once per year in the autumn to allow development of a grassy boundary and tall forb.

E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No				This is not specifically targeted as a requirement due to the small area of habitat, but glades will be created to provide sheltered edges and ensure the presence of tall grass and forb.
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Additional Management Prescriptions (SC-B01)

Management of scrub, including clearance of bramble for creation, and any cutting back to prevent smothering should be undertaken in the autumn to minimise the risk of harm to nesting birds. Care must be taken at all times to prevent harm to species that may be present on the ground including hedgehog and common toad.

Scrub

Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (SC-T02)

Action	Relevant parcels	Timing	Prescriptions
Plant sapling shrubs	Mixed Scrub	September – November 2025	Cut back 80% bramble in the area where Mixed Scrub will be created and saplings are to be planted. Dig over the soil to remove bramble roots. Scrub whips should be planted randomly mixed and approx. 50cm apart from each other. Use mulch around and between the base of new plants to prevent growth of competitive grasses. Ensure newly planted hedgerows are protected from trampling by people by using rope or fencing. Sourcing plants Ideally, plants should be sourced from local garden centres within 20km of the site. Shrubs and trees should be bought in 5L pots and will be 60-80cm in height. Pots are recommended over bare root-produce, as bare roots require planting immediately.
Creation of glades	Mixed Scrub	September – November 2025 during planting of shrubs	Create accessible glades that can be managed to prevent colonisation of bramble and creation of grassland with tall forb. Glades can vary in size as long as they are accessible and must be at least 2m across. A buffer of grassland/tall forb must also be created along the new footpath to create a sheltered edge 1-1.5m in width.
YEAR 1 Suppress weeds and replace saplings where necessary.	Mixed Scrub	April - September	Where required clear away long grass, weeds and bramble to allow growth of saplings. Replace saplings if they have died. Ensure glades created are kept free from bramble. Check for the presence of non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam. If present pull up or cut/trim prior to flowering.
YEAR 2	Mixed Scrub	May - June	Check for the presence of non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam. If present pull up or cut/trim prior to flowering.
YEAR 2	Mixed Scrub	Late-September/October	Replace saplings if they have died. Cut back bramble that has colonised glades/access routes. Pruning should take place in autumn to avoid bird-nesting season unless it is evident (for example when plants are very young) that no birds are nesting or if a nesting bird check has been undertaken by a suitably qualified individual.
YEAR 3	Mixed Scrub	May - June	Check for the presence of non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam. If present pull up or cut/trim prior to flowering.

YEAR 3	Mixed Scrub	Late-September/October	Replace saplings if they have died. Cut back bramble that has colonised glades/access routes. Pruning should take place in autumn to avoid bird-nesting season unless it is evident (for example when plants are very young) that no birds are nesting or if a nesting bird check has been undertaken by a suitably qualified individual.
YEAR 4 onwards	Mixed Scrub	May - June	Check for the presence of non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam. If present pull up or cut/trim prior to flowering.
YEAR 4 onwards	Mixed Scrub	Late-September/October	Cut back scrub to keep glades and footpath buffer clear to provide mosaic of grassland, tall forb and scrub. Pruning should take place in autumn to avoid bird-nesting season unless it is evident (for example when plants are very young) that no birds are nesting or if a nesting bird check has been undertaken by a suitably qualified individual.

Scrub Species Lists (SC-T03)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	30%	
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	40%	
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	20%	
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	10%	

Other Supporting Information

Supporting Information (SC-B02)

This management plan is dynamic. The development of the scrub must be regularly assessed under the monitoring regime and management can be altered where required depending upon unforeseen pressures.



What Does Success Look Like? (SC-F01)



Individual Trees

Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary (UT-T01)

Target Habitat:						
Condition Assessment Criteria		Targeted	Relevant Features	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Yes	All 19 trees	Planting small native trees on site.		
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	All 19 trees	Planting small native trees on spaced at least 5m apart.		
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	All 19 trees	Monitoring small native trees planted.		
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	All 19 trees	Planting small native trees on site over vegetation (tall forb).		

