

Borough of Pendle



**Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve
Management Plan
October 2022**



Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2022-2027



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Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2022 - 2027

1.0 Management Summary

Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve is owned and managed by the Greenspaces Team of Pendle Borough Council with the assistance of the Hillside Heroes community Group.

The complete site and its existing Biological Heritage Site (BHS) make up a mosaic of terrestrial habitats of mostly woodland and meadow with several small watercourses.

This plan replaces and builds upon the original management plan for the BHS section and now includes the entire site including potential improvements to the site in terms of both wildlife habitats and visitor access. The plan is subject to a five yearly full review with intermediate revisions carried out on an annual basis or as required. The plan seeks to be aspirational but sets out an agreed approach between Pendle Borough Council and the sites key stakeholders including the members working group, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Town councils of both Nelson and Colne to the management and development of the site.

It is acknowledged that situations change and as such the management plan must be a flexible working document which should be reflected in the annual review of the document.

The aims and objectives determined for the site outline the broad encompassing themes for the management of the site.

Table 1- Aims and objectives of Nature Reserves

Aims	
Wildlife	People
- To comply with legal obligations and policy commitments. - To implement and maintain the LNR status of the site.	To collate information including press coverage, visitor statistics, details of events, and work days.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collate information about the flora and fauna found on the site. • To improve the quality of the grasslands, watercourses and woodlands through sensitive management. • To maintain and where possible enhance the populations of notable plant and animal species that are resident and breed within the site. • To control and/or eradicate invasive non-native plants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage the safe, sustainable and inclusive public use of the site. • To promote the site for education and research. • To seek to raise funds to implement the objectives above. |
|--|--|

Objectives	
Objective 1	Improve the range of habitats through sensitive management.
Objective 2	Improve access to the site to allow sustainable recreational uses.
Objective 3	Improve opportunities to educate visitors on the importance of Local Nature Reserves and their wildlife through interpretation, work with schools, events & volunteer participation.
Objective 4	Provide opportunities to improve and learn new skills through volunteering and training schemes.
Objective 5	Monitor the effects of management on the wildlife of the site.
Objective 6	Explore alternative funding methods for the maintenance of the site and capital projects.

Further detail of tasks that meet the six objectives can be found in section 4.3. These tasks will be fed into the annual action plan.

How these objectives are achieved are determined by the action plan which can be found in section 5.1. This section of the document sets out tasks to be completed that will ultimately improve the site in the terms of its appearance, management and benefits for wildlife. The action plan is divided up into two sections. The short-term actions are those that require the most urgent of attention and are generally delivered within one or two interim reviews of the plan. The long-term actions are those that although are important are beyond the scope of the short-term actions and possibly the life of this iteration of the plan.

Funding

The management of the site will be funded with a mix of external funding bids and a small reserve budget. This may include capital monies from other Council budgets, grants and section 106 funding from developments close to the reserve.

2.0 Introduction

Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve is a 15.65 hectare site that sits in equidistance approximately 1.7 miles from the Town centres of both Nelson and Colne east of Colne town Centre. It is to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) by Pendle Borough Council in 2022/23.

The site is located on the outer edge of the semi urban sprawl of Nelson and Colne, with the Eastern boundary flanked by Nelson golf course, before farmlands expands out onto the open moors of the Pennines.

The reserve supports a great many species of flora and fauna in various types of habitat comprised mostly of woodland, traditional hay meadow, Ancient hedgerows and small watercourses.

Gib Hill offers opportunities for quiet recreational activities, contact with nature, education and for those that are a bit more adventurous, opportunities to explore the wider countryside and important wildlife areas.

The LNR is managed by a partnership made up of the Hillside Hero's community group and Pendle Borough Council's Environmental Services.

This management plan serves to act as a guide to the management of the site with an emphasis on nature conversation.

2.1 Using this document

This management plan is designed to be a working document and as such a degree of flexibility is needed. Although the plan has a five-year life period it is envisaged that it will be updated on a yearly basis. With this in mind the document has been divided in to two parts. The first part forms the main body of the plan and contains information that will underpin all future management and appraisal of the site. The second part of the document is designed to be the day to day working programme for the site.

The document follows the criterion for the Green Flag Award Scheme as this is seen as the benchmark for quality greenspaces and allows a constructive appraisal of the site while retaining the importance of the natural environment.

2.2 Process to produce the plan

The production of this management plan was carried out by Pendle Borough Council. Written by Phil Riley (PBC Green Spaces Manager), the plan has been developed by a core working group. The group was set up to steer the plan's development, implementation and review. The group consists of:

Phil Riley, Green Ppaces Manager (PBC Environmental Services)

Chris McKee, Green Spaces Assistant (PBC Environmental services)

Roland Jones, Environment Officer (PBC Planning, Economic Development & Regulatory Services)

John Lamb, Senior Conservation Officer (Lancashire Wildlife Trust)

Members of the Gib Hill working group consisting of members, representatives of other local LNR sites and council officers.

During the development process, the following people or outside sources were consulted and have some degree of involvement:

Alkincoates Woodland Local Nature Reserve Group
Hillside Heroes community action group
Nelson Town Council
Colne Town Council
Pendle Local Nature Reserve Steering Group
PBC Environmental services
PBC Accountancy & Audit Services
PBC Chief Executive's Policy Unit
PBC Legal Services
PBC Communications
Liberata

The majority of the above persons/outside sources will be consulted with and involved in the annual review process of the management plan.

Aims & Objectives

Wildlife

- To comply with legal obligations and policy commitments.
- To maintain the LNR status of the site.
- Collate information about the flora and fauna found on the site.
- To improve the quality of the grasslands, wetlands and woodlands through sensitive management.
- To maintain, and where possible enhance the populations of notable plant and animal species that are resident and breed within the site.
- To control and/or eradicate invasive non-native plants.



People

- To collate information including press coverage, visitor statistics, details of events, and workdays.
- To encourage the safe, sustainable and inclusive public use of the site.
- To promote the site for education and research.
- To seek to raise funds to implement the objectives above.

3.0 Where are we now?

3.1 Site description

Site Name:	Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve
Ownership:	Pendle Borough Council
District:	Pendle
County:	Lancashire
Wards:	Waterside, Bradley, Marsden & Southfield
Local Planning Authority:	Pendle Borough Council
OS Grid Reference:	SD 87807 38707
OS Map:	Explorer OL21 South Pennines Landranger 103 Blackburn & Burnley
Aerial Photographs:	Aerial photographs available from Mario Maps (http://mario.lancashire.gov.uk/agsmario/) or Google Maps
Postcode:	BB9 8DW (Gib Hill road)
Area:	15.65 hectares (ha)
Height Above Sea Level:	197m (lowest point), 161m (highest point)
LNR Declaration Date:	2022

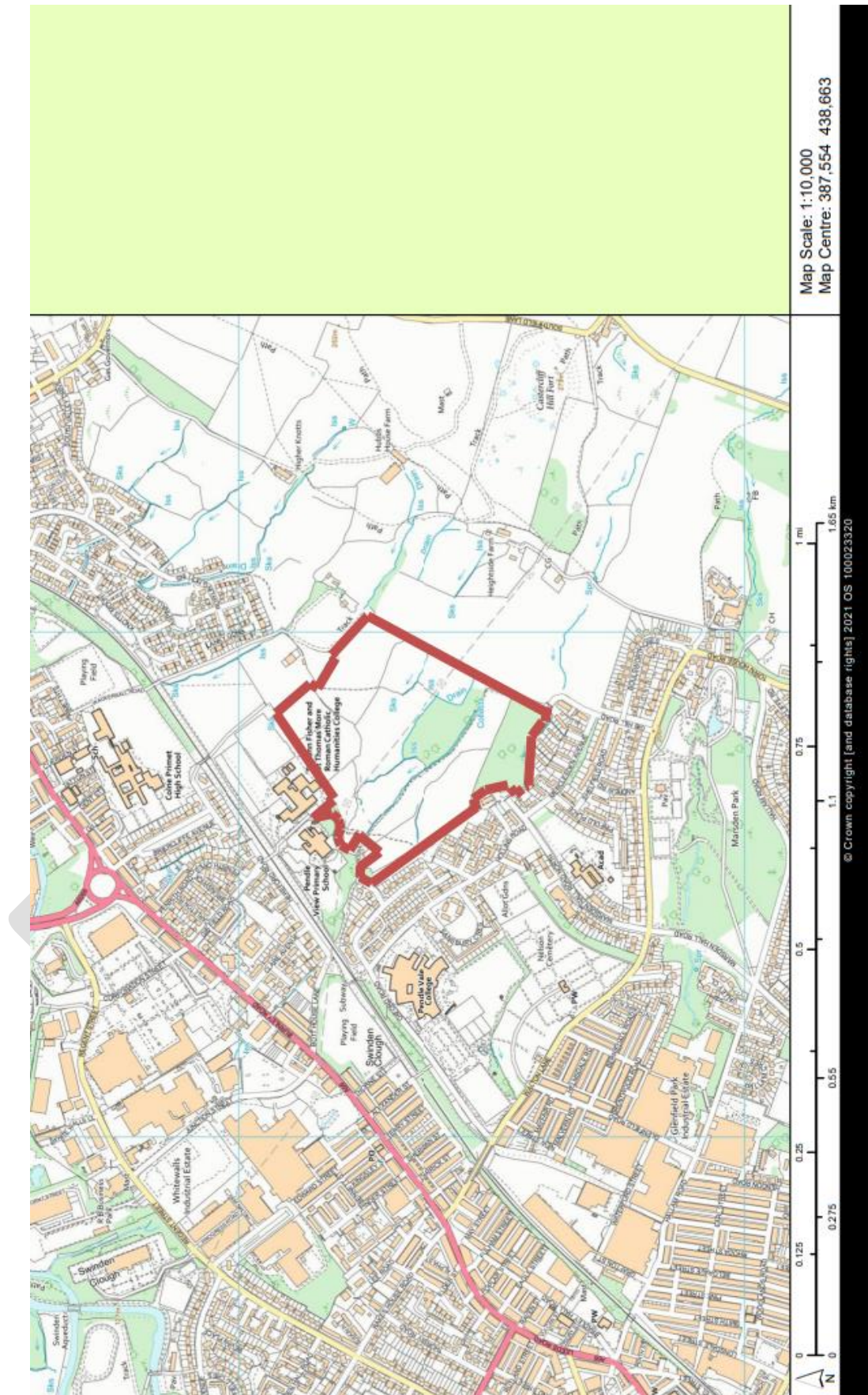
3.1.1 General usage

Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve is primarily used by local people for recreational pursuits such as walking, exercising dogs and watching wildlife.

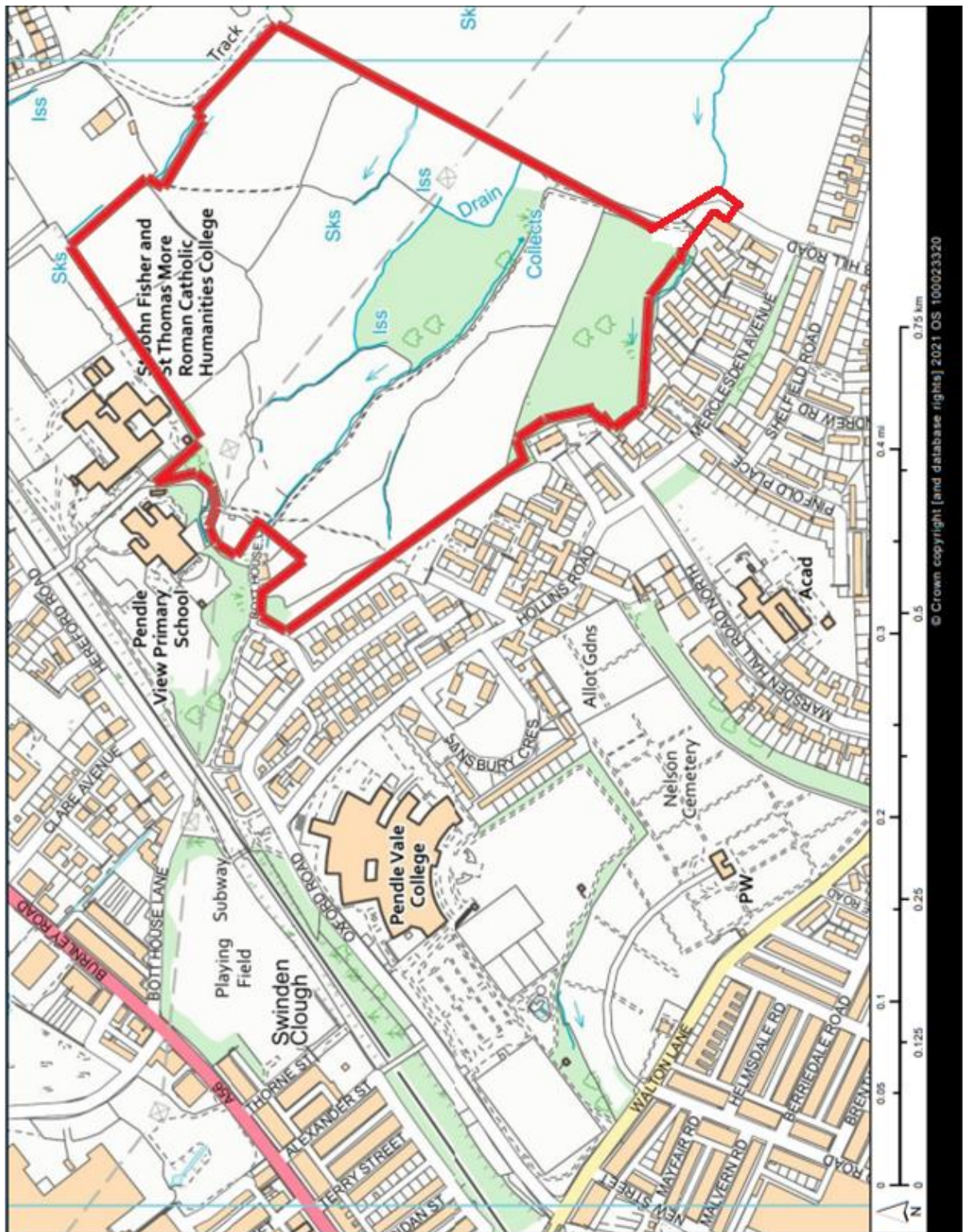
3.1.2 Facilities & Features

The facilities of Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve are as follows:

