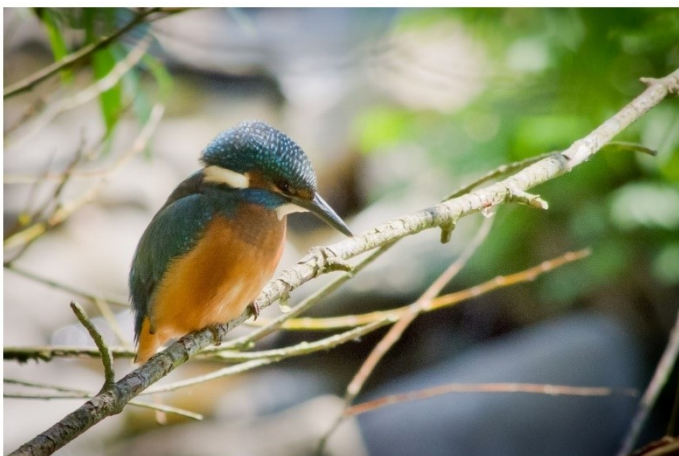
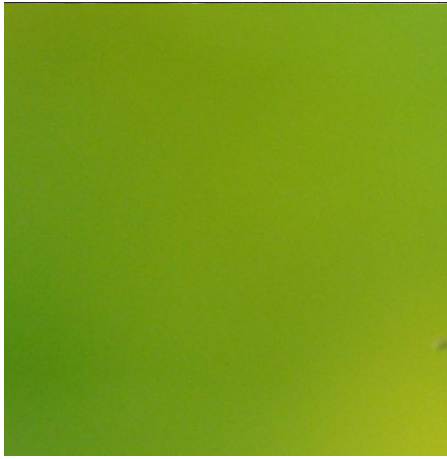


Borough of Pendle



## Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve Management Plan May 2021



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# Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2021-2026

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# Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2021 - 2026

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## 1.0 Management Summary

Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve is owned and managed by the Greenspaces Team of Pendle Borough Council with the assistance of the Friends of Ball Grove. The site once made up part of the Ball Grove Tannery complex with the pond being the mills lodge.

The site and its subsequent extension make up a mosaic of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. The woodlands that are included in the recent extension are classed as priority habitat for deciduous woodland.

This plan replaces and builds upon the original management plan which was instrumental to making 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. The plan seeks to be aspirational but sets out an agreed approach between Pendle Borough Council and the sites key stakeholders 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.

Aims	
Wildlife	People
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To comply with legal obligations and policy commitments.</li> <li>• To maintain the LNR status of the site.</li> <li>• Collate information about the flora and fauna found on the site.</li> <li>• To improve the quality of the grasslands, wetlands and woodlands through sensitive management.</li> <li>• To maintain and where possible enhance the populations of notable plant and animal species that are resident and breed within the site.</li> <li>• To control and/or eradicate invasive non-native plants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To collate information including press coverage, visitor statistics, details of events, and work days.</li> <li>• To encourage the safe, sustainable and inclusive public use of the site.</li> <li>• To promote the site for education and research.</li> <li>• To seek to raise funds to implement the objectives above.</li> </ul>

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 existing budgets and external funding bids. This may include capital monies from other Council budgets, grants and section 106 funding from developments close to the reserve.

## 2.0 Introduction

Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve is a 14 hectare site that lies approximately 2.24 kilometres east of Colne town Centre. It was designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) by Pendle Borough Council in 2004.

The site is made up of a mosaic of habitats that are located in and adjacent to the Colne Water floodplain and supports a great many species of flora and fauna. The reserve links closely with the adjacent Ball Grove Park and is not too far from Wycoller Country Park offering 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 Friends of Ball Grove 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 Lee Johnson (Senior Park Keeper) 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:

Greenspaces Manager (PBC Environmental Services) – Currently Vacant

**Lee Johnson**, Senior Park Keeper (PBC Environmental Services) & Principal Environment Officer (PBC Planning, Economic Development & Regulatory Services)

**Les Cromeey**, Chair (Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve Group)

**John Lamb**, Conservation Officer (Lancashire Wildlife Trust)

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

Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve Group

Pendle Local Nature Reserve Steering Group

Park Keepers (PBC Neighbourhood Services)

PBC Accountancy & Audit Services

PBC Chief Executive's Policy Unit  
PBC Legal Services  
PBC Communications  
Liberata  
Matthew Whyte  
Kieron Roberts  
Louise Cooper

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

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## 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

<b>Site Name:</b>	Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve
<b>Ownership:</b>	Pendle Borough Council
<b>District:</b>	Pendle
<b>County:</b>	Lancashire
<b>Ward:</b>	Boulsworth
<b>Local Planning Authority:</b>	Pendle Borough Council
<b>OS Grid Reference:</b>	SD 915 405
<b>OS Map:</b>	Explorer OL21 South Pennines Landranger 103 Blackburn & Burnley
<b>Aerial Photographs:</b>	Aerial photographs available from Mario Maps ( <a href="http://mario.lancashire.gov.uk/agsmario/">http://mario.lancashire.gov.uk/agsmario/</a> ) or Google Maps
<b>Postcode:</b>	BB8 7HH (Ball Grove Drive)
<b>Area:</b>	14 hectares (ha)
<b>Height Above Sea Level:</b>	160m (lowest point), 189m (highest point)
<b>LNR Declaration Date:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2004

