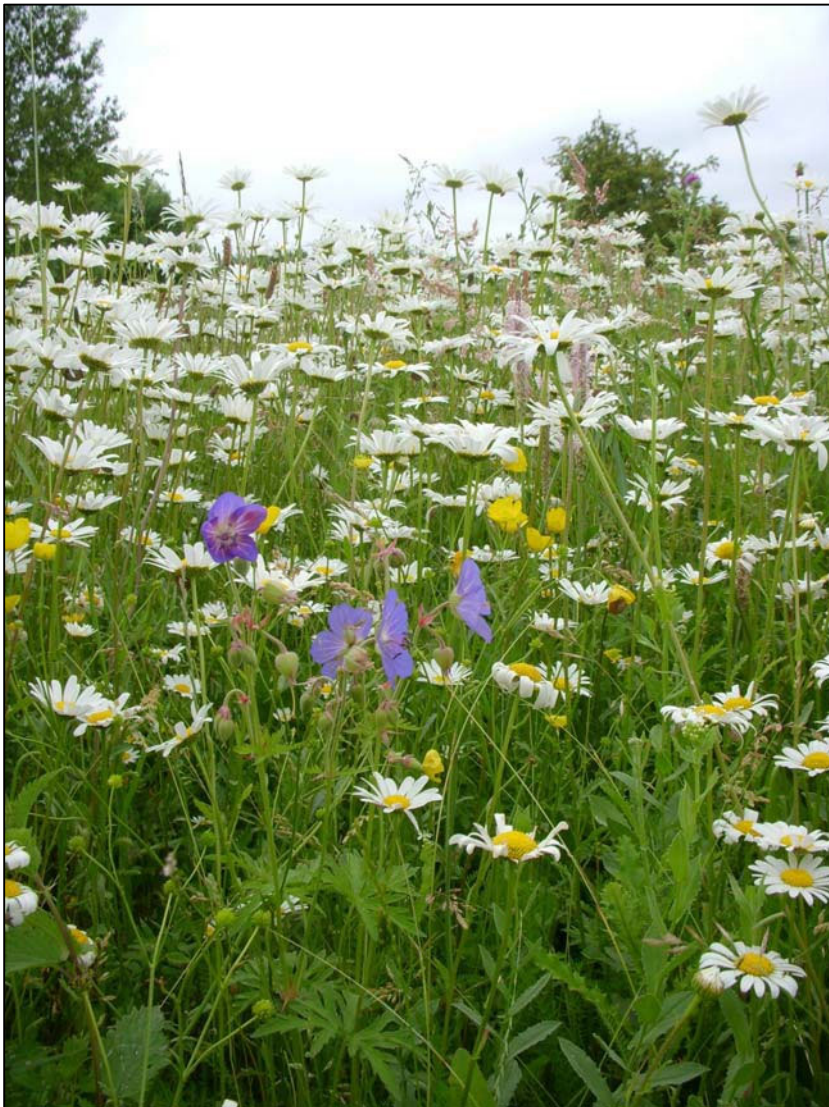


# **Stockbridge Meadows Management Plan**

**2023 – 2028**



**Produced by Maureen Brierley**

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## 1.0 General Information

**Area:** Approximately 5.2 hectares. When considered with nearby land (within mixed private ownership) then a much larger mix of grassland, parkland, orchard and river exists in the order of 44.2 hectares in direct connection with the site.

