Gosfield Sand Pits

Management Plan

Consultation Draft

This plan has been prepared using the Forestry Commission Management Plan template. It sets out priorities and a vision for the Gosfield Sand Pits Nature Reserve over the next 10 years, with detailed managment actions for the next 5 years.
Details may change, depending on events such as drought or storm damage. Comments are welcome by 30th June 2025.

Date:	**March 2025**	**to**	**February 2030**
Owner:	**Gosfield Parish Council**		
Date (from/to)	**March 2025 to February 2030**		
Date of last review [UKWAS 2.1.3]	**February 2020** (Agreed - Min20/138/1 20/07/2020)		
Agent / contact:			

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Location

Nearest town, village or feature	Gosfield, Halstead, Essex
Grid reference	TL 787296
Total area (ha)	7.93ha

1.2 Description of the woodland(s) in the landscape

Gosfield Sand Pits is in the parish of Gosfield, approximately 35kms North-East of Chelmsford, Essex. The site lies to the East of the A1017 and South of Halstead Road.

It is a former sand and gravel pit, though an area on the eastern margin appears to have never been dug, and is secondary woodland, with some possibly ancient semi-natural woodland. The worked area consists of an open area of acid grassland, ponds and marshy areas of various sizes, and secondary woodland dominated by willow and alder, with some oak/cherry woodland along the northern edge.

To the West the site is bordered by housing, whilst on the other three sides lies agricultural land. Most of this is down to cereal production with an area of set aside to the East, linking the site to another area of woodland, part ASNW and part broad-leaved plantation.

In the wider context the site lies between two areas of landscape noted within the Landscape Character Assessment for the Braintree District for possessing amounts of woodland. To the North lies Broake's Wood Nature Reserve and a 100ha wood planted on the former Gosfield airfield, lying within Unit F1 Gosfield Wooded Farmland. To the South is a band of woods, some ancient semi-natural woodland, running from Bovingdon Hall in the West to Marks Hall in the East, classified as Unit F2 High Garrett/Markshall Wooded Farmland. The site itself lies within the Sub-unit 4a: the Bourne Brook, part

of Unit A4 the Colne River Valley. The site potentially is an important link between the two areas of wooded farmland.

1.3 History of Management

Most of the site was originally in the ownership of Gosfield Place, demolished in the early 20th century. Sand and gravel extraction took place on the majority of the site from the Second World War until the 1960s, after which the site was abandoned and left to overgrow. The site takes its name from its former use.

The Parish Council acquired the site in 1983. Some of the site was cleared and paths created during the next three years. The site is currently managed for informal recreation and for biodiversity. The three larger ponds were used by Halstead and District Angling Club, who surrendered their lease allegedly due to poor fish health, during the course of the management period 2014-2019. Informal angling occurs occasionally.

Management objectives have varied since the Parish Council acquired the site. The first Management Plan was drawn up (undated) but it is not clear how closely this was followed. The second plan ran from 2014 to 2019, and was partly implemented, though two gale events during the period resulted in delays and changed priorities.

The site has been managed by a warden since 2003, with a committee set up within the Parish Council to assist in the management. This has resulted in a more stable management regime in recent years, with greater emphasis on biodiversity improvements. The current warden is a local sylvicultural contractor and consultant, resident in the village.

The previous management plan was prepared in 2020, and activity is based on the 16 compartments shown on Map 1.

Work within the site is carried out by the parish council's contractor (the warden) and local volunteers. Specialist contractors are employed if tree surgery is required. Much of the work is either in response to issues arising, or as part of routine maintenance.
The reserve is an important resource for informal recreation, particularly dog walking, and is occasionally the venue for guided walks for local scout and guide groups.
An area of the former sand pit at the southern end of the site, is not currently in Parish ownership. However, the Estate of the owner has offered to transfer it to the village, and the transfer of ownership is progressing.

2. WOODLAND INFORMATION

2.1 Areas and features

2.1.1 Designated Areas	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Special Areas for Conservation (SACs)			
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
Ramsar Sites (**see note on Guidance)**			
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)			
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)			
Other designations eg: National Parks (NPs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)	X		1
Details Designated as a Local Wildlife Site - Site No: Bra122 Gosfield Pits The entire site is covered by Tree Preservation Order 23/82, so all works to trees must be approved by Braintree District Council (BDC).			