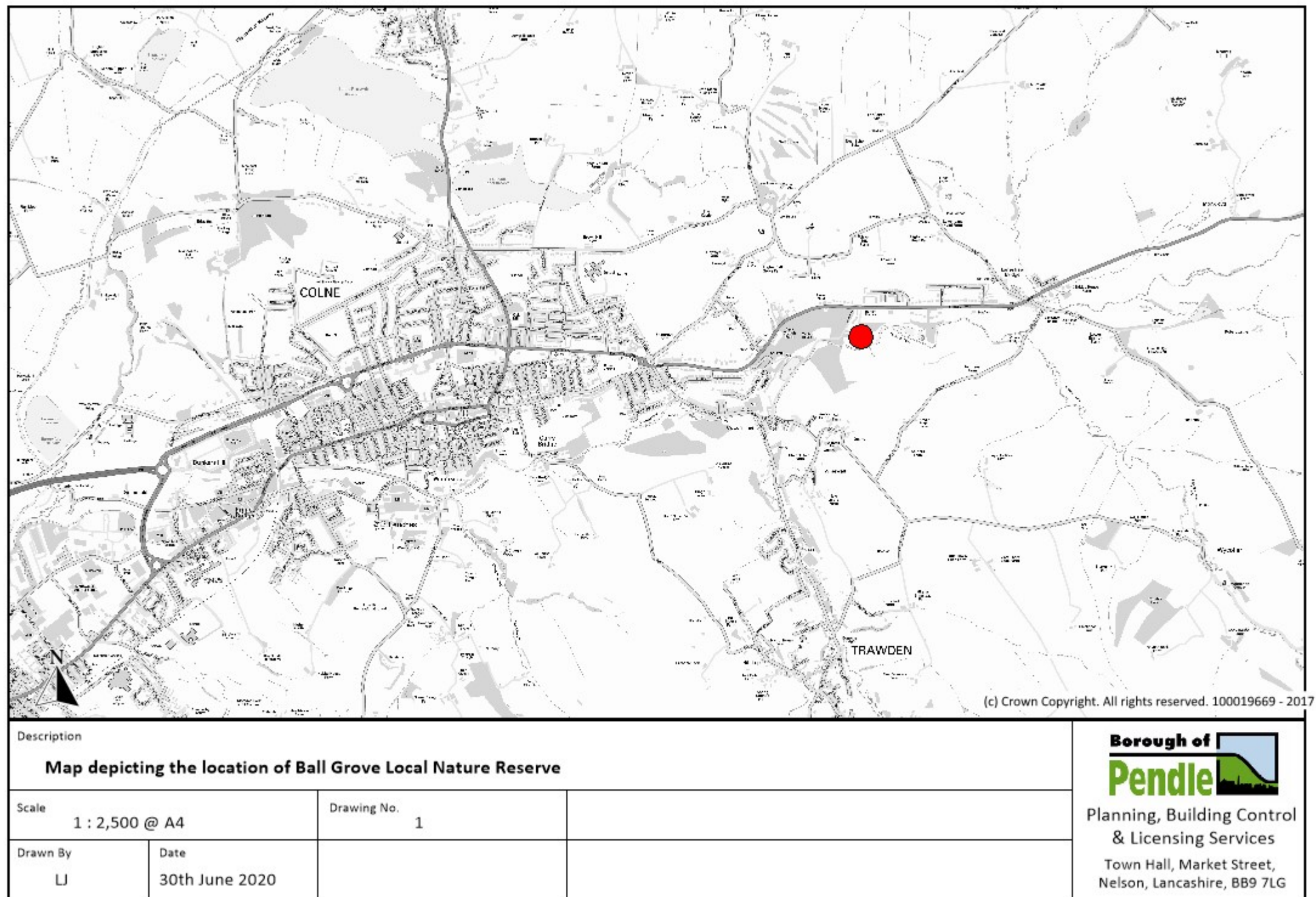
#### 3.1.1 General usage

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

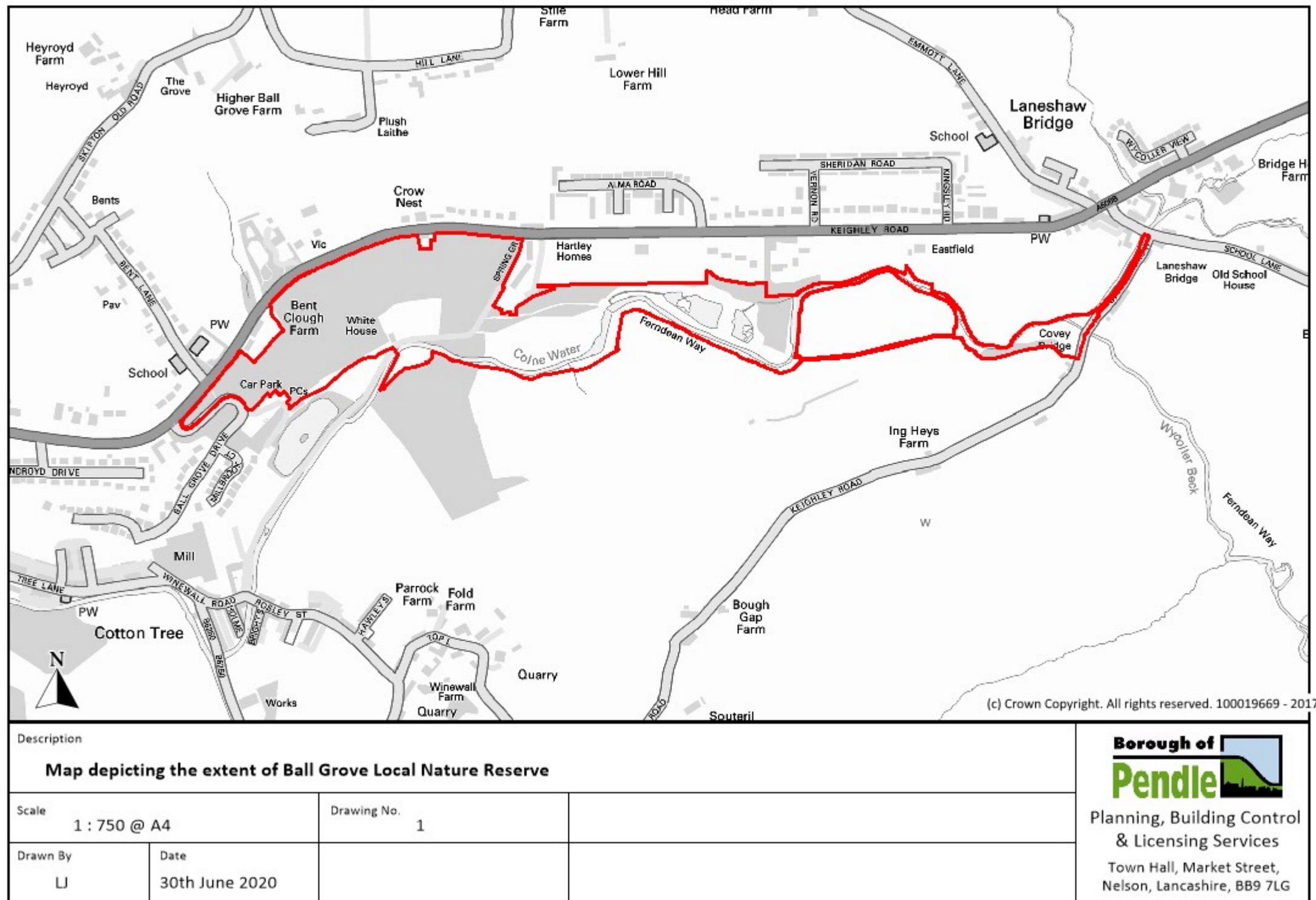
#### 3.1.2 Facilities & Features

The facilities of Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve are as follows:

- On site interpretation
- Ponds and watercourses
- Woodland walks
- Fish pass
- Meadow
- Pond dipping platform
- Riverside seating
- Car parking
- Fearnedene Way walking route



Map 1 - Location of Ball Grove LNR



Map 2 - Site Map



### 3.1.3 Access

#### Local Users

Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located approximately 1.9km east of Colne town centre close to the village of Laneshawbridge. It is accessed mainly through the main entrance from Ball Grove Park (OS grid reference SD9108 4048) however, there are various other entrances to the site. These are:

- Ball Grove Car Park (SD9090 4040)
- Keighley Road – Footpath 211 (SD9107 4065)
- Spring Grove (SD9123 4055)
- Carriers Row (SD9222 4053)

#### Cycling

The National Cycle Route Network (Route 91) passes the Carriers Row entrance to the site. However, there is no safe, secure location to leave a bike at this entrance. There are no other designated cycle routes close to the LNR. However, the site is accessible by bike from the local roads.

Cycling is currently not allowed in the Nature Reserve.

#### Bus Services

Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve is served by several bus stops located on Keighley Road. The most convenient ones can be found at Ball Grove Drive (SD9078 4042) or Spring Grove (SD9133 4066). Both stops are served by the M4 bus service. [Online bus timetables are available from Lancashire County Council's website.](#)

#### Driving Directions from the M65

Follow the M65 until its termination at Colne (Junction 14). At the roundabout, take the first exit on to the A6068, Vivary Way. Follow this road for approximately 1.75 miles crossing two roundabouts. At the third roundabout take the second exit continuing along the A6068 Keighley Road. Take the third junction on the right into Ball Grove Drive. The car park is the first junction left.

#### Postcode for GPS use

BB8 7HH

#### Car Park Opening Hours

The opening hours for the car park are:

- 08:00 – 19:00 From 1<sup>st</sup> April until 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- 08:00 – 17:00 From 1<sup>st</sup> October until 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## 3.2 Brief History

In 1785 Bough Gap Mill was built on the site of what is now locally known as the meadow. The Ordnance Survey first edition maps of the 1840's show both the mill and the lodge. All that

remains of the built form of the mill is the former stables that is now Spring Grove Cottage. Most of the rest of the nature reserve was agricultural land.

IN 1860 W and J Sagar moved their tannery to the former Ball Grove Cotton Mill site that was located further downstream in the park. The tannery quickly expanded and went from water power to steam and as a result both the lodge that is currently situated in the park and the one in the nature reserve were adapted and used to supply the tannery mill with the 100,000 gallons of water per day that it required. Sagar's tannery went bankrupt in 1970 and the mill and land fell into disrepair. Between 1971 and 1974 the mill was demolished but it wasn't until the 1980's that the park was built.

### 3.3 Existing Management and Maintenance

The management of the Nature Reserve 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 delegated to the Senior Park Keeper who reports to the Green Spaces Manager.

All maintenance is carried out by the Landscape Maintenance Team based within the Environmental Services.

The Landscape Maintenance Team carry out work according to the maintenance schedule (see table 1). One off works at the request of Green Spaces Manager or Senior Park Keeper are carried out by a mix of the Landscape Maintenance Team and contractors.

### 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 Ball Grove Local 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 - Butterbur in the river

<b><u>Local Nature Reserves</u></b>		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Clean Bins	x2												
Clean Benches	x2												
Clean Notice Boards	x2												
Clean Signs	x2												
Path Maintenance - Strim/Cut back	x3												
Path Maintenance - Moss removal	x3												
Path Maintenance - Weed Spray	x3												
Path Maintenance - Leaf Clearance	x3												
Path Maintenance – Inspect/Repairs as necessary	x3												

Table 1 - Maintenance Schedule for Local Nature Reserves

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 Alkincoats 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 2020/21

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

*ES-18-20 Develop management plans for Local Nature Reserves and raising their profiles.*

## 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 Ball Grove Local Nature Reserves 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 Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve. These include:

1. *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 Ball Grove 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.



Figure 2 - Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

## Regional Plans & Policies

### Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan

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 addition 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.

### 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 that 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 Ball Grove 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

Ball Grove LNR has a specific set of byelaws that were created and sealed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### 3.6 Licences, Leases and Covenants

There are currently two leases that affect the LNR. A section of woodland adjacent to Bent Clough Farm is leased to a private individual (see map 3). However, public access is maintained. The lease holder must also make sure that the woodland and its infrastructure are kept in good order. A second lease is in place for fishing rights to Colne Water. This only applies to the bank of the river along the length in PBC ownership. The main track along the riverside is shared access to Spring Barn and the White House.