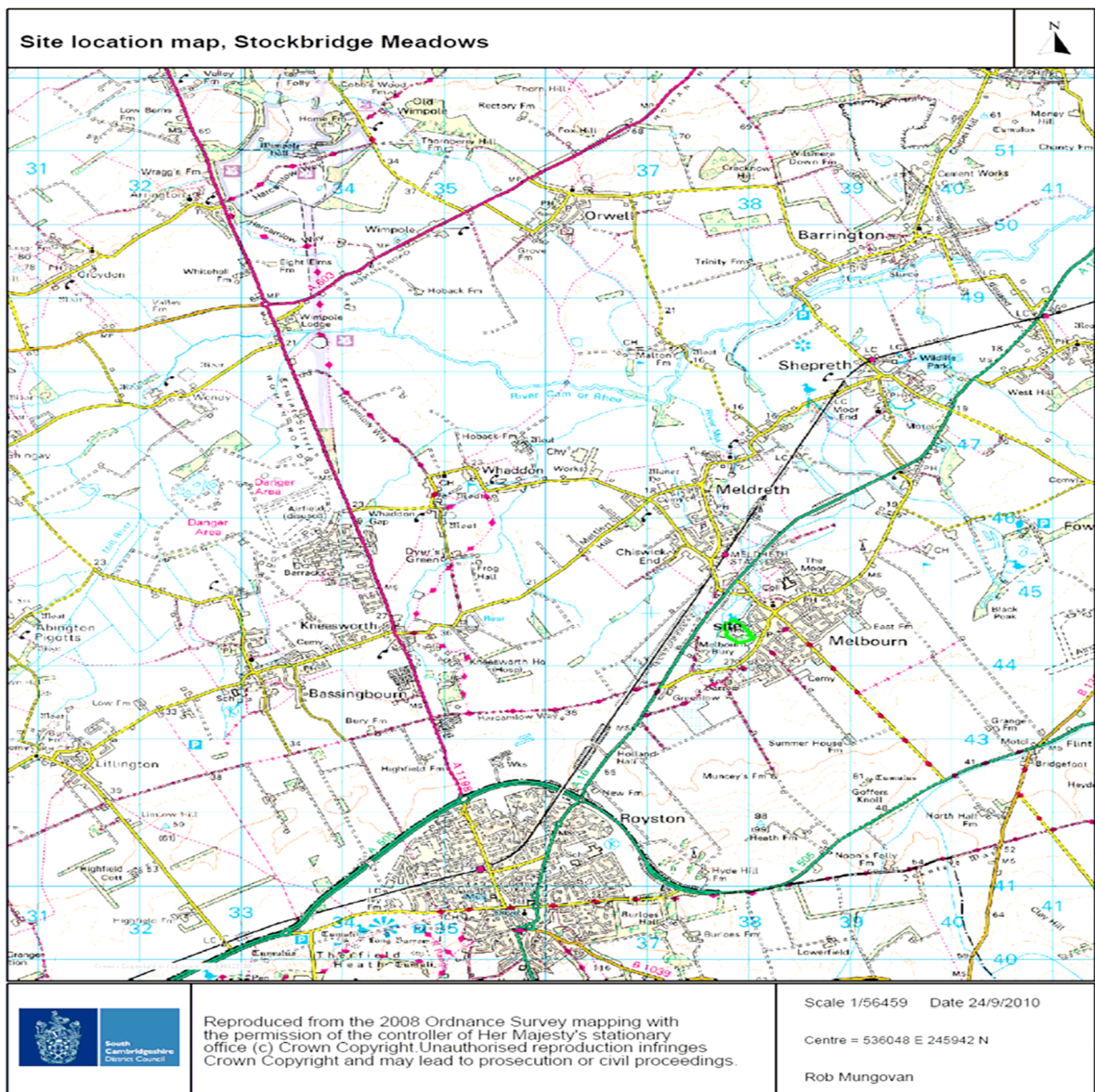
**Ownership:** Melbourn Parish Council since 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**Opened to public:** 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012

**Site name:** Stockbridge Meadows

**Ordnance Survey map sheet** 154, grid ref TL 379 445.

**Status:** Fields in Trust – registered in 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The site is recognised as a village amenity space for quiet recreation and nature study.



### 1.1 Site location

The site is situated off Stockbridge Meadows residential road in the village of Melbourn, South Cambridgeshire. The site is accessed via a vehicular drive (with parking area) off Stockbridge

Meadows Road. Signs are in place to guide public access. A kissing gate allows access to the site. Hard surfacing

has been provided to assist wheel chair and pram access. A locked field gate allows machinery into the site from the parking area. A hard surfaced access to enable disabled access has been provided.

The River Mel, a rare chalk stream flows from its source into and through Stockbridge Meadows, continuing its journey via Sheene Mill and through the villages' recreational fields.

## 1.2 Management

The management of the site was transferred to Melbourn Parish Council following the completion of the adjacent residential development of Stockbridge Meadows estate. Development of Stockbridge Meadows nature reserve formed part of the permissions for the housing development. Management of the site continues to follow the plan developed by South Cambridgeshire Ecology Officer. The site is managed to maintain the footpaths for public access by an agreed grass cutting regime with local contractor. The wildflower meadow is cut by the Village Rangers in line with the management plan. A small group of volunteers provide support to the Rangers assisting in the maintenance of the site. Risk assessments are provided by the Parish council or Volunteer leader as appropriate.

## 1.3 Designations

**Fields in Trust** – registered in 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

## 1.4 Site History

Prior to the site being laid out for public access the following description was applicable: *The land comprises extensive areas of regenerating scrub and remnant orchard, together with rough grassland sloping down towards the river, the banks of which are fringed by a strip of rough grassland and tall ruderal vegetation and augmented by pollard white willow. The northern edge of the site is marked by a hedgerow and scrub, which connects to the River Mel to the west, together with a number of veteran ash pollards, coppices and associated standing and fallen deadwood. The river meanders to form part of the southern boundary as well, whilst the east of the site is bounded by a combination of scrub and garden boundary vegetation from the adjoining properties.*

*The river is relatively enclosed in nature and is associated with wide marginal areas encompassing reedbeds and other marginal plants, with occasional outgrown willow pollards dotted along its length. A fringe of emergent plants may be seen at the base of both banks, which are generally relatively shallow in profile.* "Landscape and Ecology Management Plan" CSA Environmental Planning 2004

In January 2008 the site was laid out to maximise public access and enjoyment of the site. The main works included:

- Provision of a boardwalk to the river
- Creation of 2 shallow scrapes

- Planting of new plum and apple trees in the old orchard area
- Planting of a pear orchard
- Opening up of river views at 2 locations
- Provision of a site interpretation board
- Planting of new scrub areas
  
- Planting of standard trees
- Planting of wildflower meadow areas
- Planting of amenity grassland area
- Creation of rolled grass paths
- Provision of dog mess bins
- Provision of picnic benches

**1.5 Management achievements** – since the site opened to public access the Parish Council staff and volunteers have maintained and improved the above areas.

