Lakewood Restoration





Lakewood Open Space

Draft Management Plan

2025-2026

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Introduction

Lakewood is a small but well-loved green space within an urban setting, frequented by dog walkers, families, and schoolchildren, and valued for the local wildlife it supports.

Following years of low-level management, the decision was made to launch the **"Lakewood Restoration"** project and form **"The Friends of Lakewood"**, a volunteer group dedicated to improving the site. Over recent years, they have cleared encroaching invasive vegetation and reintroduced native plants to the ecosystem. Several lake banks that had eroded over time have been rebuilt, enhancing both accessibility and the overall appearance of the site.

The character of Lakewood will always be preserved with minimal intervention where possible. Targeted measures—such as debris removal from the lake and improvements to banks and inlets—aim to strengthen habitats, support water quality, and ensure the space continues to provide recreational enjoyment without compromising existing wildlife.

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1. General Information

1.1 Location

- **Site Name:** Lakewood Open Space
- **District:** Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council
- **County:** Dorset
- **Local Planning Authority:** Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council; Dorset County Council
- **National Grid Reference:** SZ936942
- **OS Sheet:** 195 (1:50,000)
- **Area:** 0.7 hectares / 1.8 acres

1.2 Site Status

Lakewood is located in Highcliffe, east of Christchurch Borough, within the Nea Ward. Surrounded by roads and residential properties, the site comprises a stream-fed lake, areas of amenity grassland, mixed deciduous woodland, conifers, and various exotic and invasive

shrubs. The lake forms part of a wider flood defense scheme, helping to prevent local flooding.

The site is managed by Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council and designated a **Public Open Space (POS)** for recreation and nature conservation.

1.3 Land Tenure

Lakewood is **freehold-owned** by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Borough Council. There are no outstanding planning issues, and the plans in this document do not require planning permission.

The site is subject to dog control orders, with a dog waste bin provided. On-the-spot fines apply for non-compliance.

1.4 Site Boundaries

The site has clear boundaries, defined by surrounding roads.

1.5 Main Fixed Assets

- Three benches overlooking the lake (northwest, southwest, south)
- Two pipe-fed inlets (northeast and northwest)
- One outlet near the northwest bench
- Grill, duckling cage, monk, four gabion cages, floating island ballasts, solar pump
- Slipway

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2. Environmental Information

2.1 Physical Environment

The eastern Dorset area around Christchurch overlays sandy clays derived from the Barton Beds (Eocene). This gives rise to mesotrophic clay soils of fair quality, slightly acidic, favoring tall grasses and dicotyledonous species.

The climate is equable, with a mean annual temperature of ~10°C. Mild winters and moderate rainfall support a wide range of plant species.

2.2 Biological Environment

2.2.1 Habitats

- Woodland and scrub
- Grassland
- Stream-fed freshwater lake

2.2.2 Flora and Fauna

See species list in appendix.

2.3 Cultural Environment

2.3.1 Recreational Use

Despite its small size, Lakewood is popular with dog walkers, families feeding wildlife, and young people using it as a cut-through or meeting place. Vandalism is rare, and dog disturbance to wildlife is minimal.

The site supports a considerable population of ducks, with occasional visits from Canada geese, herons, and cormorants. Feeding by visitors has previously increased the rat population, though no current issues have been observed.

Volunteer work parties have transformed the space, with tasks including lake dredging, overhanging tree clearance, wildlife rescue, bank rebuilding, installation of silt traps and reed barriers, and removal of invasive species. These efforts have made the site more appealing to local groups, schools, and scouting organizations.

2.3.2 Research, Survey, and Monitoring

- Flora and fauna lists maintained since 1997
- Weekly site patrols and litter collection
- Regular inspection and clearing of inlets and outlets
- Annual tree safety surveys conducted by a qualified tree surgeon, completed by Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council.

2.3.3 Conservation Management Achieved

Significant improvements to Lakewood have enhanced habitat quality and ecosystem health:

- Reduced mowing to allow wildflower growth and support pollination
- Tree removal from the lake
- Bird houses were constructed and put onto islands to give birds safety.
- Staged planting of native wildflowers and trees, some of which are now protected under tree protection orders
- Gradual removal of non-native sycamore, rhododendron, and laurel to allow native regeneration
- Dredging to remove leaf and woody debris, improving water quality
- Removal of algae blooms when these reach dangerous levels
- Regular pruning, clearing of paths and leaf fall
- Rebuilt areas banks using NicoSpan to prevent erosion
- Outlet monk installation to control water levels safely
- Floating island installed on gabion cages, providing nesting habitat for moorhens
- Slipway repaired for functional use
- Reed barrier installed to trap silt and provide safe habitats for ducklings
- Solar pump installed to increase oxygenation, with continuous water quality monitoring

Through these measures, and many other tasks of which there are too many to list, the lake has recovered from periods of neglect, supporting increased biodiversity while allowing safe and sustainable volunteer engagement.

3 Evaluation

3.1 Size

At **0.712 hectares (1.76 acres)**, Lakewood is one of the smaller wildlife-managed sites within the borough and therefore has limited capacity for biodiversity. However, it forms part of the **Bure Brook wildlife corridor**, acting as an important green stepping stone between **Nea Meadows** and **Chewton Common**.

3.2 Diversity

Habitat diversity is naturally constrained by the site's small size, but Lakewood contains a combination of **freshwater lake**, **woodland**, and **grassland** habitats on a compact scale.

3.3 Naturalness

Historically, the site was part of a wooded ornamental estate with adjoining farmland. The lake itself appears to be artificial in origin but dates back to at least the **early Victorian period**.

3.4 Rarity

While the site's habitats are not considered rare, several **locally and nationally important species** have been recorded (see Appendix).

3.5 Fragility

The site is not under immediate threat; however, without continued management, **invasive sycamore and rhododendron** could dominate and outcompete native wildflower species.

The **lake** is particularly vulnerable to ecological decline due to the accumulation of **rotting leaf litter and woody debris**, compounded by overhanging trees and a natural dip in the land that funnels additional leaf fall into the water. Nutrient levels are likely elevated, though recent water quality tests did not identify any cause for concern.

Aquatic invertebrate life, aside from fish, is largely absent. The **fish population** consists mainly of a few carp species alongside other freshwater fish. Inflows carrying **road washings** may introduce chemicals detrimental to fish and other aquatic life, particularly after rainfall.

3.6 Typicalness

The habitats found at Lakewood are typical of the wider area and consistent with the region's ecological character.

3.7 Recorded History

Local records from **Holmhurst Estate (1888)** indicate that the current lake was once one of two adjacent **ornamental waters**, confirming its long-standing presence as a landscape feature.

3.8 Position in Ecological/Geographical Units

The site is **relatively isolated**, connected primarily by the Bure Brook, which limits opportunities for natural recolonisation from nearby habitats.

3.9 Potential Value for Future Development

The transformation achieved at Lakewood through the efforts of all involved has been remarkable. What was once a neglected mud hole is now an **idyllic picnic and wildlife destination**, instilling pride in the local community.

Visitors frequently express gratitude to volunteers for restoring the lake to its former beauty. To maintain this success, it is essential that Lakewood does not once again fall into neglect. Ongoing management, community involvement, and local authority support are key to preserving the site's ecological and social value.

3.10 Intrinsic Appeal

Surrounded by residential properties and roads, Lakewood serves as a tranquil green refuge for local residents. It is a common route for schoolchildren and families and a popular spot for relaxation. Recent vegetation clearance has improved **views of the lake**, and the thriving **duck population** remains a central attraction for young families.

3.11 Identification of Important Features

The **lake** is the primary feature of the site, and all management decisions aim to enhance its ecosystem and ensure the safety and enjoyment of visitors. Its aesthetic value is equally important, as the lake's beauty is often the main reason people visit.

Table 1.1 – Notable Species Recorded

Species	Importance
Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*	Schedule 1
Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*	Red List
Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*	Red List

Bullfinch	Red List
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*	Red List
Common Dog Violet	DN
Corky-fruited Water-dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*	DN
Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*	DN
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*	DN

Schedule 1 species are protected under the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**. *Red List species* are of national conservation concern, while *Dorset Notable (DN)* species are regionally significant and contribute to local habitat quality assessments.