### 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 is 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.

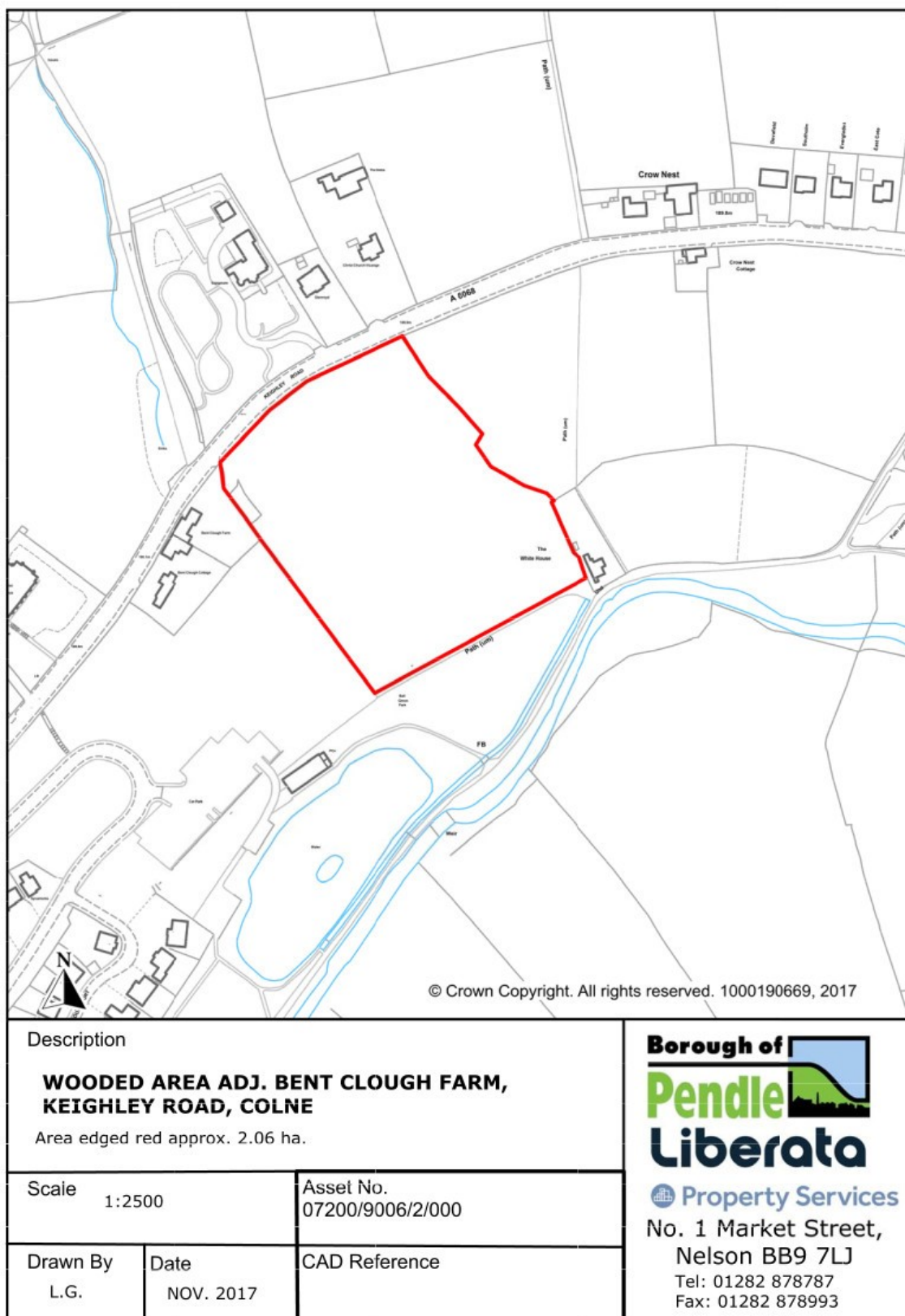
The analysis and resulting action planning for the biological heritage aspects of the sites is structured in a way similar to those outlined in the *CMS Guide to Management Planning (2015)*.

#### 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 brown tourism road signs in place at the junction of the A6068 Keighley Road and Ball Grove Drive directing site users to the main car park. Further brown tourism signs are located at the junction of the A6068, Keighley Road and the B6250, Cotton Tree Lane directing site users towards the main entrance of the park and the Winewall Road Car Park.

The site is served by a car park that is shared between Ball Grove Park and LNR. The car park is divided in to two parts known as the upper car park and lakeside car park. In total, these provide parking for 105 vehicles with an additional 6 disabled parking bays.



Map 3 - Extent of woodland area under lease

The site is served by a car park that is shared between Ball Grove Park and LNR. The car park is divided into two parts known as the upper car park and lakeside car park. In total, these provide parking for 105 vehicles with an additional 6 disabled parking bays.

The car park has a height barrier at the entrance that prevents access to larger vehicles. The car park is closed at night by local volunteers. The opening times of the car park are:

- 08:00 – 19:00 From 1<sup>st</sup> April until 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- 08:00 – 17:00 From 1<sup>st</sup> October until 31<sup>st</sup> March.

These are advertised at the entrance to the site and on the Councils website.

The surrounds of the upper car park are landscape with mixed native shrubs and trees which give a wild appearance to it that compliments the LNR. The surface is tarmacked and lined. The condition of this car park is good.

The lower car parks are landscaped with trees and grass with an outlook on to the lower lake of the park. They are surfaced with tarmac and are lined. These car parks are both in good condition.

In addition to this a smaller car park is located at the main entrance to the park on Winewall Road. This car park has a shared function between the park/nature reserve and the provision of off-street parking for local residents.

This car park is permanently open and as such is lit. It has a height barrier at the entrance to prevent larger vehicles from entering the site.

The car park is surrounded by trees and soft landscaping elements and enclosed in with knee rail fencing. The surface is tarmac and lined to provide parking for 24 vehicles. Overall, the car park is in good condition.

### Site Entrances

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

- Upper Ball Grove Car Park (SD 9090 4040)
- White House Entrance (SD 9108 4048)
- Covey Bridge Entrance (SD 9222 4053)

However, there are a number of minor entrances. These are located at:

- Footpath 211 Entrance (SD 9107 4066)
- Spring Grove Entrance (SD 9125 4058)
- Spring Barn Entrance 1 (SD 9122 4052)
- Spring Barn Entrance 2 (SD 9121 4051)

Table 2 details an assessment of each of entrances.

### Internal Signage & Interpretation





*Figure 3 - Spring Grove entrance into the meadow*

There are three interpretation boards associated with the LNR of these two are centred around a map of the site and give some basic information. These are located on the barn in Ball Grove Park (SD 9092 4038) and the former entrance to the site at SD 9172 4047.

These will need to be updated to take into account the extensions to the reserve.

In addition to this there is an interpretation board installed at the fish pass (SD 9142 4052). This depicts the ecology of the river and was installed by the River Ribble Catchment Trust as part of the creation of the fish pass.

### **Footpath Condition**

Throughout the reserve there are a multitude of paths with a mixture of surfaces. These range from good quality stone surfaced paths to informal routes 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 public rights of way (PROW) that run through the site. FP211 runs from the A6068, Keighley Road to the south east corner of the White House (SD 9110 4049). The second path, FP212, runs from the south east corner of the White House (SD 9110 4049) and leaves the reserve adjacent to Spring Grove (SD 9124 4055). All other routes through the site are concessionary. There are no cycleways or bridleways through the nature reserve.

A long-distance walking route, The Ferndean Way runs through the site. The route begins at Waterside, in Colne and follows the river of Colne Water for three miles into the nearby village of Wycoller. More information on the Ferndean Way can be found on the [Visit Pendle](#) website.



Overall, the condition of the footpaths is reasonable for the site. However, there is a need to upgrade some of the footpaths through the woods to ensure that slip hazards are reduced and provide a better user experience of the site. In addition to this consideration should be given to creating a low mobility route through the meadow to the fish pass.

Apart from some relatively small issues with the footpath surface the major problem with the path network is signage. On nearly all paths there was distinct lack of waymakers to enable visitors to navigate the site. This should be remedied when possible.

### Disabled Users

As discussed previously, parking facilities are available for disabled users of the site at the lakeside car park in the adjacent park. Due to the nature of the site, it is unsuitable for wheelchair access or to those that are not able to walk any great distance. However, some paths maybe suitable for the use of a tramper style mobility scooter.

### 3.7.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve and the adjacent park are valuable green spaces for people that live locally. The mixture of a path network of reasonable condition, Ferndean Way and the natural landscape elements encourages residents and visitors alike to spend time exploring the sites and the wider countryside.