- Cutting and raking of wildflower meadow and seeding with new wildflower stock
- Maintenance of old orchard area and planting of replacement heritage plum and apple trees
- Development and maintenance of reed bed areas (shallow scrapes)
- Maintaining river view areas by careful management of reeds and weed growth in river
- Further provision for reptiles by building of log piles
- Removal of litter as necessary
- Provision of new Boardwalk to maintain public ability to access river views.

Key to the success of the site is to increase biodiversity and maintain the open grassland land, whilst keeping the site accessible to all.

### **1.6 Connectivity with other sites**

Stockbridge Meadows lies within the village of Melbourn with private land bordering its boundaries. There are important wildlife sites within a 5-mile radius.

- a) River Mel is a chalk stream whose source lies just outside Stockbridge Meadows with the river flowing along the sites borders and onwards to join the River Rhee. The River Mel is approximately 5 miles in length.
- b) RSPB Fowlmere – RSPB (SSSI name is Fowlmere Watercress Beds) OS Map ref:TL406461 – connectivity to Melbourn village due to farmland abutting the reserve
- c) L-Moor Shepreth – OS map ref: TL385475 managed by Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust – there is connectivity here due to the course of the River Mel through Meldreth and connection with Guilden Brook.
- d) Melwood – OS map ref: TL 37804590, owned by Cambridge County Council leased to Meldreth Parish Council and managed by Melwood Volunteers abuts the River Mel as it passes through Meldreth
- e) Therfield Heath – Stockbridge Meadows is owned Bt MSSSI managed by The Conservators for Therfield Heath

### **1.7 Purpose of declaration**

Melbourn Parish Council's purpose is to strengthen the identity of the site by gaining official recognition of Stockbridge Meadows as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). This is to provide more protection for the site while increasing its biodiversity and ensuring a green space for the use and enjoyment of the local community. During the Covid pandemic the community found visiting the area helped with anxiety and stress created by the pandemic. It is well documented that green spaces such as Stockbridge Meadows sited within the middle of a village helps mental health issues. As referenced above, the site is near to other important wildlife sites, with Stockbridge Meadows helping to connect and enhance the collection of important sites within the wider area. It is also an important habitat for pollinating insects, badgers, water voles and reptiles.

The Parish Council is committed to developing further conservation plans for the village and see the gaining of local nature reserve status as an important platform to launch their plans.

### **1.8 Known constraints**

The River Mel's source lies on the edge of Stockbridge Meadows and during prolonged drought the river has dried up. The Environment agency in consultation with the River Mel Restoration Group are exploring mitigation steps to improve support to the river in times of drought.

**Sufficient manpower and finance to maintain and develop the site are recognised constraints by Melbourn Parish Council.**

### **1.9 Access and management policies**

Stockbridge Meadows is accessible to the public twenty-four hours a day throughout the year. Access to the site by vehicle is through the entrance which lies off the road Stockbridge Meadows. This entrance leads to the nature reserves car park. Pedestrian access is through the same entrance. There are signs indicating access to the car park and reserve.

Management policies are provided as required by Melbourn Parish Council and the appropriate Local authority.



