

Basildon Borough Council

Mill Meadows Local Nature Reserve Management Plan

2012 - 2016

Updated November 2012

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Introduction

This management plan has been drawn up by Basildon Borough Council Countryside Services in consultation with local people to provide a strategy and detailed work plans for the management of Mill Meadows Local Nature Reserve for the period 2012 - 2016.

It provides basic information about the site, assesses the current condition of the site from an ecological and amenity point of view, outlines a vision for how the site will look at the end of the plan, and details a programme of work required to meet this objective. It also outlines the resources that will be required and lays plans for how these resources will be obtained.

1. Site Details	
Name	Mill Meadows Nature Reserve
Area	37.5 Hectares/90 acres
Grid Reference	TQ6894
Local Planning Authority	Basildon Borough Council
Borough	Basildon
Conservation Status	Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Part of the site is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) The remainder is Basildon Local Wildlife Site no. Ba21.
Nature of legal interest	Owners
Bylaws	Basildon Council bylaws for Mill Meadows Nature Reserve, December 2009.
Access	<p>The site has open access throughout with pedestrian entrances from Greens Farm lane, Chaffinch Crescent, Langemore Way, Martin Close, Southend Road and Jackdaw Close.</p> <p>Vehicle access is available through two locked field gates from Southend Road.</p> <p>There are no public car parking facilities, although an informal arrangement exists with the co-operation of the 5th Billericay scout group who rent the scout hut and grounds off Greens Farm Lane from the council.</p> <p>A public footpath runs from Greens Farm Lane to Southend Road.</p>

2. Site Description

2.1 Habitats

Mill Meadows occupies the site of former agricultural land, and now comprises a mixture of grassland, scrub and secondary woodland.

Three fields (Butchers, Oakfield and Cumborrow) have been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the quality of its unimproved neutral grassland. Other areas of grassland exist in the fields known as Watts, Mouse Croft, Wantsfield, Coles, Hilly Field, Hurlocks and Brickfield.

Areas of woodland exist in the fields known as Hillmans, Boggy Piece, Greens, Bottom Mead, Old Mill Hill, Wards Hoppits, Coles, Hurlocks, Coles, Hilly Field and Brickfield.

There is an extensive area of scrub in Greens, and patches elsewhere throughout the reserve.

There are several ponds and a stream that runs from west to east through the reserve. There are also wet areas in Boggy Piece, Bottom Mead and Coles.

There are numerous hedgerows of various ages throughout the reserve, especially at the field boundaries. Some of these boundaries include mature and veteran trees of considerable ecological significance.

2.2 Significant species

2.2.1 Flora

Species identified by Natural England as indicators of good conservation quality neutral grassland recorded at Mill Meadows are as follows:

- Betony *Stachys officinalis*
- Black knapweed *Centaurea nigra*
- Burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*
- Common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*
- Cowslip *Primula veris*
- Cuckoo flower *Cardamine pratensis*
- Devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*
- Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*
- Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*
- Pignut *Conopodium majus*.
- Ragged robin *Lycnis flos-cuculi*
- Sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*,
- Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*
- Yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*

In addition, extensive populations, numbering in the thousands, of orchids belonging to the genus *Dactylorhiza* occur, predominantly in the fields comprising the SSSI. These were thought until recently to be Common Spotted-orchid *D. fuchsii*, but at least some have now been identified by the county botanical recorder as Heath Spotted-orchid *D. maculata*. It is unclear at the time of writing whether all the plants are *D. maculata*, or if there is a mix of the two species, possibly including hybrids. Nevertheless, they represent a significant spectacle in the meadows in late spring.

