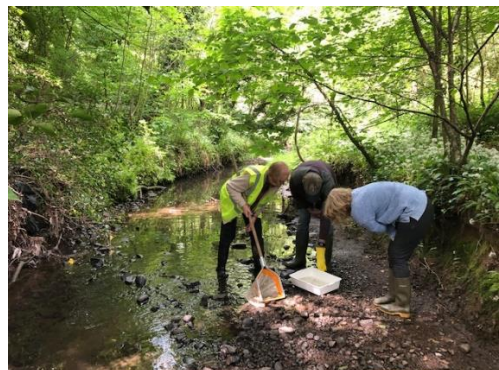




KINGS NORTON LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024 - 2028



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Photographs by Brian Hewitt, Val Saunders, Keith Reilly and Brian Wells

1. Friends of Kings Norton LNR Vision Statement

The Friends seek to develop Kings Norton Local Nature Reserve, in partnership with Birmingham City Council, as a tranquil haven that supports a broad range of wildlife and is welcoming, clean and safe for people to visit.



We aim through best practice to:

- Provide a safe, welcoming and inspiring environment for all to enjoy, irrespective of age, ability, gender, belief or ethnicity.
- Provide an open space that is maintained to a high standard, enhancing, promoting and conserving the biodiversity, landscape and heritage of Kings Norton LNR through sensitive, sustainable and appropriate management.
- Enhance visitors' awareness and appreciation of the natural environment through education, life long learning and volunteering opportunities.
- Promote a sense of ownership within the local community and among visitors
- Seek, in collaboration with partner organisations, to enhance and enrich the wildlife corridor along the River Rea.

The Friends, in partnership with Birmingham City Council, will achieve this by:

- Providing a safe and stimulating environment.
- Using sound environmental principles in our management of the Reserve's biodiversity, landscape and heritage.
- Working in partnership with members of the Friends group, the local community, other environmental groups and stakeholders, keeping them informed of activity on site and consulting them on plans for future development.
- Producing regular newsletters for Friends, increasing promotional material and ensuring it is widely available.
- Increasing the use of the site by local schools and other groups.
- Holding regular events such as Open Days and Bat Walks on site.
- Providing a welcoming and supportive environment for volunteers.
- Showing a commitment to equality of opportunity.
- Seeking appropriate funding to enable the feasibility of future development of the site to be fully investigated.

2. Policy Statements and Related Documents

- Occupiers Liability Act 1957 – This act imposes a legal obligation upon the City Council to ensure that every reasonable care is taken to remove any risks to both legitimate visitors and to any trespassers on the site. It is necessary therefore to make sure that all footpaths, boardwalks and any other constructions are safe; to remove any hazardous objects; and to conduct a safety audit to identify further hazards.
- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 – All operations carried out on site must only be undertaken by trained personnel, using methods and equipment approved by the Health and Safety Executive and also in compliance with City Council policies and procedures.
- Wildlife & Countryside Act – This act imposes a legal duty upon the City Council to protect the specially protected landscapes, habitats, plants and animals identified by the European Union Habitats Directive and in the various species schedules of this Act.
- Disability Discrimination Act 2005 – This act imposes a legal duty upon the City Council and other organisations not to actively or passively discriminate against those people with special needs. Their needs and requirements will be considered and acted on appropriately.
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Tree Preservation Orders
- City Council bye-laws
- Biodiversity Action Plans



3. Location

Kings Norton Local Nature Reserve (KNLNR) is situated within the city of Birmingham and lies 5 miles to the south of the city centre within the constituency of Northfield. The LNR currently comprises four sites covering 27.11 hectares:

- Merecroft Pool - situated within the triangle of land formed by Beaks Hill Road, Meadow Hill Road, Westhill Road and Wychall Lane.
- Wychall Meadows - bounds the River Rea running in parallel with Wychall Lane between Burmans Drive and Westhill Road. Formerly known as The Recreation Ground
- Wychall Reservoir – situated within a square of land formed by the Railway line to the north, Wychall Lane to the south, Catesby Business Park to the east and Popes Lane to the west.
- Peafields - situated to the west of Popes Lane within the land bordered by the railway line, Popes Lane and Wychall Road.