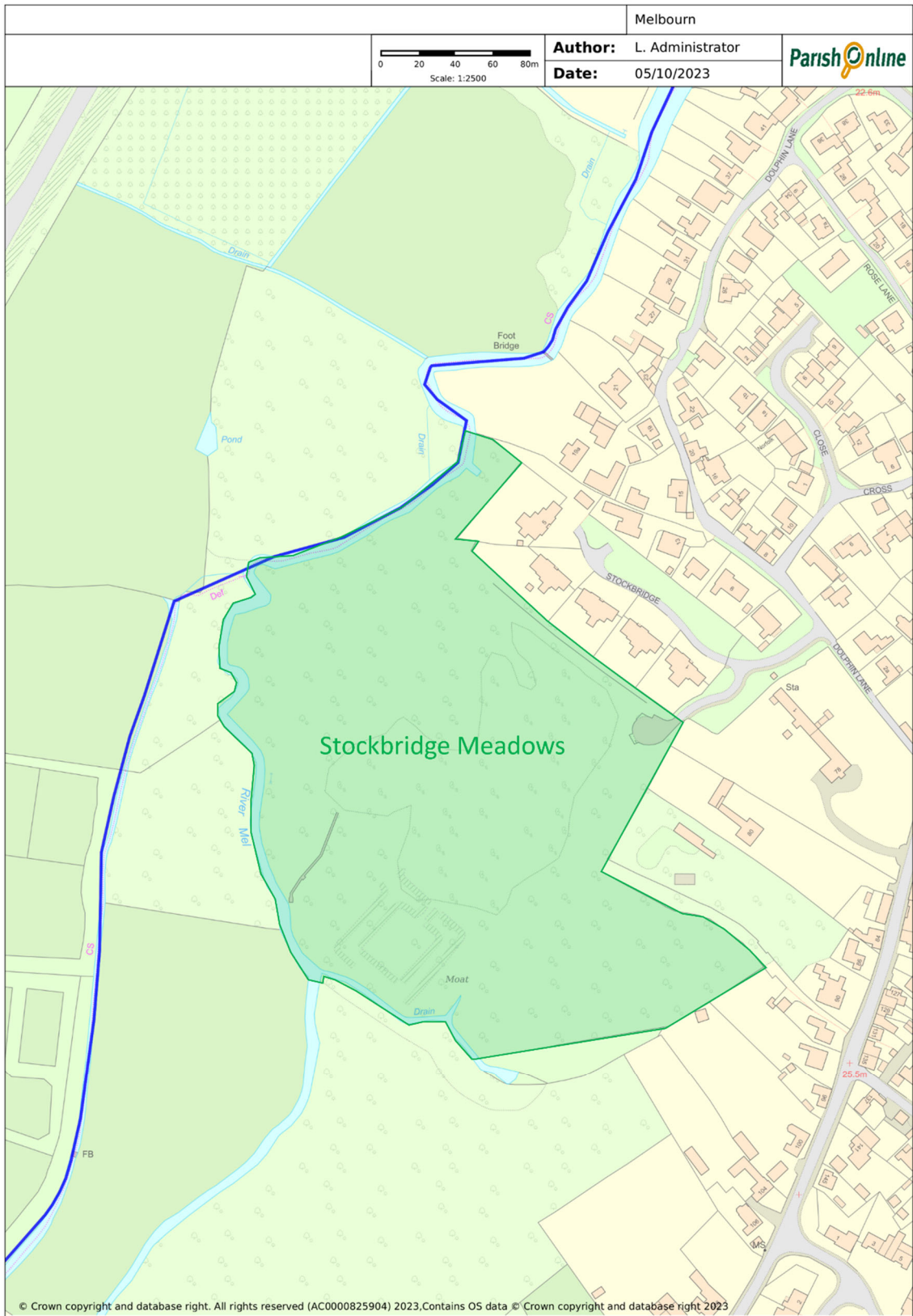


Figure 1: Site location map



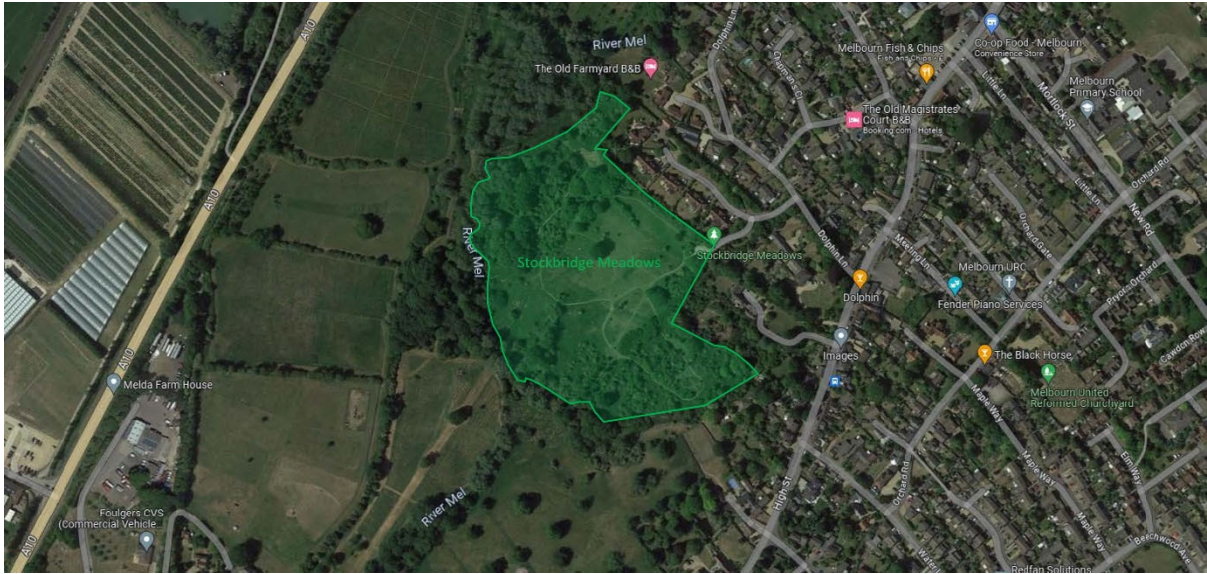


Figure 2: Stockbridge Meadows Boundary







## 2.0 Site description

The site is divided into habitat areas: wildflower meadows, rough grassland area for lizards and grass snakes, chalk stream and wetland, plum, gage and apple orchard, amenity area and scrub, woodland, meadow with trees.

2.1 Wildflower meadows -The wildflower meadow is next to the amenity area and is much appreciated by the public, with meadow cranesbill, ox eye daisies, yellow rattle and many more. Butterflies and moths are attracted to the flowering plants and in the summer months Glow worms may be seen at night, putting on a light display.

