
LAMBLEY REED POND

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SSF PROJECTS

2025-2035



Image: supplied through the Thriving in a Wilder Trent Project

SPECIES SURVIVAL FUND



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Fund

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Nottinghamshire
Wildlife Trust

Site details

Site name:	Lambley Reed Pond
Address:	Park Lane, Lambley, Nottingham NG4 4QP
Grid Reference:	SK634454
What3words:	///guards.achieving.ecologist (entrance on Park Lane)
Website:	https://www.lambleyparishcouncil.org.uk/reedpondgroup.html

About the reserve

Lambley Reed Pond is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) owned by Lambley Parish Council and managed by the volunteer group “The Reed Pond Group”, in liaison with Lambley Parish Council.

The reserve is approximately 1.84ha in size, with the Reed Pond taking up 0.3ha of this site.

The pond that gives the site its name is a former medieval stew or fishpond with a vegetated island. It has significant reed belts of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) in the northern, western and southern reaches of the pond and is surrounded on all sides by wet woodland. The woodland is primarily Alder (*Ulnus glutinosa*) but also contains a variety of other broadleaf species planted in the 1970s, such as Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Willow (*Salix* sp).

The pond is a key site for breeding Toads (*Bufo bufo*) and there is an active Toad Patrol adjacent to the reserve, ‘Lambley Reed Pond Reserve 1133’.

The site also includes a variety of other habitats, with a large stand of sheep-grazed neutral grassland to the north, west and south of the pond. This grassland contains scattered trees and the southern meadow has been enhanced by a wildflower seed mix. The northern part of the grassland has been recently planted with a small community orchard.

There is a species-rich native hedgerow to the west, with areas of mixed scrub on the northern and southern boundaries that may have originated from grown-out hedgerows (Gilmore, 2025).

Project details

The majority of the project centres around the pond and the adjacent wet woodland.



Image of planting obtained through Thriving in a Wilder Trent Project.

1. Woodland management - thinning and coppicing

Reduce the tree cover around the pond through thinning of Alder, and subsequent coppicing of re-growth.

2. Creation of dead-wood habitats

Wood and brash from tree works will be used to increase and enhance the dead wood habitats on site.

3. Enhancement of the woodland - understory

The understory of the woodland will be diversified through the addition of native species such as:

Honeysuckle
Sweet Briar

Lonicera periclymenum
Rosa rubignosa

4. Enhancement of the woodland - ground flora

The ground flora of the woodland, including the woodland-meadow edge, will be enhanced and diversified by the planting of native species such as:

Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Wild Garlic	<i>Allium ursinum</i>
Greater Stichwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>

5. Meadow management - enhancement of the meadow flora

The floristic interest of the meadow, including the woodland edge, will be enhanced and diversified by the addition of native species such as:

Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Musk-mallow	<i>Malva moschata</i>
Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>

6. Meadow management – grazing

The meadow will be grazed by sheep each year, both in early spring and at the end of the flowering season, by a local farmer (arrangement to be kept under review).

7. Reedbed management – reed cutting

Channels and openings will be cut into the Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) by contractors to extend the important reedbed edge whilst limiting the growth of reed out into the pond. This will be continued and maintained by volunteers over subsequent years on a rotational basis.

8. Reedbed and pond management – enhancement of wetland plants

Additional native wetland plants will be planted into the margins of the pond to increase the diversity and interest of the pond. Species will include:

Water Plantain	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>
Amphibious Bistort	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>
Bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
Water Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Water Avens	<i>Geum rivale</i>
Common Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dystenterica</i>

Monitoring

The effectiveness of the habitat improvements will be made in the ways detailed below. For all habitats the use of ‘before and after’ photographs will be an important monitoring tool that is simple, quick and cheap to carry out. It effectively shows changes over time and can be repeated yearly.

If funding allows, a repeat of the BNG condition assessment should be carried out within 10 years. This will allow the changes in habitat condition to be documented and ensure that there has been no decline in condition.

1. Woodland Management – thinning, coppicing and species enhancement

In addition to photographs and BNG condition assessments, where suitable expertise exists the wildlife, e.g. birds, using the woodland can be recorded and the species records uploaded to the species recording database iRecord (<https://irecord.org.uk/>).

The establishment of woodland flora, particularly the ground flora, should be recorded in the first few years to ensure establishment success.

2. Creation of dead wood habitats

Before and after photos should be taken of the newly-created habitat piles. Ongoing monitoring photos could also be taken at regular intervals, if desired.