2.1.2 Rare and important species	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Red Data Book or BAP species	X	X	
Rare or threatened species	X		

Details:

Within the woodland, surveys have demonstrated the presence of at least four bat species, including pipistrelles, included in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan. Adjacent to the woodland there have been numerous sightings of barn owls (a National BAP species) and reports of stag beetles (an Essex BAP species). Bats are also a European Protected Species.

The site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and is noted for species such as broom, wavy hair-grass, sheep's sorrel, wood spurge, pignut, stinking iris and common spotted orchid. There is an expanding area of snow drops (probably naturalised). None of these species are particularly rare. Sadly, the Common Spotted Orchid has not been recorded since the 2014-2019 management plan.

A moth survey has identified three species that are considered unusual. In addition regular surveys have demonstrated the site is used by a wide range of bird species, including kingfishers and occasional cormorants. Badgers and Muntjac are regular visitors, and have been causing severe damage to stands of Male Fern since summer 2024.

2.1.3 Habitats	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)	Yes		
Other semi-natural woodland	Yes	Yes	1
Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)			
Semi-natural features in PAWS			
Woodland margins and hedges	Yes	Yes	1
Veteran and other notable trees	Yes		1
Breeding sites	Yes		
Habitats of notable species	Yes		1
Unimproved grassland	Yes		1
Rides and open ground	Yes	Yes	1
Valuable wildlife communities	Yes		1
Feeding areas			
Lowland heath			
Peatlands			
Ponds and marsh	Yes		1

Details:

Most of the woodland within the site is the result of colonisation by native species, though the east facing slope contains characteristics of ASNW (Compartment 15). Areas of woodland nearby comprise Alder Carr, natural regeneration and plantations of broad-leaved species.

Within the woodland is a large area of acid grassland (Compartment 16). This is notable for the species present and the scarcity of this habitat within the region. Isolated broom plants are the last remnants of heath that used to cover the site. The open area of acid grassland, together with the external boundaries of the site, provides an extensive area of woodland margin. The site is linked to the surrounding landscape via a number of hedges.

Although the vast majority of the trees present have arisen within the period since sand and gravel extraction ceased, there are a number of trees, mainly oaks, that are significantly older, including one ancient oak pollard. In addition there are a number of large hawthorn trees, some large sallows and an old multi-stemmed small-leaved lime tree. Lodge plantation, immediately to the south, contains a large mature Sweet Chestnut. The Lime and the Oak pollard appear to be growing on the line of the former field boundary that divided the site from north to south.

Many of the ponds support a range of amphibian species (frogs, toads and newts), with tadpoles present in season. There are numerous bats within the site and the woodland margins provide good breeding conditions for moths. The current management encourages a diverse and rich population of invertebrates, providing food for numerous other species. Grass snakes are occasionally seen.

Adjacent to the site, linking it to an area of planted woodland, is an area of set-aside that is used for hunting by barn owls. Elsewhere the site is bordered either by residential areas or arable fields.

2.1.4 Water	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Watercourses	Yes		1
Lakes		Yes	
Ponds	Yes		1
Wetland habitats	Yes		1

Details:

Along the Eastern boundary runs a stream, feeding into the Bourne Brook, itself a tributary of the river Colne.

Across the far side of the field adjacent to the Southern boundary of the site is Sparrows Pond, along the course of the Bourne Brook. Otters are known to make use of this watercourse.

Within the site are 9 ponds, some permanent and others transient. Adjacent to some are areas of marshy ground.

2.1.5 Landscape	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Landscape designated areas	Yes	Yes	
Landscape features			
Rock exposures			
Historic landscapes			
Areas of the woodland prominent from roads	Yes		1
Areas of the woodland prominent from settlements	Yes		1

Details:

The site and surrounding landscape lie within the Colne River Valley, as designated within the Braintree District Landscape Character Assessment.

The site is visible from the Halstead Road, local Rights of Way and borders numerous residential properties.