Rabbit infestation is a problem as they dig in the meadow, damage the paths and eat the wildflowers.

Grass and nettle encroachment continues to be an issue, yellow rattle seed has been sown over the last few years and is beginning to weaken the grass.

2.2 Rough grassland -snakes and lizards. The reptile area has log piles with roofs of corrugated iron to provide habitat for snakes and lizards. The corrugated iron is also laid within this area and grass snakes can sometimes be found lying underneath them warming themselves. Grass cutting is minimal in this area, although pathways are cut through to link it with the open amenity area. Lizards can be seen basking on the boardwalk and grass snakes often bask in the open areas of the reed beds. Volunteers ensure that the log piles are fit for purpose and that the corrugated iron remains within this area.

2.3 River/Wetland habitat – Our rare chalk stream, the River Mel is one of the main attractions for our visitors and an essential requirement for the wildlife. Water voles live along the river bank. **Access to** view the river is provided from the boardwalk which runs between the reed beds and volunteers maintain another viewing point further along this stretch.

The open water areas in the reed beds provide habitat for frogs and dragonflies.

2.4 Orchard- Heritage fruit trees were planted last autumn to replace older trees that had reached the end of their life. The old trees have been left in situ so as to continue to provide habitat for invertebrates.

2.5 Hedgerows/scrub- These areas provide important habitat for badgers and muntjac due to limited access by the public. Muntjac lie up in the scrub during the day. The badger sett was in place at the setting out of the site and continues to be used, although it has moved from the original site to be slightly further from the path.

**2.6 Amenity area:** Open grassland in the centre of the site provides an area for families to picnic and enjoy games with their children. The local primary school brings classes over to the area and holds family afternoon get togethers.

There is seating at points in the reserve for the public to sit and enjoy the green space and wildlife.

Birds' species such as green woodpecker utilise the open grassland, while owls and birds of prey hunt small mammals. The wildflower meadow provides a pleasant backdrop to the amenity area. Bird boxes were placed through the canopy of trees across the reserve prior to its public opening. Buzzards have nested and reared their young in the trees along and behind the river bank.

Bat boxes were also positioned at the same time as the bird boxes. They are still in place but unfortunately some of them have been vandalised and require replacement.

2.7 Trees – there is a scattered mix of hawthorn, elder, ash and a veteran field maple. A copse of ash trees lies behind the wildflower meadow and are as yet only minimally affected by ash die-back. There is also grey poplar and recently planted black poplar. Fallen dead wood is left as habitat for invertebrates and for children to make hides.

### **3.0 Site evaluation**

#### Size

The site is approximately 5.2 hectares (~13 acres). When considered with nearby land (within mixed private ownership), then a much larger mix of grassland, parkland, orchard and river exists in the order of 44.2 hectares in direct connection with the site.

#### Diversity

The site contains an interesting mix of dry grassland to fen habitats (although becoming degraded). An area of new wildflower meadow habitat has been planted that should provide seed to other parts of the site. The diversity of the existing grassland flora was considered poor, possibly as a legacy of the site's partial former arable use.

Small woodland habitats include wet woodland and willow carr adjacent to the river. No tree management had been undertaken for many years with fallen trees lying in, and across, the river in places. A number of trees had been managed for safety reasons prior to the site being opened up to the public. Many trees are still suffering from rabbit damage.

The former orchards have been supplemented through new planting together with the preservation of some original trees through scrub removal.

New areas of scrub planting have been undertaken to try and compensate for the scrub loss following the general opening up of the site.

Shallow scrapes have been created adjacent to the boardwalk to provide open water habitats (different from that provided by the river).

The site's diversity is now considered to have been much enhanced following the work in early 2008.

#### Naturalness



The orchard area had most likely been planted within the last 50 years and now has some new planting to supplement it.

The area of Trayles Manor has been left uncleared of scrub. Where open ground occurs, it is dominated by nettles.

The area of fen type habitat and adjacent wet woodland is perhaps the most natural within the site as the site's high water table conditions have dictated the flora that has established.

#### Rarity

Whilst no rarities of flora occur on site two animal species are of note; badger whose sett contains a number of active holes on the edge of the orchard area, and the common lizard which were translocated to a specially laid out area to the south west of the site. Of local interest (and possibly of county importance), is the presence of glow worms.

Melbourn village contains a number of formally managed open spaces. This site is the only one near to the village's centre where wildlife conservation is the main objective.

#### Fragility

Grassland habitats can be fragile in the absence of appropriate cutting regimes. The river could become entirely choked by sedge and common reed if left unmanaged. The wet woodland would eventually outcompete the willow carr areas. The fen area is currently showing signs of drying out with an ingress of nettles. The scrapes would become quickly overgrown if not cleared in the winter. The orchard areas could become overgrown by ivy and brambles if not maintained.

#### History

To the south of the site is the archaeological remains of the 14<sup>th</sup> century site of Trayles Manor, a former moated house.

#### Ecological position

The site is bounded by the River Mel on its west beyond which is open grassland and copses. To the north and east are (relatively large) residential garden of Melbourn village. To the south is grassland and parkland habitats of Melbourn Bury. The site is considered to be largely open to the countryside.