The presence of species, such as Toads, using the dead wood habitats should be recorded where observed.

9. Meadow management - enhancement of the meadow flora

The species enhancements in the meadow should be monitored by observation in the first year to ensure successful establishment. In subsequent years records could be made of the species in the sward, and after several years a full ecological survey could be repeated if funding and expertise are available.

Citizen science surveys such as FIT Counts (<https://ukpoms.org.uk/fit-counts>) run by the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme, allow a quick and easy method of monitoring the usage of the meadow plants by pollinating insects.

Volunteers should be encouraged to record any species that is observed. Butterflies will be a useful proxy for species diversity and the Butterfly Conservation iRecord Butterfly app may be useful for this (<https://butterfly-conservation.org/our-work/recording-and-monitoring/irecord-butterflies>).

3. Meadow – grazing

The timing and intensity of grazing of the meadow will affect the floral diversity and the presence of invertebrates. Grazing in early spring and at the end of the summer will allow wildflowers to grow, flower and set seed, providing pollen and nectar for invertebrates. A suitable level of grazing will provide areas where invertebrates can shelter and lay eggs, also increasing the invertebrate food available for birds and other species.

The meadow should be monitored to prevent both undergrazing which will allow rank grasses and scrub to establish, and overgrazing which will lead to a short sward devoid of flowering plants and insects, with possible poaching of the ground. The key indicators to monitor will be the height of the sward, the diversity of the plants flowering, and the presence of 'negative' indicators such as Creeping Thistle and Nettle.

This monitoring can be carried out observationally, with photographs, or by more formal ecological surveys if resources allow.

4. Reedbed management

Before and after photos will be taken of the works to the reedbeds.

Species using the pond and reedbeds, particularly dragonflies and birds, could be recorded by volunteers and their records added to iRecord or via a species group app such as the BTO's BirdTrack (<https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/birdtrack>).

Rationale

Lambley Reed Pond and its surrounding woodland are strategically important habitats within the local area. However, the woodland is simple in its complexity being dominated by similar-aged Alder with a sparse understory of Nettle and Hawthorn. This woodland borders and overshadows the Reed Pond which has accumulated a thick layer of silt and leaf-litter and has low plant diversity. The woodland is in 'Moderate' condition and the pond is in 'Poor' condition (Gilmore, 2025).

Reducing the tree cover around the pond through thinning of Alder will increase the light for the woodland ground flora and for the wetland plant species growing by the pond, increasing diversity. Coppicing re-growth of felled trees will also create a more dynamic woodland structure, increasing the complexity and interest.

With fewer overhanging trees, there will also be a reduction in leaf litter into the pond, an increase in oxygenation from photosynthesis from new plants, and there will be an increase in wind over the water that will improve the water quality.

The thinning of the Alder trees and the coppice work will create dead wood and brash. Instead of being disposed of this be used to increase and enhance the valuable dead wood habitats on site.

The dead hedges that have already been created by The Reed Pond Group will be added to, using the smaller brash from the thinning and coppicing. These dead wood habitats are important for a range of species, but particularly the resident Toad population.

The reedbed areas of the pond lack diversity and are dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) (Gilmore, 2025). In addition to the enhancement of species through planting, the structure of the reedbed itself can be enhanced. By cutting channels and openings into the reeds this will extend the important reedbed edge habitat where most birds e.g. Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) will nest and where species such as dragonflies will hunt and oviposit. This will also limit the growth of Common Reed out into the pond and prevent it from becoming dominant. It is important that the reedbeds are managed, however this should be done on a rotational basis and with a return time of not less than 4 years in order that associated species are not harmed (e.g. Buglife, 2026).

In several of the habitats, there is a paucity of plant diversity. Enhancement of species diversity through the addition of native seeds and plants in the woodland (both understory and ground flora), the meadow (including the meadow/woodland edge) and the reedbed will have a positive effect on the quality of the habitat and the ecology of the site. Other species such as insects will quickly benefit from this addition to the site and the complexity of the species interactions will be boosted. In addition this will provide a more interesting aesthetic for the public.

The meadow is grazed with sheep by a local farmer towards the end of the summer (August – September) each year. This arrangement currently provides a benefit to both the farmer and to the site through offering grazing land to the farmer and by management of the meadow by grazing. This arrangement should continue, but be kept under review in order that the grazing intensity and timings remain beneficial to the site.