It is also essential that the **grassland mowing regime** continues with one **late-summer cut**, with arisings removed, to maintain and enhance the wildflower population.

3.12 Operations Likely to Damage Special Interests

There are currently no known operations likely to damage the site. However, all reasonable action should be taken to minimise **pollution**, particularly to watercourses, and to prevent **obstruction of the lake outlet**.

3.13 Main Factors Influencing Site Management

Due to its smaller scale compared to nearby open spaces, Lakewood can sometimes be overlooked in local funding and resource allocations. However, its growing recognition as a **wildlife haven** and community asset is helping to change this perception.

Sustainable management depends on **community involvement**, **volunteer engagement**, and **external funding** through grants and public fundraising. The establishment of **The Friends of Lakewood** has proven invaluable, providing a committed and diverse team with a wide range of skills and experience.

Practical management relies heavily on volunteer work parties. While turnout has generally been strong, numbers can vary, making forward planning challenging.

As a residentially enclosed site, there are limits to the type of work that can be undertaken. Large-scale operations—such as tree felling—can cause concern among residents. For this reason, **removal of non-native trees** must be gradual to allow native regeneration and minimise visual impact. Residents should be informed in advance of significant works.

Most trees on-site are now covered by a **Tree Preservation Order (TPO)**, including those planted as part of the Lakewood Restoration Project. Any works to these trees require appropriate permissions and must be undertaken by a **qualified tree surgeon**, arranged by **Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council**.

3.14 Land of Conservation or Strategic Importance in the Vicinity

Lakewood lies close to **Nea Meadows Local Nature Reserve**, with the **Bure Brook** flowing through the site, and **Chewton Common** nearby. However, these sites are not close enough to exert a direct ecological influence on Lakewood.

4. MANAGEMENT POLICY

4.1 Major Management Goal

The long-term aim for Lakewood is to realise the site's full potential as a bridge between wildlife and people. This will be achieved through education and hands-on learning opportunities that teach both children and adults vital, yet increasingly rare, skills in wildlife management, care, and conservation.

Fishing provides a central avenue for this engagement — teaching water safety, fish welfare, habitat awareness, and responsible catch-and-release practices. The vision is to create a safe and thriving environment where wildlife is supported to flourish, and people can actively contribute to its care and protection.

4.2 Main Management Objectives

Habitat and Species Management

The overall character of the site should remain largely unchanged, consisting of a stream-fed lake surrounded by grassland and woodland with a natural understory.

Historically, the lake was not considered highly suitable for native wildlife due to introduced species and habitat conditions. Non-native species such as Koi Carp continue to impact native amphibians and aquatic insects by increasing predation and disturbing spawning areas, especially where shelter is limited.

The lake is also at continual risk of siltation from fallen leaves and woody debris — one of

the primary causes of its historical decline. The surrounding trees contribute significantly to this buildup, reducing water depth, light penetration, and oxygen levels. Although small-scale clearing efforts have been made, larger-scale dredging or alternative long-term sediment management solutions will be required to fully address the issue.

Grassland

In 1998, the mowing regime was successfully modified to allow wildflower planting and establishment. These areas have since flourished. Other grassland sections remain regularly mowed for recreation, but there is potential to extend longer grass zones to enhance biodiversity — subject to resident and user preference.

Feeding ducks remains a popular but problematic activity. Despite requests to discourage it, supplementary feeding increases rat populations and attracts large birds such as Canada Geese, putting the birds at risk, due to their tendency to challenge cars in the road.. The Environment Agency currently manages goose numbers under licence through egg removal, typically conducted in spring. The geese usually depart in late summer, and live capture or removal is not practical.

Woodland

The woodland currently supports several invasive and ecologically poor species, including Sycamore, Rhododendron, and Laurel. These should be gradually removed and replaced with native species through a combination of planting and natural regeneration. This will improve biodiversity, support native insects and birds, and strengthen the ecological integrity of the site.

Visitor Services and Interpretation

Public use of the site has historically been low, but visitation has increased following the resurgence of wildlife. Groups such as Scouts, Guides, and local schools now make regular educational visits. The local community frequently expresses pride and appreciation for the beauty and tranquility of Lakewood.

The existing noticeboard and “No Fishing” signage at the northern end require repair due to weathering and vandalism. Refurbishing these will restore an important tool for community engagement and information sharing.

At present, no additional visitor facilities are necessary. Three benches provide attractive viewing points around the lake. A local resident has offered to donate a memorial bench once further management works are completed, in memory of his son who taught children to fish at the lake.

Estate Services and Major Machinery

Routine grass cutting of amenity areas is carried out during summer by contractors employed through Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council. Wildflower meadow areas are

mown annually, typically at the end of September.

Flooding or obstruction issues affecting the lake's inlet and outlet are managed by the Environment Agency, while major tree works are undertaken either by the Agency or by professional arborists contracted through the Parish Council.

Public Relations and Administration

Regular wardening remains the most effective means of engaging with visitors and addressing site issues. Wardening currently occurs weekly or as staffing allows. Communication with the wider community can also be enhanced through social media platforms (e.g., Facebook) and mailing lists to share updates, promote events, and raise awareness of site management efforts.

While many residents are familiar with the work of the Environment Agency, there remains a need to clarify the responsibilities of each organisation involved in managing the Lakewood Open Space. Improving this understanding will help strengthen community relations and reduce confusion.

Research, Survey, and Monitoring

A species record has been maintained since 1997, with contributions from wardens, volunteers, and local residents. Although additional formal surveys are not currently essential due to the small scale of the site, continued informal recording and volunteer participation in monitoring should be encouraged.

4.3 Health and Safety and Risk Management

All works undertaken at Lakewood, including those involving entry into or proximity to water, will follow robust health and safety procedures. Risk assessments will be carried out before all tasks, identifying control measures for hazards such as deep water, slips and trips, manual handling, and contact with wildlife.

Where volunteers or members of the public are involved, appropriate safety briefings and supervision will be provided. Personal protective equipment (PPE) including waders, gloves, high-visibility clothing, and buoyancy aids will be mandatory where required.

A dynamic risk assessment process will be used to ensure that changing conditions (e.g., weather, water levels) are continually monitored, and activities are paused or modified where necessary.

4.4 Partnerships and Volunteers

Lakewood benefits from strong partnerships between Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council, the Environment Agency, and local community groups. The site also works closely with schools, youth organisations, and charities that deliver environmental education and fishing tuition to children and families.

Volunteers play a vital role in maintaining the site — assisting with litter picking, vegetation management, wildlife monitoring, and community engagement. Continued collaboration and recognition of volunteer contributions will remain central to Lakewood's success.

4.5 Measurable Objectives

The following goals will guide management activity over the next 12 month period, split into four phases of three months:

- Reduce lakebed debris and siltation: Minimum of 30% reduction in organic buildup through manual dredding (By Phase 3)

- Replace invasive woodland species: 5% reduction in non-native species through phased removal and native replanting (By Phase 4)

- Improve community engagement: Increase participation in site activities and Task Days by 20% by utilizing channels such as social media to increase awareness (All Phases)

- Repair and restore site signage: Complete refurbishment of noticeboard and information signs (By Phase 2)

- Expand wildlife monitoring: Annual updates to species list with volunteer-led surveys (Annual)

-To introduce native submersible plants to increase natural oxygen production and encourage vegetation across the bed of the lake (By Phase 3)

- To investigate the viability of using "Siltex" across the lake to help increase the decomposition of leaf and wood debris and if found to be accepted, put this into action. (Research by Phase 2, if agreed, implement by Phase 3)

- To install a reed barrier across the Pipe inlet (south east) and make minor repairs to the established reedbed on the Brick inlet (North East). (Phase 3)

- To continue to teach children essential fishing and wildlife management skills (All Phases)

4.6 Sustainability and Long-Term Maintenance

Long-term maintenance of Lakewood will rely on continued collaboration between local authorities, volunteers, and the wider community. Future works will prioritise sustainable, low-impact methods that minimise disruption to wildlife.