Site	Ordnance Survey Grid Reference Land Ranger 2004, Sheet 139.
Merecroft Pool	044 788
Wychall Meadows	042 792
Wychall Reservoir	038 793
Peafields	034 792

The extent of the LNR and the location of the 4 sites can be seen on the Kings Norton LNR Boundary Maps (appendix 1), together with a map of the LNR in 2013.

The Site Boundary Maps (appendix 2) show the 4 sites individually along with details of the surrounding roads and adjacent land.



4. 2019 – 2023 Review

Restrictions imposed by the English government between March 2020 and February 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic severely reduced site activities. Site activities still took place where they could be carried out whilst observing the lockdown and social distancing restrictions in force at any particular time.

4.1 Actions not Achieved

MW06 Waterways Meadow - Thin sycamore by stream.

MW09 Wychall Meadow West - Sycamore thinning to river bank. Extend meadow to river bank.

MW11 Dam Meadow - Lay hedge along cycle path fence to dam

WD02 Stepping Wood - Selectively coppice hazel on south side. Balsam removal.

Willow & Sycamore thinning particularly around out flow. Thin isolated laurel to east end of Sustrans Cycle path.

LN01 - Study of KNLNR hedgerows

LN02 - Monitor morphology of River Rea.

BD01 - Training of volunteers and a survey programme. Reptile & amphibian survey carried out.

MS02 - A working group should be set up to work along side city officers to devise a policy pack for volunteers.

4.2 Actions Achieved

The action points in the maintenance programme were largely carried out despite the restrictions imposed due to Covid -19 lockdowns.

A survey of the membership of the Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve was conducted in 2022. The purpose had been to establish the demographic of users and other relevant aspects of their use, with a view to identifying how to encourage greater use by younger people. There had been 76 responses which was considered a fairly good return. The data confirmed a number of assumptions (such as 68% of users were over 60 years old) and the reasons for them using and valuing the Reserve. It also provided indicators as to ways to encourage greater community involvement. In response a trial of a monthly Saturday Working Group was commenced during 2023 in order to encourage members who were not available on Tuesdays to take part in the maintenance of the reserve.

Plugs and seeds planted to Beaks Hill Triangle, MW01; Peafields, MW14 and Old Orchard, MW02

Tree whips planted along edge of Sheila's Meadow, MW04, at back of houses and throughout Stepping Wood, WD02.

Installation of 2 metal benches in Reservoir Wood, WD03, along cycle path with views over Wychall Reservoir.

Bridges constructed at Beaks Hill Triangle, MW01; Waterways Meadow, MW06; Merecroft Dam, WD01 to Sheila's Meadow, MW04; Stepping Wood, WD02, over stream to woodland walk and Waterways Meadow, MW06, to Pinehurst Meadow, MW06.

Stone chips and gravel laid on paths in Waterways Meadow, MW06, Sheila's Meadow, MW04, & Beak's Hill Triangle, MW01.

Stream overflow channel dug on Beaks Hill Triangle, MW01, to water course from Meadowhill Road leading to Merecroft Pool to prevent erosion of path leading South East from the bridge to Beaks Hill Road.

New website for greater clarity and ease of editing.

Online membership, accessed through new website, to ease collection of subscriptions by cards and manage gift aid and donations.

Memorial bench for David Hampson sited on Beaks Hill Triangle, MW01, path overlooking Merecroft Pool, AQ01.

Local litter pickers, who regularly collect litter from around the reserve in addition to the Work Groups.

Map Reserve Watercourses (in progress).

Reptile study carried out.



5 Objectives

5.1 Adopted Objectives

The following table contains the 9 objectives that were identified within the previous management plan and have been adopted again as key targets for the next 4 years:

Objective 1	To maintain and appropriately enhance the biodiversity of the water bodies
Objective 2	To maintain and appropriately enhance the biodiversity of the meadows
Objective 3	To maintain and appropriately enhance the biodiversity of the woodland
Objective 4	To maintain and appropriately enhance the biodiversity of the freshwater courses
Objective 5	To promote KNLNR as a resource for local educational establishments
Objective 6	To ensure site safety of all site users in accordance with appropriate legislation
Objective 7	To safeguard the site and protect from illegal activities
Objective 8	To maintain and enhance public amenity and appreciation
Objective 9	To improve the existing knowledge of site biodiversity

5.2 Desirable Status

The following table outlines the desirable status or preferred conditions for each of the 9 adopted objectives.