2.2.2 Birds

The following significant bird species have been recorded at Mill Meadows:

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>RSPB</u> <u>Red</u> <u>list</u>	<u>RSPB</u> <u>Amber</u> <u>list</u>	<u>Essex</u> <u>BAP</u>	<u>UKBAP</u>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X		
Common Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		X		X
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	X			X
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X		
Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	X			X
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		X		
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		X		
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	X			X
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		X		
Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		X		
European Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		X		
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		X		
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X			X
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	X			
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		X		
Hedge Accentor	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		X		X
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	X			X
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X			X
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		X		
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	X			X
Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		X		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	X			X
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	X			
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		X		
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandwicensis</i>		X		
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	X		X	X
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	X		X	X
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	X			X
Stock Pigeon	<i>Columba oenas</i>		X		
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	X			X

However, some of these lists and categories were compiled some time ago, and perhaps more relevantly to the future health of bird populations, Mill Meadows provides an important breeding area or potential breeding area for locally declined or uncommon species, notably Common Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* and Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. The site also provides useful feeding for winter visitors and migrants; Siskin *Carduelis spinus*, Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* and Redwing *Turdus iliacus* being most significant; and for local Red List breeding birds: Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*, House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* and Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Notable passage species include Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*, Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, Serin *Serinus serinus* and Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*.

2.2.3 Amphibians and Reptiles

The following UKBAP Amphibians and Reptiles have been recorded at Mill Meadows:

- Adder *Vipers berus*
- Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*
- Slow Worm *Anguis fragilis*
- Common/Viviparous Lizard *Zootaca vivipara*
- Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*
- Common Toad *Bufo bufo*

2.2.4 Mammals

UK and Essex BAP species recorded:

- Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus* (UK, Essex)
- Noctule Bat *Nyctalus noctula* (UK)
- Pipistrelle Bat *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Essex)

Additionally at least two large Badger *Meles meles* setts exist. Surveying for Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* took place between 2001 & 2004 without recording the species. Hedgehogs have been recorded nearby.

2.2.5 Invertebrates

UKBAP species recorded:

- Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* (butterfly)
- Small Square-spot *Diarsia rubi* (moth)
- Sallow *Xanthia icteritia* (moth)

Invertebrate surveys were conducted by a consultant entomologist (Peter Harvey) in 2000, 2001 & 2003 recording a total of 502 species. The details of these surveys are held by Basildon Council Countryside Services in the files at Norsey Wood Information Centre.

2.2.6 Fungi

No UKBAP species have been recorded although 12 species of waxcaps (genus *Hygrocybe*) have been recorded making Mill Meadows a site of national importance for this group.

2.2.7 Further recording

Currently, birds and butterflies are the best recorded groups on the reserve. Groups that would benefit from more surveys include mammals (especially bats), and non-vascular plants (bryophytes etc.)

2.3 History

The history of the site from ancient times to 2000 has been outlined by John James in "A History of Mill Meadows Billericay", and in the preceding management plan. Previously an agricultural landscape, farming effectively ceased in the 1970s, with intermittent grazing until 1989. Basildon Council has owned the site since 1991 and it has been managed by Countryside Services since 1997, since when the site has been managed as a nature reserve with public access. Recently the site has been grazed with cattle from March until October by a local grazier, and various attempts have been made under Countryside Stewardship, and more recently, Environmental Stewardship agreements to improve the quality of the grassland, primarily in the SSSI fields. In the past few years management has also focused on maintaining the boundary hedgerows, managing some of the woodland and veteran trees, and maintaining the suite of ponds that exist. A programme of events and amenity improvements has been organized by Countryside Services in conjunction with the Mill Meadows Society.

2.4 Recreation

The site is well-used by local dog walkers and other walkers as well as local children. Footpaths (including a marked trail) run through the reserve enabling access from the east side of Billericay to the town centre that avoids the need to walk by the roadside.

3. Management Aims

3.1 Vision

Mill Meadows currently consists of a diverse mixture of habitats (grassland, scrub, hedgerows, woodland, veteran trees, ponds and a stream) in various conditions. The main aims of this plan are;

- to maintain the existing diversity of habitat types
- to define the desired habitat type for each area of the site
- to improve the quality of the individual habitat types
- to maintain, and where appropriate improve, the biodiversity of the site
- to provide appropriate amenity facilities at the site
- to involve local people in events at the site and management of it so that it is a valued local resource protected for the future

The desired state and work required for each field is outlined in the table on the following pages.