#### Intrinsic value

The site is an area managed for its range of semi-natural habitats (as opposed to formally managed recreation areas). The presence of common lizards and glowworms are the only known populations within the village in a public area.

#### Identification and confirmation of important features

The site of Trayles Manor is important historically.

The presence of the River Mel is important as a clear chalk river habitat with otters, wild

brown trout and water voles associated within it.

The old orchard is a priority habitat for conservation.

The scrapes provide open water habitats of benefit to amphibians and invertebrates.

The presence of a badger's sett is important, even though several others are present within the parish.

The wildflower meadows are visually important and should increase in value for invertebrates as they mature.

The presence of glow worms within the is considered to be of local importance (if of county importance).

The majority of the site has been influenced by Man's use of the site over the centuries and recent history. The current grassland has been re-sown with an amenity mix and a wild flower mix (Emorsgate Seeds EM5 & EM8). Areas of tussock grassland have been retained and patches of cowslip are also present in a few places.

### **3.1 Biodiversity Stockbridge**

Stockbridge Meadows is a small site that contains a diverse mix of habitats including wildflower meadow, a chalk stream with wetland, grassland, scrub, ditches, and woodland. The site has a rich biodiversity and provides an important habitat for many different species. The wildflower meadow and open grassland attracts butterflies, bees and moths. Habitat has been provided for common lizards and grass snakes, while glow worms can be found and seen along the grass paths in June and July.

The chalk stream is a rare habitat providing shelter for water voles and food for the kingfisher. The reed beds and scrapes encourage dragonflies, frogs and toads to the area. Buzzards have nested in the trees behind the river since the reserve opened. A small mammal survey undertaken prior to the covid pandemic counted 42 field and wood mice and a single shrew in one night.

The mix of habitats and links with other wildlife sites nearby enhance its value and help to increase its biodiversity. As with any site the greater the number of habitats present usually means that there is greater biodiversity. The maintenance of this site intends to enhance and protect the habitats present. The most important habitat is the chalk stream with its reed beds and the wildflower meadow.

The site is divided into habitat areas: wildflower meadows, rough grassland area for lizards and grass snakes, chalk stream and wetland, plum, gage and apple orchard, amenity area and scrub, woodland, meadow with trees.

### **4. Site Evolution**

The site has been open for almost ten years and the fundamental aspects of the reserve remain unchanged. The grass cutting has maintained the paths and amenity area as shown in the maps above. However, it is recognised that in the intervening years the site has matured and issues with the upkeep in line with the previously agreed management objectives has demonstrated a need to revisit decisions and develop plans and objectives for the current reserve and what it will need in the future.

Melbourn Parish council and the volunteers are in agreement that applying for and being successful in gaining Local Nature Reserve status is the ideal platform to reassess and plan with a view to increasing resources required to fully implement a maintenance plan alongside an aspirational 5-year plan.

#### **4.1 Volunteering.**

A volunteer group was set up when the reserve fully opened to the public in July 2012. This group met regularly when the reserve first opened to support the Village Wardens with the implementation of the management plan. At present the volunteers meet as required to maintain the wildflower meadow and reptile area. In the last few years local businesses have provided volunteers from their employee volunteer schemes to assist the Stockbridge Meadows volunteers on specific projects (raking off the wildflower meadow, building refuges for the lizards and clearing the reed beds as necessary). The River Mel Restoration Group, a local volunteer group, maintain the River Mel and reed beds within the reserve. Local interest in environmental projects has increased since the pandemic and other groups such as Churches Together have joined forces with the volunteer group to plant heritage fruit trees within the orchard.

It is a priority to attract new volunteers to the volunteer group in order to fulfil the future plans for Stockbridge Meadows. A model of monthly volunteer meetings working alongside the parish council staff member is planned.

Melbourn Parish Council provides insurance for the volunteers along with non-power tools as required.

#### **4.2 Local schools**

The local primary school arranges educational and social visits to the reserve. At present this is on an informal basis, however, if resources allow the Parish Council and volunteers aim to provide a more planned and organised programme with schools and young people community groups.

#### **5.0 Information and reporting provision**

An interpretation board is located at the main entrance and provides information about the habitats and the wildlife present on site.





## 5.1 Marketing and Promotion

Occasional articles are written for the local community award winning magazine – Melbourn Magazine which is published quarterly. This provides readers with information about the area, such as the findings of a small mammal survey, photographs of butterflies and moths taken by a keen local photographer.

Recently new signage has been put in place to clarify the access to the site and its car park.

Stockbridge Meadows has seen an increase in footfall since the Covid 19 pandemic. Its central position within the village has provided and continues to do so, a small oasis of calm and greenery. This is welcomed but it does bring pressure onto the reserve's habitat and wildlife. It has also brought benefits as new volunteers have come forward to boost the volunteer group numbers and reduce the demographic age.

The benefit of the site for wildlife must be balanced against the value for people that use the site. There can sometimes be a conflict between managing the site for people (access and leisure) and managing the site for wildlife so it is important to involve members of the local community to help them gain an understanding of the site and the wildlife within.