The nature reserve has a quiet aspect to it with seating at various locations to allow visitors to sit, enjoy being in nature, contemplate and relax. This contributes greatly to the mental well-being of people that use the site.

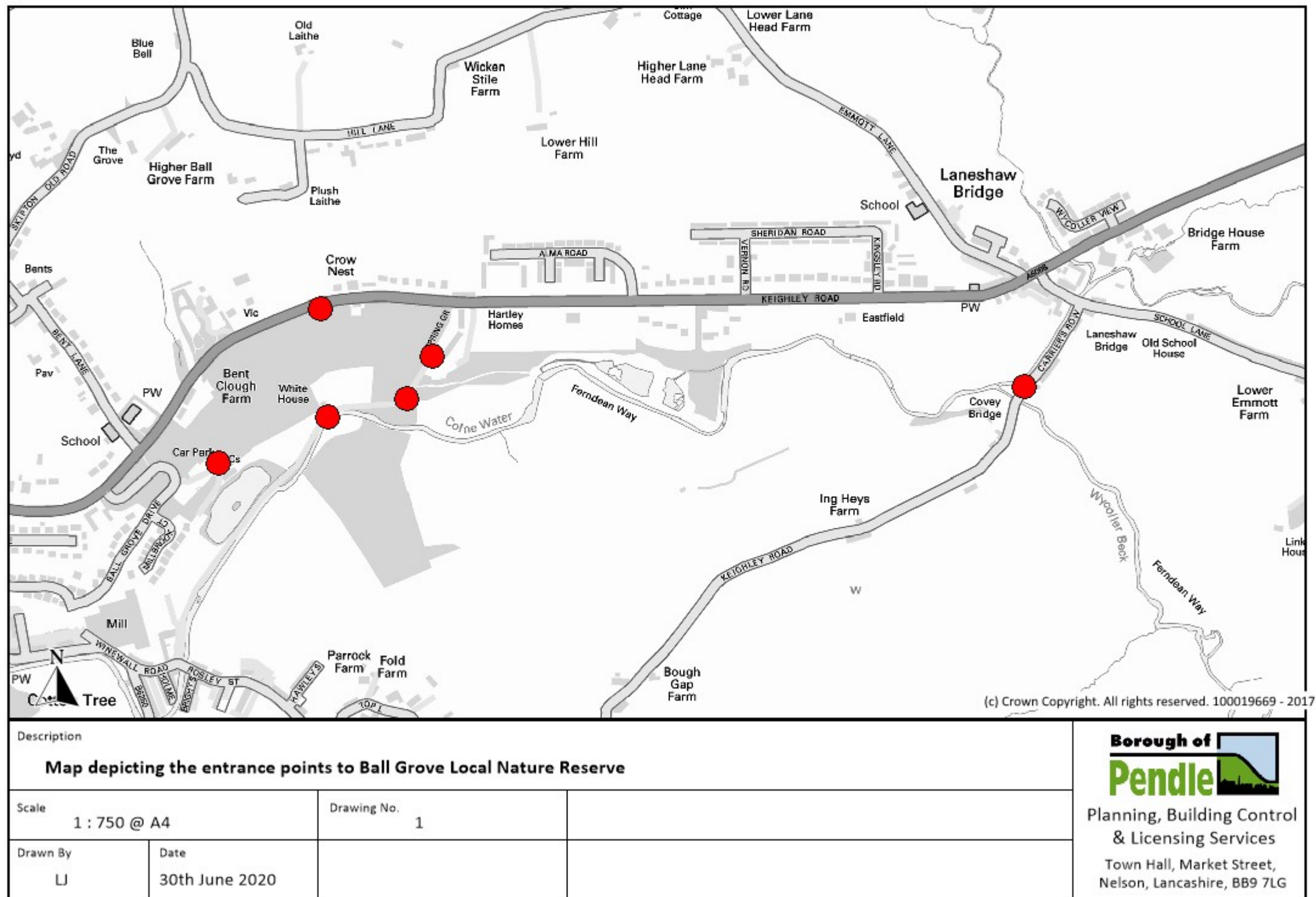
Angling is permitted on Colne Water within the nature reserve. This is managed by Burnley, Pendle & District Anglers Association.



Figure 4 - Seedheads next to Colne Water

Entrance Name	OS Grid Reference	Description	Suitable for Low Mobility	Quality (1 poor – 5 excellent)	Recommendations
Upper Ball Grove Car Park	SD 9090 4040	A small path off the car park into the woodland that was once an informal path. Only suitable for single file traffic recently resurfaced in bark. Planting makes the path feel narrow and close in. No signage or interpretation at this entrance point. The path is not a public right of way.	No	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widen footpath to make it feel more welcoming.</li> <li>Carry on with footpath improvement works.</li> <li>Install signage/interpretation.</li> </ul>
White House Entrance	SD 9108 4048	The main track along the riverside from Ball Grove Park into the nature reserve. This is a wide track made up of compressed stone surfacing. No signage or interpretation at this entrance point. Occasionally vehicles use this route. The path is a public right of way.	Yes – suitable for most mobility type vehicles.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install signage/interpretation at relevant point.</li> </ul>
Covey Bridge Entrance	SD 9222 4053	Small stone steps up to a gate in the wall adjacent to Carriers' Row. The path here is compressed soil. This entrance is part of the new extension and has not been managed as part of the site previously. No signage or interpretation at this entrance point.	No	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore upgrading the footpath surface at this entrance.</li> <li>Install interpretation board.</li> </ul>
Footpath 211 Entrance	SD 9107 4066	A small path off Keighley Road. The path is a gap in the wall leading to a flight of steep, stone steps. Hand rail on the east side of the steps. At the foot of the steps the path is uneven. Path is made up of compressed soil. Footpath sign on the main road. No interpretation at this entrance point. The path is a public right of way.	No	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install rails to the west side of the steps</li> <li>Install interpretation board/signage.</li> <li>Explore upgrading the footpath surface.</li> </ul>
Spring Grove Entrance	SD 9125 4058	A former field entrance consisting of wide opening with two stone gate posts at either side. Path is bare soil which is often very wet. Path is not a public right of way. No interpretation or signage at this point. The path is not a public right of way.	No	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install interpretation/signage.</li> <li>Explore upgrading footpath surface.</li> </ul>
Spring Barn Entrance 1	SD 9122 4052	A narrow compacted soil path. No signage or interpretation. Due to the proximity of the other entrances to the site no further signage or interpretation is likely to be required. The path is not a public right of way.	No	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the possibility of widening the path and resurfacing.</li> </ul>
Spring Barn Entrance 2	SD 9121 4051	A narrow path through a gap in the drystone with three stone steps leading to a compacted soil path. The path is not a public right of way. Due to the proximity of the other entrances to the site, signage and interpretation is not likely to be required.	No	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the possibility of widening and resurfacing the path.</li> </ul>