- On site interpretation and educational boards (dependant on funding)
- Small watercourses
- Woodland walks
- Meadows



Map 1 - Location of Gib Hill LNR within Pendle



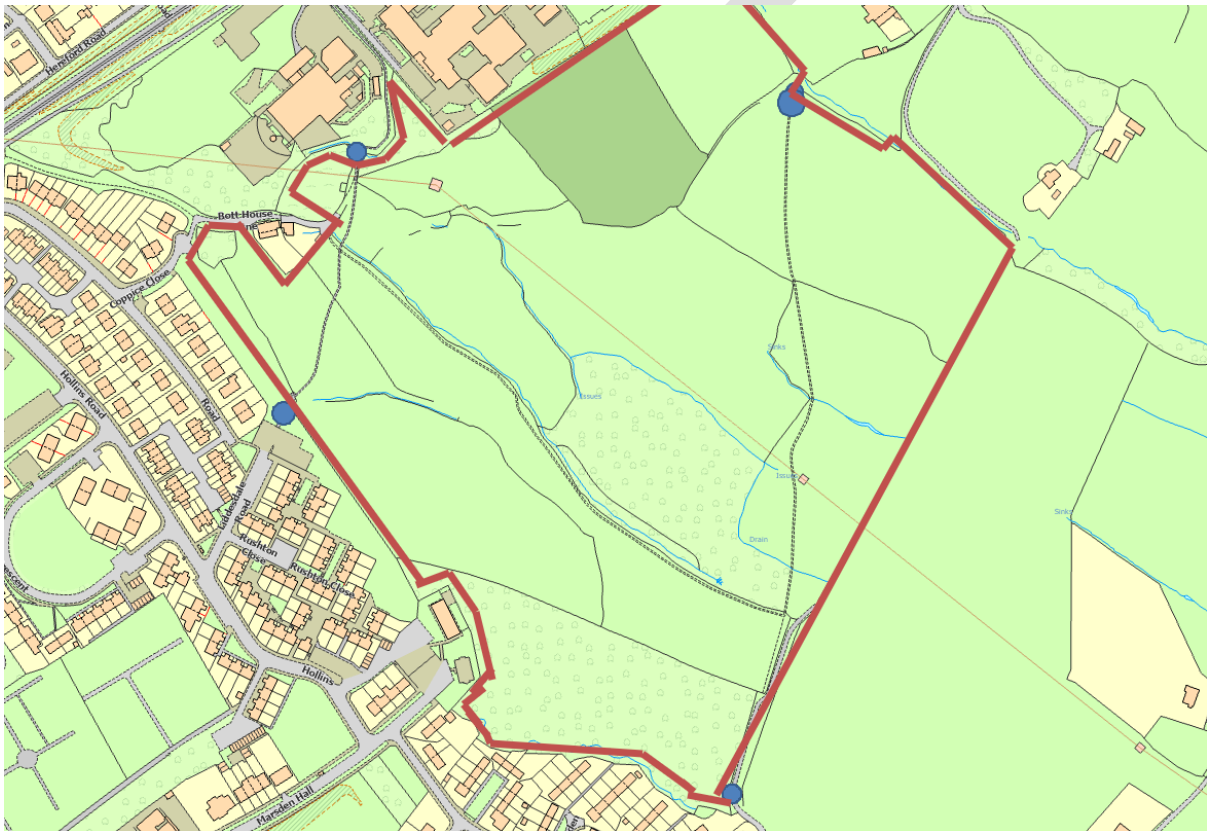
Map 2 - Site Map close up

3.1.3 Access

Local Users

Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve is located approximately 1.7m from the Town centers of Colne and Nelson. It is accessed mainly from four entrances as detailed below. These are detailed on the map as a blue circle:

- Gib Hill Road (SD878 387)
- Footpath 180 (SD879 389)
- Adjacent to Pendle Primary / Fishermore School - footpath 176 (SD877 388)
- Liddesdale Road (SD875 387)



Cycling

Cycling is currently not allowed in the Nature Reserve.

Bus Services

The Local Nature Reserve is served by several bus stops located on 2 sides of the site. The most convenient is the Ribbles Valley 6 that stops at the end of Liddesdale road the M3 mainline that stops on Burnley Road near Fishermore School. [Online bus timetables are available from Lancashire County Council's website.](#)

Driving Directions from the M65

Exit the M65 at junction 13 at the Reedyford interchange, take Reedyford Road towards the A56 for 0.8 miles. Turn left onto the A56 / Leeds Road. In 0.2 miles, go through one roundabout and take the second exit at the next roundabout onto Walton Lane. After 0.1 miles turn left onto Oxford Road. In 0.3 miles take the second exit at the roundabout onto Hollins Road, then after 0.2 miles turn left onto Liddesdale Road.

Postcode for GPS use

BB9 8DW – Gib Hill Road entrance

Car Park

There is no specific car park for this reserve. Conscientious parking is recommended on surrounding residential streets.

3.2 Brief History

The site was acquired By Pendle Borough Council in 20. For many years it was leased out on an agricultural tenancy for grazing and mowing. Various tree planting schemes have been implemented over the years and remnants of the initial fencing around those schemes are still in place. In 2006 portion of the site was declared as a Biological Heritage Site because it met grassland guideline Gr3 in the BHS guidelines for site selection. Grazing was withdrawn from the site in 2005 and very little work has been carried out on the site since. The site had been considered for a housing development but this was thrown out in 2022 following long term protests.

3.3 Existing Management and Maintenance

The management of Nature Reserves lies with the Green Spaces team in the Environmental Services department of Pendle Borough Council.

The day to day management of the nature reserves is overseen by the Greenspaces manager and carried out by in-house landscape Maintenance Teams, contractors and volunteer work parties.

The Landscape Maintenance Team or contractors carry out work as one off works as required throughout the year.

3.4 Strategic Context

This section of the management plan takes into consideration the nature reserves position within the context of the policies and strategic documents Pendle Borough Council. Where the nature reserve may be affected by national legislation this has also been included.

Local Strategies and Policies

Pendle Council Strategic Plan 2018 – 2020

The Pendle Council Strategic Plan 2018-2020 is the overarching document that sets out the aims and objectives for the Council. In addition to this it lays down the priorities for the Council for the life of the plan. It is divided up into four broad strategic objectives. These are:

1. Strong Services
2. Strong Economy
3. Strong Communities
4. Strong Organisation

In particular, key priority (i) under the heading of Strong Communities applies to Gib Hill Nature Reserve;

‘Safeguard our heritage and natural environment whilst delivering our priorities for economic growth.’

Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy

The Core Strategy was formally adopted in 2015 and forms the key Development Plan Document (DPD) along with Part 2 of the plan which is likely to be adopted in 2020. It sets out the planning policies that will guide development up until 2030.

In particular policy ENV 1 – Protecting and Enhancing Our Natural and Historic Environments outlines the protection for the Local Nature Reserves within Pendle:

‘Development which would be likely to adversely affect the established interest of a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) or other Local Site (BHS, LGS, LNI) either directly or indirectly will only be permitted where the benefits of the proposal outweigh the need to safeguard the nature conservation value of the site.’

As part of the process of developing the Local Plan the Council has adopted several key documents that provide the evidence base for the document. These include the Pendle Open Space Audit 2019, Outdoor Recreation Strategy and the Biodiversity Audit (2010) mentioned below. In addition to this a Green Infrastructure Strategy has been developed for the Borough. However, this has yet to be adopted and will be added to the management plan in subsequent updates.

Pendle Biodiversity Audit 2010

The Pendle Biodiversity Audit carried out by Pendle Borough Council, forms part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and built upon work the Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Lancashire 1987-1992 carried out by Lancashire County Council and the Biodiversity Audit of North West England (1999) published by DEFRA. The key findings of the audit were:

- Pendle’s biodiversity is extensive due to the boroughs varied geology, topography, soils and climatic conditions.

- Within Pendle lies the South Pennine Moor (SSSI, SPA, SAC) which are of international importance.
- 24 UK Priority Habitats and Habitats of Principal Importance in England can be found in Pendle.
- 2009 records show that Pendle supports 9 of the UK's Priority Species and Species of Principal Importance in England.
- There are 9 UK BAP and Lancashire BAP species within Pendle.

Figure 1 – Devil's Bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)



A section of the document is devoted to Pendle's LNRs. It highlights the lack of provision of LNR within the borough with government recommendation being 1 hectare per 1000 residents. As such Pendle's LNR provision should be around 90 ha where currently the area of land usage equates to 15.3ha. However, extensions to both Alkincoates Woodland LNR and Ball Grove LNR will go some way to addressing this issue.

The audit also identifies some potential threats:

'There are a variety of threats including lack of or inappropriate management and husbandry, recreational pressures, pollution, vandalism and development. Any of these could lead to habitat fragmentation, increasing the risk of habitat degradation, associated (local) species extinction and subsequent long-term viability of the site.'

'If evidence shows that a planning policy or development activity in Pendle is likely to threaten the conservation objectives or site integrity of a Local Nature Reserve, these will be carefully assessed and possible mitigation measures or alternative plan options highlighted.'

Pendle Equality Plan

The Council is committed to ensuring that it continues to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

Environmental Services contribute to the Council's Equality & Diversity objectives taking into consideration all aspects of equality and diversity that may impact upon service delivery, e.g. Race, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Religion, etc.

The Service Area endorses and adheres to the corporate commitment and has incorporated this into any developments, plans, policies and practices to enable better equality of opportunity and improved access for all Parks related services.

Environmental Services Service Plan 2022/23

Within the service plan, milestones are set with regard to the management of Pendle's Local Nature Reserves. The plan states:

SP22 1.4 Develop management plans Gib Hill Nature reserve

Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-25

Pendle Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in July of 2019. The result action was to form the Climate Emergency Working Group. The group, along with Officers developed the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-25. The action plan has seven main themes:

- Support and enable sustainable travel.
- Reduce carbon emissions and energy demand from the built environment.
- Reduce the harmful impacts of waste and water consumption.
- Supporting our communities to take action.
- Supporting our future generations to find solutions.
- Mainstreaming climate change.
- Support biodiversity and the natural environment to help local carbon off-setting opportunities.

The overall object of the Climate Emergency Action Plan is for the Council to be as near as carbon neutral as possible by 2030.

Although Gib Hill does not have any specific targets or projects outlined within the action plan the site can contribute to several of the overarching main themes.

Pendle Tree and Woodland Strategy

As part of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency a Tree and Woodland Strategy was produced and adopted by Committee. The strategy has several objectives that are pertinent to the management of Gib Hill, these include:

- *Protect and restore existing trees and woodland*

Quantified Tree Risk Assessments & Surveys

As part of a risk management process a decision was taken by the Risk Management Working Group to carry out Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) across all our high occupancy parks and green spaces in Pendle which included Gib Hill LNR. QTRA's were carried out by a local independent specialist in 2019. Where appropriate the QTRA's will be used to inform the management plan.

Trees owned by the Council are managed in accordance to the Tree-Risk Benefit Management Plan which determines and informs the frequency of inspections and the standards that they are carried out to.

Regional Plans & Policies

Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan



Figure 2- Autumn leaves

The Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan (Lancashire BAP) is made up plans to protect both individual species and habitats that require safeguarding as a priority within the Lancashire area. Each plan gives information on the states and threats to each species and habitat.

In addition to the 11 habitats that are seen as a priority to safeguard within Lancashire there are an additional 17 Urban Habitat Plans. These seek to recognise the contribution that urban areas can make to biodiversity in supporting a range of habitats and species that are often overlooked.

North West Biodiversity Audit

Wild About the North West: A Biodiversity Audit of North West England was published in 1999 and represents the first time that information on the habitats and species of conservation importance in North West England was brought together.

The data is presented to show the distribution of species and habitats so that agencies, authorities and managers with responsibility for land management and planning can readily identify those that need to be considered.

Lancashire Landscape Strategy

A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire was produced by Lancashire County Council in 2000. The aim of the document is to inform local plan policies on landscape, inform supplementary planning guidance and inform project planning and landscape management.

The strategy has three main objectives:

- To review the forces of change that are affecting the landscape.
- For each landscape character type, identify the key environmental features and the implications for change and guide landscape change in a positive way.
- To produce an overview of strategic issues for Lancashire, identifying the key actions to bring about positive landscape change.