Funding will be sought through a combination of Parish Council budgets, grants, and community fundraising initiatives. Educational activities, community events, and fishing workshops will continue to promote public stewardship and ensure the site remains both ecologically rich and socially valuable for generations to come.

Appendices

Testimonies

Map1

Map 2

Map 3

Map 4

Map 5

Site Species list

Fishing rules

Task Sheets

Testimonies

1. Paul Hardie

Lakewood in Highcliffe, owned by Christchurch Council is where I, Paul B. Hardie found the joy of fishing in the early 1980's whilst attending Highcliffe Comprehensive School. Fishing was kindly taught to me by Nigel Day, a lad who lived next to Lakewood (and his parents still do). Nigel not only taught me, but anyone who wanted to learn. Christchurch Council kept up the maintenance of the lake in the early 1980's and it was a real beauty spot, drawing people in from all around, for all kinds of reasons.

In the mid 1980's Christchurch Council decided to ban fishing at the lake. I stopped fishing there, I stopped seeing Nigel and Christchurch Council stopped maintaining the lake. Thirty years on I heard that Nigel had died at 22 years old of cystic fibrosis. I also had a new client who lived by Lakewood. Upon seeing the state Lakewood had fallen into I decided to do something about it, dedicating my work and effort to the memory of Nigel Day in the hope that, one day children will learn to fish here again, and restore this beauty spot for the community of Highcliffe.

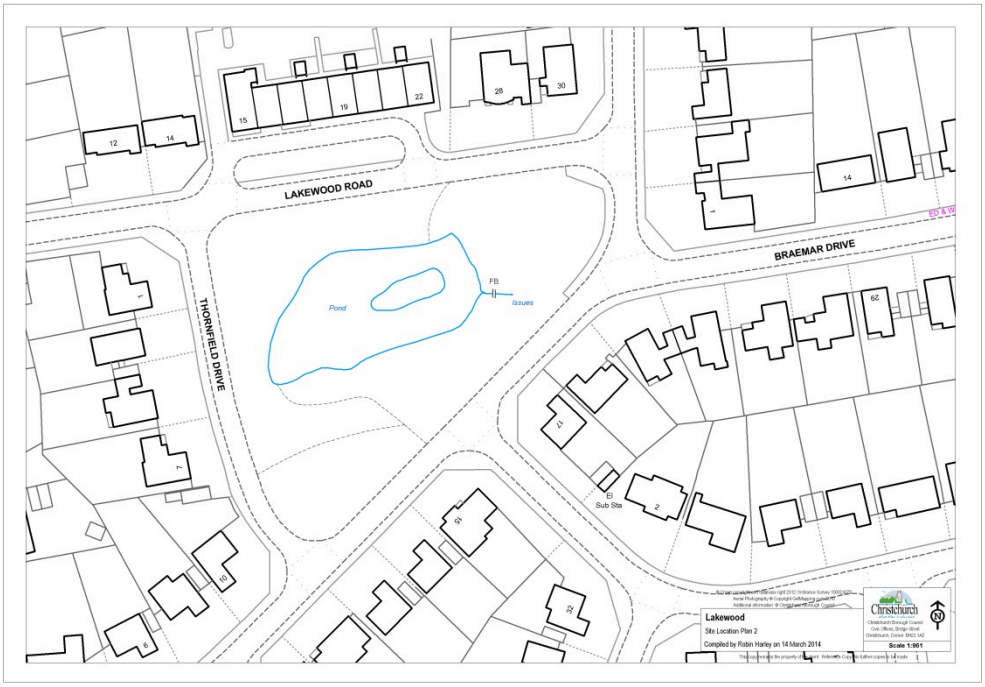
Map 1 (not to scale)



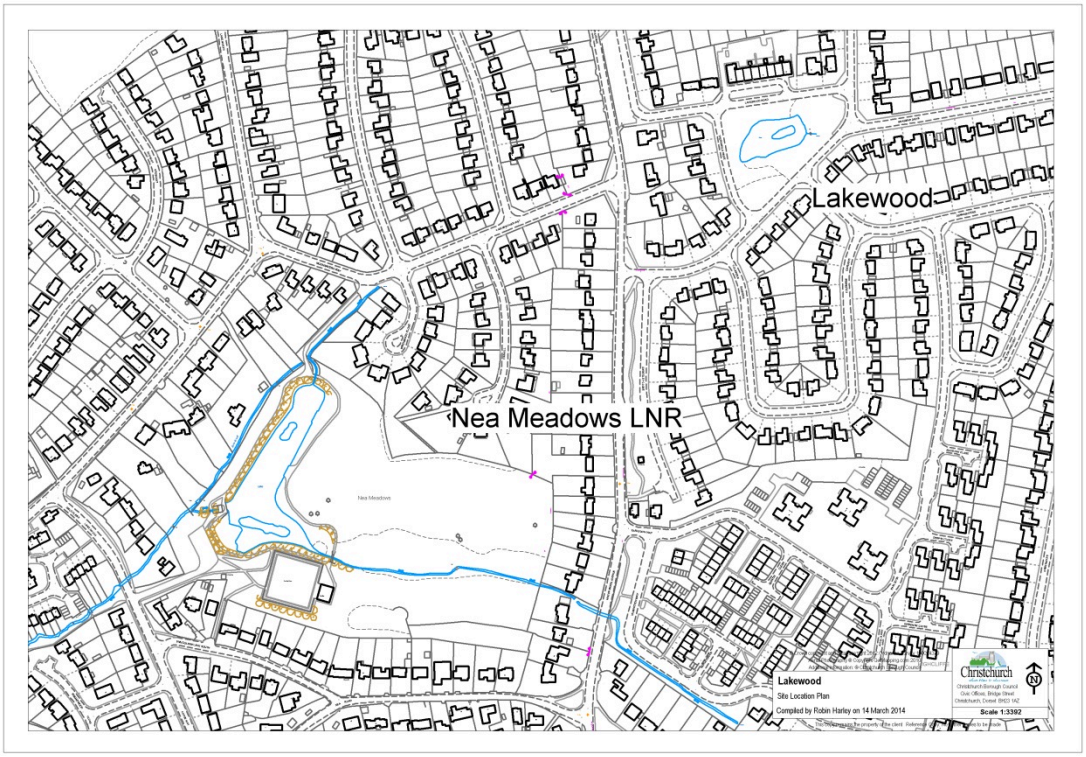
Map 2


Lakewood Rd
Lakewood Rd
Lakewood Rd
Thornfield Dr
Lakewood open space
Braemar Dr
Thornfield Dr
Braemar Dr
Denham Dr
19
17
Denham Dr
Thornfield Dr
Braemar Dr
15
10