2.1.6 Cultural Features	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Public rights of way	Yes	Yes	1
Prominent viewing points			
Permissive footpaths	Yes		1
Areas managed with traditional management systems			

Details:

There are two public rights of way relevant to the site. One passes through the site along the Northern boundary, whilst the second passes outside the Southern boundary, with an access gate in the South-eastern corner. In addition there is also public access from the Greenfields estate.

A number of permissive paths run through the site.

2.1.7 Archaeological Features	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Scheduled monument			
Historical features			

Details

2.2 Woodland resource characteristics

Timber production is not a primary aim for management in this situation. However there are a number of trees with potential long-term timber value and in areas where coppicing occurs the material may have a value as firewood.

It is not possible to place figures on the volume of timber potentially produced by the site, as identification of those trees with good potential has not taken place. Likely quantities of both timber and firewood are low, as most wood will be retained on site as habitat, and the production of timber and firewood is regarded as either a by-product of management for biodiversity, or a minor source of income in future years.

The dominant timber species is oak, with considerable numbers also of white willow, sallow, alder, birch, ash, gean or wild cherry, hawthorn, hazel, sycamore and elm. Oak constitutes less than 65% of

the species present.

The acid grassland occupies approximately 15% of the total area of the site.

The tree species present are almost exclusively native broadleaf varieties, though there is one Norway Spruce (probably an 'escaped' Christmas tree) and a few Cotoneaster and Flowering Currant.

2.3 Site description

Vehicular access is via a track leading from the Halstead Road to a small car park. Pedestrian access is from public footpaths running along the North-West and South-East boundaries, and a path from Greenfields entering the southwest corner.

The soil is a mixture of chalky boulder clay drifting into glacial sand and gravel. There is a stream that forms the Eastern boundary. The pits are mainly filled with ground water, though some surface water seems to enter the site at the north-west corner, into the Horseshoe Pond, then via a few drains, it percolates through to the East Pond, which overflows into the stream at the south-east corner of the site.

The site is generally level where the ponds are situated, though old mounds left over from the gravel working make vehicular access difficult. The ground slopes away along the Eastern boundary where the stream runs, most notably at the South-Eastern corner. The prevailing wind is from the West.

There are 9 ponds on the site, ranging in size from about quarter of a hectare down to 10x6m.

Most of the site is covered by secondary woodland that has arisen since excavation ceased, though some woodland on the east facing slope may be Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Initially the site was predominantly heath, which has gradually turned to woodland. Remnants of the original heath exist with the presence of a few isolated broom plants.

In addition to the ponds, their marshy surrounds and the secondary woodland, there are also areas of scrub and acid grassland, an unusual feature for this part of Essex. However, over the past 20 years or so, some of the scrub has become high forest, and the acid grassland is being encroached upon by bramble.

2.4 Significant hazards, constraints and threats

Hazards:

- Three-phase power cables enter the site and terminate in the North-Eastern corner, adjacent to the car park. Management of the vegetation beneath must ensure these are kept clear,
- The paths are uneven and slippery when wet, and slope steeply, particularly in the South-Eastern corner of the site.
- The ponds have areas of deep water and steep banks.

Constraints:

- There are two Public Rights of Way (ProW) that affect the site. One runs East-West inside the Northern boundary, whilst the second runs East-West adjacent to the Southern boundary. Care must be taken to keep these paths clear of obstructions and monitor adjacent trees for potential threats to walkers.
- The entire site is covered by Tree Preservation Order 23/82, so all works to trees must be approved by Braintree District Council (BDC). Initially, an annual tree inspection was carried out by the warden, accompanied by an officer from BDC, where safety issues are addressed. This was discontinued with the ending of the Colne Valley project, and inspection is now done by the site warden as part of regular maintenance visits several times a year. This is possibly not sufficiently formal to satisfy health and safety requirements, but has so far resulted in dangerous trees being dealt with in a timely fashion. It has been recommended that a management plan would negate the requirement for a formal application for works, other than on safety grounds.
- Access for emergency vehicles is required across the acid grassland, in the event that appliances are unable to access from the neighbouring residential area to the West. A locked

gate is installed in the car park to provide this access (it is believed that the emergency services have a key, but this must be confirmed), and the vegetation beyond is managed to maintain access onto the acid grassland.