National Plans & Policies

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) was published in 1994 as the UK's response to the Rio Earth Summit of 1992. UK BAP is still relevant today and laid down the action plans for species and habitats that were threatened or seriously declining. The document went on to inform the list of 56 habitats and 943 species of principal importance included on S41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. The list of habitats and species were updated in 2007.

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment was published by the Government in 2018 and laid down its vision for the management of issues relating to the environment for the next 25 years. Many of the aspects of the document are to be enshrined in law in the upcoming Environment Bill that at the time of writing this document was at the Committee stage within the House of Commons. The objectives of the plan that have the potential of affect the management of the nature reserve include:

- Creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside the protected network, focusing on priority habitats as part of a wider set of land management changes providing extensive benefits.
- Taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi, and where possible to prevent human induced extinction or loss of know threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories.
- Increasing woodland in England in line with our aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 by the end of 2042.
- Safeguarding and enhancing the beauty of our natural scenery and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage.

- Making sure that there are high quality, accessible natural spaces close to where people live and work, particularly in urban areas and encouraging more people to spend time in them to benefit their health and wellbeing.
- Focusing on increasing action to improve the environment from all sectors of society.
- Implementing a sustainable and effective second [climate change] National Adaption Programme.
- Making sure that chemicals are safely used and managed, and that levels of harmful chemicals entering the environment (including through agriculture) are significantly reduced.
- Managing and reducing the impact of existing plant and animal diseases; lowering the risk of new ones and tackling invasive non-native species.

Legislation

The current acts of Parliament or regulations that may affect the management of Gib Hill LNR include:

- [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#)
- [Forestry Act 1967](#)
- [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#)
- [Town & Country Planning Act 1990](#)
- [Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000](#)
- [The Town and Country Planning \(Tree Preservation\)\(England\) 2012](#)
- [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 1974](#)
- [Occupiers' Liability Act 1957](#)
- [Occupiers' Liability Act 1984](#)

3.5 Byelaws

Gib Hill has a specific set of byelaws that were created and sealed on the 23rd July 2009. These encourage good behaviour of visitors and the protection of wildlife above and beyond national law. A copy of the byelaws can be found in Appendix 3. It is anticipated at the next stage of PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) renewals that nature reserves may be included within the scheme.

3.6 Licences, Leases and Covenants

The entire site is wholly owned by PBC and there are currently no licences or leases covering land within the LNR boundary. However, public access is maintained throughout.

3.7 Site Analysis

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 defined Local Nature Reserves as sites for:

'Preserving flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features of special interest in the area and/or for providing opportunities for the study of, and research into, those features.'

However, LNR's have become much more than they were intended. They have become much valued greenspaces whose wildness and less intensified management regimes attract people that want to enjoy being in nature and the health benefits that go along with that experience. As a result, the analysis and sections from this point forward are divided up into two distinct categories. These are the analysis and future management of the site as a greenspace and its management as an important resource of our biological heritage. Both categories are given equal importance.

For the analysis and action planning of the green space aspect of the management the Green Flag criteria has been adapted and used. The Green Flag Award Scheme is the industry standard benchmark for the management of quality greenspaces. As such it is ideal for a structured approach to the management of the greenspace aspects of the site.

The analysis and resulting action planning for the biological heritage aspects of the sites is structured in a way similar to those outlined in the *CMS Guide to Management Planning (2015)*.

3.7.1 A Welcoming Place

The driving directions and public transport details to the site can be found in section 3.1.3 Access of this management plan.

There are currently no directional signs in the local area to Gib Hill. Owing to the lack of a specific car parking location, this will be best remaining this way. Signage on the entrances to the site need to be installed upon formal creation of the LNR.

Figure 3- Sunset over Pendle Hill





Figure 4- Entrance from Gib Hill Road

Site Entrances

There are three main entrances to the site. These are located at:

- Gib Hill Road (SD878 387)
- Footpath 180 (SD879 389)
- Adjacent to Pendle Primary / FisherMoore School - footpath 176 (SD877 388)
- Liddesdale Road (SD875 387)

Table 2 details an assessment of each of the entrances.

Internal Signage & Interpretation

As of October 2022, there are no interpretation signs on site. There are four interpretation boards required that will be associated with the LNR, primarily centred on a map of the site and to provide some basic educational / historical information.

These will need to be updated as management works take place in future, artworks should be designed in house by the PBC Communications unit to enable this.

Footpath Condition

Throughout the reserve there are a multitude of paths with a mixture of surfaces. These range from good quality stone surfaced paths, formal Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and informal desire lines that have been created over the years by visitors making their own routes through the site. Table 3 shows data from a footpath condition assessment. Map 5 shows the positions of all routes throughout the site.

There are two PRoW that run through the site. 13-6-FP 125 runs north from Gib Hill road along the perimeter of the site before splitting and turning North West down through the woods and connecting with Bott House Lane. The second path, 13-4 FP 180, runs Northwards from the split of 13-6-FP and continues until it exits the site adjacent to Bank Field House. All other routes through the site are concessionary. There are no cycle ways or bridleways through the nature reserve.

Overall, the condition of the footpaths is reasonable for the site. The main footpath (non definitive) between Lidderdale and Fishermore School was installed in 2010 and resurfaced again within the last 5 years. Footpath 13-6-FP has seen recent improvements in 2022 of two bridges over drainage features.

However, there is a need to upgrade some of the footpaths throughout the site to unsure hazards are reduced and to provide a better user experience of the site. This is mainly connected to crossings over watercourses / drainage features.

Apart from some relatively small issues with the footpath surface the only problem with the path network is a map of the routes, way markers and access to the site i.e. stile vs gate

Disabled Users

As discussed previously, there are no specified parking facilities, and thus there are no reserved disabled spaces associated with Gib Hill. Due to the topographical nature of the site, it is unsuitable for wheelchair access or for those that are not able to walk great distances. Some paths may be suitable for the use of a tramper style mobility scooter with additional path improvements over and above the basic requirements.

3.7.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

Gib Hill and the adjacent golf course are valuable green spaces for people that live locally. The mixture of a path network of reasonable condition, free to roam land and the natural landscape elements encourage residents and visitors alike to spend time exploring Gib Hill and the wider countryside.

The nature reserve has a quiet aspect, most of the surrounding urban sprawl is hidden behind the treelines and there are fantastic views of the surrounding hills and countryside.

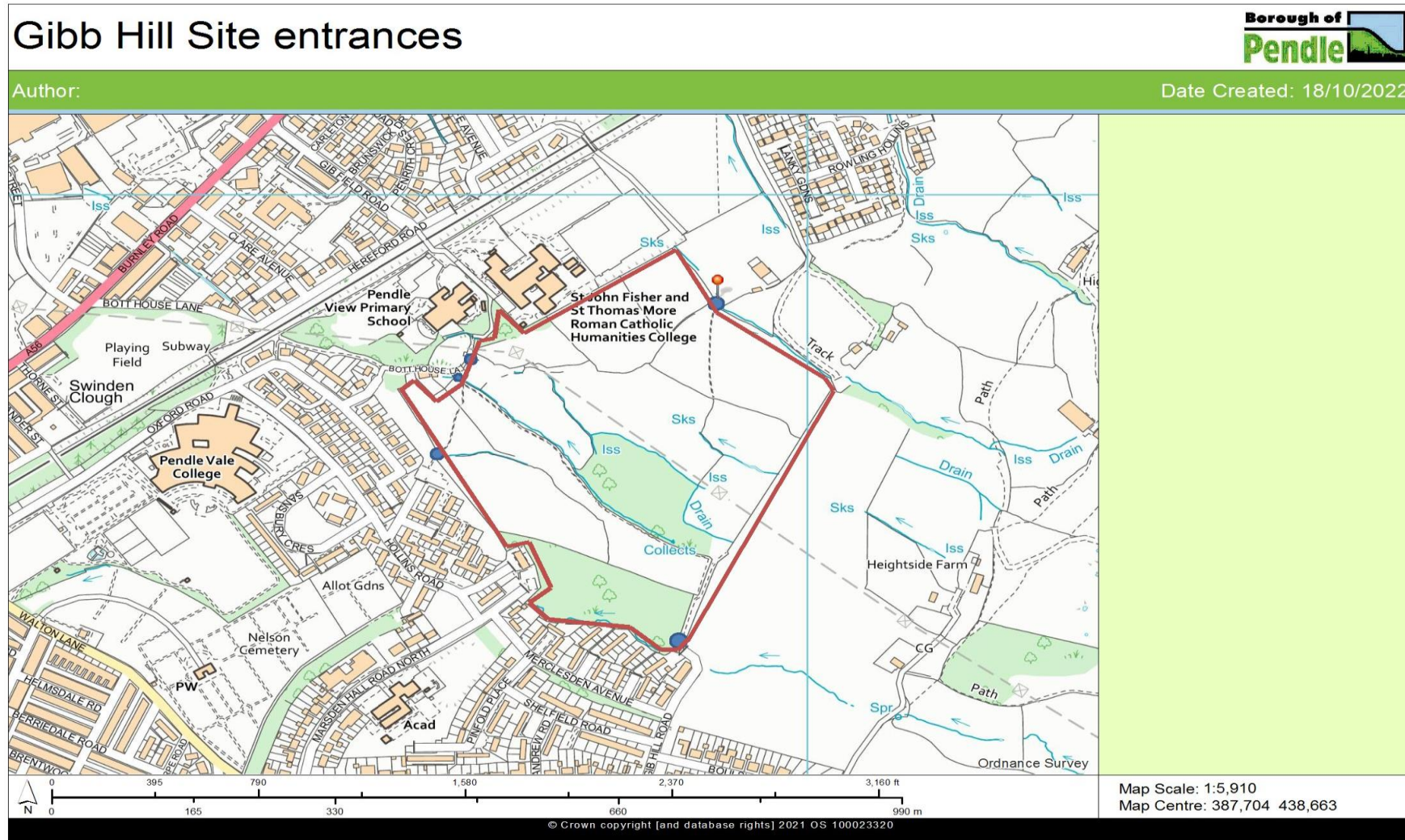
Seating at various locations to allow visitors to sit, enjoy being in nature, contemplate and relax would be a beneficial asset to Gib Hill. This would contribute greatly to the mental well-being of people that use the site.