Individual Trees

Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (UT-T02)

Action	Relevant Features	Timing	Prescriptions
Plant small trees	19 trees in riparian zone 'off-site'.	Autumn (September – November 2025)	Remove existing ground vegetation where trees are to be planted Dig over the soil Use mulch around and between the base of new plants to prevent growth of competitive grasses. Ensure newly planted saplings are protected from trampling by people and machinery by using fencing. Sourcing plants Ideally, plants should be sourced from local garden centres within 20km of the site. Trees should be bought in at least 5L pots and will be at least 7.5cm DBH. Pots are recommended over bare root-produce, as bare roots require planting immediately.
YEAR 1 Suppress weeds and replace trees where necessary.	All trees	April - September	Where required clear away long grass and weeds to allow growth of trees. Replace trees if they have died.
YEAR 2 Suppress weeds and replace trees where necessary.	All trees	April - September	Where required clear away long grass and weeds to allow growth of trees. Replace trees if they have died.
YEAR 3 Suppress weeds and replace trees where necessary.	All trees	April - September	Where required clear away long grass and weeds to allow growth of trees. Replace trees if they have died.

Individual Trees Species Lists (UT-T03)

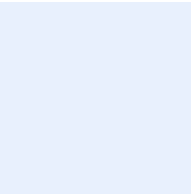
Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance (no.)	Comments
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	4	
Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>	3	
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	4	
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	4	
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	4	

Other Supporting Information

Supporting Information (SC-B02)

This management plan is dynamic. The development of the small trees must be regularly assessed under the monitoring regime and management can be altered where required depending upon unforeseen pressures.

What Does Success Look Like? (WO-F01)



Woodland

Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary (WO-T01)

Target Habitat:						
Condition Assessment Criteria			Target Score	Relevant Parcels	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age classes present	3	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		Saplings and mature trees are present. Protecting woodland will ensure retention of saplings. Maintaining existing mature trees where possible.
		Two age classes present				
		One age class present				
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland	3	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		No browsing pressure evident. Maintain.
		Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland				
		Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland				
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland	3	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		Manage Himalayan balsam to control and eradicate.
		Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, other invasive species <10% cover				
		Rhododendron or laurel present, or other invasive species) 10% cover				
D	Number of native trees species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel	2/3	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		Native species comprise ash, alder, hazel, hawthorn, willow species and blackthorn. Maintain. There are fewer species in the wet woodland, but this represents a transition habitat, so alder is more dominant.
		Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel				
		Two or less native tree or shrub species present across woodland parcel				
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understorey shrubs are native	3	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		Cover of native tree species is over 80%. Maintain.
		50 – 80% of canopy trees and 50-80% of understorey shrubs are native				

		<50% of canopy trees and <50% understorey shrubs are native				
F	Open space within woodland	10-20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. Unless woodland <10ha in which case 0-20% temporary open space is permitted. 21-40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space <10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category.	3	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		The woodland is dense, but there is temporary open space. Maintain.
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4-7cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth One or two classes only present in woodland No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland	3	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		A mix of regeneration is evident. Maintain.
H	Tree health	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback 11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low risk pest or disease present Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high risk pest or disease present	2	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		Tree health was 2 at baseline due to presence of ash dieback. Maintain. Replace ash required for removal with native planting of large species trees for example sessile oak or alder.
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists. Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present No recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present.	3	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		Ground flora is good and diverse. Maintain and manage Himalayan balsam to minimise risk of losing flora. .
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland. Two storeys across all survey plots One of less storey across all survey plots	2/3	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland	.	Maintain. Understorey structure is good in mature woodland and less in wet woodland, which is expected.
		Two of more veteran per hectare				

K	Veteran trees	One veteran tree per hectare	1	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		No veteran trees are present.
		No veteran trees present in woodland				
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	1/2	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland	Create log-piles and leave natural dead wood from branch fall.	
		Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or steams, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.				
		Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or steams, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.				
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident	3	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland		Protection of the woodland from disturbance has been encouraged with creation of distinct footpaths with fencing. Maintain.
		Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground				
		More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground				