Threats:

- There are a number of residential properties that back onto the site. In the past, this has led to incidents where garden and other waste has been tipped onto the site. Aside from the pollution threat from some waste, the tipping of garden waste has allowed garden plants to spread into the site, outcompeting the native species present, notably a variegated form of Yellow Archangel, r/o properties in Greenfields.
- Within the site ornamental species have been planted by well-meaning visitors, a practise that is to be discouraged to prevent invasion of inappropriate species,
- There have been occasions where visitors have been caught attempting to dig up plants to take home, particularly spotted orchids. Measures have been taken to discourage this, but the threat remains; the Orchids have not been recorded on the site for several years.
- Owing to the site's proximity to residential areas, combined with its relative seclusion, there is occasional evidence of alcohol and narcotic consumption having taken place. In general this does not result in more than a few piles of litter, but there is the potential for greater harm to occur as a result,
- The site has suffered in the past from occasional use by motorcycles, particularly damaging to the acid grassland. Appropriate access gates have been installed at all entrances to prevent this, but these structures and the overall security of the site need monitoring and maintenance to prevent reoccurrence.
- There are a number of pest species that impact upon the site. A population of rabbits is evident on the acid grassland. Here this species are beneficial in maintaining the sward, but their presence may affect the ground flora within the wooded areas. Squirrels are also present, although currently their impact is restricted to bark stripping on a few sycamores. Deer are present in the surrounding area, and Muntjac are regularly seen on the reserve and severe browsing damage has become evident on the ferns since summer 2024. There is active deer management taking place in neighbouring woods and farmland.
- There is evidence of limited presence of a number of diseases notably Phytopthora on alder, Chalara fraxinea (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) on Ash, and Acute Oak Decline, and the continuing aftermath of Dutch Elm disease.
- An area of land to the west was developed for housing in 2013/14. There is continuing pressure from new residents for inappropriate tree work, and some unauthorised pruning.

3. LONG TERM VISION, MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

3.1 Long term vision

Maintain and enhance the site as a resource for informal recreation and biodiversity.

3.2 Management Objectives

No	Objective
1	Increase biodiversity through the management, enhancement and diversification of habitats.
2	Improve public access to allow safe use by as wide a range of users as possible.
3	Encourage use of the site as an educational facility.
4	Enhancement of Semi-Natural Woodland.
5	Maintenance of site-native stand in ASNW.
6	Prune and thin for quality timber where appropriate, and harvest timber if economically viable, and not contrary to other objectives.
7	Maintain existing mixed use of the site.

3.3 Strategy

The site is divided into appropriate zones, allowing differing approaches to management:

- Ponds and adjacent areas used for angling.
- Ponds and adjacent areas managed for biodiversity.
- Areas adjacent to paths and public access areas managed for public safety.
- Other woodland and margins managed to maintain and enhance the habitat.
- Selected trees pruned for future timer production.
- Maintenance of area of acid grassland.

4. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS/OPERATIONS

4.1 Silvicultural systems

4.1.1 Harvesting

The production of timber or any crop is not a priority for this site, although opportunities for the production of useable timber or other crops will be considered if appropriate. Potential timber trees will be identified and pruned accordingly to allow for possible harvesting, together with possible income, in the future.

Otherwise all harvesting will take place to ensure safe access and for habitat management. This will consist of periodic coppicing, including blackthorn scrub, hazel, willow and elm to provide a succession of stages of development, together with controlling tree disease. Coppicing will also occur around some pond margins, both to develop a range of habitats and to ensure sufficient light reaches these ponds. Around woodland margins, particularly around the acid grassland, coppicing, and in some cases removal, will occur to prevent encroachment onto the acid grassland.

In areas where tree growth is dense some thinning will take place. This may occur to select the better specimens or allow natural regeneration of some species where other species dominate excessively.

Where possible the produce from any harvesting work, unless it has a marketable value, will be used on site, either for habitat creation (habitat piles, dead hedges, refugia) or in structural works (retaining walls, steps etc.)

4.1.2 Phased felling and restructuring of plantations

This section does not apply.