Objective 1	Pollution free with healthy populations of breeding fish, birds and freshwater invertebrates. Non-natives kept to a minimum
Objective 2	Nutrient poor meadows allowing non-aggressive species to compete against the more aggressive species such as nettle, bramble and dock.
Objective 3	Rich in appropriate native species with a layered woodland structure. Field layer containing bluebell, lesser celandine, wood sorrel, wood avens and wood anemone. Shrub layer containing bramble, hawthorn, hazel, holly, birch, bird cherry, elder and other young trees or coppice stools. Canopy layer containing mature trees of oak, ash, alder, beech, willow, poplar, and rowan
Objective 4	Dependant on the requirements made for flood defence. Some compromises can be made so that the water courses can flow more naturally
Objective 5	Regular educational activities carried out on site
Objective 6	Regular monitoring and maintenance where required
Objective 7	Regular monitoring
Objective 8	Regular maintenance of access and facilities
Objective 9	Up to date records of habitats, species and activities on and around the site.

5.3 Research and Updating

Currently research and recording of observations is being undertaken in the following areas;

Botanical Species List Update

Map Reserve Watercourses

Bat walks

Dawn Chorus walks

Fresh water invertebrates

Natural Rivers and Green Corridors Project to improve woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and watercourses along the River Rea and its tributaries in south-west Birmingham and the River Tame in west Birmingham. The four-year project is a partnership between the Environment Agency and Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust, Birmingham City Council are key Stakeholders. The project aims to re-naturalise the flow of the river as much as possible whilst also considering the implementation natural flood management processes where possible.



6. Evaluation

6.1 Methodology

Section 5.1 forms the basis of the evaluation of the LNR. The objectives allow the site to be broken down into a series of features (6.2) which in turn, following an evaluation process, allow for a programme of works to be devised.

6.2 KNLNR Features List

Feature	Code
Compartments	
Merecroft Pool	AQ01
Wychall Reservoir	AQ02
Beaks Hill Triangle	MW01
Old Orchard	MW02
Grazing Field	MW03
Sheila's Meadow	MW04
Pinehurst Meadow	MW05
Waterways Meadow	MW06
Daffodil Meadow	MW07
Wychall Meadow East	MW08
Wychall Meadow West	MW09
Downcroft	MW10
Dam Meadow	MW11
Nettlefield	MW12
Burnet Meadow	MW13
Peafields	MW14
Phil's Wetland	WL01
Two Ponds	WL02
Popes Thicket	WL03
Wet Willow	WL04
Merecroft Wood	WD01
Stepping Wood	WD02
Reservoir Wood	WD03
Allotment Wood	WD04
West Croft Sticks	WD05
JP's Wood	WD06
Linear Features	
Hedgerows	LN01
Watercourses	LN02
Biological Data	
Species Lists	BD01
Education	
Formal Education	ED01
Informal Education	ED02

Access	
Entrance Points	AC01
Formal Footpaths	AC02
Desire Lines	AC03
Promotion	
Open Day	PR01
Published Events	PR02
Newsletter	PR03
Notice Boards	PR04
Walks	PR05
Community Stalls	PR06
Miscellaneous	
Graffiti & Vandalism	MS01
Policy & Procedure	MS02
Friends Membership	MS03