Maps and tables of entrances and footpaths

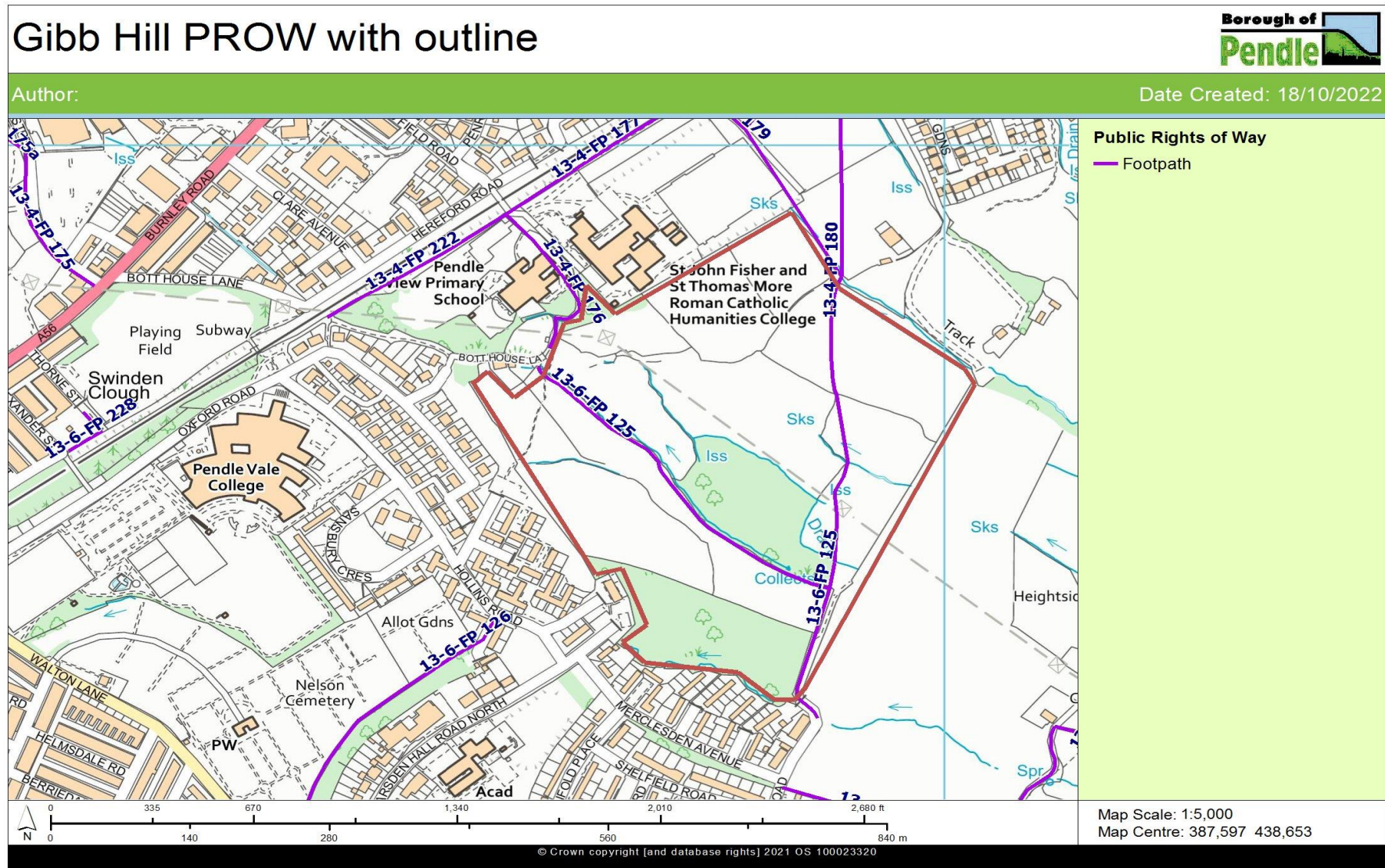
Table 2 – Entrance quality assessment

Entrance Name	OS Grid Reference	Description	Suitable for Low Mobility	Quality (1 poor – 5 excellent)	Recommendations
Gib Hill Road Entrance	SD 8785 3838	Concrete surface narrows into stone covered path. The path feels narrow and dark. There are some puddles, muddy areas and pot holes.	No	2	- To scrape path and widen to 1.5m. - To cut back and thin over hanging trees. - To cut back brambles and weeds. - Install a drainage grip.
Liddesdale Road Entrance	SD 8756 3865	Entering from the car park the entrance includes a gravel path with a newly installed wooden entrance way. The path is wide, with gravel and wooden edging boards.	Yes – path and entrance way are both wide	2	- To install signage. - Litter removal. - Grass and weeds to be mown at sides of path.
Schools Entrance – Gibfield Road	SD 8763 3884	Gravel path leading between fences of the schools. There is some encroachment from grass. Gets muddier towards the top.	No	2	- Explore upgrading the footpath surface at this entrance. - Cut back edges to widen path. - Litter removal.
North East entrance (Wackersall Road)	SD 8790 3886	A small entrance over rough terrain consisting of a stone stile through a stone wall. Stile is also narrow but low.	No	1	- Install signage. - Removal of overhanging trees/ bushes. - Repairs/ removal of unsightly concrete slabs. - Close off alternative routes.

Map 3 - A map showing the entrance locations



Map 4 – A map showing the current path network throughout the LNR



Map 5- A map showing all paths, rights of way and desire paths

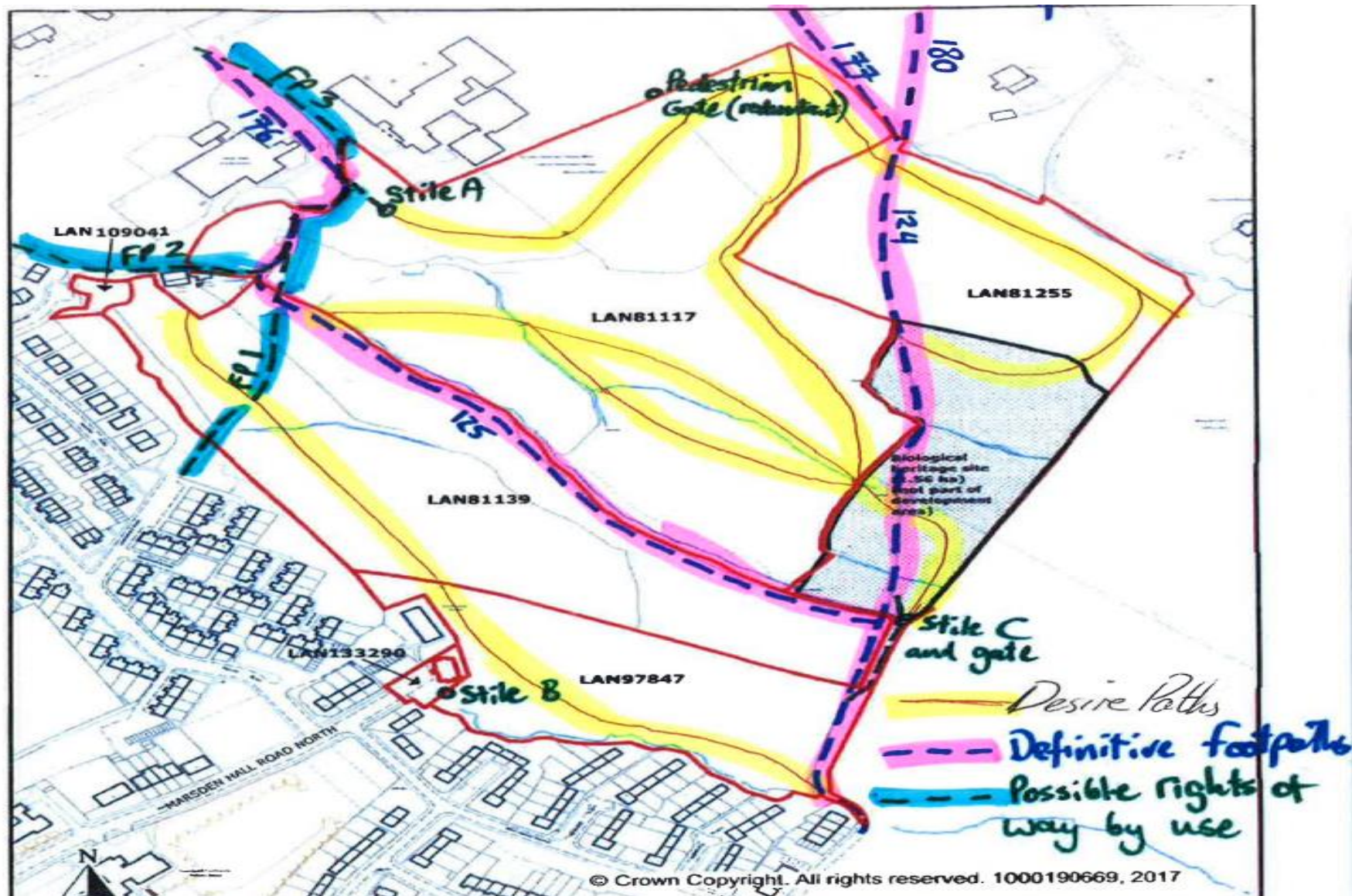


Table 3 –Footpath assessment

Ref. No.	PROW	PROW Number	Start Grid Reference	End Grid Reference	Surface Type	Surface Quality	Signage	Connectivity	Low mobility access	Litter & Vandalism	Dog Fouling	Obstructions	Comments	Recommendations	Score
						1 = poor – 5, excellent									
CFP1	☐		SD 8785 3838	SD 8790 3886	Part compacted stone, part grass	2	2	4	1	5	5	2	Where the path is gravel the surface is reasonably good although does require drainage and edging. The grass section needs widening but is generally firm and dry. One bridge needs major repairs. Path is over grown in some areas. Bridges and stiles prevent low mobility access. Some areas very boggy.	Install drainage grips. Widening of path by scraping. Cut back over hanging trees. Cut grass on both sides of the path. To install bridges over ditches.	21
CFP2	☐		SD 8756 3865	SD 8763 3884	Compacted Stone	2	2	4	2	1	5	5	The stone surface seems in good condition although encroached by grass/ weeds. Edging in a state of disrepair. Lots of litter at either end especially the school end.	Scrape some pathways to re-widen. Remove/ replace dangerous wooden edging strips which are rotten. To clear litter. Some branch removal at the school end.	22
CFP3	☐		SD 8785 3855	SD 8760 3877	Grass and bare ground	3	1	4	1	5	5	5	Footpath connecting the two other paths in the park. Surface seems in good condition.	Some surface drainage required. Mow sides of path to widen and ensure it is clearly defined.	24

Ref. No.	PROW	PROW Number	Start Grid Reference	End Grid Reference	Surface Type	Surface Quality	Signage	Connectivity	Low mobility access	Litter & Vandalism	Dog Fouling	Obstructions	Comments	Recommendations	Score
						1 = poor – 5, excellent									
CFP4	☐	Desire Path	SD 8785 3838	SD 8758 3867	Grass					5	5	5	This is a desire path that seems frequently used. Surface appears in good condition.	Mow path to maintain width and direction.	23
CFP5	☐	Desire Path	SD 8764 3880	SD 8790 3865	Grass and bare ground	2	1	5	1	5	5	4	A desire path that circles most of the park and intersects many other paths. A mixture of grass, bare earth and stoned paths are used.	Frequent condition checks Potentially mow path to make more accessible and more defined.	23
CFP6	☐	Desire Path	SD 8789 3853	SD 8760 3875	Grass and bare ground	3	1	3	1	5	5	5	A clearly well used desire path cutting across the middle of the park. The route has various off shoots. Well used, yet ground in good firm condition.	Frequent condition checks Potentially mow path to make more accessible and more defined.	23
FP1	☐	Desire Path	SD 8784 3894	SD 8789 3852	grass	2	1	4	1	2	5	3	This path starts from the corner of the football pitch next to the secondary school. It appears that to gain access to the path a route has been created along the end of the football pitch. It is a well-used path that cuts across the park towards Gib Hill Road, crossing over many other paths.	Regular reviews to ensure surface remains in good condition. Some litter at the school end to be removed.	18

Equipment, Facilities & Safety

Pendle Borough Council takes Health and Safety of all those affected by its operations very seriously. Regular checks of the site are undertaken by the Green Spaces Manager, Green Spaces Assistant or members of the Landscape Maintenance Team.

In addition to this, it is anticipated that the voluntary group associated with Gib Hill such as Hillside Hero's, will spend time within the reserve and report any instances of fault, damage or vandalism to officers. All incidents of damage are assessed and either made safe immediately, removed or programmed for repair depending on the severity of the risk that they present.

All service activities are risk assessed by competent, qualified staff who work in the field of the task that is being carried out with support from the Council's Health & Safety Officer. The Council also has lone working policies in place, complete with a traceable system should an officer require assistance.

All staff are issued with the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all tasks carried out as part of their day to day duties. In addition to this, staff are trained to use, inspect and maintain any tools and machinery they require to complete their roles. All tasks are individually risk assessed and the assessments are freely available for staff to reference. Pendle Borough Council recognises the importance of having staff with a broad skills base. With this in mind, the Council encourages its staff to undertake personal development through professional qualifications and vocational training in line with the service area needs and demands.

Although staff are not uniformed, they attend site in sign-written vehicles and wear identification while on site. As a result, they are easily identifiable.

The Council also manages a twenty-four hour call out rota. This service can be obtained by ringing an out of hour's emergency number (01282 661999). This is operated via an emergency control room contractor.

Control of dogs and litter

There are general waste bins, which can also accept dog foul bags, located at the entrance to the reserve on Liddesdale Road and also adjacent to FisherMoore School. This path has the most users passing through site as part of a commute, hence more litter is found in this vicinity. These are emptied on a regular basis by the Council's Environmental Services cleansing department.

The Council's Environmental Crime Team (ECT) was established in 2010 to deal with all enforcement matters. The team is made up of three Environmental Crime Officers. All three staff members carry out regular patrols around Pendle's public land including our nature reserves. They have the powers to issue fixed penalty notices, or fines within sports fields, parks and local nature reserves.

The Council also employ the services of District Enforcement a private enforcement company that work closely with the ECT to provide presence mainly in town centre areas. They do spend some of their time at green space 'hot spot' sites where we have issues with dog fouling and control and litter.

The Green Spaces Team work closely with ECT and provide information to them on any 'hot spot' areas in relation to high levels of dog fouling or litter on our sites. The ECT record any fixed penalties issued and prosecutions.

Anti-social Behaviour

Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve does not suffer substantially from anti-social behaviour (ASB) problems. Litter is the biggest issue as highlighted above.

There is a stretch of woodland surrounding the footpath 13-6-FP 125 that runs from the south east to North West of the reserve. Historically there have been issues of youths building dens, lighting small fires and occasional camping. This can sometimes leave large items of waste such as mattresses or pallets on site

Where issues do occur, the Council has set procedures for dealing with instances as they arise.

If ASB is witnessed in the park by staff or stakeholders, then it is reported to the police. The Council's Localities team is made up of officers experienced with dealing with persistent ASB problems and can be called upon should the problem persist.

The local police carry out ASB patrols on an 'ad hoc' occasional basis and may walk through the Nature Reserve.

We also receive the minutes of the [Community Safety Partnership](#) which also flag up any instances of ASB that site management will need to deal with.

3.7.3 Well Maintained & Clean

Litter & Waste Management

As with all green spaces, the Local Nature Reserve has issues with litter although these are to a lesser extent than the neighbouring park.

Due to this, the reserve and adjacent park have a network of volunteers that clean up litter as part of their daily walks.

Litter is removed from site and is taken to the Waste Treatment Site, Regent Street, Colne, where it is then processed to landfill. The Council currently do not have the resources to separate waste for recycling locally.

Any green waste created by operations on the site are removed to Victoria Park Depot where they are composted down and reused where possible. Similarly, any risings from tree work are chipped on and removed to the depot where they are reused as mulch or footpath surfaces at various sites around the Borough.

Larger wood waste is removed to the depot and sold for firewood. Where contractors are used a similar approach is taken.

Where some smaller tree operations take place, the risings are used to create habitat piles, woodland path edges and/or dead hedging.



Figure 5 – Outstanding views of the county

Any instances of fly tipping and the abandonment of vehicles in nature reserves are reported to, and disposed of, by Waste Services unless the waste is minimal or is green waste which is then dealt with by our own staff. The Environmental Crime Team will assist in investigating fly tipping instances.