4.1.3 Establishment, restocking and regeneration

At all times natural regeneration is favoured over any other technique for restocking. The mix of species within the site has occurred through natural regeneration, coupled with limited planting of specimen trees as memorials for parish residents.

Those species that may dominate excessively will be controlled, preventing monocultures from developing. Where ground flora and fauna are important, precedence will be given to those tree species that favour the ground species.

4.2 New planting

Only natural regeneration will be encouraged in appropriate areas.

4.3 Other operations

Maintenance of path surfaces, including drainage, and steps, hand rails, gates and stiles, will be implemented as necessary.

4.4 Protection and maintenance

4.4.1 Pest and disease management

A visual inspection of the woodland is carried out at least bi-annually to identify pest and disease problems, by the warden. Issues identified will be dealt with as appropriate depending upon the implications of the problem. Health and safety issues will take precedence at all times to ensure the safety of visitors and those working within the site.

Where they pose a threat to native species, non-native species will be removed from the site. Local residents and visitors will be discouraged from either planting inappropriate species, or tipping garden waste onto the site.

The use of chemicals within the site will be avoided unless no viable alternative is practicable.

4.4.2 Fire plan

The access gate from the car park will be maintained to allow emergency access. The vegetation beyond will be managed to ensure sufficient width for emergency vehicles. The fire service has a key to the access gate.

4.4.3 Waste disposal and pollution

The site has a number of litter and dog waste bins placed at access points, as well as within the site. These are regularly emptied by the warden, who also monitors the site for litter problems.

All waste materials produced as a result of any operations taking place, other than natural material originating within the site, will be removed at the end of each operation and disposed of appropriately.

4.4.4 Protection from unauthorised activities

The warden monitors the site on a regular basis, maintaining a presence that identifies problems swiftly. In addition regular use of the site by residents discourages unlawful activities and provides a means of swiftly identifying those that do occur.
Access to the site is via gates, designed to allow access for a wide range of users, whilst deterring access for motorcycles that have previously caused damage to the site
Where tipping has occurred, particularly of garden waste, the offenders will be identified and appropriate action will be taken to ensure all damage is rectified and that future tipping will not occur.

4.5 Game management

The site is not managed for game, nor is there any intention to do so in the future.

4.6 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

4.6.1 Management of designated areas

The reserve is designated as a Local Wildlife Site. It is the policy of the relevant local authorities, that the site is managed favourably to maintain and enhance the site's value, and this management plan is intended to guide the process.

4.6.2 Measures to enhance biodiversity

- As there is no intention to harvest significant volumes of material from the wood, the removal of trees will only occur when they pose a threat to public safety or when they threaten other species or habitats, or when removal might benefit the growth of other trees.
- The entire site is designated as a Local Nature Reserve.
- The existing open ground, predominantly the acid grassland, will be retained and managed

through management of the woodland margins, preventing further encroachment of trees and other vegetation, particularly bramble.

- Management of the margins of ponds will reflect the conditions of those ponds to provide stability: where ponds have little overhead shading, vegetation will be managed to allow light in; where ponds are in permanent shade surrounding vegetation will be managed to maintain the shade.
- Areas of more open woodland will be maintained, with appropriate management of vegetation to prevent habitat loss.
- Where not a threat to public safety, standing dead wood will be retained. If it is necessary to fell then the timber will be left on the ground as intact as possible, with brash used for the creation of habitat piles or dead hedges. No material will be burnt.

4.6.3 Special measures for Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

This section does not apply.

4.6.4 Special measures for Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites

This section does not apply.

4.7 Management of social and cultural values

4.7.1 Archaeology and sites of cultural interest

Although there are no archaeological features within the site, there remains evidence of the site's origins for sand and gravel extraction. A large bramble-covered mound of spoil dumped upon the acid moss grassland is sugar beet tailings. The layout of the ponds, hollows and paths is directly as a result of the extraction process.
Prior to gravel extraction, the site was divided into two parts, a level meadow, and sloping stream side woodland, separated by a hedge. The line of the hedge can still be identified in places by a row of Hawthorn trees, a large Small-Leaved Lime, a mature Holly, and an Oak pollard.