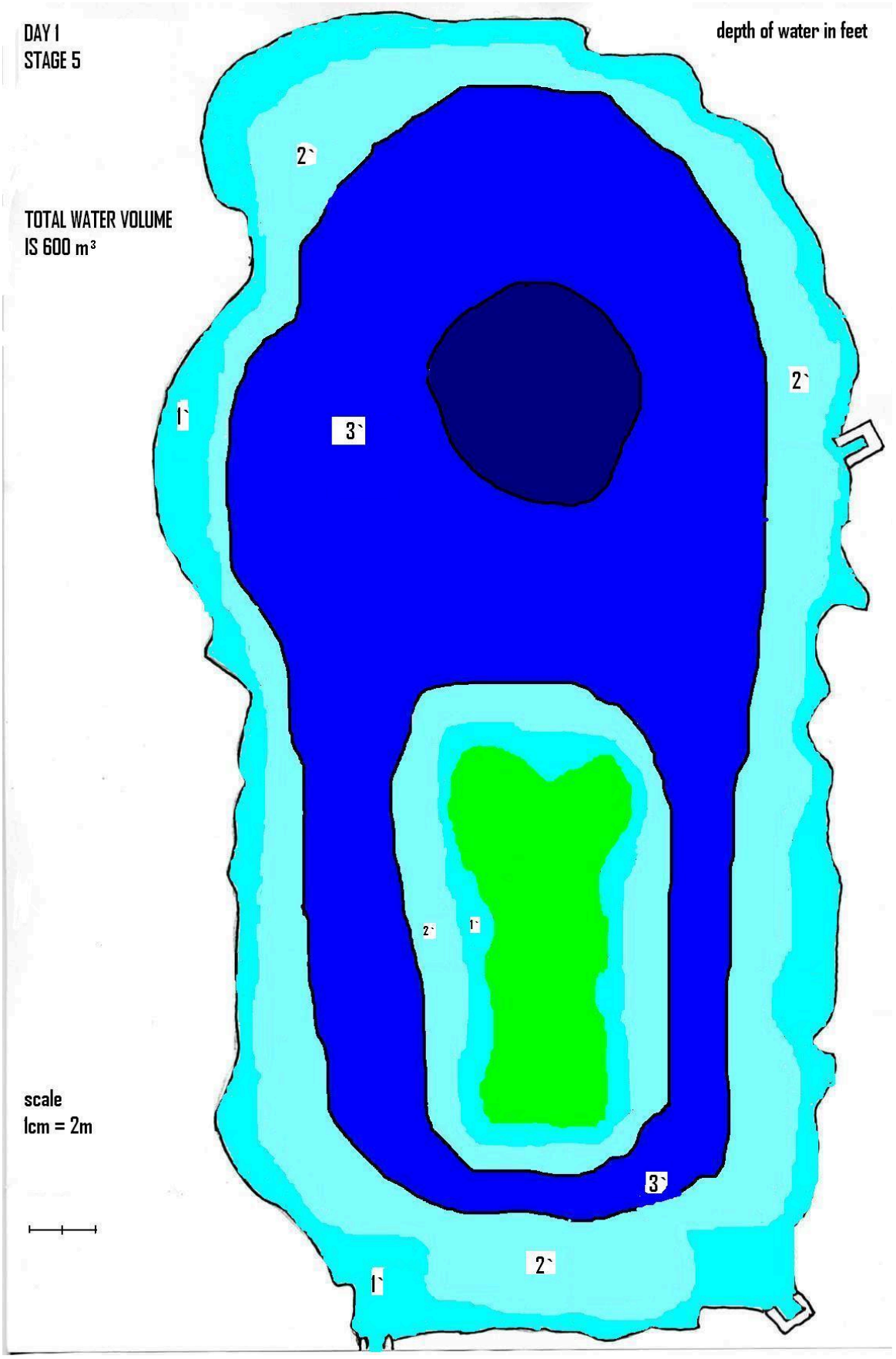
Map 3


LAKEWOOD ROAD
BRAEMAR DRIVE
THORNFIELD DRIVE
Pond
FB
Issues
El
Sub Sta
Lakewood
Site Location Plan 2
Compiled by Robin Harley on 14 March 2014
Scale 1:961

Map 4


Lakewood
Nea Meadows LNR
Lakewood
Site Location Plan
Compiled by Robin Harley on 14 March 2014
Scale 1:3302

Map 5


DAY 1
STAGE 5
depth of water in feet
TOTAL WATER VOLUME
IS 600 m³
1`
2`
3`
scale
1cm = 2m

Species Recorded on Site (insert fish species – Paul H)

Type	Common Name	Species Name
Bird	Long Tailed Tit	*Aegithalos caudatus*
BIrd	Mandarin	*Aix galericulata*
Bird	Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*
Bird	Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*
Bird	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*
Bird	Canada Goose	*Branta Canadensis*
Bird	Muscovy Duck	*Cairina moschata*
Bird	Greenfinch	*Carduelis chloris*
Bird	Black Headed Gull	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Bird	Carrion Crow	*Corvus corone corone*
Bird	Blue Tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus*
Bird	Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*
Bird	Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*
Bird	Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*
Bird	Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*
Bird	Pied Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*
Bird	Great Tit	*Parus major*
Bird	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*
Bird	Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*
Bird	Magpie	*Pica pica*
Bird	Green Woodpecker	*Picus viridis*
Bird	Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*
Bird	Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Bird	Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Bird	Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*
Bird	Blackbird	*Turdus merula*
Bird	Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*
Butterfly	Holly Blue	*Celastrina argiolus*
Butterfly	Brimstone	*Gonepteryx rhamni*
Butterfly	Red Admiral	*Vanessa atalanta*
Fish	Koi Carp	*Carassius sp.*
Hemiptera	Water Measurer	*Hydrometra stagnorum*
Hymenoptera	Knopper Gall	*Andricus quercuscalicus*
Hymenoptera	Willow Bean Gall	*Pontania bridgmanii*
Mammal	Brown Rat	*Rattus norvegicus*
Fish	Common Eel	*Anguilla Anguilla*
Odonata	Emporer Dragonfly	*Anax imperator*
Odonata	Common Darter	*Sympetrum striolatum*
Plant	Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*
Plant	Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*
Plant	Common Bent	*Agrostis capillaris*
Plant	Three-cornered Leek	*Allium triquetrum*
Plant	Ramsons (introd)	*Allium ursinum*
Plant	Pyramidal orchid	*Anacamptis pyramidalis*
Plant	Hart's Tongue Fern	*Asplenium scolopendrium*
Plant	Daisy	*Bellis perennis*
Plant	Silver Birch	*Betula pendula*
Plant	Cuckoo Flower	*Cardamine pratensis*

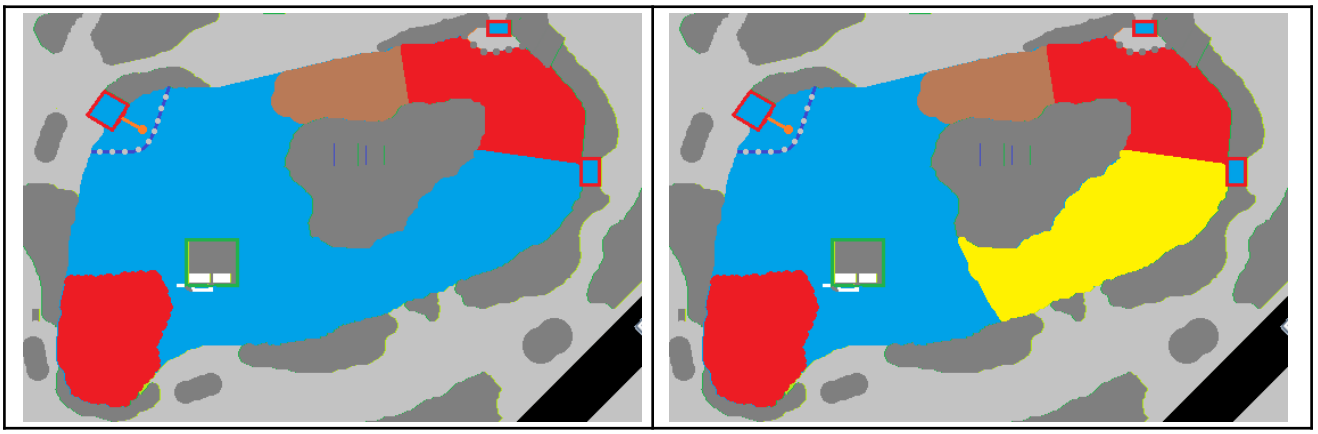
Plant	Black Knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*
Plant	Hazel	*Corylus avellana*
Plant	Crested Dog's-tail	*Cynosurus cristatus*
Plant	Cocksfoot	*Dactylis glomerata*
Plant	Broad-leaved Helleborine	*Epipactus helleborine*
Plant	Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*
Plant	Fig	*Ficus carica*
Plant	Cleavers	*Galium aparine*
Plant	Lady's Bedstraw	*Galium verum*
Plant	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	*Geranium dissectum*
Plant	Ivy	*Hedera helix*
Plant	A Cyclamen	*Cyclamen sp.*
Plant	Common Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*
Plant	Cat's-ear	*Hypochaeris radicata*
Plant	Flag Iris	*Iris pseudacorus*
Plant	Autumn Hawkbit	*Leontodon autumnalis*
Plant	Himalayan Honeysuckle	*Leycesteria Formosa*
Plant	Honeysuckle	*Lonicera periclymenum*
Plant	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*
Plant	Honesty	*Lunnaria annua*
Plant	Ragged Robin	*Lychnis flos-cuculi*
Plant	Gypsywort	*Lycopus europaeus*
Plant	Purple-loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*
Plant	Spiked Water-Milfoil	*Myriophyllum spicatum*
Plant	Corky-fruited Water-dropwort	*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*
Plant	Star of Bethlehem	*Ornithogalum umbellatum*
Plant	Timothy	*Phleum pratense*
Plant	Scot's Pine	*Pinus sylvestris*
Plant	Ribwort Plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*
Plant	Greater Plantain	*Plantago major*
Plant	Cowslip	*Primula veris*
Plant	Cherry Laurel	*Prunus laurocerasus*
Plant	Bracken	*Pteridium aquilinium*
Plant	Pedunculate Oak	*Quercus robur*
Plant	Creeping Buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*
Plant	Rhododendron	*Rhododendron ponticum*
Plant	Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus agg.*
Plant	Common Sorrel	*Rumex acetosa*
Plant	Wood Dock	*Rumex sanguineus*
Plant	Grey Willow	*Salix cinerea*
Plant	Common Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*
Plant	Common Comfrey	*Symphytum officinale*
Plant	Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale agg.*
Plant	Red Clover	*Trifolium pratense*
Plant	White Clover	*Trifolium repens*
Plant	Golden Oat Grass	*Trisetum flavescens*
Plant	Common Nettle	*Urtica dioica*
Plant	Common Dog-violet	*Viola riviniana*
Reptile	Yellow Bellied Terrapin	*Trachemys scripta scripta*