The amount of waste produced by the nature reserve is exceptionally low when compared to other green spaces of a similar size.

Landscape Maintenance

The Council recognises the importance of quality of a visitor experience and the significance as a wildlife infrastructure. The levels of usage of a park or green space is greatly impacted upon by the standard of maintenance and cleanliness of the site. A well-maintained site leads to an overall feeling that the site is cared for and encourages return visits by users while providing valuable habitat for wildlife and the ability for site users to interact with the wildlife.

The Council's Landscape Maintenance Team carries out most of the regular landscape maintenance tasks throughout the Local Nature Reserves in Pendle. In the past the work was carried out on an *ad-hoc* basis.

Built structure and Infrastructure management and maintenance

The maintenance of built structures and the infrastructure of the park are managed on an annual basis. Revenue budgets are in place to undertake any repairs and improvements as and when they occur. Work is generally reported through staff members to the relevant officers, who then organise

repairs either through internal services or external contractors. This system works well with anything reported being repaired in a quick and efficient manner.

The action points highlighted in *Equipment, Facilities & Safety* should also be considered here.

3.7.4 Sustainability

The Council are working towards providing services and facilities that have minimal impact on the environment, are cost effective and provide for future generations. The Council is committed to tackling social, economic and environmental problems affecting parks whilst implementing new initiatives to further enhance sustainability across all of them. Any future parks improvements will adopt the principle of not being pursued at the expense of the interests of future generations.

Although the use of pesticides and chemicals are contentious with most members of the public, it is necessary in most parks and green spaces to use them on an occasional ad hoc basis in high impact areas. Gib Hill is no different in that it does require substances to control weeds. We endeavour to limit the use of them and, where possible, use non-chemical solutions.

The types of chemical that are used by the Council are as follows:

- **Herbicides** – Herbicides are used mainly for the control of weeds on hard surfaces and on sports surfaces such as bowling greens. Trained staff carry out regular checks on herbicide products and use chemicals that have a minimal risk to the environment or the operator.
- **Timber Preservatives** – The majority of timber preservatives used are pre-applied by the supplier, such as Tanalith pressure treatment. Any additional timber preservatives tend to be water based and have a very low risk to the environment.
- **Other Chemicals** – Any other chemicals used would be on the condition of the completion of a COSHH risk assessment and after all other methods have been explored.

The Council attempts to minimise waste at source and as such encourages visitors to take waste home and recycle. Waste arising from operations on the site are discussed in the section entitled *Litter and Waste Management*.

The Council supports the creation of low carbon communities and is striving to be more energy efficient. Subsequently, a Climate Emergency action plan has recently been developed by the authority.

Environmental Services have specific actions set out in the Council's action plan that we must deliver in relation to reducing carbon emissions, energy usage and adaptation.

3.7.5 Community Involvement

The Council is proud of its connections with the local community. Management heavily involves the local community in the design and implementation of its improvements for all greenspaces across Pendle. Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve is no exception to this and public consultations will take place and volunteers are encouraged to get involved in any key developments for the Nature Reserve.

Groups and stakeholders will include

- Pendle Borough Council
- Nelson Town Council
- Colne Town Council
- Hillside Heroes
- Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- Gib Hill working committee
- Fisher Moore School
- Pendle Vale School



Figure 6- Volunteers building a bridge

It is recognised by the Council that any key developments, short or long term, must involve the local and wider community and any interested parties. Without their involvement in the decision-making processes, the chances of long-term ownership and sustainability of the Nature Reserve would be significantly diminished.

3.7.6 Marketing

The marketing and promotion of parks has become an essential and necessary part of reserve management. With this in mind, it is imperative to present a positive image of the reserves and events focussing on attracting new parks users and retaining existing users through adopting a more co-ordinated and strategic approach to the marketing of reserves.

Marketing can allow the service area to achieve several key messages. These include;

- Promoting Council services
- Promoting Council facilities
- Education
- Attracting visitors
- Attracting economic regeneration
- Exploring tourism potentials
- Promote conservation

Currently, the Council employ a limited approach to marketing mainly due to a lack of resources; therefore, it is important to ensure, through annual review, that existing resources are being used effectively.

Online Presence

Information regarding Gib Hill LNR can be found on the Councils [website](#). This contains directions to the site and information on the site itself. In addition to this, the Pendle Council has a presence on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Press Releases

Whenever an event or community led initiative takes place in the LNR a press release is sent out to all local agencies, alongside social media advertising and using DOT Mailer to inform local business contacts.

3.7.7 Management

This management and maintenance plan forms the basis for the future management, maintenance and development of Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve that can be shared by staff at all levels and by the different park user groups and external stakeholders.

The Corporate Director for Place has ultimate responsibility for managing parks and recreation sites although day to day management of Nature Reserves is the responsibility of a team of Senior Officers based in Environmental Services. The Council also work with, and have support from, our partners in developing parks. These partners include; the Police, the Community Safety Partnership, the Localities Team, parish/town councils, area committees, schools, youth groups, etc.

To be able to achieve targets and improve the reserve, management have designated lead officers who will primarily be responsible for delivering the specific actions in Section Four. This provides staff at all levels with a clear sense of direction and recognises particular expertise and specialisms within the Council.

The Council are striving to manage and maintain Pendle's Nature Reserves to the best possible standards, while ensuring that money and resources being invested in the reserves are being used in the most effective way possible, whilst simultaneously being proactive in seeking new ways of securing additional funding to build on existing Council resources.

Although the site is used for quiet forms of recreation it is important to acknowledge that the main focus of the site is nature conservation and as such any decision made with regard to the site must take into the account the impacts on wildlife over the convenience of site users.



Figure 7- Tree Sparrows

3.7.8 Financial Management

Item	Qty	Value
Volunteer time	180 hours per annum*	£1710.00**
Officer time	8 days per annum	£2304.00
Landscape Maintenance	days per annum	£0.00
Revenue Budget	1 per annum	£500.00
Total		£4514.00

* Based on figures submitted to Pendle Borough Council by the Friends of Ball Grove as an example. The figure is likely to be more than this as some volunteer activity is not recorded e.g. people out walking and collecting litter on their normal route.

** Figure based on the national minimum wage 2020.

Table 4 - Financial information

Budgets are set on an annual basis for the nature reserve. This includes a revenue budget of £500. The rest of the cost to manage the site is made up of volunteer time and PBC officer time.

Any funding for large scale works or alterations comes from the Council's capital programme or the capital budgets that the Council's area committees hold. Bids for this funding have to be submitted and are not always guaranteed. Furthermore, where necessary, applications are submitted to a variety of grants schemes such as the National Lottery or the Lancashire Environmental Fund.

3.7.9 Ecology & Conservation

Species

Gib Hill LNR has been surveyed several times. Initially in August 1998 as part of a Phase I habitat survey of the entire Borough, and then in 2005, 2010, 2015, 2017 and most recently in 2021.

The original survey showed that much of the reserve is made up of improved and semi-improved grassland with a block of semi-natural broadleaved woodland and various hedge lines of differing ages, some of which are classed as species rich – containing 5 or more traditional varieties within a 30 metre stretch. Blocks of tree planting has taken place over the last 15 years and are also present but struggling with Ash Die back disease.

The 2010 survey recorded 75 species within the reserve. This showed even within the short period of time that the site was being managed for conservation the regime employed was having a positive effect.

Although the 2017 survey took in a wider geographical area it is clear that the continued conservation management regimes are having a positive effect on wildlife. The full list of the species recorded on site can be found in the survey document in appendix 1. However, table 5 shows a brief summary.

Group	Number of species
Grasses	27
Sedges, rushes, ferns etc.	21
Trees and shrubs	36
Herbaceous Plants	87
Total	198

Table 5 - A table showing a brief summary of species found in the LNR and extension.

No survey work has been carried out to determine the range of species of mammals, insects and aquatic life of the site- see reports emailed separately.

The 2021 survey concluded that:

- There are many species of vascular plants (the total will probably be over 200), as well as Roe Deer, foxes, a range of small mammals, a variety of birds, including several species of conservation concern, and an unknown number of invertebrates that will exceed the numbers from all the other groups put together.
- The proposed LNR and management suggestions offer opportunities for improving access through the site, providing on-site information boards, producing a way-marked nature trail and leaflet, and both promoting and using the site for environmental education and interpretation.

The 2010 survey also made a series of 11 recommendations which have been incorporated in to this management plan.

The National Biodiversity Network database includes information on species. Carrying out a search radius of 1km of the meadow gives the species data summarised in Table 6 and included in appendix 2.

Group	Number of species
Insects	
Birds	
Fish	
Mammals	
Molluscs	
Bryophytes	
Ferns and Allies	
Flowering Plants (including Angiosperms)	
Gymnosperm and Ginkgo	
Total	TBA

Table 6 - Summary of records within 1km of the site held by the National Biodiversity Network

Habitats

Gib Hill is made up of a mosaic of habitats. These include:

- Semi-improved grassland
- Species rich grassland
- Broad leaved woodland
- Historic hedge lines
- Small watercourses / ditch lines

An area of the grassland of 1.56 Ha is classified as a Biological Heritage Site with plans to enlarge this existing site within Gib Hill

Semi-improved Grassland

Semi-improved grasslands are a transition category of grassland that have been modified by artificial fertilisers, slurry, intensive grazing, herbicides or drainage. This results in a less diverse range of species than what can be found in unimproved grasslands. This type of grassland does have some conservation value and retains a range of grasses and wildflowers such as red clover, birds-foot trefoil and knapweed. These species support a range of insect species including pollinators.

Where semi-improved grasslands occur throughout the site, a restoration and management regime should be deployed to bring these areas back to a standard conducive with a species rich grassland.

Species-rich Grassland

Species-rich grasslands are usually quite rare, especially in lowlands. Quite often, this type of grassland become rank and neglected. Sometimes mowing or some grazing takes place. They may have been treated with low levels of farmland manure but should have not been treated with herbicide or fertiliser, intensively grazed or drained. Species diversity of these grasslands is high with species characteristic of the area as well as a high percentage of agricultural species. These types of grassland are especially important to the support of insect species and fauna that prey on them.

Where species rich grasslands occur throughout the site management regimes should be employed to ensure that these areas are protected and intervene where it is considered that improvement is required.

Deciduous Woodland

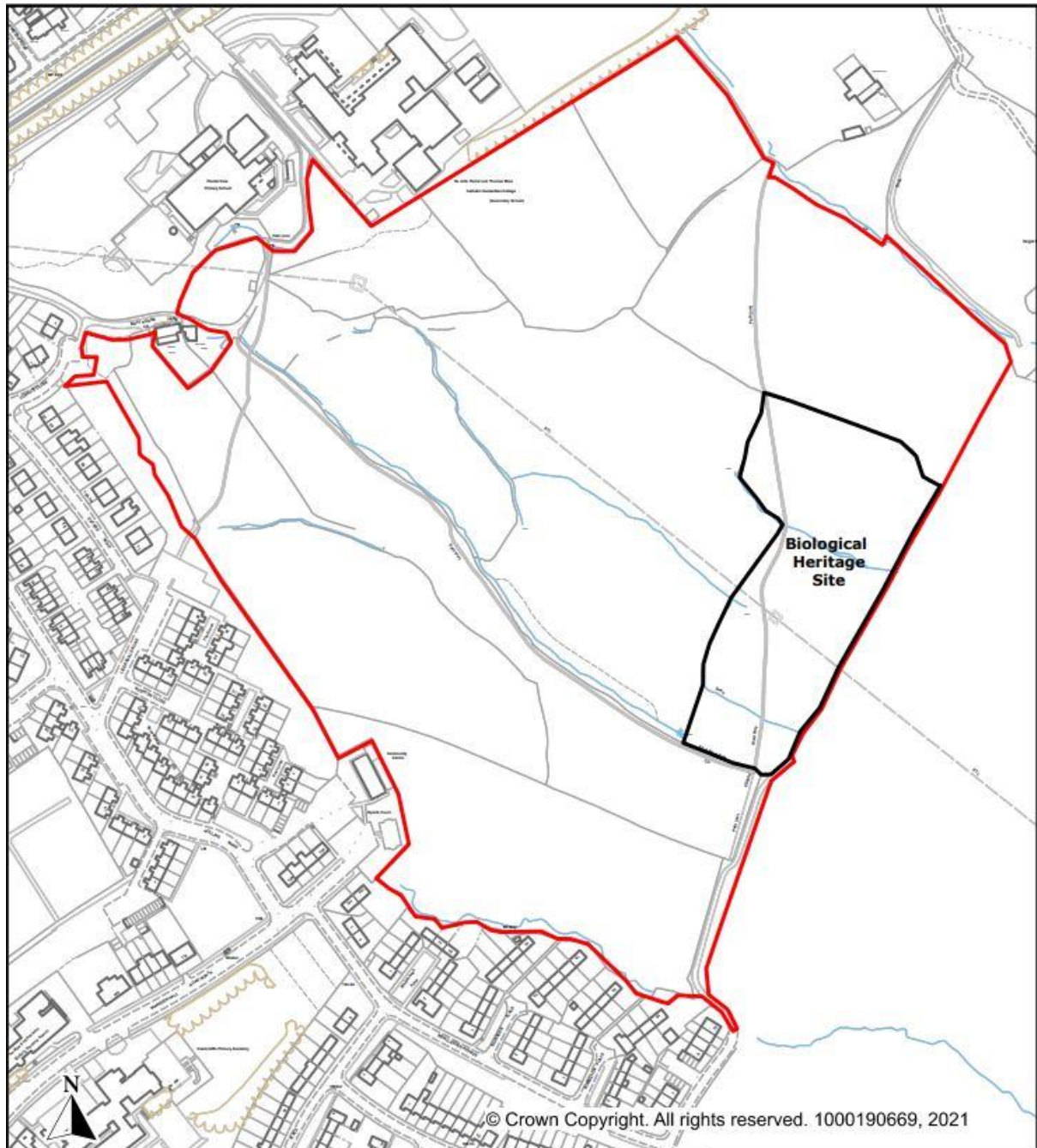
Woodland is defined as vegetation dominated by trees more than 5m high when mature, forming a distinct, although sometimes open canopy. A woodland is deciduous or broadleaved when the canopy is made up of less than 10% of coniferous species. As the woodland on the site was planted as part of the East Lancashire Woodland Project (ELWOOD), which ran between 1998 and 2007 and was previously farmland, it is classed as a plantation.