References

- Buglife (2026). *Reedbeds*. <https://www.buglife.org.uk/resources/habitat-management/reedbeds/>
- Enital (2022). *Baseline Ecological Assessment for Lambley Reed Pond*. Enital.
- Gilmore, G. (2025). *Lambley Reed Pond, Baseline Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment*. EMEC Ecology, Nottingham.

Lambley Reedpond

10-year maintenance plan for SSF funded projects

						Annual work schedule 2025-2035											
Project work delivered	Task number	One off	Tasks	Expected annual cost		2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
		Annual		£	Staff / volunteer time (estimated)												
Woodland management Wet woodland structure and species diversity to be improved through management and planting.	1	One off	Thinning & coppicing Contractors to thin out woodland trees and coppice trees to allow more light to the woodland floor and to the pond. Use the brash to create habitat piles.	£ 2,196.00	Greenfields Countryside Ltd												
		One off	As above (contingency)	£ 500.00	Contingency for Contractor												
	2	One off	Create dead wood habitats Use the wood and brash from the thinning and coppicing to add to existing dead wood habitats and to create new ones.	£ -	Cost included in 1. Contractors												
	3	One off	Enhance understory Add native species to the woodland understory to improve the structure and diversity. Species sourced through Naturescape.	£ 3,000.00	Naturescape. Planted by volunteers												
	4	One off	Enhance ground flora Add native species to the ground flora of the wet woodland to improve the diversity and interest. Species sourced through Naturescape and planted at the appropriate time by volunteers.	£ -	Cost included in 3. Planted by volunteers.												
	5	One off	Monitor - photographs Take before and after photographs of work to record change.	£ -	1 day												
	6	Annual	Monitor - species Record species using the woodland and dead wood habitat and enter records to iRecord.	£ -	As and when volunteers visit the site.												
7	Annual	Monitor - dead wood habitats Check dead wood habitats annually and add to them if they are getting low, taking care not to disturb any species using them. Take photographs to record change.	£ -	1 day, volunteers													

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10-year maintenance plan for SSF funded projects

						Annual work schedule 2025-2035												
Project work delivered	Task number	One off Annual	Tasks	Expected annual cost		2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				£	Staff / volunteer time (estimated)													
Meadow management Meadow to be enhanced through seeding and grazing management.	8	One off	Enhance botanical diversity Add native species to the meadow to improve the diversity. Species sourced through Naturescape and planted by volunteers.	£	-	Cost included in 3. 2026 only, volunteer work party, 1 day												
	9	Annual	Grazing Sheep-graze the meadow at the start of the season in early spring and at the end of each summer.	£	-	Local farmer.												
	10	One off	Monitor - species establishment Check the establishment of the planted species.	£	-	2026 only												
	11	Annual	Monitor - meadow species and condition Survey key grassland attributes and species to ensure grazing levels are optimum.	£	-	Suitably experienced volunteers or experts. 1 day for attributes. Species as and when on site.												
	12	One off	Monitor - meadow condition If funds allow (funding to be sought), repeat the BNG condition assessment before the end of the current management plan to inform future work.	£	-	Consultants. Funds to be sought. Once within time-frame of the management plan e.g. 2034.												
Reedbed management Reedbed structure and edge to be improved.	13	One off	Reed cutting - channels and openings Minidigger to be used by contractors to cut channels and openings into the existitng reedbed.	£	1,728.00	Greenfields Countryside Ltd												
	14	Annual	Reed cutting - subsequent years Volunteers to maintain the open water and edge habiats of the reedbed through volunteer task days on a rotation of no less than 4 years. All health and safety aspects and biosecurity measures to be considered and implemented. Management can be in winter (traditional for creating reed dominance) or summer (promotes diversity). If in summer all works should take care to avoid nesting birds. Presence of Harvest Mice to be considered.	£	-	Volunteer work parties. 2029, 2033												
	15	One off	Enhance botanical diversity Add native wetland plants to the pond and reedbed margins to enhance the diversity.	£	-	Cost included in 3. Planted by volunteers. 2026												
	16	Annual	Monitor - photographs Before and after photographs to be taken. Repeat photographs to be taken annually to monitor change.	£	-	Annual photos by volunteers. Timings to suit.												
	17	Annual	Monitor - species Species observed to be recorded and records entered onto national databases.	£	-	Volunteers. As and when on site.												