Fish	Common carp	*Cyprinus carpio*
Fish	Mirror carp	*Cyprinus carpio*
Fish	Ghost carp	*Cyprinus carpio*
Fish	Grass carp	*Ctenopharyngodon idella*
Fish	Common Bream	*Abramis brama*
Fish	Roach	*Rutilus rutilus*

Fishing Rules

- Permission to fish on site will be under licence and subject to agreed conditions, including a calendar of dates when it will be permitted. General angling throughout the year will not be allowed.
- The lake will need to be wardened on a regular basis
- An Environment Agency National Rod License must be held by anyone wishing to fish
- Barbless hooks only
- Landing nets must be used at all times
- Unhooking mats must be used at all times
- No floating baits (due to waterfowl)
- No boilies
- No night fishing
- All children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult
- All fish must be returned safely to the lake after catching. No keep nets
- Take all litter off of site

Lakewood Open Space – Job Sheet - Removing Lakebed Debris



Job Details

Job ID/Ref	Proposed Date of Task	Location/Area	Lead Person	Team Members/Volunteers
202526001	Multiple dates occurring roughly once, bi-montly	Whole Lake, including work both inside and out of the water	Paul Hardie	Committee members and trained volunteers.

Task Description

Using a manual dreddger which is effectively a frame with a huge net, attached to a long line of rope. The frame is then skimmed over the top silt layer, removing only debris and decaying plant matter. The red on the map indicates the areas that have already been dredged. Previously any debris removed from the lake is used to rebuild sections of eroded bank or have been redistributed across the grounds of lakewood to help fertilise already growing plants. The above maps show the areas of the lake which have been previously dredged in Red, The brown represents a section that has been cleared via spades and handrakes. On the second map, Yellow is used to show the area proposed as the next section of the lake to be worked due to very high buildup of silt and other debris in this section. Entry and exit into the pond will primarily be completed from the slipway, however there are also 2 alternative access points at the opposite end of the proposed area. It should be noted that these 2 entry points are steeper.

Pros (Benefits)

Improves water quality – removes decaying organic matter that contributes to nutrient buildup and algae blooms.

Enhances habitat – creates better conditions for aquatic plants and wildlife by reducing silt and debris.

Low environmental impact – manual dredging avoids heavy machinery, minimising disturbance to the ecosystem.

Cost-effective – uses volunteer labour and simple tools rather than expensive mechanical dredgers.

Promotes community involvement – offers hands-on conservation experience for volunteers and strengthens team cohesion.

Encourages biodiversity – supports healthy oxygen levels and clearer water, benefitting fish and invertebrates.
Reuses natural materials – dredged material is repurposed for bank reinforcement and soil enrichment around Lakewood.

Cons (Risks or Impacts)

Very labour intensive – physically demanding work, particularly when waterlogged debris is heavy.
Slow and time-consuming – limited progress per session compared to mechanical dredging.
Risk of slips or falls – especially when working in or near water and muddy ground.
Cold water exposure – can cause discomfort or mild hypothermia in cooler months without proper PPE.
Manual handling injuries – potential for back strain or shoulder injury when lifting wet debris.
Water turbidity – short-term cloudiness during dredging can temporarily affect aquatic life.
Uneven workload – progress depends heavily on volunteer turnout and physical ability.

Environmental Considerations

☐ Waste disposal method identified

☐ Habitat disturbance minimised

☐ Non-native species handled correctly

☐ Wildlife welfare assessed

Tools & Equipment Used

Tool/Equipment	Condition Check (Y/N)	PPE Required
Manual Dredger	Y	2x Wadders, Gloves

Weather / Site Conditions

Weather	Water Level	Ground Condition	Visibility
All conditions fine except extreme rainful	Can be worked at all water levels, however, water level can be lowered when required via “monk”.	Mixture of solid sports and sluggy sections. As this process continues there will be more solid sections available.	Generally fine.

Risk Assessment

Due to nature of task will be completed just before completion.

Associated Costs

No associated costs.

Outcome / Follow-Up Actions

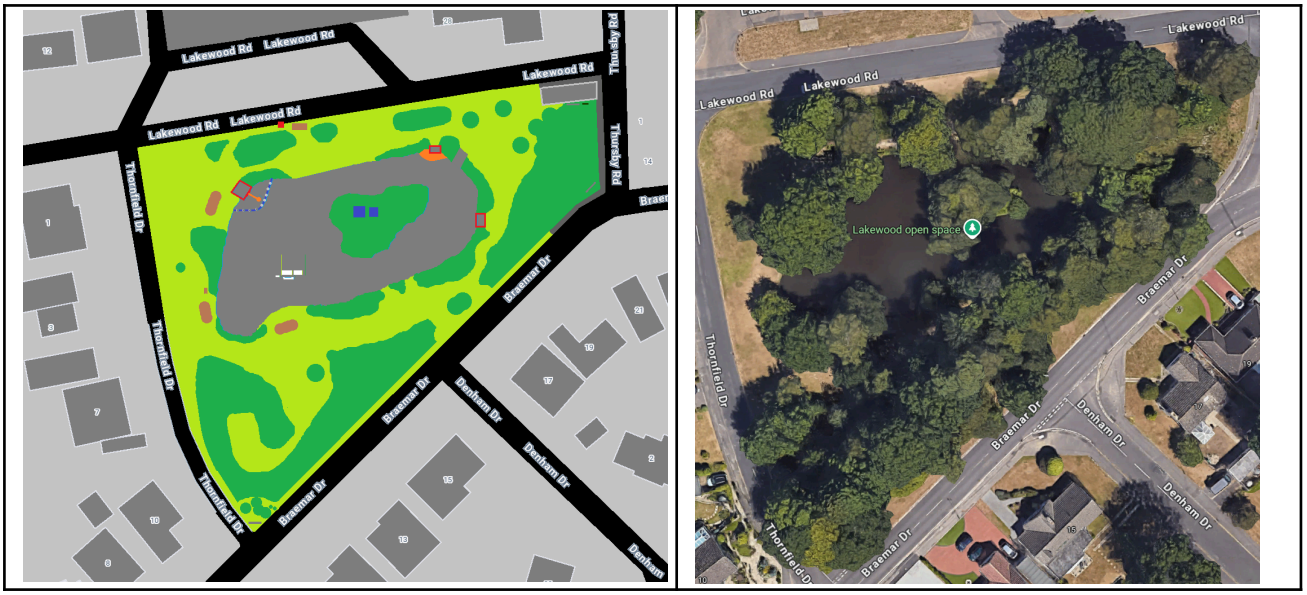
The dredging sessions, if successful, will reduce the build-up of surface silt and decaying organic matter within the lake, improving water clarity and circulation. Debris collected will be reused

around Lakewood to reinforce eroded banks and enrich soil in planted areas, supporting habitat further enhancing the restoration. The task will also provide valuable hands-on experience for volunteers, strengthening teamwork and engagement with the site's conservation goals. Overall, the activity will contribute to maintaining a healthier aquatic ecosystem and a more visually appealing environment for visitors.