4. Management Objectives

1 Make Mill Meadows a safe place to visit.

2 Make Mill Meadows a welcoming site with suitable levels of information and interpretation.

3 Maintain and where necessary improve the quality of the habitats and consequently the biodiversity of Mill Meadows.

4 Provide an appropriate level of events and education at Mill Meadows.

5 Involve the local community in decisions about, and the practical management of, Mill Meadows.

6 Obtain the necessary resources to enable the plan to be realised.

7 Monitor and review the progress of the plan annually.

Objective 1. Make Mill Meadows a safe place to visit	
Actions	
1.1	Carry out a comprehensive site risk assessment and address any hazards identified.
1.2	Compile a suitable emergency plan.
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.
1.4	Organise a regular audit of the site for tree safety by qualified arboriculturalist and eliminate as far as is practical hazards arising from dangerous trees.
1.5	Work closely with the police and local residents on initiatives to reduce vandalism, crime and fear of crime for visitors to Mill Meadows.

Objective 2. Make Mill Meadows a welcoming site with suitable levels of information and interpretation.	
Actions	
2.1	Create and maintain open, accessible entrances with good quality information for visitors about the site, who manages it, and clear instructions of who to contact for concerns or further information.
2.2	Ensure that levels of litter on the site are kept at very low levels through education, policing and collection.
2.3	Provide dog waste bins, encourage their use and empty them regularly.
2.4	Ensure that any episodes of fly tipping are cleared away within 3 days.
2.5	Produce an interpretation plan for Mill Meadows.

Objective 3 To maintain and where necessary improve the quality of the habitats and consequently the biodiversity of Mill Meadows.		
Actions		
3.1 Maintain 'unfavourable recovering' SSSI condition assessment aiming to achieve 'favourable' condition as soon as possible.		
3.2 Increase the quality and diversity of habitats and species throughout the reserve by performing the actions outlined in the table below.		
Field	Desired state	Work required
Wantsfield	Grassland with parkland trees Hedgerows Structurally diverse woodland	Graze Select parkland trees and fell others Redefine hedgerows Selective felling to thin and produce a woodland edge Control Japanese Knotweed
Coles	Grassland with parkland trees Hedgerows Retain woodland on ridge and increase structural diversity Managed veteran trees Maintain wet areas to north and south	Graze Select parkland trees and fell others Redefine hedgerows Selective felling to thin and produce woodland edge 'Halo' veteran trees and manage pollards (inc. Ash pollard in hedge) Plant desirable wild flower species (also Hilly Field) Consider measures to promote water retention
Hilly Field	Grassland with parkland trees and scrub Hedgerows Structurally diverse woodland belt on ridge	Graze Select parkland trees and fell others Redefine hedgerows Manage scrub to promote diverse scrub and prevent woodland encroachment Selective felling to produce woodland edge Plant desirable wild flower species (also Coles - in calving pen) NB badger sett

Field	Desired state	Work required
Hurlocks	Grassland with parkland trees and scrub Hedgerows	Graze Select parkland trees and fell others Redefine hedgerows Define areas of scrub and prevent encroachment onto grassland Cut Chaffinch Crescent hedge annually
Old Mill Hill	Woodland/scrub/grassland mosaic Hedgerow to road boundary	Graze Clear scrub to retain habitat balance as necessary Improve hedge on road boundary (investigate methods to give best chance of success), retaining selected specimen mature trees (e.g. Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>)
Wards Hoppits	Significant area of scrub either side of path to provide shelter for wildlife Structurally diverse woodland on slopes Wildlife friendly pond	Improve hedge on road boundary (investigate methods to give best chance of success) Reduce sycamore and consider planting with other native tree species and fruit trees Selective thinning and glade creation, especially around pond Reinforce retaining bank (with path) to pond Manage pond on rotation with ponds on the rest of site NB badger sett
Mouse Croft	Grassland with boundary trees/hedgerows	Graze Control scrub in centre of field, but retain boundary bramble banks Prevent tree encroachment and create diverse woodland edge by selective felling NB Mistletoe – monitor and consider artificial propagation if necessary