Woodland

Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (WO-T02)

Action	Relevant Parcels	Timing	Prescriptions
Year 1 - ongoing	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland	May - June	Check for the presence of non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam. If present pull up or cut/trim prior to flowering.
Create log-piles	Lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodland	Autumn (September – November 2025)	Log piles will be created in the woodland utilising existing wood from felled trees if possible, or wood locally produced. Log piles will be created by embedding base logs into the ground by approx. 5cm and piling length-ways logs above. Logs can be tied together with wire to prevent removal or damage until established. Lower logs can be covered in soil and soil sprinkled between logs to help them embed and allow vegetation to establish quickly. Vegetation should be allowed to establish naturally.

Other Supporting Information

Supporting Information (SC-B02)

This management plan is dynamic. The development of the scrub must be regularly assessed under the monitoring regime and management can be altered where required depending upon unforeseen pressures.

What Does Success Look Like? (WO-F01)



Watercourses

Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary: Mearley Brook

Summary of Watercourse Enhancement Proposals (WC-B01)

Mearley Brook will be enhanced through management of Himalayan balsam to eradicate this from the banks and riparian zone.

Will the length of the watercourse be altered as part of the enhancement? (WC-B02)

Yes: ☐ No:x

NA

Will enhancements target improvements to watercourse encroachment? (WC-B03)

Yes: ☐ No:x

NA

Will enhancements target improvements to riparian encroachment? (WC-B04)

Yes: ☐ No:x

Will enhancements target improving distinctiveness of the watercourse (WC-B05)

Yes: ☐ No:x

NA

Will enhancements target improving condition of the watercourse (WC-B06)

Yes: x No:☐

The condition of the bank top habitat will be improved to increase condition from fairly poor to moderate. Control of Himalayan balsam will increase the condition score from -0.1223 (fairly poor) to 0.429 (moderate).

Watercourse Condition Enhancements (WC-T01)

Watercourse ID:

Mearley Brook

Watercourse Baseline Condition:

Fairly poor

Is the Watercourse Baseline Overdeep?

Yes: ☐ No:x

Watercourse Proposed Condition:

Will the Proposed Watercourse be Overdeep?		Yes: ☐ No:x	
Condition Assessment Criteria		RCA Index Values	
RCA Index ID*	RCA Index Name	Baseline Score	Proposed Score
Bank Top			
B1 (+)	Bank top vegetation structure	4	4
B2 (+)	Bank top tree feature richness	1	1
B3 (+)	Bank top water-related features	3	3
B4 (-)	Bank top NNIPS cover	-3	-2
B5 (-)	Bank top managed ground cover	-1	-1
Bank face			
C1 (+)	Bank face riparian vegetation structure	2	2
C2 (+)	Bank face tree feature richness	0	0
C3 (+)	Bank face natural bank profile extent	2	2
C4 (+)	Bank face natural bank profile richness	2	2
C5 (+)	Bank face natural bank material	1	1
C6 (-)	Bank face bare sediment extent	4	4
C7 (-)	Bank face artificial bank profile extent	0	0
C8 (-)	Bank face reinforcement extent	-1	-1
C9 (-)	Bank face reinforcement material	-2	-2
C10 (-)	Bank face NNIPS cover	-3	-2
Channel Margin			
D1 (+)	Channel margin aquatic vegetation	0	0
D2 (+)	Channel margin aquatic morphotype	0	0
D3 (+)	Channel margin physical feature extent	3	3
D4 (+)	Channel margin physical feature	2	2
D5 (-)	Channel Margin artificial features	-3	-3
Channel Bed			
E1 (+)	Channel aquatic Morphotype richness	0	0
E2 (+)	Channel bed tree features richness	0	0
E3 (+)	Channel bed hydraulic features richness	3	3
E4 (+)	Channel bed nature features richness	2	2
E5 (+)	Channel bed natural features richness	1	1
E6 (-)	Channel bed material richness	2	2
E7 (-)	Channel bed siltation	0	0
E8 (-)	Channel bed reinforcement extent	-1	-1
E9 (-)	Channel bed reinforcement severity	-2	-2
E10 (-)	Channel bed artificial features severity	-3	-3
E11 (-)	Channel bed NNIPS extent	0	0
E12 (-)	Channel bed filamentous algae extent	0	0