6.3 Evaluation of Site Features

Feature	Current Status	Issues	Action Point
AQ01	1.25 hectares – Merecroft Pool. Open water, silted, little fringing/emergent vegetation, decaying organic material around edges. Existence of swan mussel (<i>Anodonta cygnea</i>) suggest good water quality. Pipistrelle, Noctule and Daubenton's bats have been recorded.	Grey water at outlet. Possible pollution events via stream. Wood build up at dam.	Monitor & report pollution events as necessary. Clear wood debris & detritus from dam & outlet area.
AQ02	0.86 hectares – Wychall Reservoir. Very little open water - Heavily silted Little fringing/ emergent vegetation - Water quality poor - Currently maintained as a flood alleviation structure.	Heavily littered within and around water body due to accessibility. Sedimentation.	Maintain view points. Restore leaky dams in WL03. Allow willow to mature for hurdles. Installation of barriers to raise water level. Removal of dead ash.
MW01	0.77 hectares – Beaks Hill Triangle. Neutral grassland - Species rich - cocksfoot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), common bent (<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>), meadow foxtail (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>), Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), yellow rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>) - North eastern corner wet with standing water with creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>) and great willow herb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>).	Anthropogenic disturbance.	Conservation cut by council. Maintain culvert & path. Maintain overflow in bank. Maintain bench and view of pool.
MW02	0.41 hectares – Old Orchard. Neutral grassland. Dominated by coarse grasses with creeping buttercup, broadleaved dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>) and lesser celandine (<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>). Various fruit trees. A stand of laurel with hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) and ivy (<i>Hedera spp.</i>) runs along the eastern boundary.	Bramble (<i>Rubus spp.</i>) encroachment along northern boundary. Laurel encroachment along eastern boundary.	Bramble removal from meadow. Conservation cut in August. Control laurel regrowth.

MW03	2.38 hectares – Grazing Field. Pasture land - Species found include creeping buttercup, daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>), ribwort plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), lady's mantle (<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>), devil's bit scabious, snowdrops and ox-eye daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>). Holly planted to fence.	-	-
MW04	0.56 hectares – Sheila's Meadow. Flushed grassland. Marshland communities including creeping buttercup, marsh thistle (<i>Cirsium palustre</i>), ragged robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>), brooklime (<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>), lesser celandine, snake's head fritillary, meadow sweet, gypsy wort, flag irises, marsh marigold and cowslip.	Bramble encroachment along east and west boundaries.	Bramble removal from E boundary. Clear stream & pools late winter. Maintain footpaths. Conservation cut late autumn.
MW05	0.60 hectares – Pinehurst Meadow. Neutral grassland - A small seasonal pond exists towards the centre of the compartment. Species found include cocksfoot, common bent, meadow foxtail, soft rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>), creeping buttercup, lady's mantle, lesser celandine, foxgloves, willow herb and primroses.	Scrub encroachment along western boundary. Circular path getting over grown. Knotweed in south east corner. See AC03.	Autumn conservation cut. Clear knotweed. Reinforce dead hedge to houses. Clear ponds. Leave wooded areas. Clear diseased & dead material under trees. Thin sycamore to SE boundary. Keep circular path clear. Reinstate bird feeding station.

MW06	0.80 hectares – Waterways Meadow. Neutral grassland species found include cocksfoot, common bent, meadow foxtail, Great Burnet (<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) and soft rush - Pockets of scrub occur within the meadow with hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) and dog rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>) - A dense stand of scrub occurs along the eastern boundary with red campion (<i>Silene dioica</i>). Red bartsia is present at the Meadow Hill Road entrance.	Scrub encroachment along eastern boundary.	Conservation cut & bramble control, in spring & Sept/Oct. Stream clearance. Balsam removal. Thin sycamore by stream. Footpath clearance under trees
MW07	0.59 hectares – Daffodil Meadow. Species found include cocksfoot, common bent, meadow foxtail, greater plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>), ribwort plantain, hogweed (<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>) and ramsons. Planting of non- native daffodils has taken place around cut desire lines. Raspberries in south east corner.	Wind blown/dropped litter.	Conservation cut. Remove laurel
MW08	0.48 hectares – Wychall Meadow East. Species found include cocksfoot, common bent, meadow foxtail, greater plantain, ribwort plantain - The northern fringe includes species such as nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), dogwood and bramble.		Conservation cut. Clear entrance. Bramble control to northern boundary.
MW09	0.76 hectares – Wychall Meadow West. Species found include cocksfoot, common bent, meadow foxtail, greater plantain, ribwort plantain - A small patch of comfrey (<i>Symphytum officinale</i>) is located at the western corner along the boundary with the industrial estate. The northern fringe has 2 derelict single storey buildings and includes species such as dogwood, nettle, bramble, campion, and ladies smock.		Sycamore thinning to river bank. Extend meadow to river. Bramble control to northern boundary. Conservation cut. Clear litter from industrial estate & derelict buildings.