Field	Desired state	Work required
Bottom Mead	Grassland with parkland trees Woodland edge	Graze Select parkland trees Selective clearance of woodland and scrub to prevent loss of grassland and creation of woodland edge habitats
Cumborrow Oakfield Butchers (SSSI)	Grassland with increased numbers of positive indicator species Hedgerows Attractive and valuable woodland bank on south side Selected mature trees Wildlife friendly ponds (4)	Graze Remove scrub and trees to increase grassland area Restore hedgerows on rotation Thin Sycamore and promote scrub boundary adjoining Greens and Watts Select and manage mature trees Manage ponds on rotation including rest of site NB retain Alders
Brickfield	Grassland/scrub mosaic Hedgerow Woodland Wildlife friendly pond	Graze Manage scrub to maintain diversity of habitats Minimum intervention to woodland Coppice trees on bank Redefine hedgerows Manage pond on rotation with pond on the rest of site (possible site of pond restoration/creation)

Field	Desired state	Work required
Greens & Watts	Grassland/scrub mosaic with significant area of scrub to provide food and shelter for diverse wildlife species Diverse woodland compartment	Graze Sycamore thinning along boundary with Oakfield to encourage scrub layer on parts of woodland floor Manage scrub in Watts on rotation Maintain broad area of grassland in Greens and reduce number of paths at western end to allow scrub to flourish Minimum intervention in woodland – possibly widen path, selective thinning Reinstate bee bank Uncover foundations of old farmhouse (history/reptiles)
Hillmans	Structurally diverse woodland	Ride widening, glade creation, thinning, and planting as necessary Manage veteran trees
Boggy Piece	Structurally diverse woodland	Minimum intervention Manage veteran trees Clear wet areas to promote flora Create standing dead wood

Objective 4. Provide an appropriate level of events and education at Mill Meadows.	
Actions	
4.1	Discuss with interested parties (Mill Meadows Society, Billericay Nature Explorers, Basildon Council Countryside Education team and others e.g. Essex Field Club as appropriate) what type and amount of education could be provided.
4.2	Organise an annual events that reflect the outcome of the discussions at 4.1.
4.3	Review the events and education programme annually.

Objective 5. Involve the local community in decisions about, and the practical management, of Mill Meadows.	
Actions	
5.1	Consult with the Mill Meadows Society, as the representatives of local residents, on management decisions at the site.
5.2	Encourage and provide the opportunity for local residents to become involved with the Mill Meadows Society and in practical conservation and other tasks. Provide appropriate training for volunteers.
5.3	Plan a programme of surveys to establish visitors' attitudes to Mill Meadows and its management.

Objective 6. Obtain the necessary resources to enable the plan to be realised.	
Actions	
6.1	Secure and maintain provision within Basildon Council (Countryside Services) mainstream budget towards ensuring that the actions identified in this plan can be delivered.
6.2	Identify and secure additional sources of external funding for site management where required
6.3	Discuss with the Mill Meadows Society how they can provide funding, resources or expertise to further the aims of this plan.
6.4	Identify and discuss with other organizations that might be able to provide funding, resources or expertise to further the aims of this plan.

Objective 7. Monitor and review the progress of the plan annually.	
Actions	
7.1	Identify a set of targets against which to judge the progress of this plan
7.2	Put in place an enquiries, comments and complaints procedure for users of the site and ensure that necessary action is taken and feedback given
7.3	Discuss annually, in consultation with the Mill Meadows Society and other groups as appropriate the progress made and, if necessary, adjust targets accordingly.
7.4	Undertake a thorough review of this plan in year four in order to produce a subsequent plan.

5. Resources

Basildon Council holds a revenue budget to cover basic amenity and conservation management and this is forecast to continue for the duration of this plan. A Ranger, responsible for Mill Meadows (and other council nature reserves and country parks) is based at Norsey Wood and supported by an Assistant Ranger shared with other countryside sites. A monthly work party takes place at Mill Meadows (often replaced by countryside events during the summer months), and students from Writtle College have assisted from time to time. Mill Meadows attracts funding for conservation management via the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme. Grazing has to date been on a no cost/no income basis, but opportunities to raise income from this should be investigated, although income (if any) is unlikely to be significant. The tasks outlined in this plan are ambitious compared to the resources available and other sources of labour and funding will be required to meet its objectives.