*where (+) are positive scoring indices and (-) are negative scoring

Watercourses

Enhancement and Management Summary (WC-T02)

Watercourse ID: Mearley Brook	
Management Prescriptions – Please provide below an overview of the enhancement and management approaches to achieve the above score	
Enhancement Method/RCA Indices Targeted	Enhancement Approach
Improvement of condition of the brook by controlling and reducing Himalayan balsam, addressing RCA B4 and RCA C10	Removal over 5-8 years of Himalayan balsam.

Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (WC-T03)

Watercourse ID: Mearley Brook		
Action	Timing	Prescriptions
Management/removal of Himalayan balsam	May/June	- The Himalayan balsam within the site alongside Mearley Brook and elsewhere on site is removed by hand by pulling up the individual plants, or cutting the plants prior to their setting seed. This species sets seed following flowering in July. - Himalayan balsam spreads by seed (each plant releases approximately 3000 seeds). Although the plant grows annually, some of the seeds from previous years will lay dormant in the soil. - For this reason, all soil within approximately 10m of the brook must either be treated as contaminated waste or retained on site. - All machinery and operatives working on site must use bio-control to prevent the spread of the seeds of this species; they must wash down machinery and boots/clothing with water on site, prior to leaving site. - If the plant is managed on-site (by pulling up or cutting prior to flowering) for the next 2-3 years, this should eradicate it. - Use of chemical control should be avoided to prevent harm to the environment. Operatives on site should be informed of the presence of this species and a Toolbox Talk on this species delivered to all persons working on site.

Habitat Creation and Management – Risk Register and Remedial Measures PM-T02

Risk Identification Date	Habitat Type	Risk Factor	Trigger for Action	Remedial Measure
June - August 2026-2030	Mixed Scrub	Weeds or bramble overtaking	High density, or over 10% unfavourable weeds including creeping thistle and common nettle during years 1-4. Bramble oversailing saplings or limiting growth in years 1-4.	Weed out unfavourable species in spring and summer months. Cut back bramble in autumn.
June - August 2026-2030	Mixed scrub	Glades and footpath buffer of grassland/tall forb not developing	Glade areas with 10% bramble. Access routes with 10% bramble.	Cut back bramble in autumn. Cut back bramble on access when required.
March (spring) and September (autumn) 2026-2030	Mixed scrub	New scrub/saplings failing to establish	Any sapling dead in years 1-3	Replant with sapling on like-for-like basis
March (spring) and September (autumn) 2026-2030	Individual small trees in riparian zone	Newly planted trees failing to establish	Any single tree dead in years 1-3	Re-plant with small tree on a like-for-like basis
June – July 2026-2030	Mixed scrub Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Wet woodland Off-site location of newly planted trees Mearley Brook Banks	Non-native invasive species colonising	Sight of Himalayan balsam in new areas Himalayan balsam increase in abundance in existing areas.	Extend area and length of treatment.

3. Monitoring Schedule

Monitoring Strategy

Provide details of the monitoring strategy to encourage successful implementation of the management plan (MS-B01)
Mixed Scrub: The 90m² area will be assessed as three 30m² quadrats in accordance with 6A Condition Criteria of the Statutory Metric Condition Assessment. Individual trees: This will be a subjective assessment of the health of the trees and assessment in accordance with the 9A Condition Criteria of the Statutory Metric Condition Assessment.] Woodland: The woodland within the red line boundary will be surveyed and assessed as one stand in accordance with 24A Condition Criteria of the Statutory Metric Condition Assessment Watercourse: Mearley Brook will be surveyed subjectively assessing the level of Himalayan balsam using the DAFOR scale in years 1-4 and the brook condition will be assessed using the MoRPh survey methodology every 5 years The management of each habitat will be reviewed following monitoring and if necessary, will be altered in light of the findings.