MW10	0.24 hectares – Downcroft. Short mown amenity grassland - Species found include common bent, meadow foxtail, yorkshire fog.	-	Amenity cut by BCC.
MW11	1.43 hectares – Dam Meadow. Neutral grassland - Species found include cocksfoot, yorkshire fog, timothy (<i>Phleum pratense</i>), red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) - Legume rich compartment including red clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>), white clover (<i>T. repens</i>), lesser trefoil (<i>T. dubium</i>), common vetch (<i>Vicia sativa</i>).	-	Cut by EA. Lay hedge along cycle path fence to dam.
MW12	1.55 hectares – Nettlefield. 3 scrapes, Hazel & Japanese Knotweed. Himalayan Balsam. Large stand of nettle with a varied under-storey of bryophytes. Some willow herbs. Teazel and blackcurrant to western edge.	Japanese knotweed, and Himalayan balsam. Hazel encroachment.	Japanese knotweed removal. Hazel coppicing. Himalayan balsam removal. Reduce reeds from scrapes.
MW13	0.32 hectares. Burnet Meadow. Neutral grassland. Species include cocksfoot, meadow foxtail, rough meadow grass (<i>Poa trivialis</i>), smooth meadow grass (<i>P. pratensis</i>), great burnet (<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) and hogweed (<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>).	-	Scything after flowering. Himalayan balsam removal.
MW14	1.89 hectares. Peafields. Neutral grassland, drainage ditches to west - Species include cowslips, cocksfoot, meadow foxtail, rough meadow grass (<i>Poa trivialis</i>), smooth meadow grass (<i>P. pratensis</i>), Yorkshire fog & field pea. Legume rich compartment species found include hop trefoil (<i>Trifolium campestre</i>) and Birdsfoot Trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>). Yellow rattle has been sown. Meadow supports a population of long - winged coneheads (<i>Conocephalus discolor</i>) and Roesel's bush cricket (<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>). Across the meadow are a number of ornamental trees, birches (<i>Betula spp.</i>) and willows (<i>Salix spp.</i>).	Bramble encroachment throughout meadow. Nettle encroachment to north. Anthropogenic disturbance.	Conservation Strip Cut. Sow more yellow rattle, collect and spread seed from existing plants. Scythe nettle area. Bramble control to boundaries with JP's Wood & Allotment Wood.

WL01	3.36 hectares – Phil’s Wetland. Eastern edge untouched. Secondary willow carr - Species found include goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>), crack willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>), osier (<i>Salix viminalis</i>) and lesser reedmace (<i>Typha augustifolia</i>) - also found are alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>), hawthorn and blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) - Large amounts of dead wood exist within this compartment - pools found within the compartment should support populations of amphibians and fish.	Himalayan balsam encroachment. Japanese Knotweed to north boundary. Hazel encroachment to north wall.	Himalayan balsam removal. Pool clearance. Maintenance of paths in wetland. Japanese Knotweed removal. Coppicing hazel to north wall. Thinning willow around pools. Winter maintenance.
WL02	0.17 hectares – Two Ponds. Secondary willow carr - Species found include crack willow, goat willow, common nettle, creeping buttercup, and cow parsley - Compartment contains two ponds connected by an ephemeral ditch - eastern pond dominated by lesser reed mace – western pond dominated by common reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>).	Secondary succession around ponds.	Control of emergent vegetation and surrounding willows. Establish discrete crossing from cycle path.
WL03	0.95 hectares – Popes Thicket. Secondary willow carr - Dominated by crack willow - Some goat willow - Ground flora dominated by common nettle, hogweed, great willow herb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>), garlic mustard (<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>) and Ramsons (<i>Allium ursinum</i>).	Himalayan balsam encroachment. Japanese Knotweed at western end. Litter along Pope’s Lane boundary.	Himalayan balsam removal. Japanese knotweed removal. Develop access to north area and maintain path along Pope’s Lane fence for litter removal.
WL04	1.37 hectares – Wet Willow. 2 scrapes dug. Secondary willow carr - Species found include goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>), crack willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>) and osier (<i>Salix viminalis</i>) - pools found within the compartment support populations of amphibians.	Himalayan balsam and willow encroachment. Reed encroachment to scrape by road.	Himalayan balsam removal. Willow thinning. Reed reduction in scrape by road. Path and pond clearance