Although the trees within the woodland are of reasonable quality, the woodland itself requires work. Consideration should be given to developing a specific management plan for the woodland areas bringing it into good management and developing the ground flora to improve the quality of the area.

DRAFT

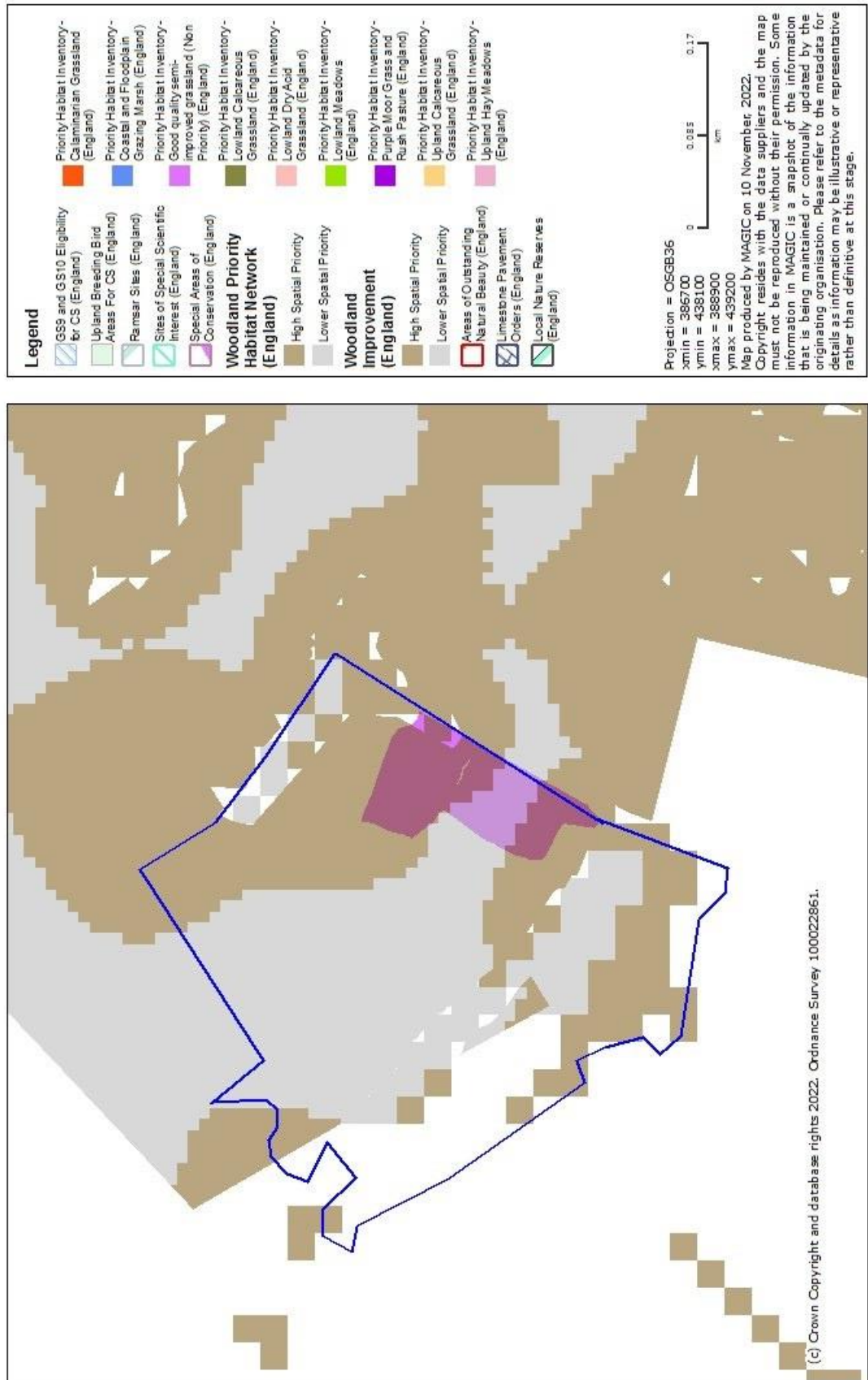
Priority Habitat Zones

Map 6- outline of Biological Heritage Site



Map 7 - Priority Habitats (source: MAGIC Maps, Natural England)

MAGiC Gib Hill habitat designation areas



4.0 Where do we want to get to?

4.1 Vision

The overarching vision for Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve ultimately determines what we and our stakeholders envisage the reserve to be.

‘Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve is a place where people can meet nature; where nature is protected and valued as the asset that it is; where people can learn about the importance of nature, new skills and relax. It is a gateway for nature to cross between the towns of Colne and Nelson and into the wider countryside and an essential part of the green infrastructure of the town.

We aim for Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve to be a high-quality nature site that puts nature first.’

4.2 Aims

The sites vision informs the aims and objectives of the site. The aims of the site can be broken down into two main sections. Those targeted at the nature conservation aspect of the site and those that address the needs of the community. The aims of site are set out in collaboration with our stakeholders and are listed in the table below.

Aims	
Wildlife	People
• To comply with legal obligations and policy commitments. • To maintain the LNR status of the site. • Collate information about the flora and fauna found on the site. • To improve the quality of the grasslands, wetlands and woodlands through sensitive management. • To maintain and where possible enhance the populations of notable plant and animal species that are resident and breed within the site. • To control and/or eradicate invasive non-native plants.	• To collate information including press coverage, visitor statistics, details of events, and work days. • To encourage the safe, sustainable and inclusive public use of the site. • To promote the site for education and research. • To seek to raise funds to implement the objectives above.

Table 7 - Aims of Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve

4.3 Objectives

The vision and aims feed into the objectives. In the case of Gib Hill LNR there are six main objectives. The actions arising out of this document fall into one of the main objectives for the site. This is highlighted in the framework of the action plan. The list of objectives can be found in the table below.

Objectives	
Objective 1	Improve the range of habitats through sensitive management.
Objective 2	Improve access to the site to allow sustainable recreational uses.
Objective 3	Improve opportunities to educate visitors on the importance of Local Nature Reserves and their wildlife through interpretation boards, work with schools, events & volunteer participation.
Objective 4	Provide opportunities to improve and learn new skills through volunteering and training schemes.
Objective 5	Monitor the effects of management on the wildlife of the site.
Objective 6	Explore alternative funding methods for the maintenance of the site and capital projects.

Table 8 – Objectives

4.4 Site Assessment & Analysis – Findings

The process of site assessment and analysis identified a list of tasks that can be fed into the action plan section of the management plan. The tasks also fulfil the requirements of the management objectives.

4.4.1 A Welcoming Place

While Gib Hill Local Nature Reserves primary function is for the benefit of wildlife and nature, Pendle Borough Council and its stakeholders realise the importance of the site as a valuable green space for local people and those visiting the area from further afield. By making the site welcoming to visitors, we will encourage people to learn about the importance of local ecological networks and the species that they support.

In order to achieve this as a goal, the site requires some improvements and investment.

Entrances

- Carry out the recommendations in the assessments of entrances table (Table 2).
- Reduce access by motorbikes
- Review site interpretation with a view of installing new interpretation at site entrances.
- Carry out an investigation into the use of low-key way marking to help people find their way around the site.

Footpaths

- Upgrade woodland paths to improve visitor access.
- Consider upgrading the upper and lower paths to allow for tramper usage.
- Ensure existing watercourse crossings are all to a good standard.
- Consider upgrading some of the pathways through ditches /hedge lines, to allow easier access during winter months.
- Carry out footpath works detailed in the condition assessment.

4.4.2 Healthy, Safe & Secure

Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve in conjunction with adjacent footpaths, the golf course and the nearby Marsden Park contributes highly to the health and well-being of local residents.

- Consideration should be given to encouraging visitors to use the nature reserve as a starting location to explore the wider countryside.

Safety

As stated, the Local Nature Reserve is subject to the risk assessment processes that the Council routinely undertake. This also includes the activities of our volunteers. However, as with all aspects of management there is always room for improvement. As such the following should be considered.

- Develop a formal, recorded process of site inspections.
- Document all reports of damage and actions taken.

Anti-social Behaviour

Fortunately, Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve does not suffer greatly from anti-social behaviour problems and the site is also subject to byelaws. However, these are difficult to enforce and the penalties do not serve as deterrents to continued behavioural problems. These byelaws are needed to protect the site and its wildlife. Pendle Borough Council have used their powers to develop Public Space Protection Orders in parks and sports grounds. As such, this use of the Orders should be considered to be extended to include local nature reserves to provide continued, flexible protection for the sites. The use of these Orders should also be considered to control dogs within the Reserve to reduce the instances of disturbance to wildlife.

4.4.3 Clean & Well-Maintained

The current system of maintenance is very low and only on an ad hoc basis. The Landscape Maintenance Team and contractors will take over the routine maintenance of the reserve. The low amounts of litter on the site are as much due to the work of volunteers (both formally and informal as it is down to PBC staff). In order for this to happen the following needs to take place:

- Develop landscape maintenance schedule.
- Train Landscape Maintenance Staff in the management of Nature Reserves.
- Consider options for improving the waste management of the site. In particular, the provision of waste receptacles and prevention of overflowing at peak times.
- Explore the possibility of increasing the recycling of waste on the site.
- Monitor and record the use of chemicals on the site with a view to reducing.

4.4.4 Community Involvement

A wide section of the community uses the site and as such opportunities for greater community involvement could be achieved by:

- Continuing to support and improve connections with site stakeholders.
- Continue to support and improve connections with the LNR Steering Group.
- Improve links between the reserve and local schools.

- Develop the potential for an outdoor classroom.
- Continue to provide and develop practical volunteering opportunities.
- Forge links with local naturalist groups.
- Set up a Friend's Group



Figure 8 - Red-horned Cardinal Click Beetle

4.4.5 Marketing

While it may not be advantageous to the Local Nature Reserve to encourage large amounts of visitors to it, the marketing of the site should be done in such a way that encourages people to enjoy the site while limiting the disturbance to nature. The nature reserve has a role in allowing visitors to experience nature close-up while taking pressure off more sensitive wildlife areas. As such in terms of marketing the Council should seek to:

- Develop a marketing plan appropriate for the site.
- Update information on the Council website.
- Update existing interpretation board artwork.
- Install new interpretation boards at entrances to the site.

4.4.6 Management

It is important to ensure that the management of the Nature Reserve is adequately resourced, and those resources used in the best possible way. Failure to do so is likely to see a loss of habitat and associated species. It will also lead to increased anti-social behaviour and vandalism. As such in order to improve on what is already being done the Council should:

- Ensure that the nature reserve is adequately resourced in the terms of finance, staff and volunteers to facilitate the development of this management plan.
- Develop a management system to help deliver the management plan and record progress.
- Work to secure funding for projects outlined in the management plan.

4.4.7 Ecology & Conservation

The predominant function of Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve is to provide a habitat and a place for nature to thrive. As a result, the resources required to do this should be prioritised over the visitor management aspect of the site. Accordingly, the Council should seek to:

- Carry out surveys to determine the range of species of mammals, insects, and aquatic life within the site.
- Encourage volunteers to formally record wildlife sightings in order to fill gaps in data.
- Ensure that all management objectives for the site consider species that are listed as vulnerable.
- Ensure that the priority habitats are managed in accordance to best practice and available guidance.
- Protect areas of species rich grassland and manage in a way that is sensitive to their importance as an ecological resource.
- Develop the semi-improved grasslands to bring them up to the same ecological value as species rich grasslands.
- Develop a woodland management plan and incorporate it into this management plan.
- Progress the development of the marsh area.
- Continue to work with the River Ribble Catchment Trust to improve the riparian habitats throughout the site.
- Develop management regimes for the lowland fen habitat and incorporate into the management plan.
- Carry out cyclic wildlife surveys in order to monitor the effectiveness of the plan.

5.0 How will we get there?

5.1 Action Plan

The following section relates to the action plan and how Pendle Council and its stakeholders will address and respond to any weaknesses or gaps identified, issues raised and the challenges facing the Nature Reserve.