Table 2 - Assessment of entrances to the LNR

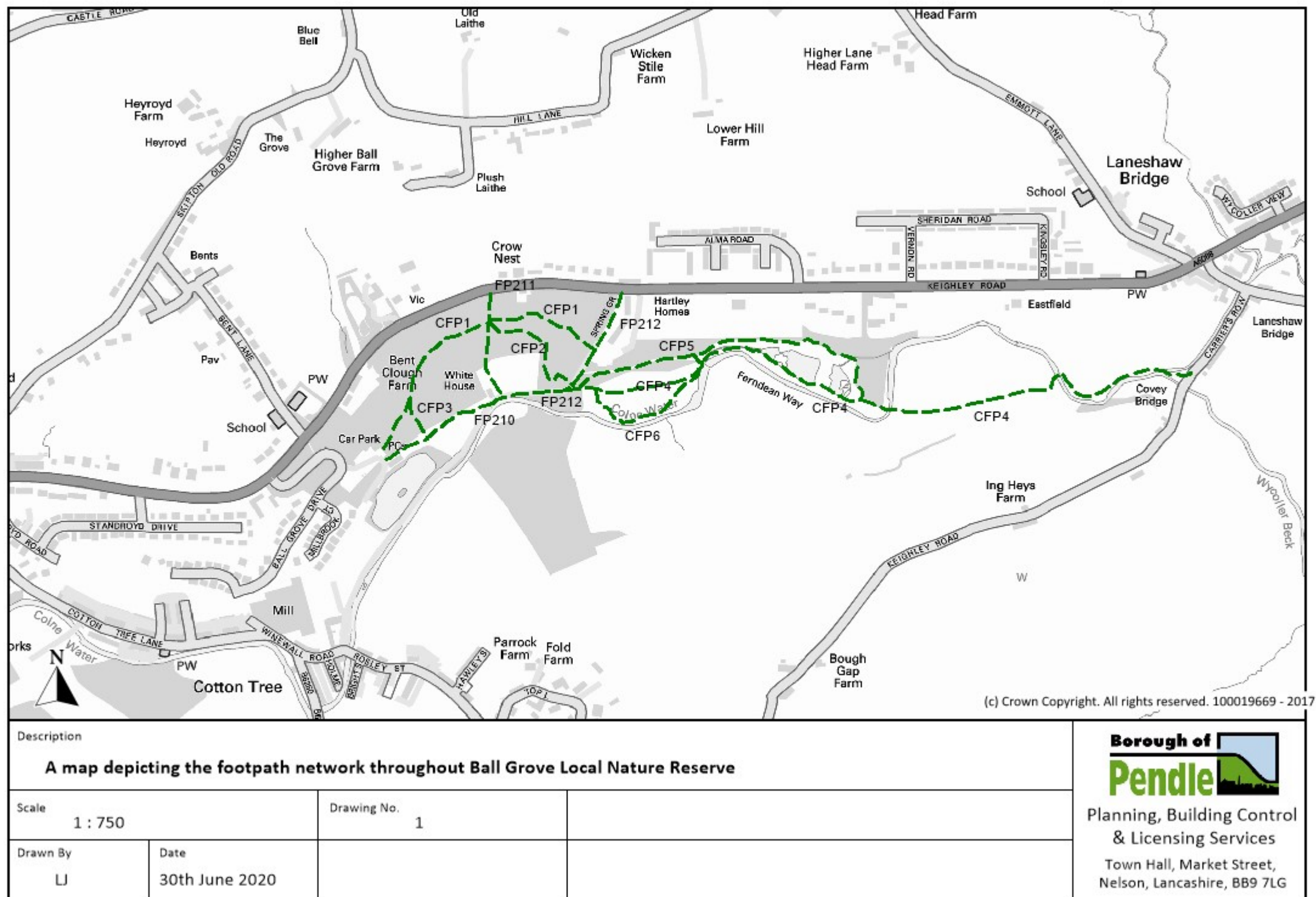


Map 4 - A map showing the entrance locations

Reference Number	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	<input type="checkbox"/>		SD 9090 4040	SD 9125 4057	Wood chip path to bare ground.	2	1	5	1	5	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Where the path is wood chip the surface is pretty good although does require topping up.</li><li>Where the surface is bare soil it tends to get very muddy. The slope of the site allow for slip hazards when wet.</li><li>Approaches to board walk and stone bridge need work. Some stone presents trip hazard.</li><li>Where path crosses drystone walls there is potential for trip hazards.</li><li>Footpath spreads in wet areas as people try to avoid them causing erosion problems.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Upgrade this path.</li><li>Surface should be compacted stone or woodchip.</li><li>Side rails need to be installed to provide even surface.</li><li>Install waymarking.</li></ul>	24
CFP2	<input type="checkbox"/>		SD 9180 4061	SD 9121 4051	Bare ground	3	1	5	1	5	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Where this path meets CFP1 the route can be quite wet and slippery. Further down hill where it is drier the path does not present any problems.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consider upgrading this path to either compacted stone or woodchip surface.</li><li>Install way marking.</li></ul>	25
CFP3	<input type="checkbox"/>		SD 9094 4048	SD 9097 4043	Bare ground	3	1	3	1	5	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This is relatively minor path but is quite well used.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Install marking.</li><li>As this a minor path upgrade is not necessary.</li></ul>	25
CFP4	<input type="checkbox"/>		SD 9121 4051	SD 9222 4053	Mixed – Bare ground/ compacted stone	4	1	5	2	5	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Where the path runs through the meadow the surface is bare ground and can be very wet in places.</li><li>The flag path between SD9174 4047 and SD9199 4050 requires upgrading to ensure safety.</li><li>Bridges prevent low mobility access along the entire length.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Upgrade the path across the meadow. Explore the creation of a path suitable for low mobility use by linking up with CFP6.</li></ul>	27
CFP5	<input type="checkbox"/>		SD 9122 4050	SD 9168 4049	Mixed – Bare ground/ compacted stone	3	1	4	1	5	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Board walks on this path above the lake require renewal.</li><li>The section between SD 9122 4050 and SD 9140 4056 is a bare ground path that is narrow and often wet.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Renew boardwalks.</li><li>Upgrade section of path between SD 9122 4050 and SD 9140 4056.</li></ul>	24
CFP6	<input type="checkbox"/>		SD 9125 4050	SD 9141 4053	Bare ground	4	1	2	1	5	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Well used path that follows the river through the meadow.</li><li>Some surface damage close to the Ash tree due to dogs digging the bank. Potential trip hazards.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Upgrade this path to compacted stone to create circular low mobility trail to fish pass. Connect route up to CFP4</li></ul>	23
FP1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FP211	SD 9108 4066	SD 9110 4049	Bare ground	3	3	4	1	5	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Well used Public Right of Way.</li><li>Signpost on the A60608.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Some waymarking required adjacent to the White House</li></ul>	26
FP2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FP212	SD 9102 4048	SD 9129 4066	Stone	5	1	4	3	5	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Good quality Public Right of Way.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Install waymarker from A6068.</li></ul>	28
FP3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FP210	SD 9093 4038	SD 9107 4047	Mixed surface	3	1	3	1	5	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Little used Public Right of Way.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No further action.</li></ul>	23

Table 3 - Footpath quality assessment





Map 5 - A map showing the path current path network throughout the LNR



### 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 Development Manager, Senior Park Keeper and the Environmental Action Group. In addition to this, members of the Friends group spend a lot of 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.

Specific risk assessments on the lake and river areas of the LNR. These water features are included in the 'open water on Council land' risk assessment.

All staff are issued with the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the tasks that they carry 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 that they require to complete their roles. All tasks are individually risk assessed and the assessments are freely available to 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 that is operated via an emergency control room.

### Control of dogs and litter

There is one specific dog waste bin located at the entrance to the meadow (SD 9121 4050) there is also a litter bin located close by (SD 9123 4050). These are emptied on a regular basis by the Council's Environmental Services. Dog waste can be put into litter bins as well as the specific dog bins.

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. 40% of their working time is dedicated to Green Space sites which includes 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 but also 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, litter at our sites. The ECT record any fixed penalties issued and prosecutions.

### **Anti-social Behaviour**

Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve does not suffer from much anti-social behaviour (ASB) problems. Where issues do occur, the Council has set procedures for dealing with instances.

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 a regular basis and frequently call into Ball Grove Park and 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. The nature reserve has one bin located close to the junction at the paths at Spring Grove (SD 9123 4051). In addition to this there are litter bins installed in the car parks and main park. Users of the reserve are encouraged to take their litter home.

In addition to litter arriving on site through visitors it is washed down the river through the tributaries of Colne Water and through windblown litter from traffic on Keighley Road.

The litter bin is emptied on a regular basis by an Environmental Services operative. The officer also clears any dropped litter and reports instances of damage or vandalism.

In addition 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 back to the Fleet Street Depot where it is then processed to landfill. The Council currently do not have the resources to separate waste for recycling.

Although the bin is emptied regularly this is carried out during the week due to limitations in staffing resources. At peak times such as bank holidays and weekends the bin can be filled quite quickly and overflow.

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.



Figure 5 - The old weir

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

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 the nature reserve is exceptionally low when compared to other green spaces of a similar size.

### **Landscape Maintenance**

The Council recognises that the quality of a visitors experience and the sites importance 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 all 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. However, in recent years there has been a move to formalise the work into a Maintenance Work Programme individual to each of the Local Nature Reserves.

The Maintenance Work Programme includes all landscape maintenance tasks. Details of the maintenance schedule for Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve can be found in [section 3.3 and table 1](#) of this document.

### **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, the cafe and Friends Group 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 provides 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 to use them. Ball Grove Park is no different in that it does require these substances to control weeds although we are endeavouring to limit the use of them and where possible find 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 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 chemical is only used on the completion of a COSHH risk assessment and after every other method has 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. Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve is no exception to this and has an active Friends Group that is consulted with and gets involved in any key developments for the Park and Nature Reserve. The

Friends Group meet on a regular basis and focus on park management issues, undertake small scale tasks and assist with, and organise their own, volunteer working days.

The Friends of Ball Grove Park and Nature Reserve are a constituted group with a good membership including local Councillors, local residents, park users, local police, etc. The Senior Park Keeper and Green Spaces Manager play a vital role as the points of contact between the Friends of Ball Grove and the Council. We do not have any representation from the Council at the Friends Group meetings, but we input prior to and after any meeting. The minutes and any issues pertaining to the council are passed on to us. The Green Spaces Manager also works closely with the EAG and the Cafe as well as other relevant Council Officers, such as the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator.

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.

The Friends of Ball Grove are an invaluable asset to the Nature Reserve.