WD01	0.52 hectares – Merecroft Wood. Mixed woodland - Dominated by horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>), common lime (<i>Tilia x vulgaris</i>), Corsican pine (<i>Pinus nigra spp.</i>), hawthorn and sycamore - Some crack willow - Ground flora includes bluebells (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), lesser celandine, dog violet (<i>Viola riviniana</i>) and honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>) - Bramble and nettle present.	Bramble encroachment throughout. Anthropogenic disturbance.	Removal of laurel & sycamore at waters edge. Control bramble, particularly by side of pool. Install bench on dam.
WD02	2.48 hectares – Stepping Wood. Mixed Woodland - Dominated by sycamore, crack willow with alder and hawthorn - Ground flora includes bluebell, hogweed, cow parsley, wood anemone (<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>), garlic mustard - Ramsons dominate the riparian zone - Considerable clearance work has occurred with dead hedging and hazel planting - laurel forms a low open hedge along the boundary with the Sustrans Cycle Path. Native trees planted north of river.	Himalayan balsam & willow encroachment along riparian zone. River debris. Anthropogenic disturbance.	Removal of non-native species. Selectively coppice hazel on south side. Balsam removal. Willow & Sycamore thinning particularly around out flow. Thin isolated laurel to east end of Sustrans Cycle path. Trim hedge to Burmans Drive. Clear river debris.
WD03	0.91 hectares – Reservoir Wood. Semi natural woodland - Species found include hazel, elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>), pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), sycamore, blackthorn and hawthorn - Tight canopy - Some open canopy with ground cover including bramble, nettle, great bindweed (<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>), flag iris, creeping buttercup, red dead nettle (<i>Lamium purpureum</i>), male fern (<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>), wall barley (<i>Hordeum murinum</i>) and Yorkshire fog.	Himalayan balsam encroachment along riparian zone.	Himalayan balsam removal. Thinning willow. Maintain benches & view points. Tidy brash piles. Cut down branches. Discrete crossing to WL02

WD04	2.66 hectares – Allotment Wood. Remains of Pope’s Nursery to north area. Various drainage channels. Mixed woodland - Hawthorn and blackthorn - pedunculate oak with downy birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>), hazel, hawthorn, crack willow and sycamore - Ground flora includes ramsons, creeping buttercup, wood sorrel (<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>), male fern, hogweed and ground elder (<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>) - Himalayan balsam established in remains of old pool in the eastern corner.	Himalayan balsam encroachment.	Himalayan balsam removal. Drainage channel clearance. Willow removal. Maintain bridge. Maintain track from road for vehicular access. Bramble control to Peafields (MW14) boundary
WD05	0.24 hectares – West Croft Sticks. Scrub - narrow band of hawthorn, alder and sycamore - Ground flora includes hogweed, creeping buttercup, nettle, bramble and coarse grass - Japanese knotweed.	Japanese knotweed encroachment.	Japanese knotweed removal. Litter.
WD06	0.28 hectares – JP’s Wood Mixed woodland - Hawthorn and blackthorn - pedunculate oak with downy birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>), hazel, hawthorn, crack willow and sycamore - Ground flora includes ramsons, creeping buttercup, wood sorrel (<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>), male fern, hogweed and ground elder (<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>). Drainage channels dug.	-	Maintain drainage channels. Bramble control to Peafields (MW14) boundary
LN01	The LNR has a number of hedgerows growing around the site. In their current state they provide suitable habitat for a variety of resident birds and other wildlife.	-	Hedgerows are maintained as part of scheduled site maintenance.