As these features help convey the history of the site, there will be no attempts to remove or alter them. Instead they will be retained as they are. The current colonisation of these features by trees and other vegetation will not be prevented, as any subsequent damage sustained as a result of this vegetation is not considered detrimental to the cultural value of the site. Indeed part of the character of the site lies in the colonisation of a formerly industrial site and the effect that abandonment has had on the site. The exception to this, is the continual management of bramble around the perimeter of the acid grassland, to prevent loss of this feature.

4.7.2 Public access

Currently access is restricted to a degree by the uneven nature of the site, with undulations, steep gradients and ground conditions. Some parts of the site, by their nature, will continue to remain inaccessible to many because any measures to allow greater access would have a detrimental effect upon the inherent character of these areas. In other areas e.g. adjacent to steep-sided ponds, or in areas of woodland with minimal intervention, access may deliberately be discouraged or prevented, to protect public safety in these areas.

In all other areas efforts will be made to improve access to allow as wide a range of visitors as is practical, given the site conditions. Improvements to surfaces, steps and structures will be carried out. Consideration will be given to a significant up-grading of the path connecting the Greenways and Kings Head entrances, as this would allow pedestrians to avoid walking along The Street, when walking from Greenways/Greenfields to the school/pub/playing field/shop.

Efforts have been made to revive interest in fishing in the ponds, but with little success. The East Pond is beginning to be colonised by Reed Mace, the removal of which would be an expensive operation, but which would enhance the fishing. Unless significant interest is shown in fishing, it is suggested that natural colonisation of the pond to create a reed-bed habitat, should be allowed to continue.

The access track from Halstead Road to the car park is becoming increasingly uneven. Both this and the car park will need to be re-graded, if they are to provide safe access for vehicles.

In an attempt to make the site more appealing to parents with young families, preliminary work is being undertaken to develop a Fairy Trail.

5. CONSULTATION

Organisation/individual	Comment	Response/action
Gosfield Parish Council		
Braintree District Council		

6. MONITORING PLAN SUMMARY

Objective number, issue or UKWAS Requirement	Indicator	Method of assessment	Monitoring period	Responsibility	How will information be used
1. Enhancement of quality and range of habitats.	Increasing species numbers in suitable habitats	Surveying numbers of species	As appropriate to target species	Surveys carried out or requested by the warden	If numbers of species or habitats remain static or decline then the management plan will be revised.
2. Improved access for a wider range of users.	Increasing numbers and range of visitors	Visual surveys	Throughout year	Warden and Parish Council Reserve Sub-Committee	If numbers fall or access is not possible for some individuals the management plan will be revised to improve access if possible.
3. Increased use of site as an educational facility	Increasing use by local schools and children	Recording numbers attending events and activities	Individual events will be monitored	Warden or activity organiser	If numbers attending are low then the promotion and nature of activities will be reviewed.
4. Enhancement of semi-natural woodland	Decreasing numbers of non-native species	Visual surveys	Annually during summer months	Warden	If non-native species persist or increase to the detriment of site-native species, measures to remove them and prevent invasion will be reviewed
5. Maintain the mixed use of the site	Range of site uses	Recording different site uses	Continuous	Warden	If the range of site uses decreases then conflicts between uses will be addressed.