In addition to the Friends of Ball Grove the site has a wealth of other stakeholders including:

- Local Nature Reserve Steering Group
- Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- Trawden Parish Council
- Colne Town Council
- Colne and District Area Committee
- Individual Councillors (Borough, Town and Parish)
- Christ Church C of E Primary School
- Laneshawbridge Primary School
- Trawden Forest Primary School
- Colne Park High School
- Lakeside Café

In the past the Greenspaces team had good working relationships with the local schools and the reserve was used as an outdoor classroom. With changes to staffing and pressures on schools to fulfil the national curriculum this has lapsed.

Representatives from the Friends of Ball Grove, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Greenspace Officers sit on the Local Nature Reserve Steering Group. The other delegates on the group are made up of representatives of the other LNR's from the Borough. This group meets to share news, solve problems and disseminate good practice throughout the groups. It also helps to instil a sense of purpose and prevents a feeling of isolation within the groups.

### 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.

### Onsite Marketing

The park and nature reserve are served by brown tourism signs as stated in section [3.7.1 A Welcoming Place](#). In addition to this the reserve has three interpretation boards. These are located at:

- Lakeside Café (SD 9092 4038)
- Entrance to the meadow (SD 9122 4050)
- Bridge adjacent to lake (SD 9171 4047)

These board contain some basic information about the site, some photographs of wildlife and maps. The boards are generally in good condition, but the artwork now requires updating due to the extension.

Consideration should be given to installing new boards at additional entrance points to the reserve in particular at:

- Upper Ball Grove Car Park (SD 9090 4040)
- Covey Bridge (SD 9222 4053)

Consideration should also be given to installing welcome signs at the other entrances.

### Online Presence

Information regarding Ball Grove LNR can be found on the Councils [website](#). This contains directions to the site and a bit of information of what can be seen. In addition to the Pendle Council has a presence on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Friends also have a [Facebook](#) presence that is updated on a regular basis.

### Press Releases

Whenever an event or community led initiative takes place in the park a press release is sent out to all local agencies.

### 3.7.7 Management

This management and maintenance plan forms the basis for the future management, maintenance and development of Ball Grove 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 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 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 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 sources of 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 the sites wildlife before the convenience of site users.



Figure 6 - Autumn in the meadow

### 3.7.8 Financial Management

Item	Qty	Value
Volunteer time	180 hours per annum*	£1569.60**
Staff time	8 days per annum	£1371.20
Landscape Maintenance	8 days per annum	£1460.40
Revenue Budget	1 per annum	£500
<b>Total</b>		<b>£4901.20</b>

\* Based on figures submitted to Pendle Borough Council by the Friends of Ball Grove. 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, officer time and the time spent by the Landscape Maintenance Team carrying out grounds maintenance operations.

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

### 3.7.9 Ecology & Conservation

#### Species

Ball Grove LNR has been surveyed three times. Once in August 1998 as part of a Phase I habitat survey of the entire Borough, secondly in August 2013 and finally in September 2017 as part of the process of extending the reserve (appendix 1).

The original survey showed that much of the reserve was made up of improved and semi-improved grassland with four blocks of semi-natural broadleaved woodland in the form of two strips along the Keighley Road (A6068), a strip of Ash and Horse-chestnut along the track down to the lower lodge, and a copse to the north of the White House.

The only target note for the area was for the lodge located in the reserve.

In 1992 the scheme was drawn up to plant 9525 trees and shrubs on the improved grasslands to the north of the site. This led to the part of the site being designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 2004.

The 2003 survey recorded 150 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 benefits of conservation management regimes are having 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	18
Sedges, rushes, ferns etc	16
Trees and shrubs	43
Herbaceous Plants	121
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>

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.

The 2017 survey concluded that:

- The proposed extension would increase the size of the LNR from 2.95ha to 17ha an increase of 576%<sup>1</sup>.
- The extension would add significant areas of broad-leaved woodland, species rich grassland and open habitats.
- No Invasive Non-Native Species were present on the site.
- The area of the proposed extension supports at least 175 species of vascular plants (the total will probably be over 200), as well as Roe Deer, 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 extension offers 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 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	30
Birds	56
Fish	12
Mammals	8
Molluscs	1
Bryophytes	48
Ferns and Allies	13
Flowering Plants (including Angiosperms)	394
Gymnosperm and Ginko	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>571</b>

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

Out of the bird species recorded on the site 11 feature as Red or Amber Status on the Birds of Conservation Concern list produced by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and its partners.

Red List Bird Species	
Grey Wagtail	Fieldfare
Mistle Thrush	Tree Sparrow
Redwing	

Table 7 - Bird species occurring on the site that are listed as species of most conservation concern (Red)

<sup>1</sup> At the time of the survey the section east of Colne Water in the existing reserve was not put forward at part of the extension. The figures have been adjusted to include this area.



Amber List Bird Species	
Mallard	Bullfinch
Kingfisher	Black-headed Gull
Tawny Owl	Dipper

Table 8 - Bird species occurring on the site listed as species of concern (Amber)



Figure 7 - Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Out of the remaining species listed Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) are listed on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list as vulnerable and the European Eel (*Anguilla Anguilla*) as critically endangered.

### Habitats

Ball Grove LNR is made up of a mosaic of habitats. These include:

- Semi-improved grassland
- Species rich grassland
- Broad leaved woodland
- Marsh
- River
- Lowland Fen

Much of the broad-leaved woodland and a portion of the meadow (lowland fen) are classed as priority habitat (see map 6).



### Semi-improved Grassland

Semi-improved grassland is a transition category of grassland that have been modified by artificial fertilisers, slurry, intensive grazing, herbicides or drainage. This results in a less diverse ranges 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 regimes 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 in 1992 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



Figure 8 - Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

bringing it into good management and developing the ground flora to improve the quality of the site.

### **Marsh**

A marsh is a wetland that forms a transition environment between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. They tend to be dominated with herbaceous plants rather than trees and shrubs.

The marsh has, historically, beset with issues of retaining water particularly throughout the summer months. In the past various methods of extracting water from the river have been deployed in order to ensure water levels remain. However, these methods have not alleviated the situation.

The marsh area is an important breeding site for frogs and toads but will also host a wide variety of wildlife. In conjunction with the Friends group it has been decided to abandon the idea of having a permanent sizeable lake on the site and instead develop several smaller, deeper ponds across the site of the lake and allow the rest of the area to flood over winter months creating a more natural marsh area.

### **River**

The river is an important ecosystem that connects the site with other natural habitats throughout the Borough. Records show that the river provides homes to Atlantic Salmon, Common Carp and European Eel, Kingfisher, Dipper, Grey Wagtail and anecdotal evidence of Otter. As a result, it is important that this ecosystem and its margins are improved to encourage these species to thrive.

In recent years work has been carried out by our partners, River Ribble Catchment Trust to remove weirs in order to allow Salmon, Trout and Eel to swim further upstream. Work should continue to improve the riparian habitats to encourage these species.