The action plan is split in to two. The first action plan concentrates purely on the next 12 months and provides the more detailed actions, which management are seeking to deliver in the short term. These schedules contain milestones and provide timescales for each milestone. This is to ensure that actions are progressed and completed within the prescribed deadline.

The main action plan is a continuation of the previous year's action plan and incorporates a mixture of short, medium, continuous and long-term actions. Although the actions contained within this document do not have milestones and are not as detailed as the 12-month action plan it does not mean that they are less of a priority and will not be progressed in the short term. The 12-month plan identifies both priority actions and also actions that may be easily achievable due to them having no resource implications, etc.

For both action plans, the tables identify whether actions are of a high, medium or low priority, resource implications, who is responsible for overseeing the action and partners involved.

- Short term actions = 1-2 years
- Medium term actions = 2-5 years
- Long term actions = 5 and beyond the life of the plan
- Continuous actions = throughout the life of the plan

While the action plan sets out a timetable for the actions to take place, it is important to point out that the actions are flexible and as a result maybe change during the review period. This is likely to occur where funding from an outside source becomes available for a specific project within the plan.

From January this document, specifically its action plans, will be reviewed. During the period of January to March, a process of review will ensue, which will include the gathering of information from various sources. Information will be derived from:

- Stakeholder feedback
- Customer satisfaction survey feedback
- Council Officers

The results of these exercises and the reviews of the action plans will then determine the points of action for the following year taking in to account staff levels, budgetary constraints and other commitments.

The monitoring and review process for the Management Plan is discussed in more detail in Section Five.

Recommended actions for Gib Hill

Action Number:	Project Title:	Set up of volunteer management and working group				
Project Description:	Promote and recruit a working party that will look to take on the day to day management of the site.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
LOW	Green Spaces Manager Green Spaces Assistant	Communications Team	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:			1	31/04/2023	Advertise the working group to recruit volunteers in conjunction with communications team.	31/05/2023
31/06/2023						
Finances:		Projected Cost	2	31/05/2023	Set up first meeting of the group and nominate key persons of Treasurer, Chair and secretary	31/06/2023
Staff time, possible media cost of nelson leader		£0 -£160	3	31/06/2023	Plan of volunteer working days for summer/autumn 2023 to be published and implemented	31/07/2023
Project Outcomes: Creation of a working group of volunteers to carry out minor works and maintenance within Gib Hill						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	Interpretation Review				
Project Description:	Review and design of site interpretation with a view of installing new signage points at main entrances.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
LOW	Green Spaces Manager Green Spaces Assistant	Communications Team	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:	Senior Park Keeper	Contractor	1	31/03/2023	Carry out assessment of current provision and recommend any improvements	
31/12/2023						
Finances:		Projected Cost	2	31/03/2023	Submit bid for funding to deliver the finding of the report	
Staff time, Revenue budgets		£4,500	3	31/06/2023	Design new interpretation	
			4	31/09/2022	Install new interpretation	
Project Outcomes: Improved information and communication. Increased perception of a welcoming site. Increased perception of a well-maintained site.						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	Recording site inspections				
Project Description:	Develop a system of formally recording site inspections.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
MEDIUM	Green Spaces Manager PRoW Officer		Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:			1	1/3/2023	Meet with Officers to discuss recording requirement	1/4/23
1/6/2023						
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2	1/4/2023	Develop system of recording information	1/5/23
Staff time			3			
			4			
Project Outcomes: Meet the Council obligations with regard to Health & Safety.						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	Landscape Maintenance Schedule				
Project Description:	Develop a landscape maintenance schedule for the site to ensure that it remains in a good standard of maintenance.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
HIGH	Green Spaces Manager		Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:	PRoW officer		1	1/3/2023	Site visit to determine work to be carried out.	
1/4/2023	Senior Parks Officer					
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2	1/4/2023	Produce landscape maintenance schedule and maps.	
Staff time, revenue budgets		£2,665 per annum	3	1/6/2023	Start work from new schedule	
			4			
Project Outcomes: Improved landscape maintenance. Increased perception of a well-maintained site.						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	Review waste management facilities and processes for the site				
Project Description:	Consider options for improving the waste management of the site. In particular, the provision of waste receptacles and prevention of overflowing at peak times.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
MEDIUM	Green Spaces Manager	Friends of Gib Hill	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:	Senior Park officer		1	31/1/23	Survey site to determine requirements and locations for bins and identify problem litter spots.	
1/4/2023	Environmental Services Manager					
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2	1/2/2023	Produce report detailing recommendations and indicative costs.	
Staff time, revenue budgets		To be established	3	1/4/2023	Implement recommendations of the report where practicable.	
			4			
Project Outcomes:						
Improved waste management operations for the site. Improved perception of a clean, well-maintained site.						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	Use of Chemicals				
Project Description:	Monitor and record the use of chemicals on the site with a view to reducing.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
MEDIUM	Green Spaces Manager		Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:			1	1/06/2023	Audit chemicals used on site to determine range and environmental impact.	
1/6/2023	Senior Parks Officer					
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2	1/6/2023	Monitor all chemical usage.	
Staff time			3	1/6/2023	Produce report on chemical use with a view to reduced use or alternative solutions.	
			4			
Project Outcomes:						
Reduced environmental impact and/or damage,						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	Naturalist Groups				
Project Description:	Seek to forge links with local naturalist groups.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
Medium	Green Spaces Manager	Naturalist Groups, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and communications team	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:	Green Spaces Assistant		1	1/6/2023	Identify local naturalist groups, and work with communications team	
1/8/2023						
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2	1/7/2023	Seek a meeting with Committees of groups.	
Staff time. Revenue Budgets		To be established	3	1/8/2023	Set up a recording system for records from above groups	
			4			
Project Outcomes:						
Greater community involvement. Possible larger scope of ecological information about the site.						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	Council Website				
Project Description:	Update the information on the Council website and explore ways of having a greater online presences for the site.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
MEDIUM	Green Spaces Manager Green Spaces Assistant	Communications Team	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:			1	1/07/2023	Assess the current provision of online material with regard to the site.	
1/7/2023						
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2	31/7/2023	Meet with Communications Team to discuss web presences	
Staff time			3	1/10/2023	Design/update and web material	
			4	31/10/2023	Upload content to website.	
Project Outcomes: Greater provision of information. More opportunities to market the site.						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	LNR Management System				
Project Description:	Review system that helps keep track of the management plan and record progress.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
LOW	Green Spaces Manager Green Spaces Assistant		Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:			1	1/10/2022	Look at different ways that a management recording system can be produced that is accessible to all.	
1/11/2023						
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2			
Staff time			3			
			4			
Project Outcomes: Improved management.						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	Wildlife Recording				
Project Description:	Work with volunteers to ensure that wildlife sightings are formally recorded.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
Medium	Green Spaces Manager Senior Park Keeper	Friends of Ball Grove Naturalist Groups	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:			1	1/4/2021	Speak with the Friends Group to highlight the importance of wildlife recording.	
1/4/2022 & ongoing						
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2	1/01/2022	Hold training session on wildlife recording.	
Staff time			3	1/04/2022	Produce report on wildlife sightings.	
			4			
Project Outcomes: Increased community involvement. Increased knowledge of site wildlife.						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	Wildlife Surveys				
Project Description:	Carry out surveys to determine the range of species of mammal, insect and aquatic life within the site.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
low	Green Spaces Manager Green Spaces Assistant		Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:			1	1/04/2024	Obtain quotations for carrying out the survey work.	
1/04/2024						
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2	1/3/2024	Seek funding for surveys	
Staff time. Revenue budgets. Capital funding and external funding		To be established.	3	1/07/2024	Carry out surveys and receive reports.	
			4			
Project Outcomes: Improved ecological knowledge of the site. Ecological bench marking.						
Additional Information:						

Action Number:	Project Title:	Woodland Management Plan				
Project Description:	Develop more in-depth woodland management plan and incorporate into this management plan.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
Medium	Green Spaces Manager PBC Tree officer Green Spaces Assistant		Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:			1	01/06/2024	Carry out survey work	
01/08/2024						
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2	04/08/2024	Develop woodland management plan and incorporate in to this document.	
Staff time		To be established	3			
			4			
Project Outcomes: Improved ecological knowledge of the site and better site management.						
Additional Information:						

Suggestion	Priority	Timescale	Finances	Key Officer(s)	Partner(s)	Additional Information
Carry out assessment into the use of low-key way marking for visitors to find their way around.	Low	Long term	Existing budgets	Green Spaces Team		
Upgrade woodland paths to improve visitor access and facilitate small-scale silvicultural operations.	Medium	Long term	External funding	Green Spaces Team		
Carry out footpath works detailed in the condition assessment.	High	Long term	Existing budgets Capital Funding External Funding	Green Spaces Team		
Document all reports of damage and actions taken.	High	Ongoing	Staff time Existing budgets	Green Spaces Team Senior Parks Officer		
Review the control of dogs through the development of the Public Space Protection Orders	High	Medium term	Staff time Existing budgets	Green Spaces Team Localities Officer		
Explore the use of Public Space Protection Orders to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour Problems particular to the site.	High	Medium term	Staff time Existing budgets	Green Spaces Team Localities Officer		

Suggestion	Priority	Timescale	Finances	Key Officer(s)	Partner(s)	Additional Information
Develop the potential for an outdoor classroom.	Low	Long term	Existing budgets Capital Funding External Funding	Green Spaces Team	Local schools	
Continue to provide and develop practical volunteering opportunities.	High	Ongoing	Staff time Existing budgets	Green Spaces Team	Friends of Ball Grove Other volunteers	
Continue to support and improve connections with site stakeholders.	High	Ongoing	Staff time Existing budgets	Green Spaces Team	Stakeholders	

Suggestion	Priority	Timescale	Finances	Key Officer(s)	Partner(s)	Additional Information
Continue to support and improve connections with the LNR Steering Group.	High	Ongoing	Staff time Existing budgets	Green Spaces Team	LNR Steering Group	
Update existing interpretation board artwork.	High	Medium term	Staff time Existing budgets Capital Funding External Funding	Green Spaces Team		
Develop a marketing plan for the site.	Low	Long term	Staff time	Green Spaces Team Principal Communications Officer		
Work to secure funding for projects outlined in the management plan.	High	Ongoing	Staff time	Green Spaces Team		
Ensure that the nature reserve is adequately resourced in the terms of finance, staff and volunteers to facilitate the development of this management plan.	High	Ongoing	Staff time Volunteer time Existing budgets External budgets	Green Spaces Team	Stakeholders	
Ensure that all management objectives for the site take into account species that are listed as vulnerable.	High	Ongoing	Staff time	Green Spaces Team		

Suggestion	Priority	Timescale	Finances	Key Officer(s)	Partner(s)	Additional Information
Ensure that the priority habitats are managed in accordance to best practice and available guidance.	High	Ongoing	Staff time	Green Spaces Team		
Protect areas of species rich grassland and manage in a way that is sensitive to their importance as an ecological resource.	High	Ongoing	Staff time	Green Spaces Team		
Develop the semi-improved grasslands to bring them up to the same ecological value as species-rich grasslands.	High	Medium term	Staff time Existing budgets External budgets	Green Spaces Team		

Vegetation Management Plan

Woodland Management Site specific Plan

Location	Year of works	Tasks	Priority	Purpose	Notes
Main woodland following public footpath	2022/2023	- To clear back vegetation and low branches from public footpath - To clear waste accumulated from den building - To remove / rectify any trip hazards - To remove redundant infrastructure	High High High Low	- For public safety - Public and wildlife safety, aesthetic values - Public safety - To reduce trip hazards and improve aesthetics	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse
	2023/2024	- To maintain clear pathway and low branches - To survey tree stock within woodland - To organise initial tree thinning with volunteers or contractors, special focus on non-native species - To consider woodland path improvements of barking the path with locally won woodchip	High Medium Low Low	- For public safety - To identify native/non-native tree stock, identify specific areas of over stocked plantation, and identify worksites for volunteer or contractor thinning. - To encourage tree health - To improve access conditions	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse Plan to use contractor on site that can generate woodchip

Location	Year of works	Tasks	Priority	Purpose	Notes
	2024/2025	- To maintain clear pathway and low branches - To organise consultant to carry out a negative recording arboriculture survey as part of a 3-year cyclical round - To implement recommendations of tree survey - To continue with volunteer/contractor thinning programme - To coppice traditional species such as hazel and willow - To consider and hopefully continue woodland path improvements of barking the path with locally won woodchip - To investigate woodland specific interpretation boards	High High High Low Low Low Low	- For public safety - To maintain an accurate record of potentially dangerous trees - To follow professional advice and reduce risk - To encourage tree health - To improve access conditions - To provide educational information to enhance public's perception of the site	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse Coppice areas in small blocks to provide a 15-year cycle Plan to use contractor on site that can generate woodchip Funding to be sought
	2025/2026	- To maintain clear pathway and low branches - To continue with volunteer/contractor thinning and coppice programme - To consider introducing new planting schemes to create woodland understory using native species of shrubs and trees	High Low Low	- For public safety - To encourage tree health - To increase biodiversity and habitat mosaic	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse Coppice areas in small blocks to provide a 15-year cycle

Location	Year of works	Tasks	Priority	Purpose	Notes
	2026/2027	- To maintain clear pathway and low branches - To continue with volunteer/contractor thinning and coppice programme - To consider the installation of a woodland seating area	High Low Low	- For Public safety - To encourage tree health - To increase public enjoyment of the site and improve aesthetics	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse Coppice areas in small blocks to provide a 15-year cycle