## 5.2 Budget

### Melbourn Parish Council – Support Statement

Melbourn Parish Council owns and is responsible for the Stockbridge Meadows asset. The Council has formally voted and agreed to support the management plans to secure this valuable natural resource and to maintain it formally as a Nature Reserve. Melbourn Parish Council commits to providing the necessary financial and manpower resources to support this Management Plan, together with the detailed and seasonalised maintenance schedule annexed to this document. The support will be offered as:

#### *(a) Capital Requirements*

The Stockbridge Meadows area benefits from being some distance from significant housing or other development and is out of direct sight of almost all urbanisation. The plans to secure the area more formally as a Nature Reserve will require increased attention and oversight. Some secure storage and maintenance equipment will be needed, together with a closer access to water supplies. As issues are identified finance will be set aside in annual budgets to service these needs.

#### *(b) Manpower Requirements*

A decision has already been taken to supplement the team of Village Wardens. The Wardens have previously covered a wide-ranging role, looking after both ecological and general maintenance needs across the entire parish estate. The Warden team has been extended to include a Conservation Warden who has focused responsibilities for all green spaces and, in particular Stockbridge Meadows, due to the special and unique qualities it represents.

The individual now appointed has long experience with the nature reserve, having been associated with it since its inception. This staffing change, increasing the paid staff team, is an added investment by the Melbourn Parish Council that anticipates the responsibilities required for maintenance and long-term development to support registration of Stockbridge Meadows as formal Nature Reserve.

STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS 2024 – 2025 Calendarised Tasks & Aspirational Objectives

January to March	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	Costs and Time
<b>Maintenance of Site Infrastructure</b>	Keep area around benches and picnic tables clear of nettle	<b>HIGH</b>	Conservation warden with assistance from Volunteers	Appropriate treatment fluid for Information Board	Conservation warden time through Jan to March
	Clean and treat wooden benches				
	Keep area around Boardwalk clear of reeds and encroaching weeds				
	Treat Information Board woodwork as necessary and clean glass				
	Car park area keep clear of weeds and litter				
<b>Maintenance of Wildflower Meadow</b>	Cut Wildflower meadow and sow appropriate wildflower seed e.g. yellow rattle	<b>HIGH</b>	Conservation warden with assistance from Volunteers	Purchase of wildflower seed	Conservation warden costs.
<b>Maintenance of Reed beds and scrapes</b>	Cut back reeds in scrapes to provide open water and suitable environment for amphibians to spawn	<b>HIGH</b>	River Mel Restoration Group volunteers	Purchase of two lightweight scythes	RMRG volunteer time approximately 3 hours Estimated cost of one scythe = £85 incl VAT
<b>April to September</b>					
<b>Maintenance of Amenity Grassland area</b>	Cut monthly as a minimum -grass to be cut to 5-10cm in height	<b>HIGH</b>	Contractors under advisement of Conservation Warden	Dependent upon the growing season cutting may need to run into October	Contractors' costs and time



STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS 2024 – 2025 Calendarised Tasks & Aspirational Objectives

April to September(contd.)	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	COSTS AND TIME
<b>Maintenance of Main paths</b>	Cut paths to 2 metres wide	<b>HIGH</b>	Contractors under advisement of the Conservation warden		Contractors' costs and time
	Rabbit scrapes to be filled in as necessary to maintain safe pathways	<b>HIGH</b>	Conservation warden	Top soil to fill in the scrapes	Conservation warden's time and costs
<b>Minimal maintenance of rough grassland and cowslip area</b>	Minimal cut to Cowslip area during the growing season	<b>Medium</b>	Conservation warden		Conservation warden's time and costs
<b>Maintenance of woodland and scrub area</b>	Keep paths clear of overhanging branches Review Trees health and assess need for replacements	<b>HIGH</b>	Conservation warden		Conservation warden's time and costs
<b>Maintenance of lizard area</b>	Ensure 3 paths cut and remain open through the area	<b>HIGH</b>	Contractors under advisement of Conservation warden		Contractors' costs and time
<b>Invasive species</b>	Regular assessment of the reserve to identify early intrusion of invasive species	<b>HIGH</b>	Conservation warden with assistance from volunteers	Investigate resources required to treat invasive species	Conservation warden's costs and time
<b>Maintenance of Old Orchard</b>	Keep nettles under control by strimming area monthly through the growing season Prune Plum and Gage trees in June/July Check tree guards Water replacement trees	<b>HIGH</b>	Conservation warden with assistance from volunteers	Access to water source in reserve at present non available	Conservation warden's costs and time

STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS 2024 – 2025 Calendarised Tasks & Aspirational Objectives

