

**Fishlake Meadows ‘*Opportunities and Options for Site Management*’
General Responses to Feedback, (as at December 2015)**

Comment made	Result/conclusion	Management plan reference were applicable
It will be very important to protect the wildlife in the area – Main Priority	As well as providing opportunities for public access, the approach to site management takes into consideration the very nature of Fishlake Meadows ecology	Please refer to the sites management plan and summary for full management details
The area should be improved so it can act as a floodplain for Romsey	Water management is a key consideration within the management plan. A full hydrological survey of the site will be undertaken in year one to fully understand how water enters and exists the site features. Feedback from the EA highlights a very limited potential benefit to flood alleviation, but at the very least, no work proposed to the site will increase flood risk	See objective 3 (pages 15 / 20)
The expertise of the I.O.W Wildlife Trust should assist when developing and managing the site	A broad partnership of organisations is involved with this project including the team at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Other key stakeholders include HCC, Environment Agency and Natural England	

<p>The site should <u>not</u> be extended for Leisure use such as boating, fishing etc</p>	<p>Informal recreation requirements have been considered as part of the management plan and will see improvements to public access. Operations likely to damage or disturb the site or its wildlife have not been included</p>	
<p>Additional parking needs to be looked at, <i>(a number of sites / locations have been suggested for investigation)</i></p>	<p>Parking provision for visitors is currently proposed on the east of the canal as part of the new development. Opportunities for additional parking around the site will be explored when the land is transferred</p>	
<p>The should be used as an educational resource</p>	<p>Environmental education will form an important part our community development and engagement programme and is very much a feature in management plan. Types of activity you can expect to see within the first 3 years will be a programme of school visits, guided walks, and opportunity to volunteer and get involved ecological survey</p>	<p>See page 20 and long term work programme in appendix 3</p>
<p>The proposal to make the pathway into a dual path and cycleway is not a good idea as the path is to narrow</p>	<p>Consideration will be given to the most appropriate means of linking cycle access from Romsey to Timsbury, as well as developing plans to improve footpaths to and within the site</p>	

<p>The pathways should be made of suitable materials</p>	<p>The specification for materials have yet to be finalised however it will be essential that routes are accessible, hard wearing whilst blending in with the natural environment where possible</p>	
<p>Access from the A3057 along footpath 9 should be maintained to allow all season access (specifically the western end)</p>	<p>Improvements to this route will be made within the first 2 years in consultation with the Hampshire County Council rights of way team. This will enable safer access from the A3057 into and through the site</p>	<p>See specifically pages 18&19 of the management plan</p>
<p>Footpath 9 should be connected to the Abbotswood Development</p>	<p>This idea will be shared for the County Council Rights of Way department</p>	
<p>A link beyond Fishlake Meadows out to the countryside should be provided which avoid contact with the A3057</p>	<p>Work to develop the access beyond the site is not considered within the management plan but is in a number of TVBC documents which promote access to the countryside</p>	
<p>Dogs should not be permitted on the pathways/boardwalks</p>	<p>Access to and across the site using rights of way will be available for dog walking. The only proposed exception to this is the permissive route which leads to the central area of the site, to which we propose to preclude dog access</p>	

Circular Walk around Fishlake	The future provision of a circular route has been included within the management plan and a survey of the site to establish the most appropriate route / means of achieving this will happen within the first 3 years. If feasible, this will be brought forward	See page 19
Friends of group should be set up	Volunteer assistance with the management of the site will be very much encouraged. A variety of opportunities will be available for people in the first year of site management and these opportunities will be develop as the management of the site progresses	See page 19
Supervision / staff onsite should be provided	It is anticipated that a warden will be in place to deal with site management, monitor its effect and liaise with the community	
More dog bins in areas where dogs are permitted	Bins will be provide at the most appropriate locations	
The cycle path would be better to go through the new development at Oxlease to connect with the current barge canal	Consideration will be given to the most appropriate means of linking cycle access from Romsey to Timsbury	
A number of comments were received to 'Fully endorse and support the development and management of Fishlake as a wildlife reserve'	Noted	