Implementation Sign-Off

Completed By	Date	Checked By	Date	Signature(s)

Lakewood Open Space – Job Sheet - Removal of Invasive Species



Job Details

Job ID/Ref	Proposed Date of Task	Location/Area	Lead Person	Team Members/Volunteers
202526002	Continuos	As shown above in green	Paul Hardie	Volunteers and Committee members

Task Description

The task involves the identification and removal of invasive plant species and non-native tree saplings throughout Lakewood. These species compete with native flora for nutrients, light, and space, reducing biodiversity and altering natural habitats. The process includes the manual extraction of smaller plants and careful cutting or digging out of invasive saplings. All removed vegetation will be safely composted or disposed of to prevent regrowth. For each non-native sapling removed, a native species will be replanted in the woodland area to the east of the site. This approach ensures long-term ecological balance and supports the regeneration of natural British woodland within Lakewood.

Pros (Benefits)

Restores natural habitat – encourages the growth of native species and supports local wildlife.
Improves biodiversity – reduces competition, allowing a wider range of plants and animals to thrive.
Enhances site appearance – creates a more natural and balanced visual landscape.
Promotes sustainability – replanting native saplings ensures long-term woodland resilience.
Supports conservation goals – aligns with Lakewood's mission to balance wildlife and community involvement.
Provides educational value – offers volunteers practical experience in ecological management and plant identification.

Cons (Risks or Impacts)

Physically demanding – involves digging, cutting, and lifting which may cause fatigue or strain.
Potential for regrowth – invasive species may re-establish if roots or seeds are left behind.
Disturbance to soil and wildlife – temporary disruption to habitats during removal.
Requires accurate identification – risk of mistakenly removing beneficial or native plants.
Weather dependent – work may be delayed or made more difficult in wet or cold conditions.
Disposal challenges – some invasive materials may need special handling to prevent spread.

Environmental Considerations

☐ Waste disposal method identified

☐ Habitat disturbance minimised

☐ Non-native species handled correctly

☐ Wildlife welfare assessed

Weather / Site Conditions

Weather	Water Level	Ground Condition	Visibility
All	N/A	Assessed as identified	Generally fine.

Risk Assessment

Will be completed as plants are identified due to the nature of the task.

Associated Costs

No associated costs.

Outcome / Follow-Up Actions

The removal of invasive species has significantly improved Lakewood's ecological balance by reducing competition and encouraging native plant regeneration. Replanting native saplings in the eastern woodland area has begun to restore the natural structure and diversity of the site. The task provided an excellent opportunity for volunteers to learn about habitat management and the importance of native species conservation. Overall, the work has enhanced biodiversity, supported long-term sustainability, and contributed to the ongoing environmental restoration of Lakewood.

Implementation Sign-Off

Completed By	Date	Checked By	Date	Signature(s)

Lakewood Open Space – Job Sheet - Social Media and Public Engagement

Job Details

Job ID/Ref	Proposed Date of Task	Location/Area	Lead Person	Team Members/Volunteers
202526003	Continual	Online capacity	All Committee Members	Committee Members

Task Description

This task focuses on increasing activity across Lakewood's social media platforms to promote engagement, encourage volunteer participation in task days, and celebrate the ongoing success of the site's restoration journey. The aim is to create regular, informative, and visually appealing posts that showcase conservation efforts, wildlife updates, and community involvement. By strengthening Lakewood's online presence, the project seeks to attract new volunteers, maintain interest among supporters, and highlight the positive environmental impact of the work being carried out on-site. Content will be shared responsibly, ensuring it reflects the inclusive, educational, and conservation-focused values of the organisation.

Pros (Benefits)

Community and Awareness BenefitsBoosts volunteer turnout – increases awareness of upcoming task days and opportunities to get involved.
Enhances community engagement – strengthens connection with local residents and supporters.
Promotes transparency – shows the public how restoration efforts are progressing.
Raises Lakewood's profile – helps attract partnerships, funding, and future opportunities.
Encourages education – spreads awareness of environmental issues and habitat management.
Creates a lasting record – documents progress and achievements for historical and promotional use.

Cons (Risks or Impacts)

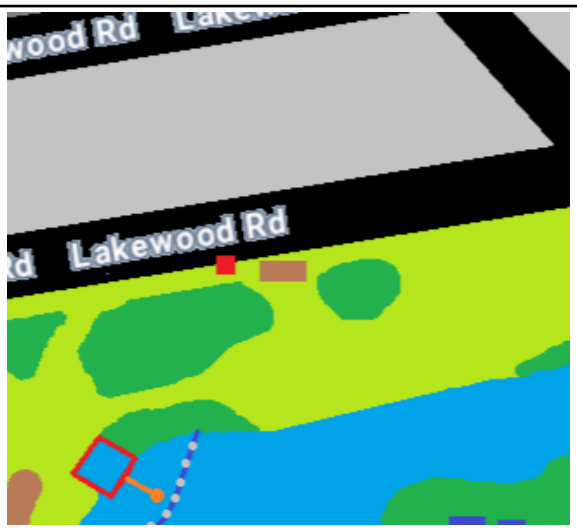
Time commitment – maintaining consistent posting and interaction requires regular effort.
Public feedback management – posts may attract criticism or misinformation that must be handled diplomatically.
Privacy concerns – photos or stories must avoid sharing personal details without consent.
Quality control – posts must be accurate and professional to reflect Lakewood's reputation.
Volunteer burnout – increased responsibility may place pressure on those managing content.

Outcome

The increased use of social media platforms has resulted in greater visibility for Lakewood's restoration work and improved communication with the community. Engagement levels have risen, with more volunteers attending task days and more followers showing interest in the ongoing projects. The consistent sharing of updates, photographs, and educational content has helped strengthen public understanding of conservation work while fostering a sense of pride and involvement among local supporters. Overall, this initiative has successfully connected Lakewood's on-site achievements with a wider audience, supporting long-term volunteer growth and community participation.

Completed By	Date	Checked By	Date	Signature(s)

Lakewood Open Space – Job Sheet - Repair/Replace Notice Board





Job Details

Job ID/Ref	Proposed Date of Task	Location/Area	Lead Person	Team Members/Volunteers
202526004	TBC	Notice board located on North side of the Lake.	Paul Hardie	Committee Members

Task Description

To make repairs to or replace the existing notice board located at the north side of the site. The current noticeboard has been subject to weather erosion and vandalism over the years and whilst it is usable, in the sense you can pin documents to the wood, there is no weather protection for them and the board has therefore not been used to advertise anything for some time. We are hoping in restoring the notice board to its former state, its use will allow us to engage with the community and share information important to the local area. Suggestion has been made to create an interactive backing.

Pros (Benefits)

Improves communication – provides a clear, visible point for community updates, events, and information.

Enhances site appearance – a clean, restored notice board improves first impressions at the site entrance.

Encourages community engagement – helps connect visitors, volunteers, and local residents with ongoing activities.

Preserves heritage – restoring rather than replacing retains the original character of the site.

Low-cost improvement – relatively inexpensive project with lasting benefit.

Opportunity for volunteer involvement – provides a hands-on, achievable task for community participation.

Cons (Risks or Impacts)

Weather dependency – outdoor repair work may be delayed by rain or damp conditions.
Potential minor injury risk – hand tools, saws, and fixings can cause splinters, cuts, or strain if not handled correctly.
Material costs – depending on the level of repair, replacement panels or perspex covers may incur some expense.
Risk of future vandalism – restored board may again become a target if not located or designed securely.
Time required for finish and drying – paint or wood treatments may require multiple sessions to fully weatherproof and therefore may need to be completed prior to installation.