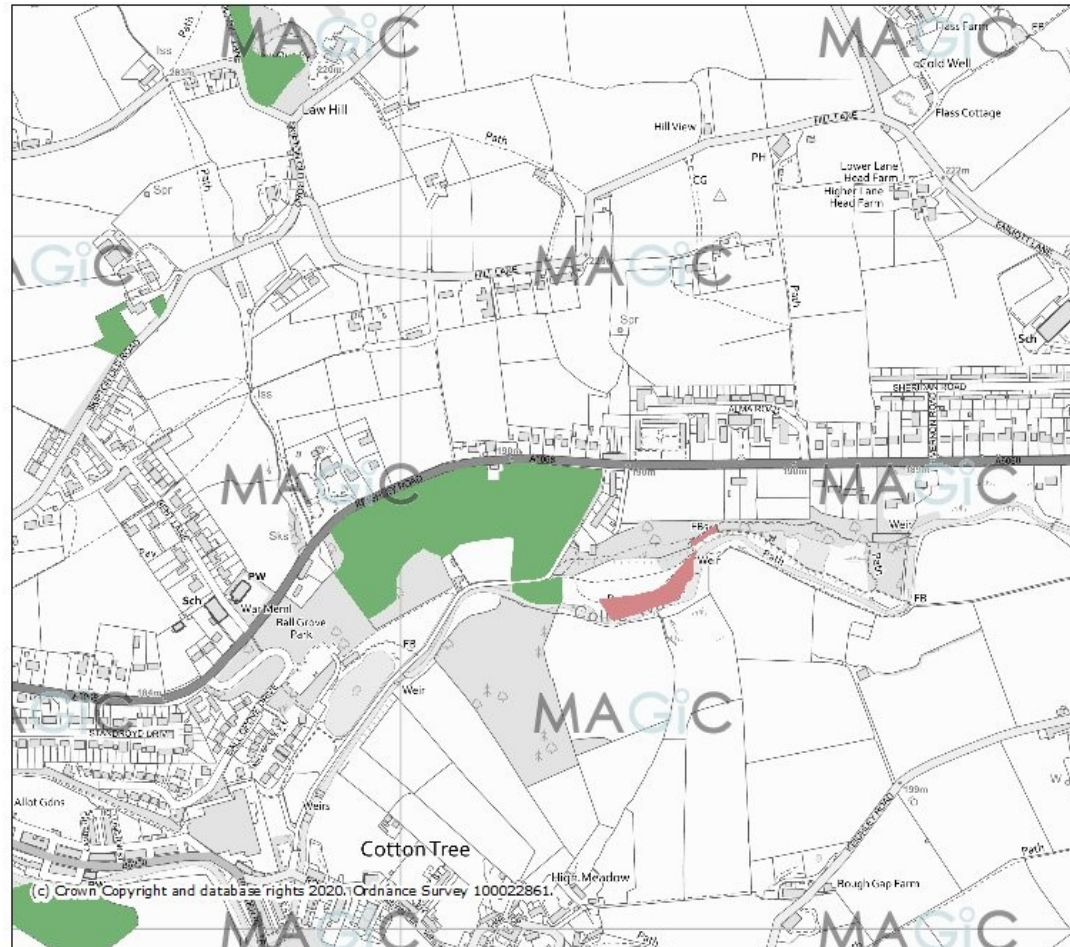
### **Lowland Fen**

Lowland Fens priority habitat encompasses a wide range of wetland type environments. They are important as relatively small patches of semi-natural wetland within larger areas of more modified, intensively managed, and ecologically less diverse farmland.

The management for conservation largely depends of the type of lowland fen present but, generally includes light or moderate grazing by sheep or cattle. Artificial drainage, peat cutting, burning and afforestation should be avoided.

MAGiC

## Priority Habitats - Ball Grove LNR



### Legend

- Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Fens (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)

Projection = OSGB36

xmin = 389800

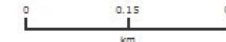
ymin = 440000

xmax = 392600

ymax = 441300

Map produced by MAGiC on 13 July, 2020.

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Map 6 - Priority Habitats (source: MAGiC Maps, Natural England)

## 4.0 Where do we want to get to?

### 4.1 Vision

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

*'Ball Grove 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 the town of Colne and into the wider countryside and an essential part of the green infrastructure of the town.*

*We aim for Ball Grove 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 section. 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 in collaboration with our stakeholders and are listed in the table below.

Aims	
Wildlife	People
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To comply with legal obligations and policy commitments.</li> <li>• To maintain the LNR status of the site.</li> <li>• Collate information about the flora and fauna found on the site.</li> <li>• To improve the quality of the grasslands, wetlands and woodlands through sensitive management.</li> <li>• To maintain and where possible enhance the populations of notable plant and animal species that are resident and breed within the site.</li> <li>• To control and/or eradicate invasive non-native plants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To collate information including press coverage, visitor statistics, details of events, and work days.</li> <li>• To encourage the safe, sustainable and inclusive public use of the site.</li> <li>• To promote the site for education and research.</li> <li>• To seek to raise funds to implement the objectives above.</li> </ul>

Table 9 - Aims of Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve

### 4.3 Objectives

The vision and aims feed into the objectives. In the case of Ball Grove LNR there are six main objectives. The actions rising 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, 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 10 – 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 Ball Grove 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).
- 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 for improve visitor access and facilitate small-scale silvicultural operations.
- Consider upgrading the main paths to create a low mobility trail to the fish pass.
- Consider the development of a tramper hire scheme in partnership with the Lakeside Café.
- Consider upgrading some of the paths throughout the reserve to create a tramper trail.
- Carry out footpath works detailed in the condition assessment.

### 4.4.2 Healthy, Safe & Secure

Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve in conjunction with the adjacent park contributes highly to the health and well-being of local residents.



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

### Safety

As stated, the 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 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, Ball Grove 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 its powers to develop Public Space Protection Orders in parks and sports grounds. As such, this use of the Orders should be considered to provide continued, flexible protection the Nature Reserve. This 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 has worked well up until now. However, the disbandment of the Environmental Action Group will have a major impact on this. The Landscape Maintenance Team 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.



Figure 9 - Soldier Beetle (*Rhagonycha fulva*)

#### 4.4.4 Community Involvement

Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve is lucky to have a proactive Friends Group who take a keen interest into the site and its wildlife. However, a much wider 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.

#### 4.4.5 Marketing

While it may not be advantageous to the Nature Reserve to encourage large amounts of visitors to it, the marketing of the site should be done in such away then encourages people to enjoy the site while limiting the disturbance to nature. The nature reserve has role in allowing visitors to experience nature close-up while taking pressure of 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 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

Ball Grove Local Nature Reserve's predominant function is to provide habitat and a place for nature. As a result, the resources required to do this should be prioritised with the visitor management aspect of the site, although important, taking second place. As a result, 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 woodland management plan and incorporate 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 the weaknesses/gaps identified, issues raised and 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 more detailed actions which management are seeking to deliver in the short term. These actions contain milestones and provide timescales for each milestone. This is to ensure that actions are progressed and hopefully 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.



<b>Action Number:</b> 1/21/AWP	<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Interpretation Review</b>				
<b>Project Description:</b>	Review of site interpretation with a view of installing new interpretation points at main entrances.					
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Key Officers:</b>	<b>Partners:</b>	<b>Project Milestones</b>			
LOW	Greenspaces Manager	Communications Team	<b>Number</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>Project Completion Date:</b> 31/12/2022	Senior Park Keeper	Contractor	1	31/12/2021	Carry out assessment of current provision and recommend any improvements	
<b>Finances:</b>		<b>Projected Cost</b>	2	31/12/2021	Submit bid for capital funding to deliver the finding of the report	
Staff time, capital budgets		£4,000	3	31/12/2022	Design new interpretation	
			4	31/12/2022	Install new interpretation	
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Improved information and communication. Increased perception of a welcoming site. Increased perception of a well-maintained site.						
<b>Additional Information:</b>						

<b>Action Number:</b> 2/21/HSS	<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Recording site inspections</b>				
<b>Project Description:</b>	Develop a system of formally recording site inspections					
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Key Officers:</b>	<b>Partners:</b>	<b>Project Milestones</b>			
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Greenspaces Manager		<b>Number</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>Project Completion Date:</b> 1/4/2022	Senior Park Keeper Senior Parks Officer		1	1/4/2021	Meet with Officers to discuss recording requirement	
<b>Finances:</b>	<b>Projected Cost:</b>		2	1/4/2022	Develop system of recording information	
Staff time			3			
			4			
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Meet the Council obligations with regard to Health & Safety.						
<b>Additional Information:</b>						

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<b>Action Number:</b> 3/21/CWM	<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Landscape Maintenance Schedule</b>				
<b>Project Description:</b>	Develop a landscape maintenance schedule for the site to ensure that it remains in a good standard of maintenance					
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Key Officers:</b>	<b>Partners:</b>	<b>Project Milestones</b>			
<b>HIGH</b>	Greenspaces Manager		<b>Number</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>Project Completion Date:</b> 1/4/2022	Senior Park Keeper		1	1/4/2021	Site visit to determine work to be carried out.	
	Senior Parks Officer					
<b>Finances:</b>		<b>Projected Cost:</b>	2	1/8/2021	Produce landscape maintenance schedule and maps.	
Staff time, revenue budgets		£5,000 per annum	3	1/4/2022	Start work from new schedule	
			4			
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Improved landscape maintenance. Increased perception of a well-maintained site.						
<b>Additional Information:</b>						

<b>Action Number:</b> 4/21/CWM	<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Review waste management facilities and processes for the site</b>				
<b>Project Description:</b>	Consider options for improving the waste management of the site. In particular, the provision of waste receptacles and prevention of overflowing at peak times.					
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Key Officers:</b>	<b>Partners:</b>	<b>Project Milestones</b>			
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Greenspaces Manager	Friends of Ball Grove Park & Nature Reserve	<b>Number</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>Project Completion Date:</b> 1/4/2022	Senior Park Keeper		1	1/4/2021	Survey site to determine requirements for bins and identify problem litter spots.	
	Environmental Services Manager					
<b>Finances:</b>		<b>Projected Cost:</b>	2	1/8/2022	Produce report detailing recommendations and indicative costs.	
Staff time, revenue budgets		To be established	3	1/4/2022	Implement recommendations of the report where practicable.	
			4			
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Improved waste management operations for the site. Improved perception of a clean, well-maintained site.						
<b>Additional Information:</b>						