The upgrade to the cycle path is an excellent proposal as it will provide a safe route to Romsey	Consideration will be given to the most appropriate means of linking cycle access from Romsey to Timsbury	
This is a wonderful opportunity to keep and enhance a very rare and rich natural habitat	Noted	
Keen to see the canal managed better as part of the Local Nature Reserve	The management of the canal is included in the overall proposals for management of the site. It is considered in objective 4 of the management plan	See pages 15 & 20
The co-operation that already exists between all the agencies concerned is very pleasing.	Noted	
Good to see there is a permissive path into the centre of the wetland area where a pond dipping platform and observation area is planned	Noted	
Viewing screens at no 2 on the map would be good as it is close to the road which will mean easy access for those who are less mobile. Viewing screens and interpretation signs are most welcome	Proposals for these structures have been included	Map 4
The concept of a safe route out into the countryside would be good	Noted. This will be picked up as part of the access plan (and proposed improvements to the footpaths)	
It is good that it is to become more accessible	Noted	

<p>Nice to see wildlife but not much use to the community without even a circular path. What was the point of Romsey Future where it was recommended by a large majority that the site should be developed for both a nature reserve and for leisure purposes?</p>	<p>The site is being transferred to TVBC to manage as a nature reserve.</p> <p>Public access to the site is poor currently, and it is proposed to improve existing public access for informal recreation as well as a commitment to develop a plan for the circular walk</p> <p>The community will be encouraged to volunteer with site management and a programme of activity which will evolve over time will be organised to encourage and involve the local community. Further opportunities for public access will be explored as more is learned about the site</p>	
<p>I understand that the dead trees will be taken down?</p>	<p>Standing deadwood will be maintained on site. Tree works will need to be undertaken along the existing public rights to provide where reasonably practical a safe route</p>	
<p>Any future plans should understand the important of not opening up areas where birds can be easily disturbed</p>	<p>The requirement to manage public access to avoid disturbance is considered throughout the plan</p>	
<p>Your most important role is to manage the water levels, surely last winter taught us all that a large area of Romsey is at risk, all efforts should be made to reduce the risk of flooding in the future.</p>	<p>A full hydrological survey of the site will be undertaken in year one to fully understand how water enters and exists the site features</p>	<p>Objective 4 See page 16 3.4 Page 20 operational objectives 'develop an appropriate water management regime'.</p>

<p>Whilst I appreciate the educational possibilities of the site I note the pond dipping site proposed at the small pond along the permissive path which has been used by a number of breeding waterfowl. Much better if this activity was located where footpath 9 crosses the canal/channel. This will minimise disturbance</p>	<p>The pond dipping platforms was located in the hand out Fishlake Meadows 'Opportunities and options for management'. Whilst this type of feature will be an important element of the site the exact location will be subject to further consideration</p>	
<p>The permissive path into the site will need certain lengths raised to avoid damage in the water logged conditions.</p>	<p>The specification of this route will include areas of boardwalk. The exact route of this path will be planned to ensure it winds its way through the reed bed</p>	
<p>Dogs should not be permitted along the central permissive route, even on a lead. I have a dog myself and am well aware that a proportion of dog walkers interpret dogs on leads as well behaved dogs off leads with the inevitable consequences</p>	<p>Access for dog walking will be available along the rights of way (which will see improvements in condition) but the walking of dogs will not be permitted along the central route</p>	
<p>I strongly ask the Council to reconsider the use of grazing cattle as a form of management in Ashley Meadows</p>	<p>Extensive grazing is planned in this area at a stocking density which will have a positive impact rather than negative on the meadows. Appropriate monitoring by staff and working with local naturalists and interested parties will be undertaken from the outset to ensure this management has positive results</p>	<p>Pages 17,22,23,24 and annual and long term work programme in appendix 2&3</p>
<p>Prior to any management plan being put together, this should be done in consultation with local naturalists who hold a wealth of knowledge, records and experience and not just those organisations</p>	<p>Local naturalists have been involved with the initial draft of this management plan and the wider consultation planned will allow further comment from a wider</p>	<p>See appendix 3 and section on 'Maintain populations of notable species' for specific reference to this.</p>