Location	Year of works	Tasks	Priority	Purpose	Notes
Various small plantations	2022/2023	- To clear back vegetation and low branches protruding towards footpaths or desire lines - To remove redundant infrastructure of stock fencing	High High	- For public safety - Public and wildlife safety, aesthetic values - Public safety - To reduce trip hazards and improve aesthetics	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse
	2023/2024	- To maintain clear pathway and low branches - To survey tree stock within woodland - To organise initial tree thinning with volunteers or contractors, special focus on non-native species - To consider woodland path improvements of barking the path with locally won woodchip	High Medium Low Low	- For public safety - To identify native/non-native tree stock, identify specific areas of over stocked plantation, and identify worksites for volunteer or contractor thinning. - To encourage tree health - To improve access conditions	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse Plan to use contractor on site that can generate woodchip
	2024/2025	- To maintain clear pathway and low branches - To organise consultant to carry out a negative recording arboriculture survey as part of 3-year cyclical round - To implement recommendations of tree survey	High	- For public safety	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse

Location	Year of works	• Tasks	Priority	- Purpose	Notes
	2025/2026	- To maintain clear pathway and low branches - To continue with volunteer/contractor thinning programme - To consider introducing new planting schemes to create woodland understory using native species of shrubs and trees	High Low Low	- For public safety - To encourage tree health - To increase biodiversity and habitat mosaic	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse
	2026/2027	- To maintain clear pathway and low branches - To continue with volunteer/contractor thinning programme - To consider the installation of a woodland seating area	High Low Low	- For Public safety - To encourage tree health - To increase public enjoyment of the site and improve aesthetics	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse

Hedgerows management plan

Location	Year of works	Tasks	Priority	Purpose	Notes
Various	2022/2023	To clear back vegetation and low branches protruding towards footpaths or desire lines	High	- For public safety - Public and wildlife safety, aesthetic values - Public safety - To reduce trip hazards and improve aesthetics	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse
	2023/2024	- To reduce protruding branches - To survey tree stock within hedge lines	High Low	- For public safety - To identify native/non-native tree stock, identify specific areas of over stocked plantation, and identify worksites for volunteer or contractor thinning. - To encourage tree health	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse
	2024/2025	To maintain protruding branches	High	- For public safety	Branches and arisings to be neatly stacked into habitat piles or used as dead hedging where possible, otherwise to be removed from the woodland and chipped for reuse

Location	Year of works	Tasks	Priority	Purpose	Notes
	2025/2026	- To maintain protruding branches - To consider traditional laying of some areas of hedge line - To plant up any gaps within the hedge line using native British whips	High Low Low	- For public safety - To encourage tree health - To increase biodiversity and habitat mosaic	Whip species chosen to be in keeping with existing on site and encourage a good mix of UK varieties
	2026/2027	- To maintain protruding branches - To consider traditional laying of some areas of hedge line - To plant up any gaps within the hedge line using native British whips	High Low Low	- For public safety - To encourage tree health - To increase biodiversity and habitat mosaic	Whip species chosen to be in keeping with existing on site and encourage a good mix of UK varieties

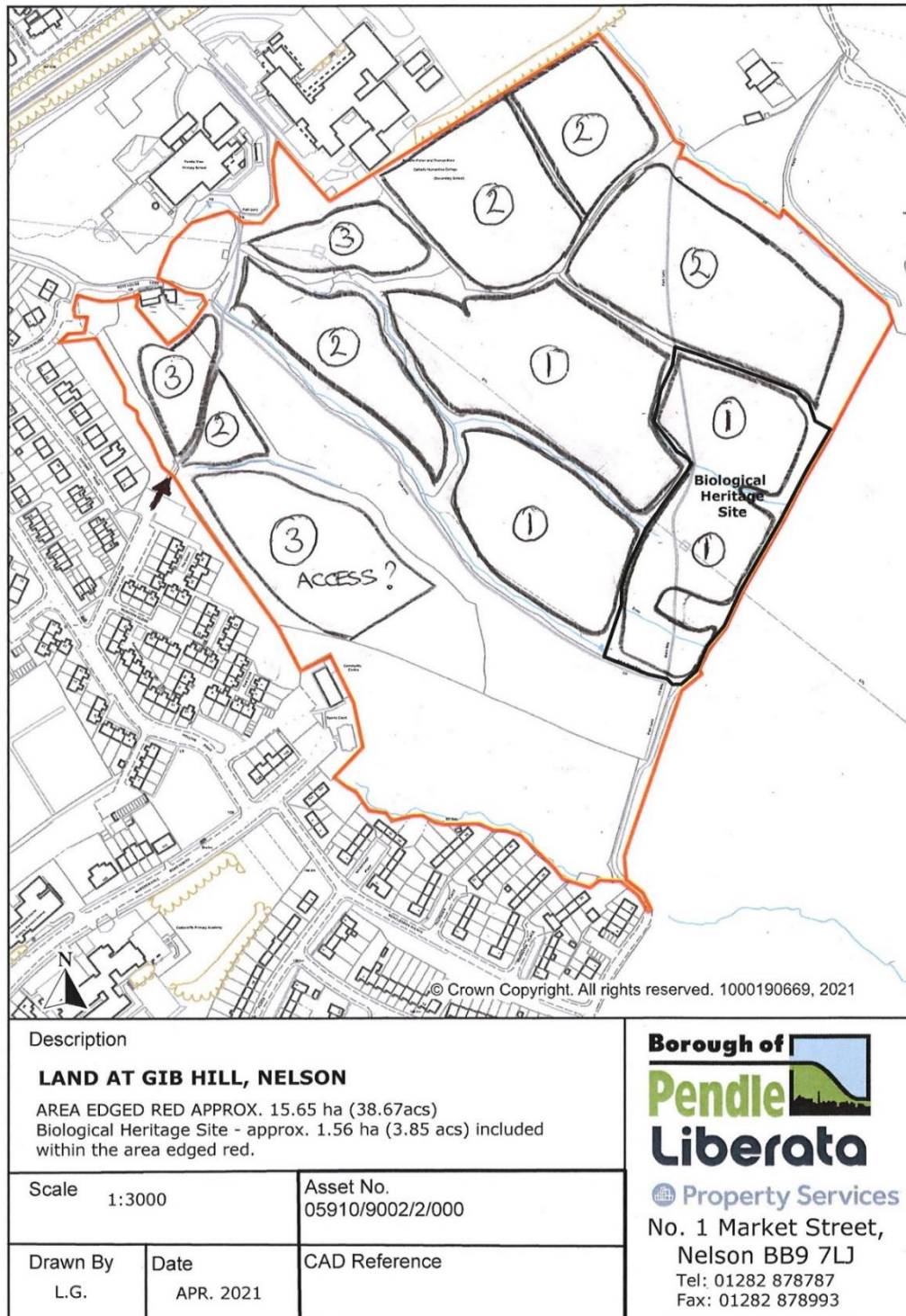
Biological heritage site management plan

Location	Year of works	Tasks	Priority	Purpose	Notes
	2022/2023	- To flail mow existing BHS leaving minimum height of 150mm in spring - To flail mow in autumn following settling of seed heads	High High	- To reduce amount of rank vegetation and encourage fresh growth	Ideally rake off arisings if resources are available – either mechanically or the use of volunteers
	2023/2024	- To cut and collect in late summer (August) - To cut again and remove arisings in late autumn (October-December) - To add additional locally won seed stock - To clear ditch line immediately round the pedestrian footbridge, arisings to be landscaped locally within rank ground.	High Low	- To reduce amount of rank vegetation and encourage fresh growth - To maintain flow of surface water and protect bridge structure.	Consider chain harrow prior to seed introduction Volunteers to collect seeds from local sites if possible
	2024/2025	- To cut and collect in late summer (August) - To cut again and remove arisings in late autumn (October-December)	High	- To reduce amount of rank vegetation and encourage fresh growth	With condition of grass improving, aim to find a local farmer that may cut and bale annually for zero or minimal charge If mechanical removal of undesirable plants not feasible use minimal targeted herbicide

Location	Year of works	• Tasks	Priority	- Purpose	Notes
		- Consider spot treatment of dock / creeping thistle - Consider commencing works within watercourses to create wetland scrapes and introduce locally native wetland wildflowers		To reduce dominance of undesirable species and improve quality of potential hay	
	2025/2026	- To cut and collect in autumn – post September - To add additional locally won seed stock - Consider spot treatment of dock / creeping thistle	High Low Low	- To reduce amount of rank vegetation and encourage fresh growth - To allow maximum seed setting - To reduce dominance of undesirable species and improve quality of potential hay	Consider chain harrow prior to seed introduction If mechanical removal of undesirable plants not feasible use minimal targeted herbicide
	2026/2027	- To cut and collect in late summer (August) - To cut again and remove arisings in late autumn (October-December) - To clear ditch line immediately round the pedestrian footbridge, arisings to be landscaped locally within rank ground	High Low Low	- To reduce amount of rank vegetation and encourage fresh growth - To maintain flow of surface water and protect bridge structure	

Grassland management plan (excluding BHS Site)

The current state of the site is in danger of losing integrity and the species contained within unless a formal management system is put into place. The table below highlights recommended works.



Meadow field's management plan

Location	Year of works	Tasks	Priority	Purpose	Notes
	2022/2023	- To flail mow areas 2C / 2D / 1B leaving minimum height of 150mm in winter if possible or early spring - To flail mow areas 2C / 2D / 1B in autumn following settling of seed heads	High High	- To reduce amount of rank vegetation and encourage fresh growth	Funding to be sought Ideally rake off arisings if resources are available – either mechanically or the use of volunteers. Any areas not accessible for machinery to be left as rough grassland
	2023/2024	- To flail mow areas 2A/1A leaving minimum height of 150mm in winter if possible or early spring - To flail mow areas 2A/1A /2C / 2D / 1B in autumn following settling of seed heads - To cut back areas of dense bramble with flail mow or side arm flail by 30%	High	- To reduce amount of rank vegetation and encourage fresh growth - To prevent total colonisation and excessive spread of dense bramble	Funding to be sought Ideally rake off arisings if resources are available – either mechanically or the use of volunteers. Any areas not accessible for machinery to be left as rough grassland

Location	Year of works	Tasks	Priority	Purpose	Notes
	2024/2025	- To cut and collect in late autumn (October /December) 2C / 2D / 1B/2A/1A - Consider spot treatment of dock / creeping thistle	High	- To reduce amount of rank vegetation and encourage fresh growth - To reduce dominance of undesirable species and improve quality of potential hay	- With condition of grass improving aim to find a local farmer that may cut and bale annually for zero or minimal charge - If mechanical removal of undesirable plants not feasible use minimal targeted herbicide
	2025/2026	- To flail mow areas 2B/3C/3A leaving minimum height of 150mm in winter if possible or early spring - To cut and collect in late autumn (October /December) 2C / 2D / 1B/2A/1A - Consider spot treatment of dock / creeping thistle - To cut back areas of dense bramble with flail mow or side arm flail by 30% - Consider commencing works within watercourses to create wetland scrapes and introduce locally native wetland wildflowers - Consider excavating a pond within the site, most likely within 2C / 2D	High Low Low High Low Low	- To reduce amount of rank vegetation and encourage fresh growth - To allow maximum seed setting - To reduce dominance of undesirable species and improve quality of potential hay - To prevent total colonisation and excessive spread of dense bramble - To increase biodiversity and habitat range	Consider chain harrow prior to seed introduction If mechanical removal of undesirable plants not feasible use minimal targeted herbicide Funding to be sought, public safety to be taken into consideration due to proximity of schools

Location	Year of works	Tasks	Priority	Purpose	Notes
	2026/2027	- To cut and collect in late summer (August) - To cut again and remove arisings in late autumn (October-December)	High Low	- To reduce amount of rank vegetation and encourage fresh growth	

6.0 How Will We Know When We Get There?

6.1 Monitoring & Review Plan

The Green Spaces Manager will ultimately be responsible for monitoring the progress of the Management Plan and its subsequent action plan. Monitoring performance of the annual management and maintenance programmes will be undertaken in-house by relevant Officers. Officers will track progress and check that all components of the Nature Reserve are being managed and maintained as intended. This will subsequently feed in to the annual Service Planning process.

Progress will be reviewed at internal working group meetings. These meetings are aimed at promoting continued involvement and ownership from key users and to ensure the proposed actions are being delivered in line with the timescales outlined in the action plan.

The desired cycle is to PLAN – OPERATE – MONITOR – REVIEW – PLAN.

From January this document, specifically its action plan, will be reviewed. During the period of January to April, a process of review will ensue which will include the gathering of information from various sources. Information will be derived from:

- Desk and Field Assessments
- Local community feedback
- Council Officers (Departmental Management Team Meeting feedback)

The information gathered will be collated to produce an annual report that will allow us to analyse the work we have carried out over the last twelve months and what we need to focus on in the forthcoming year.

The results of this exercise and the review of the action plan will then determine the points of action for the following year taking in to account staff levels, budgetary constraints and other commitments.

6.2 Measuring Performance & Quality

To measure performance and provide the public with evidence that the quality of the nature reserve is developing and improving on a continual basis, the management plan suggestion will be reviewed annually as an overview, and in four years' time as a more in-depth review in preparation for the next 5-year plan being drawn up.

DRAFT