6. Work Plan

1.1	Carry out a comprehensive site risk assessment and address any hazards identified.	Annually	Jan	2012	Whole site
1.1	Carry out a comprehensive site risk assessment and address any hazards identified.	Annually	Jan	2013	Whole site
1.1	Carry out a comprehensive site risk assessment and address any hazards identified.	Annually	Jan	2014	Whole site
1.1	Carry out a comprehensive site risk assessment and address any hazards identified.	Annually	Jan	2015	Whole site
1.1	Carry out a comprehensive site risk assessment and address any hazards identified.	Annually	Jan	2016	Whole site
1.2	Compile a suitable emergency plan.	Once	Feb	2012	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Feb	2012	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	May	2012	Whole site

1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Aug	2012	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Nov	2012	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Feb	2013	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	May	2013	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Aug	2013	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Nov	2013	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Feb	2014	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	May	2014	Whole site

1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Aug	2014	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Nov	2014	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Feb	2015	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	May	2015	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Aug	2015	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Nov	2015	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Feb	2016	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	May	2016	Whole site

1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Aug	2016	Whole site
1.3	Maintain the programme of regular site safety checks and make good any hazards identified.	Quarterly	Nov	2016	Whole site
1.4	Organise a regular audit of the site for tree safety by qualified arboriculturalist and eliminate as far as is practical hazards arising from dangerous trees.	Biennially	Sep	2013	Whole site
1.4	Organise a regular audit of the site for tree safety by qualified arboriculturalist and eliminate as far as is practical hazards arising from dangerous trees.	Biennially	Sep	2015	Whole site
2.1	Create and maintain open, accessible entrances with good quality information for visitors about the site, who manages it, and clear instructions of who to contact for concerns or further information.	Once	Dec	2013	All entrances
2.1	Create and maintain open, accessible entrances with good quality information for visitors about the site, who manages it, and clear instructions of who to contact for concerns or further information.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	All entrances
2.2	Ensure that levels of litter on the site are kept at very low levels through education, policing and collection.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Whole site
2.3	Provide dog waste bins, encourage their use and empty them regularly.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Whole site

2.4	Ensure that any episodes of fly tipping are cleared away within 3 days.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Whole site
2.5	Produce an interpretation plan for Mill Meadows.	Once	June	2013	Whole site
3.1	Maintain 'unfavourable recovering' SSSI condition assessment aiming to achieve 'favourable' condition as soon as possible.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	SSSI
3.2	Wantsfield Redefine hedgerows	Once	January	2015	Wantsfield
3.2	Wantsfield Selective felling to thin and produce a woodland edge	Once	February	2015	Wantsfield
3.2	Wantsfield Control Japanese Knotweed	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Wantsfield
3.2	Coles Graze	Annually	As appropriate	2012	Coles
3.2	Coles Select parkland trees and fell others	Once	February	2014	Coles

3.2	Coles Redefine hedgerows	Once	January	2013	Coles
3.2	Coles Selective felling to thin and produce woodland edge	Once	February	2014	Coles
3.2	Coles 'Halo' veteran trees and manage pollards (inc. Ash pollard in hedge)	Once	February	2014	Coles
3.2	Coles Plant desirable wild flower species (also Hilly Field)	Once	April	2012	Coles
3.2	Coles Consider measures to promote water retention	Once	December	2012	Coles
3.2	Hilly Field Graze	Annually	As appropriate	2012	Hilly Field
3.2	Hilly Field Select parkland trees and fell others	Once	February	2016	Hilly Field
3.2	Hilly Field Redefine hedgerows	Once	January	2014	Hilly Field

3.2	Hilly Field Manage scrub to promote diverse scrub and prevent woodland encroachment	Annually	Winter	2012	Hilly Field
3.2	Hilly Field Manage scrub to promote diverse scrub and prevent woodland encroachment	Annually	Winter	2013	Hilly Field
3.2	Hilly Field Manage scrub to promote diverse scrub and prevent woodland encroachment	Annually	Winter	2014	Hilly Field
3.2	Hilly Field Manage scrub to promote diverse scrub and prevent woodland encroachment	Annually	Winter	2015	Hilly Field
3.2	Hilly Field Manage scrub to promote diverse scrub and prevent woodland encroachment	Annually	Winter	2016	Hilly Field
3.2	Hurlocks Redefine hedgerows	Once	January	2016	Hurlocks
3.2	Hurlocks Define areas of scrub and prevent encroachment onto grassland	Annually	Winter	2012	Hurlocks
3.2	Hurlocks Define areas of scrub and prevent encroachment onto grassland	Annually	Winter	2013	Hurlocks