Environmental Considerations

☐ Habitat disturbance minimised

☐ Non-native species handled correctly

☐ Wildlife welfare assessed

Tools & Equipment Used

Tool/Equipment	Condition Check (Y/N)	PPE Required
Drills	Y	N/A
Screws	N/A	N/A

Weather / Site Conditions

Weather	Water Level	Ground Condition	Visibility
All	N/A	Solid, Grassed	Fine, Next to road

Risk Assessment

Not required, Be conscious of the road and members of the public passing. Operate normal safety procedures when handling drills and carrying board.

Associated Costs

Item/Material	Quantity	Cost (£)	Funded by? (Lakewood or Parish Council?)
Wood	1-4	tbc	Lakewood
Metal Slides	4	tbc	Lakewood
Purspex sheet	1	tbc	Lakewood
Paint	1	tbc	Lakewood
Various Screws	tbc	tbc	
Total:		tbc	

Outcome / Follow-Up Actions

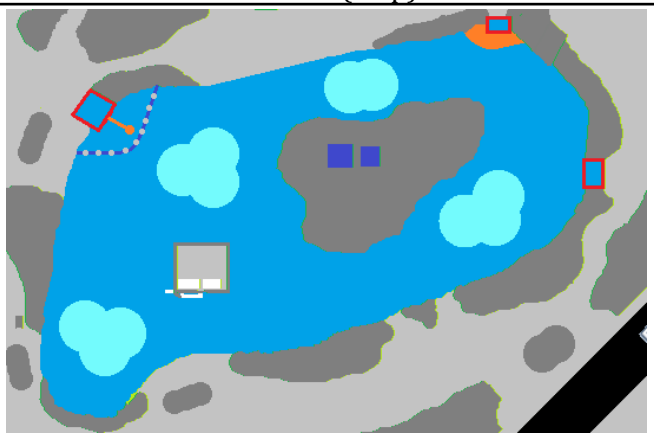
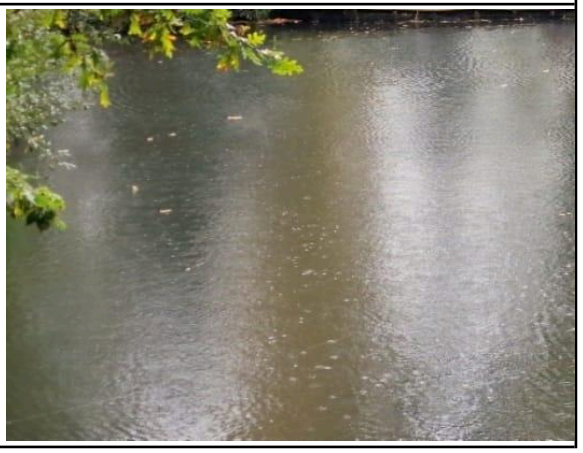
The notice board was successfully repaired and weatherproofed, restoring its intended function as a community information point. The completed work has improved the visual appeal of the site's north entrance and re-established a key communication tool for sharing local updates and conservation news. The project also involved volunteers in a practical, rewarding activity that strengthened their connection with Lakewood's ongoing management efforts. Overall, the

outcome supports better community engagement and helps maintain pride in the site's appearance.

Implementation Sign-Off

Completed By	Date	Checked By	Date	Signature(s)

Lakewood Open Space – Job Sheet - Introduction of Native submersible vegetation to the lake bed

Location (map)	Current Area
	

Job Details

Job ID/Ref	Proposed Date of Task	Location/Area	Lead Person	Team Members/Volunteers
202526005				

Task Description

This task involves planting and establishing native submersible (underwater) vegetation across selected areas of the lake bed. Native aquatic plants play a vital role in maintaining healthy water ecosystems by improving oxygen levels, stabilising sediment, and providing shelter for fish and invertebrates. Species chosen will be those native to the UK and suitable for the depth, light conditions, and substrate present at Lakewood. Planting will be carried out manually by trained volunteers working in shallow water, using planting frames or weighted plugs to ensure the vegetation anchors securely. The introduction of these plants aims to enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, and support long-term ecological balance within the lake.

Pros

Improves water quality – plants absorb excess nutrients, reducing algae blooms and increasing oxygenation.

Supports aquatic life – provides habitat and breeding grounds for fish, amphibians, and invertebrates.

Stabilises sediment – helps prevent erosion and water cloudiness.

Enhances biodiversity – encourages a more natural and self-sustaining aquatic ecosystem.

Visually enhances the lake – clearer water and healthy vegetation create a more attractive environment for visitors.

Long-term ecological benefits – once established, plants self-propagate and require minimal

maintenance.
Educational value – demonstrates sustainable conservation practices to volunteers and the public.

Cons (Risks or Impacts)

Initial plant loss – some plants may fail to establish due to water depth, sediment type, or weather.
Disturbance during planting – temporary turbidity (cloudiness) while volunteers work on the lake bed.
Labour-intensive – requires careful manual planting, often in awkward or submerged positions.
Seasonal limitations – planting success depends heavily on temperature and growing season.
Potential for non-target impacts – planted areas may be disturbed by fish, waterfowl, or future maintenance work.
Ongoing monitoring required – success needs to be reviewed over time to ensure vegetation takes hold.

Environmental Considerations

☐ Waste disposal method identified

☐ Habitat disturbance minimised

☐ Non-native species handled correctly

☐ Wildlife welfare assessed

Tools & Equipment Used

Tool/Equipment	Condition Check (Y/N)	PPE Required
TBC		

Weather / Site Conditions

Weather	Water Level	Ground Condition	Visibility
Only in good weather	Does not require lowering	Mixture of firm and soft	Generally Fine

Risk Assessment

Due to nature of task will be completed just before completion.

Associated Costs

Item/Material	Quantity	Cost (£)
TBC		
Total:		

Outcome / Follow-Up Actions

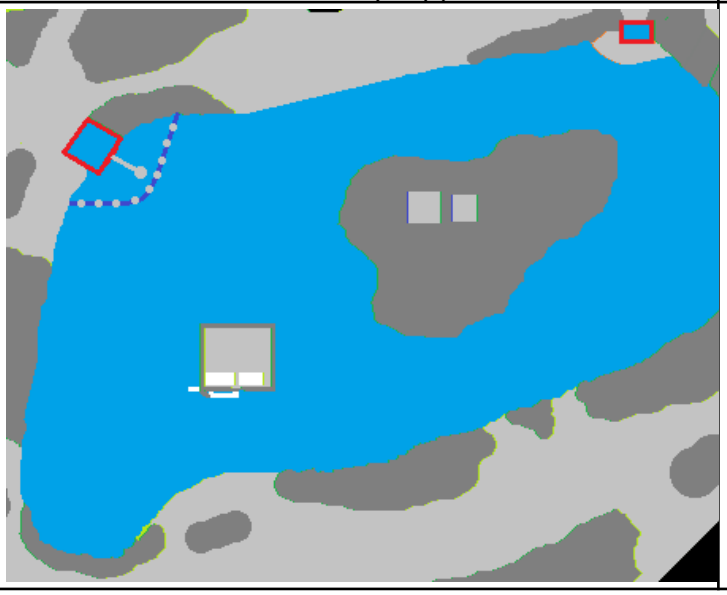
The introduction of native submersible vegetation has enhanced the ecological health and stability of the lake. Planted areas have begun to show improved water clarity, sediment stability, and visible increases in aquatic life activity. Although some initial plant loss occurred, the majority of species established successfully and are showing signs of growth and spread. This work has contributed to the creation of a more balanced and self-sustaining ecosystem while offering volunteers valuable hands-on experience in freshwater habitat restoration. The project

supports Lakewood's long-term goal of improving biodiversity and maintaining a thriving, natural environment.

Implementation Sign-Off

Completed By	Date	Checked By	Date	Signature(s)

Lakewood Open Space – Job Sheet - Using Siltex across the lake to increase debris and silt breakdown.