<b>Action Number:</b> 5/21/CWM	<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Use of Chemicals</b>				
<b>Project Description:</b>	Monitor and record the use of chemicals on the site with a view to reducing.					
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Key Officers:</b>	<b>Partners:</b>	<b>Project Milestones</b>			
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Greenspaces Manager		<b>Number</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>Project Completion Date:</b> 1/4/2022	Senior Park Keeper		1	1/09/2021	Audit chemicals used on site to determine range and environmental impact.	
	Senior Parks Officer					
<b>Finances:</b>		<b>Projected Cost:</b>	2	1/4/2022	Monitor all chemical usage.	
Staff time			3	1/4/2022	Produce report on chemical use with a view to reduced use or alternative solutions.	
			4			
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Reduced environmental impact and/or damage,						
<b>Additional Information:</b>						

<b>Action Number:</b> 6/21/CIN	<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Outdoor Classroom</b>				
<b>Project Description:</b>	Seek to improve links between the reserve and local schools. Explore the provision of forest school activities.					
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Key Officers:</b>	<b>Partners:</b>	<b>Project Milestones</b>			
<b>HIGH</b>	Greenspaces Manager		<b>Number</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>Project Completion Date:</b> 1/4/2022	Senior Park Keeper		1	1/4/2021	Seek meeting with school to see if there is any partnership working	
<b>Finances:</b>		<b>Projected Cost:</b>	2			
Revenue budgets, staff time.		To be determined	3			
			4			
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Greater community involvement.						
<b>Additional Information:</b>						

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Action Number: 7/21/CIN	Project Title:	Naturalist Groups				
Project Description:	Seek to forge links with local naturalist groups.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
HIGH	Greenspaces Manager	Naturalist Groups	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date:	Senior Park Keeper		1	1/4/2021	Identify local naturalist groups	
1/4/2022						
Finances:		Projected Cost:	2	1/4/2021	Seek a meeting with Committees of groups.	
Staff time. Revenue Budgets		To be established	3			
			4			
Project Outcomes: Greater community involvement. Possible larger scope of ecological information about the site.						
Additional Information:						

<b>Action Number:</b> 8/21/MAR	<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Council Website</b>				
<b>Project Description:</b>	Update the information on the Council website and explore ways of having a greater online presences for the site.					
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Key Officers:</b>	<b>Partners:</b>	<b>Project Milestones</b>			
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Greenspaces Manager	Communications Team	<b>Number</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>Project Completion Date:</b> 1/4/2022	Senior Park Keeper		1	1/09/2021	Asses the current provision of online material with regard to the site.	
<b>Finances:</b>		<b>Projected Cost:</b>	2	31/12/2021	Meet with Communications Team to discuss web presences	
Staff time			3	1/04/2022	Design/update and web material	
			4	31/12/2021	Upload content to website.	
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Greater provision of information. More opportunities to market the site.						
<b>Additional Information:</b>						

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<b>Action Number:</b> 9/21/MAN	<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>LNR Management System</b>				
<b>Project Description:</b>	Develop a management system that helps keep track of the management plan and record progress.					
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Key Officers:</b>	<b>Partners:</b>	<b>Project Milestones</b>			
<b>LOW</b>	Greenspaces Manager		<b>Number</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>Project Completion Date:</b> 1/4/2022	Senior Park Keeper		1	1/4/2022	Look at different ways that a management system can be produced that is accessible to all.	
<b>Finances:</b>	<b>Projected Cost:</b>		2			
Staff time			3			
			4			
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Improved management.						
<b>Additional Information:</b>						

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<b>Action Number:</b> 10/21/ECO	<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Wildlife Recording</b>				
<b>Project Description:</b>	Work with volunteers to ensure that wildlife sightings are formally recorded.					
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Key Officers:</b>	<b>Partners:</b>	<b>Project Milestones</b>			
<b>HIGH</b>	Greenspaces Manager	Friends of Ball Grove	<b>Number</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>Project Completion Date:</b> 1/4/2022 & ongoing	Senior Park Keeper	Naturalist Groups	1	1/4/2021	Speak with the Friends group to highlight the importance of wildlife recording.	
<b>Finances:</b>		<b>Projected Cost:</b>	2	1/01/2022	Hold training session on wildlife recording.	
Staff time			3	1/04/2022	Produce report on wildlife sightings.	
			4			
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Increased community involvement. Increased knowledge of site wildlife.						
<b>Additional Information:</b>						

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<b>Action Number:</b> 11/21/ECO	<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Wildlife Surveys</b>				
<b>Project Description:</b>	Carry out surveys to determine the range of species of mammal, insect and aquatic life within the site.					
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Key Officers:</b>	<b>Partners:</b>	<b>Project Milestones</b>			
<b>HIGH</b>	Greenspaces Manager		<b>Number</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>Project Completion Date:</b> 1/04/2022	Senior Park Keeper		1	1/04/2021	Obtain quotations for carrying out the survey work.	
<b>Finances:</b>		<b>Projected Cost:</b>	2	1/12/2021	Seek funding for surveys	
Staff time. Revenue budgets. Capital funding and external funding		To be established.	3	1/04/2022	Carry out surveys and receive reports.	
			4			
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Improved ecological knowledge of the site. Ecological bench marking.						
<b>Additional Information:</b>						

Action Number: 12/21/ECO	Project Title:	Woodland Management Plan				
Project Description:	Develop woodland management plan and incorporate into this management plan.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
HIGH	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper		Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date: 01/04/2022			1	01/12/2021	Carry out survey work	
Finances:			Projected Cost:	2	04/12/2022	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:						



Action Number: 13/12/ECO	Project Title:	Lowland Fen Habitat				
Project Description:	Develop management regimes for the lowland fen habitat and incorporate into the management plan.					
Priority:	Key Officers:	Partners:	Project Milestones			
HIGH	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper		Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date: 01/04/2022			1	01/12/2021	Carry out survey work	
Finances:			Projected Cost:	2	04/12/2022	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 waymarking for visitors to find their way around.	Low	Long term	Existing budgets	Senior Park Keeper		
Upgrade woodland paths for improve visitor access and facilitate small-scale silvicultural operations.	Medium	Long term	External funding	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper		
Consider upgrading the main paths to create a low mobility trail to the fish pass.	Medium	Long term	External funding	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper		
Consider the development of a tramper hire scheme in partnership with the Lakeside Café.	Low	Long term	External funding	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper	Lakeside Café	
Carry out footpath works detailed in the condition assessment.	High	Long term	Existing budgets Capital Funding External Funding	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper		
Document all reports of damage and actions taken.	High	Ongoing	Staff time Existing budgets	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper Senior Parks Officer		
Review the control of dogs through the development of the Public Space Protection Orders	High	Medium term	Staff time Existing budgets	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper 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	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper Localities Officer		
Develop the potential for an outdoor classroom.	Low	Long term	Existing budgets Capital Funding External Funding	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper	Local schools	
Continue to provide and develop practical volunteering opportunities.	High	Ongoing	Staff time Existing budgets	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper	Friends of Ball Grove Other volunteers	
Continue to support and improve connections with site stakeholders.	High	Ongoing	Staff time Existing budgets	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper	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	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper	LNR Steering Group	
Update existing interpretation board artwork.	High	Medium term	Staff time Existing budgets Capital Funding External Funding	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper		
Develop a marketing plan for the site.	Low	Long term	Staff time	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper Principal Communications Officer		
Work to secure funding for projects outlined in the management plan.	High	Ongoing	Staff time	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper		
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	Greenspaces Manager	Stakeholders	
Ensure that all management objectives for the site take into account species that are listed as vulnerable.	High	Ongoing	Staff time	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper		
Ensure that the priority habitats are managed in accordance to best practice and available guidance.	High	Ongoing	Staff time	Senior Park Keeper		
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	Senior Park Keeper		
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	Senior Park Keeper		

Suggestion	Priority	Timescale	Finances	Key Officer(s)	Partner(s)	Additional Information
Progress the development of the marsh area.	Medium	Medium term	Staff time Existing budgets External funding	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper		
Continue to work with the River Ribble Catchment Trust to improve the riparian habitats throughout the site.	Medium	Ongoing	Staff time Existing budgets External funding	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper	RRCT	
Develop management regimes for the lowland fen habitat and incorporate into the management plan.	High	Medium term	Staff time	Senior Park Keeper		
Wildlife surveys	High	Long term	Staff time Existing budgets External funding	Greenspaces Manager Senior Park Keeper		Carry out wildlife surveys at the end of the life of this plan to determine future management and monitor ecological improvements to the site.

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## 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 also be discussed at the Friends Group's meetings and the internal working group meetings. All 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 Group feedback (Friends Group)
- 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 do to improve 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 how well we are performing and provide the public with evidence that management are maintaining levels of quality and the park is developing and improving on a continual basis, the following performance management tools will be used.

Appendix 1 – Wildlife Surveys

Appendix 2 – NBN Data

Appendix 3 - Byelaws

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