3.2	Hurlocks Define areas of scrub and prevent encroachment onto grassland	Annually	Winter	2014	Hurlocks
3.2	Hurlocks Define areas of scrub and prevent encroachment onto grassland	Annually	Winter	2015	Hurlocks
3.2	Hurlocks Define areas of scrub and prevent encroachment onto grassland	Annually	Winter	2016	Hurlocks
3.2	Wards Hoppits Selective thinning and glade creation, especially around pond	Annually	Winter	2012	Wards Hoppits
3.2	Wards Hoppits Selective thinning and glade creation, especially around pond	Annually	Winter	2013	Wards Hoppits
3.2	Wards Hoppits Selective thinning and glade creation, especially around pond	Annually	Winter	2014	Wards Hoppits
3.2	Wards Hoppits Selective thinning and glade creation, especially around pond	Annually	Winter	2015	Wards Hoppits
3.2	Wards Hoppits Selective thinning and glade creation, especially around pond	Annually	Winter	2016	Wards Hoppits

3.2	Mouse Croft Control scrub in centre of field, but retain boundary bramble banks	Annually	Winter	2012	Mouse Croft
3.2	Mouse Croft Control scrub in centre of field, but retain boundary bramble banks	Annually	Winter	2013	Mouse Croft
3.2	Mouse Croft Control scrub in centre of field, but retain boundary bramble banks	Annually	Winter	2014	Mouse Croft
3.2	Mouse Croft Control scrub in centre of field, but retain boundary bramble banks	Annually	Winter	2015	Mouse Croft
3.2	Mouse Croft Control scrub in centre of field, but retain boundary bramble banks	Annually	Winter	2016	Mouse Croft
3.2	Bottom Mead Selective clearance of woodland and scrub to prevent loss of grassland and creation of woodland edge habitats	Annually	Winter	2012	Bottom Mead
3.2	Bottom Mead Selective clearance of woodland and scrub to prevent loss of grassland and creation of woodland edge habitats	Annually	Winter	2013	Bottom Mead
3.2	Bottom Mead Selective clearance of woodland and scrub to prevent loss of grassland and creation of woodland edge habitats	Annually	Winter	2014	Bottom Mead

3.2	Bottom Mead Selective clearance of woodland and scrub to prevent loss of grassland and creation of woodland edge habitats	Annually	Winter	2015	Bottom Mead
3.2	Bottom Mead Selective clearance of woodland and scrub to prevent loss of grassland and creation of woodland edge habitats	Annually	Winter	2016	Bottom Mead
3.2	SSSI fields (Butchers, Oakfield, Cumborrow) Manage ponds on rotation including rest of site	Annually	Winter	2012	SSSI
3.2	SSSI fields (Butchers, Oakfield, Cumborrow) Manage ponds on rotation including rest of site	Annually	Winter	2013	SSSI
3.2	SSSI fields (Butchers, Oakfield, Cumborrow) Manage ponds on rotation including rest of site	Annually	Winter	2014	SSSI
3.2	SSSI fields (Butchers, Oakfield, Cumborrow) Manage ponds on rotation including rest of site	Annually	Winter	2015	SSSI
3.2	SSSI fields (Butchers, Oakfield, Cumborrow) Manage ponds on rotation including rest of site	Annually	Winter	2016	SSSI
3.2	Brickfield Manage scrub to maintain diversity of habitats	Annually	Winter	2014	Brickfield

3.2	Brickfield Manage scrub to maintain diversity of habitats	Annually	Winter	2015	Brickfield
3.2	Brickfield Manage scrub to maintain diversity of habitats	Annually	Winter	2016	Brickfield
3.2	Greens & Watts Graze	Annually	As appropriate	2012	Greens and Watts
3.2	Greens & Watts Manage scrub on rotation	Annually	Winter	2012	Greens and Watts
3.2	Greens & Watts Manage scrub on rotation	Annually	Winter	2013	Greens and Watts
3.2	Greens & Watts Manage scrub on rotation	Annually	Winter	2014	Greens and Watts
3.2	Greens & Watts Manage scrub on rotation	Annually	Winter	2015	Greens and Watts
3.2	Greens & Watts Manage scrub on rotation	Annually	Winter	2016	Greens and Watts