who may have experience in creating different habitats but lack the day on day, year of year change on change experience of this unique site that several Romsey residents have	audience. The management plan makes specific reference to the need to work with local naturalists	
Concern expressed that the ambience and tranquillity of the site will be disturbed by the proposed development.	The proposals outlined in the management plan set out how the management of the site will be undertaken with the intention to balance ecology with public access. Every effort will be made to ensure the tranquillity of the site is not disturbed	
Objection made by one resident saying that the centrally located viewing platform is directly opposite the rear of his property and requests that the location be changed	Position of the screens are indicative at this stage and will be subject to further ecological and engineering investigation, and consultation to ensure they are positioned in appropriate locations	Map 4
The wetlands look very ugly and even with a few fancy looking boardwalks are hardly an environment to be cherished		
Believes Test Valley is only interested because of the bribe given by the speculator who now owns the land.		
Why can't Test Valley leave areas of wildlife without interference?	The ecological value of the site will deteriorate over time with no management. The canal is already in a poor state of management which requires work to improve its condition. The management plan sets out how the site will be managed and covers high level prescriptions for each compartment.	

<p>Would hope that the pathways along the canal would remain as an area where dogs could be let of the lead.</p>	<p>No change is proposed for dogs off-leads along the canal tow path or across the site on footpath 9</p>	
<p>Fishlake should be given (with the money allocated) to the RSPB or a similar organisation that has the expertise to look after this very important site.</p>	<p>A broad partnership of organisation is involved with this project. Site management options will be explored and the most appropriate arrangement for management will be put in place to benefit the site and make the most of the expertise of this partnership.</p>	
<p>It's already a nature reserve why spend money trying to improve access.</p>	<p>The sites current ecological value is without question but without positive management its quality and diversity will decline over time. Appropriate management is required to continue to allow the sites ecological quality to develop.</p> <p>Informal access into the site is already evident and this will have an impact. Improving existing rights of way allowing safe access which can then be managed will be an appropriate way to balance access and nature conservation.</p>	

<p>A bird hide accessed of Fishlake Meadows Road would be good and could be used by local schools.</p>	<p>A viewing area is included within the proposals</p>	<p>See map 4</p>
<p>Would like to see the canal path improved.</p>	<p>It is proposed that the surface of the canal tow path will be improved as part of the over-all site management plan</p>	
<p>Can there be provision for fishing?</p>	<p>It is not proposed for there to be any opportunities for fishing. Fishing is available at numerous location in very close proximity to Fishlake Meadows with sites managed solely for this activity.</p>	
<p>Improve bank maintenance of the canal leading down to the Plaza.</p>	<p>This work is outside of the scope of the management of Fishlake Meadows.</p> <p>However, work is already underway as part of the Council's Asset Management Plan</p>	
<p>It would be nice to have a beach area / access for boating. Like at Fleet Pond</p>	<p>Man-made features such as this are not considered appropriate at this location and are therefore not scoped within the plan currently</p> <p>The open water areas at Fishlake are one of the sites most important features, specifically for bird life. It will be essential to minimise disturbance to these areas whilst still allowing public access (both physical and visual) around the site. It is therefore proposed to preclude recreation activities which are likely to impact on</p>	

	<p>these areas - this includes boating</p> <p>The similarities with Fleet Pond have been appraised and this included a site visit and discussions with Hart District Council and the chair of their 'friends of' committee. The sites are very different with Fleet Pond being an extensive area of open water compared to what exists at Fishlake Meadows. This hinders the ability to include such pursuits with significant disturbance to the wildlife of the site</p> <p>Even at sites such as Fleet Pond, such activities are limited to a handful of licenced activities for specific prescriptions (and not recreational boating)</p>	
<p>Set up an online recent sightings area and a downloadable or online eye-spy type sheet for both children and adults.</p>	<p>This will be worked into the community engagement side of the project</p>	
<p>Would like to see how some income could be generated to maintain the site once complete?</p>	<p>Opportunities for additional funding will be explored with ad by all partners. Effective partnership working will provide a range of funding opportunities otherwise not available to the council.</p>	

Hopes there are plans to improve the footpath from the station behind the houses of Malmesbury house to link to the canal path.	This is outside of the scope of this project but the idea has been shared with the Transport Planning team	
Should be developed by the whole community – Bird watchers, walkers and cyclists.	The first two yes. Cycling no – appropriate provision for parking bicycles at key access points are covered in the plan.	