7. WORK PROGRAMMES

7.1 Short-term work programme (2020 to 2025)

Compartment or area	Activity	Year				
		1	2	3	4	5
1. Blackthorn scrub	• Manage scrub alongside footpath to maintain access • Coppice/thin the compartment in two stages (only first stage in this plan period), retaining well formed oak and cherry.	X X	X	X	X	X
2. Oak woodland	• Manage vegetation adjacent to footpath to maintain access • Management of bramble and understory to maintain the current mixture of open areas and cover	X	X	X	X	X
3. Horseshoe pond	• Coppice sallow and other species around pond margins to prevent excess shading • Renew dead hedge, or install a barrier, between pond and path for pedestrian safety • Monitor and maintain dipping platform, buoyancy aid and pond access to ensure public safety	 X X	X X	 X	 X	 X
4. Belt adjacent to residential area	• Monitor large trees to mitigate damage or danger to properties, with appropriate surgery as necessary • Coppice elm and other smaller species, with the compartment divided into four sections – one coppiced per alternate year on a rotation	X X	X	X X	X	X
5. Mixed woodland	• Control bramble to encourage the spread of common spotted orchid and other ground flora		X		X	
6. Transient pond	• Periodic coppicing to control and maintain current light levels, maintaining area as an amphibian habitat		X			X
7. Marshy ground	• Periodic coppicing to control and maintain current light levels, maintaining area as an amphibian habitat	X			X	
8. Mixed ponds	• Coppicing of marginal trees to maintain existing light levels, encourage access in safe locations, and deter access in less desirable locations					X
9. Frog habitat	• Periodic thinning of vegetation centred around solitary broom, to encourage the spread of broom • Periodic coppicing of vegetation to control light levels, maintaining area as an amphibian habitat		X		 X	
10. Fished ponds	• On a rotation, coppice vegetation adjacent to fishing areas to allow for casting, whilst leaving areas inaccessible for anglers to provide suitable habitat for kingfishers • Selective thinning of trees to allow in more light, encouraging a denser understory to support bird species in areas where limiting access may be desirable on safety grounds	X	X X	X	X	X X
11. Glade	• Selective coppicing and thinning to maintain the glade, encouraging habitat diversity.					X

12. Long pond	• Minimal intervention, other than regular monitoring of trees to maintain public safety	X	X	X	X	X
13. Bracken area	• Crown lifting of oaks, together with selective removal of saplings and scrub encroachment to maintain and develop bracken glades • Selective thinning of canopy and understory to favour veteran oak, holly and crab apples in non-glade areas	X X			X	 X
14. Oak woodland	• Crown lifting of selected oaks with potential long-term timber value, together with thinning as appropriate to allow improved development of better specimens • Coppicing of track-side willow, thorn and hazel to maintain access, light and diversity	 X	X		X	
15. Stream side woodland	• Minimal intervention with annual monitoring of trees to maintain public safety • Cutting back of vegetation either side of the emergency access route, to maintain sufficient width for emergency vehicles • Coppicing area to south east of car park.	X X	X X	X	X	X
16. Acid grassland	• Rotational clearance of brambles on margins to favour willow herb and grassland. • Removal of saplings and scrub encroachment to prevent further loss of grassland • Inspection of surface for rabbit and other holes to prevent trip hazards for public	X X	 X	X X X	 X	X X
17. Paths	• Annual inspection of trees overhanging paths with appropriate tree surgery to remove hazards to path users • Cutting back of encroaching vegetation to maintain clear access and views along paths • Surface improvements, removing trip hazards and applying suitable material to form a firm surface in wet and uneven areas • Monitoring the condition of all structures on paths (gates, bridges, steps and handrails) with appropriate repair/replacement as required. Maintain benches as required. • Repair bridges numbered 3 and 4 on Map. • Review access provision and seek access improvements to allow access for visitors with limited mobility, without encouraging access for cyclists, motorcycles or horses	X X X X X X	X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X