Location (map)	Current Area
	

Job Details

Job ID/Ref	Proposed Date of Task	Location/Area	Lead Person	Team Members/Volunteers
202526006	TBC	Whole lake	Paul Hardie	Committee Members

Task Description

The task involves the measured application of **Siltex**, a fine powdered natural chalk (calcium carbonate), across designated areas of the lake to accelerate the breakdown of organic debris and silt accumulation. Over time, decaying organic matter contributes to nutrient build-up and low oxygen conditions, affecting both water quality and habitat balance. Siltex acts as a gentle flocculant, encouraging the natural bacterial and microbial processes that decompose organic material without harming aquatic life.

The product will be applied in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and under calm weather conditions to ensure even distribution and minimal disturbance. All work will be supervised, and wildlife presence will be monitored throughout. The aim is to improve long-term water quality, reduce silt build-up, and create a healthier aquatic environment for native flora and fauna.

Pros (Benefits)

Improves water quality – reduces nutrient load and organic build-up, leading to clearer, healthier water.
Supports oxygen levels – encourages microbial activity that increases dissolved oxygen in the water column.
Non-toxic and wildlife-safe – Siltex is a natural, pH-neutral substance with no chemical additives.

Reduces need for manual dredging – decreases frequency of disruptive maintenance activities.
Enhances aquatic habitats – improved clarity and sediment quality support fish, amphibians, and invertebrates.
Long-term cost efficiency – provides sustainable sediment control over multiple years.

Cons (Risks or Impacts)

Temporary turbidity – short-term clouding of the water during application may cause mild disruption to fish and invertebrates.
Behavioural disturbance – some species may avoid the area temporarily while the Siltex settles.
Timing sensitivity – application must avoid spawning or nesting seasons to prevent wildlife stress.
Over-application risk – excessive use could alter pH balance; requires precise measurement and monitoring.
Variable results – effectiveness can depend on existing silt composition and water chemistry.
Follow-up monitoring required – ongoing testing of sediment and water quality will be necessary to confirm positive effects.

Environmental Considerations

☐ Waste disposal method identified

☐ Habitat disturbance minimised

☐ Non-native species handled correctly

☐ Wildlife welfare assessed

Tools & Equipment Used

Tool/Equipment	Condition Check (Y/N)	PPE Required
Boat	Y	N/A

Weather / Site Conditions

Weather	Water Level	Ground Condition	Visibility
All (not advisable in adverse weather)	Does not need to be lowered	N/A	Generally Fine

Risk Assessment

Please see the full risk assessment located towards the end of this document.

Associated Costs

Item/Material	Quantity	Cost (£)
Siltex		
Total:		

Outcome / Follow-Up Actions

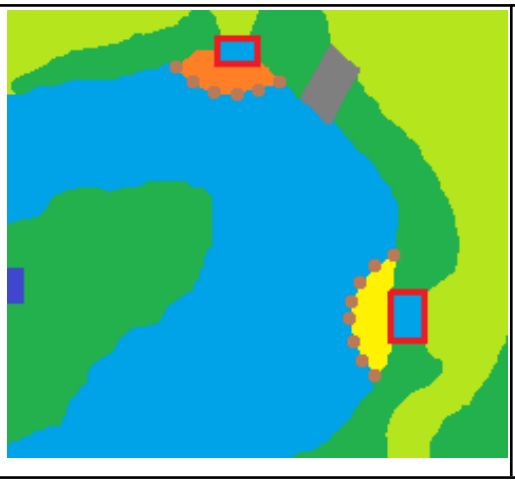
Following the controlled application of Siltex, water clarity and oxygenation are expected to gradually improve as organic debris breaks down more efficiently. Early monitoring will focus on confirming that wildlife—particularly fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates—remains unaffected. Over the long term, the treatment should reduce silt accumulation, limit nutrient enrichment, and help sustain a more balanced ecosystem.

This method provides a **low-impact, environmentally responsible alternative** to mechanical dredging, supporting both the ecological health of the lake and the comfort of local wildlife. The process aligns with Lakewood's wider restoration goals of maintaining biodiversity while managing the lake in a sustainable and minimally invasive way.

Implementation Sign-Off

Completed By	Date	Checked By	Date	Signature(s)

Lakewood Open Space – Job Sheet - To install a second reed barrier across the “Pipe” inlet.





Job Details

Job ID/Ref	Proposed Date of Task	Location/Area	Lead Person	Team Members/Volunteers
202526007	TBC	Marked in yellow	Paul Hardie	

Task Description

The task involves replacing the existing brick wall with a **reed barrier**, consistent with the existing structure shown in orange on the map. The barrier will be built using wooden posts and a mesh to prevent sediment from re-entering the lake. Once the sediment has settled, native plants such as **reeds and flag iris** will be planted across the barrier. The structure will act as a **natural silt trap**, filtering and oxygenating water entering the lake from drainage systems and road drains, while also creating a visually appealing habitat that enhances biodiversity along the lakeside, and providing shelter for smaller animals/waterfowl.

Pros (Benefits)

Improves water quality – reed beds act as natural filters, trapping sediment and absorbing pollutants from runoff.
Enhances biodiversity – provides valuable habitat for amphibians, insects, and nesting birds.
Natural ox**ygenation –** aquatic plants help increase dissolved oxygen, supporting healthy lake ecology.
Visually appealing – creates a more natural and attractive lakeside feature in line with existing reed barriers.
Erosion control – stabilises banks and reduces silt flow into the main body of the lake.
Low maintenance once established – requires little upkeep compared to a structural brick wall.

Cons (Risks or Impacts)

Initial disturbance – installation work may temporarily disturb wildlife or increase turbidity in nearby water.
Establishment time – reeds and native plants will take several months to grow and become effective.
Seasonal dependency – planting is best carried out in spring or early autumn for best survival rates.
Requires monitoring – newly planted sections must be checked for damage or washout after heavy rainfall.
Possible public curiosity/interference – new installations may attract interest; signage or temporary fencing may be needed during establishment.
Manual handling risk – lifting posts and mesh requires care to avoid strain or injury.

Environmental Considerations

☐ Waste disposal method identified

☐ Habitat disturbance minimised

☐ Non-native species handled correctly

☐ Wildlife welfare assessed

Tools & Equipment Used

Tool/Equipment	Condition Check (Y/N)	PPE Required

Weather / Site Conditions

Weather	Water Level	Ground Condition	Visibility
All	Doesn't need to be lowered	Mixed - Solid and slushy, uneven.	Generally fine.

Risk Assessment

Please see the full risk assessment located towards the end of this document.

Associated Costs

Item/Material	Quantity	Cost (£)
Total:		

Outcome / Follow-Up Actions

Briefly describe what was achieved and note any follow-up actions required.

Implementation Sign-Off

Completed By	Date	Checked By	Date	Signature(s)

Lakewood Open Space – Job Sheet - Teaching Children to fish

[Attach before photo here]	[Attach after photo here]

Job Details

Job ID/Ref	Proposed Date of Task	Location/Area	Lead Person	Team Members/Volunteers
20250002526	As required	Lakewood	Paul Hardie	Coaching Team

Task Description

Lakewood hosts a free fishing session once a month for children under the age of 16, providing a safe and educational environment for young people to learn the fundamentals of angling. These sessions are delivered by qualified fishing coaches and supported by trained volunteers, ensuring that participants receive proper guidance in both technique and water safety.

The aim of the initiative is to **inspire the next generation of anglers**, promote respect for wildlife and the environment, and offer local children the opportunity to experience outdoor recreation in a structured and inclusive way. Alongside fishing tuition, sessions include discussions on fish welfare, habitat care, and responsible angling practices.

This program forms part of Lakewood's wider community engagement and conservation education strategy, helping to bridge the gap between people and nature through enjoyable, hands-on learning experiences.

Risk Assessment

All risk assessments will be completed separately in accordance with coaching standards.

Outcome / Follow-Up Actions

The monthly free fishing sessions for children under 16 have been a great success, providing a fun and educational introduction to angling in a safe and supportive environment. Participants gained practical fishing skills while learning about fish welfare, habitat protection, and responsible angling practices. The sessions have strengthened Lakewood's connection with the local community, encouraged outdoor activity, and inspired many young people to continue developing their interest in fishing. Feedback from both children and parents has been highly positive, with several returning each month to build confidence and experience. Overall, the initiative has promoted inclusion, environmental awareness, and a lasting appreciation for nature among the next generation.