Monitoring Methods and Intervals MS-T01

Provide details of the methods you will use to adequately monitor the progress towards the targets stated in the management plan and as agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

Habitat Type	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Interval and Timing
Mixed Scrub	To be undertaken on each 30m² quadrat area. Quadrats are to be standardised with a grid reference taken from mid-point of each quadrat along the footpath edge. For each quadrat, the following will be recorded: - % cover of native species - Number of woody species - Check no single species covers more than 75% of area. - Assessment of grassland/forbs in glades and footpath edge: Present/absent. Record depth of edge (ie 1-1.5m at path edge) and width of glades (at least 2m across in glades) - Record presence/absence and percentage cover of Himalayan balsam and other non-native invasive species.	Annually in years 1-3 whilst the habitat is establishing, year 5 and every 5 years. Surveys to be completed between mid-May and mid-August each year.
Individual trees	Check of species health (alive/diseased) Record % gaps in canopy	Annually in years 1- 3, year 5, and every 5 years.

Woodland	Assess age distribution of trees Record any damage/disturbance Record presence or absence of invasive non-native species, in particular Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. Could the number of native tree species and shrubs species Determine if there is any natural open space in the woodland Record ground flora species Assess the vertical structure and health of understorey Assess the amount of dead wood (%) and check log piles	In year 5 and every 5 years.
Mearley Brook	Check distribution/abundance of non-native invasive species the riparian zone and elsewhere on site, in particular Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. Himalayan balsam will be assessed along the top bank and bank face in the red line boundary using the DAFOR Scale: Dominant: 51-100% Abundant: 31-50% Frequent: 16-30% Occasional: 6-15% Rare: 1-5% Not present: 0%	In years 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Mearley Brook	Undertake MoRPh survey of the river to determine condition.	In year 5 and every 5 years.

Monitoring Reports

Monitoring Report Schedule MS-T02

Organisation Responsible for Submitting the Monitoring Reports	Organisation Receiving and Responsible for Reviewing Reports
Primrose Community Nature Trust	Unknown

Project Year	Month Report to be Submitted	Month Management Plan to be reviewed	Comments
Y1	September	September or October	Report on condition of newly establishing mixed scrub and newly planting sapling trees.
Y1	September	June/July	Report on presence and density (DAFOR) of Himalayan balsam along Mearley Brook and also presence or absence of this species in off-site riparian zone with newly planted trees and in area of mixed scrub.
Y2	September	September or October	Report on condition of newly establishing mixed scrub and newly planting sapling trees.
Y2	September	June/July	Report on presence and density (DAFOR) of Himalayan balsam along Mearley Brook and also presence or absence of this species in off-site riparian zone with newly planted trees and in area of mixed scrub.
Y3	September	September or October	Report on condition of newly establishing mixed scrub and newly planting sapling trees.
Y3	September	June/July	Report on presence and density (DAFOR) of Himalayan balsam along Mearley Brook and also presence or absence of this species in off-site riparian zone with newly planted trees and in area of mixed scrub.

Y4	September	June/July	Report on presence and density (DAFOR) of Himalayan balsam along Mearley Brook and also presence or absence of this species in off-site riparian zone with newly planted trees and in area of mixed scrub.
Y5	September	June/July	RCA of Mearley Brook
Y5	September	September or October	Report of scrub condition Report of woodland condition Report on condition of individual trees
Every 5 years	September	June/July	RCA of Mearley Book
Every 5 years	September	September or October	Report of scrub condition Report of woodland condition Report on condition of individual trees

Adaptive Management

Adaptive Management Approach (MS-B02)

The regular monitoring, and reporting will allow identification of issues early on. Remedial actions, if necessary can then be undertaken. Any changes must be recorded in this management plan.