LN02	<p>Samples taken by the Environment Agency since 1990 show that the chemical quality of the River Rea has been improving and in 2007 a grade C was recorded - The biological quality of the water however is poor - In 2007 a grade E was recorded - The likely cause of this is the nature of the catchment within the local setting combined with an almost total loss of natural river features - The channelized nature of the River Rea through the site has meant a reduction in exposed bank habitat which would provide suitable habitat for both kingfishers (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) and water vole (<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>) - All of the water courses within the LNR are effected by occasional pollution events with Merecroft suffering from frequent grey water events via a drain which enters the pool at its most southerly point.</p>	-	<p>Pollution events reported to the appropriate authority. Balance on site between flood prevention and nature conservation to be sought in consultation with relevant bodies.</p>
BD01	<p>Avian records for the LNR are extensive due to the work of local residents as are the floral and butterfly listings. Annual 'bat walks' have recorded Pipistrelle, Noctule and Daubenton's bats. Records for all other groups are poor and those that do exist have been completed on an ad-hoc basis - An ongoing systematic survey would provide the information missing.</p>	Limited by availability of recorders.	Continue with current recording activities.
ED01	<p>LNR currently underused as a formal educational resource - Strong potential across whole LNR for curricular activities covering aspects of biology, geography, history and arts given current trend towards environmental awareness - Eight primary schools and four secondary schools within suitable walking distance.</p>	Limited by availability of Ranger Service.	Where possible maintain and increase site usage.

ED02	Limited onsite provision - no facilities available for leaflet distribution - Online provision good - Internet search contains much information on the site, the history and the wildlife found within. 5 Notice boards with details of contact numbers and future events.	Vandalism of signage an issue across the LNR.	Site leaflet boxes. Need new updated leaflets.
AC01	The site is well served by entrance points with signage to denote passage into an LNR - Open access points allow for disabled access into most areas of the site though passage beyond is a problem (AC02) - Works access is well provided for with locked gating into all areas - Some fence lines need consolidating as unofficial access points have opened up in places around Wychall Reservoir and Peafields.	Dumping of domestic waste.	Formal access
AC02	The LNR is crossed by several footpaths which allow for good access across the site however the network does lack definition. The Sustrans Cycle Path allows for full access in parallel with the river throughout the Recreation Ground, Wychall Reservoir and the southern section of the Peafields. Merecoft has a network of footpaths and one right of way. Bridges over watercourses have been constructed to connect paths.	-	Maintain footpaths with stone chippings. Removal of impingements along pathways. Maintain bridges.
AC03	A number of desire lines are cut into the meadows and woodland to open up access to the reserve throughout the year. The current desire lines provide adequate alternatives for foot traffic and allow for a more in depth view of the LNR. Bridges over watercourses have been constructed to connect paths.	-	Maintain desire lines and bridges.

PR01	The FKNLNR hold annual open days, which attract a great deal of interest in south Birmingham.	Time and resource constrained.	Annual open day.
PR02	An ongoing Tuesday Work Out programme led by the FKNLNR has allowed weekly conservation tasks to take place. Due to its size the LNR has the potential for a much wider variety of events with high uptake. Monthly Saturday Work Outs continuing on a trial basis.		Ongoing programme of varied events on site throughout the year. Litter picks, site walks and outings to neighbouring reserves.
PR03	The FKNLNR currently produce a thrice yearly newsletter detailing developments and points of interest in regards the LNR as well as outlining forthcoming events - Currently the circulation is limited to members of the Friends Group - Wider circulation would help to increase interest in LNR.	Circulation currently limited by cost and available volunteer hours. Facebook page has about 800 followers.	Past newsletters to be published on website. Encourage Facebook followers to become members.
MS01	The LNR suffers from occurrences of both graffiti and vandalism. Individual incidents of vandalism are infrequent, however occurrences of graffiti are frequent and many of the signs and notice boards are currently affected. Regular clean ups take place to minimise the impact of individual occurrences.	-	-
MS02	Issues raised by residents and site users are received by email, the Facebook page and in person. They are resolved by the FKNNR committee or individual committee members as appropriate.	-	Continue to respond to issues raised. Monitor Facebook page.

MS03	The FKNNR membership stands at over 200 households. However, the “active” membership, those involved with administration and practical work, currently number more than 20. A wider range of demographic groups would be beneficial to the FKNNR when considering its long term stability.		Monthly Saturday Work Outs continue on a trial basis to develop a wider and younger active membership. Encourage Facebook followers to become members.
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