3.2	Hillmans Manage veteran trees	Ongoing	Ongoing	2012	Hillmans
3.2	Hillmans Manage veteran trees	Ongoing	Ongoing	2013	Hillmans
3.2	Hillmans Manage veteran trees	Ongoing	Ongoing	2014	Hillmans
3.2	Hillmans Manage veteran trees	Ongoing	Ongoing	2015	Hillmans
3.2	Hillmans Manage veteran trees	Ongoing	Ongoing	2016	Hillmans
4.1	Discuss with interested parties (Mill Meadows Society, Billericay Nature Explorers, Basildon Council Countryside Education team and others as appropriate) what type and amount of education could be provided.	Ongoing	Ongoing	2012	Whole site
4.1	Discuss with interested parties (Mill Meadows Society, Billericay Nature Explorers, Basildon Council Countryside Education team and others as appropriate) what type and amount of education could be provided.	Ongoing	Ongoing	2013	Whole site
4.1	Discuss with interested parties (Mill Meadows Society, Billericay Nature Explorers, Basildon Council Countryside Education team and others as appropriate) what type and amount of education could be provided.	Ongoing	Ongoing	2014	Whole site

4.1	Discuss with interested parties (Mill Meadows Society, Billericay Nature Explorers, Basildon Council Countryside Education team and others as appropriate) what type and amount of education could be provided.	Ongoing	Ongoing	2015	Whole site
4.1	Discuss with interested parties (Mill Meadows Society, Billericay Nature Explorers, Basildon Council Countryside Education team and others as appropriate) what type and amount of education could be provided.	Ongoing	Ongoing	2016	Whole site
5.2	Encourage and provide the opportunity for local residents to become involved with the Mill Meadows Society and in practical conservation and other tasks. Provide appropriate training for volunteers.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Whole site
5.3	Plan a programme of surveys to establish visitors' attitudes to Mill Meadows and its management.	Once	March	2014	Whole site
6.1	Secure and maintain provision within Basildon Council (Countryside Services) mainstream budget towards ensuring that the actions identified in this plan can be delivered.	Once	December	2012	Whole site
6.2	Identify and secure additional sources of external funding for site management where required	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Whole site
6.3	Discuss with the Mill Meadows Society how they can provide funding, resources or expertise to further the aims of this plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Whole site
6.4	Identify and discuss with other organizations that might be able to provide funding, resources or expertise to further the aims of this plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Whole site

7.1	Identify a set of targets against which to judge the progress of this plan	Once	December	2012	Whole site
7.2	Put in place an enquiries, comments and complaints procedure for users of the site and ensure that necessary action is taken and feedback given	Once	December	2012	Whole site
7.3	Discuss annually, in consultation with the Mill Meadows Society and other groups as appropriate the progress made and, if necessary, adjust targets accordingly.	Annually	February	2013	Whole site
7.3	Discuss annually, in consultation with the Mill Meadows Society and other groups as appropriate the progress made and, if necessary, adjust targets accordingly.	Annually	February	2014	Whole site
7.3	Discuss annually, in consultation with the Mill Meadows Society and other groups as appropriate the progress made and, if necessary, adjust targets accordingly.	Annually	February	2015	Whole site
7.3	Discuss annually, in consultation with the Mill Meadows Society and other groups as appropriate the progress made and, if necessary, adjust targets accordingly.	Annually	February	2016	Whole site

7. Financial Plan

Where possible work outlined in the plan will be undertaken by Countryside Services staff and volunteers. However, for some of the items this may not be possible and contractors will probably need to be employed for these. Exact costs are difficult to estimate, and if tasks are beyond staff and volunteers, funding will need to be sought, either from the Countryside Services budget or external funding. Estimates for some of the more obvious tasks are given below.

Objective	Action	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1.4	Biennial tree inspections		2,000		2,000	
1.4	Resulting tree works		1,500		1,500	
3.2	Hedgerow works	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Totals	1,000	4,500	1,000	4,500	1,000