7.2 Outline long-term work programme (2030 to 2040)

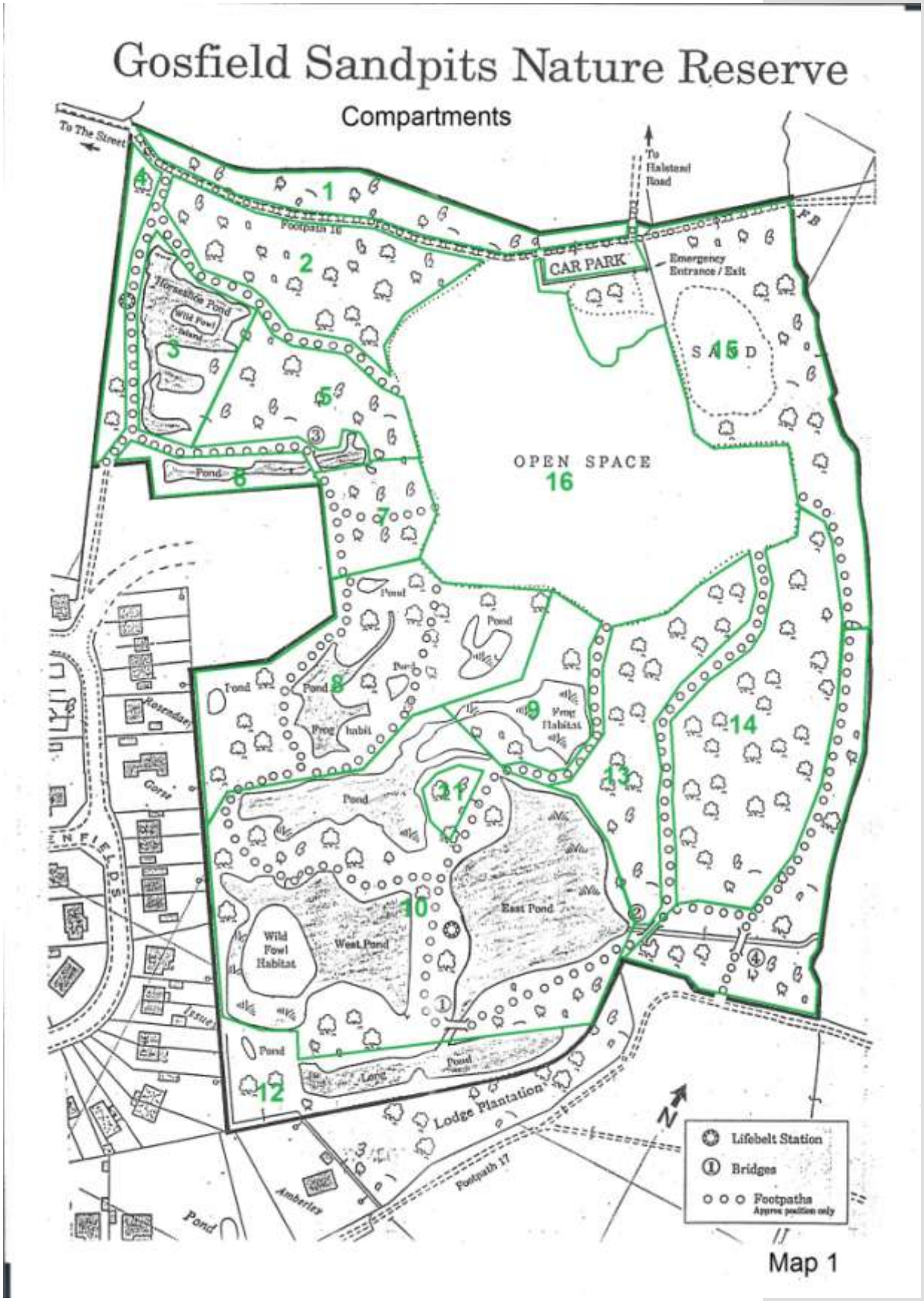
Compartment or area	Activity	Year		
		6-10	11-15	16-20
1. Blackthorn scrub	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	X
2. Oak woodland	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
3. Horseshoe pond	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
4. Belt adjacent to residential area	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	

5. Mixed woodland	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
6. Transient pond	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
7. Marshy ground	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
8. Mixed ponds	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
9. Frog habitat	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
10. Fished ponds	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
11. Glade	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
12. Long pond	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
13. Bracken area	As initial 5 years, except crown lifting of oaks will have been completed, with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
14. Oak woodland	Monitoring development of selected timber trees and additional work as necessary	X	X	
15. Stream side woodland	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
16. Acid grassland	As initial 5 years with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	
17. Paths	As initial 5 years, with monitoring of path surface conditions and access structures instead of improvement works, with review to assess effectiveness	X	X	

8. MAPS

List all maps here and append to plan.

Map No/Title	Description
1	Compartments


Gosfield Sandpits Nature Reserve
Compartments
To The Street
To Halstead Road
Footpath 16
CAR PARK
Emergency Entrance / Exit
Hornebride Pond
Wild Fowl Island
SAND
OPEN SPACE
16
Pond
Rosendale
Gorse
Wild Fowl Habitat
West Pond
East Pond
Frog Habitat
Lodge Plantation
Footpath 17
Lane
Amberley
Lifebelt Station
Bridges
Footpaths
Approx position only
N
Map 1