<b>April to September(contd.)</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>COSTS AND TIMES</b>
<b>WILDFLOWER MEADOWS</b>	Using Allen Scythe cut meadows in middle of August and rake off approximately two to three weeks later depending upon the weather and ground conditions Rakings to be placed in lizard area	<b>HIGH</b>	Conservation warden to cut meadow  Volunteers to rake off cuttings and remove to lizard area		Conservation warden's costs and time
<b>October to December</b>					
<b>Maintenance of Site Infrastructure</b>	Keep area around benches and picnic tables clear of nettle  Clean and treat wooden benches  Keep area around Boardwalk clear of reeds and encroaching weeds  Treat Information Board woodwork as necessary and clean glass  Car park area keep clear of weeds and litter	<b>HIGH</b>	Conservation warden with assistance from Volunteers	Appropriate treatment fluid for Information Board    Consider use of Herbicides to keep weeds under control in car park	Conservation warden time through October to December
<b>Old Orchard</b>	Prune apple trees as needed	<b>HIGH</b>	Conservation warden with assistance from Volunteers		Conservation warden's costs and time

STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS 2024 – 2025 Calendarised Tasks & Aspirational Objectives

<b>Maintenance of Bird boxes</b>	Check boxes for damage and replace as necessary	<b>HIGH</b>	Conservation warden with assistance from Volunteers		Conservation warden's costs and time
<b>October to December (contd.)</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>COSTS AND TIMES</b>
<b>Maintenance of Bird boxes</b>	Record usage. Empty and clean before replacing on site	<b>HIGH</b>			Conservation warden's costs and time
<b>Maintenance of reed beds and scrapes</b>	Cut back reeds in scrapes to provide open water. Rake off cut reeds	<b>HIGH</b>	Volunteers	Purchase of two lightweight scythes	Volunteers time Cost of scythes see Jan to March for costings.
<b>Throughout year</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>COSTS AND TIMES</b>

STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS 2024 – 2025 Calendarised Tasks & Aspirational Objectives

<b>DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTEER GROUP</b>	Develop plan to recruit volunteers Develop links with Timebank and Local corporates	<b>HIGH</b>	Volunteer leaders with Conservation warden input and assistance	<b>Consider provision of secure container for storage of tools to be sited in car park To avoid volunteers transporting tools to site each time.</b>	<b>Cost of suitable container</b>
	Assistance from Parish Council with advertising volunteer opportunities		Melbourn Parish Council		Volunteers time
	Consider ways to inform public regarding habitats and the wildlife in reserve e.g. writing regular articles in Melbourn magazine, parish magazine.	<b>HIGH</b>	Volunteers and local wildlife experts		
<b>Increase Public awareness of reserve</b>	Contact identified schools etc to discuss ways of developing strong links	<b>HIGH</b>	Volunteer leads with support from Conservation warden		Volunteers time.
<b>Develop links with local schools, youth groups and nurseries</b>					

**Yellow Highlighted Items imply Capital Spend**



**STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS 2024 – 2025 Calendarised Tasks & Aspirational Objectives**

**STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS ASPIRATIONAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 2024-25**

OBJECTIVE	AREA	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	PRIORITY	BY WHOM	COMPLETION DATE
REVIEW ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PLAN	ALL AREAS	AMEND AS APPROPRIATE	HIGH	MPC/WARDEN/VOLUNTEERS	JANUARY 2024
RECLAIM WILDFLOWER MEADOWS FROM INVASIVE WEEDS TO IMPROVE WILDFLOWER DIVERSITY	WILDFLOWER AREA – RIGHT HAND SIDE OF PATH LEADING TO RIVER MEL  WILDFLOWER AREA ON LEFT OF PATH LEADING TO OLDORCHARD	AREAS TO BE CUT AND VEGETATION TO BE RAKED OFF	HIGH	CONTRACTORS TO CUT VOLUNTEERS TO RAKE OFF	APRIL
RECLAIMED WILDFLOWER AREAS TO BE RESEDED WITH WILDFLOWER SEEDS	AS ABOVE	PURCHASE OF APPROPRIATE WILDFLOWER SEEDS	HIGH	SEEK FUNDING SOWN BY VOLUNTEERS	
RECLAIMED AREAS TO BE INCORPORATED IN MAINTENANCE CUTTING PROGRAMME	AS ABOVE	REGULAR CUTTING	HIGH	CONTRACTORS	ONGOING
ONGOING RESEEDING FOLLOWING CUTTING					ONGOING
WORK WITH FWAG TO ASSESS THE PROVISION OF POND FOR GREAT CRESTED NEWTS	SCRUB LAND BELOW LIZARD AREA	SCRAPE MONITORED TO ASSESS WATER TABLE	HIGH	VOLUNTEERS	REVISIT FROM FWAG ?

## STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS 2024 – 2025 Calendarised Tasks & Aspirational Objectives

OBJECTIVE	AREA	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	PRIORITY	BY WHOM	COMPLETION DATE
IF AREA CONSIDERED SUITABLE WORK WITH FWAG MEMBERS TO PLAN THE POND FORMATION					TBD
PROVISION OF NEW BASKING AREAS FOR SNAKES AND LIZARDS					TBD
DEVELOP NETWORK OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS					TBD

### **Future Years - OUTLINE**

#### **STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS AIMS AND ASPIRATIONAL OBJECTIVES 2025-26**

- **REVIEW ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PLAN**
  
- CONTINUE WORK WITH FWAG DEVELOPING POND
- CONTINUE TO RECLAIM AND DEVELOP WILDFLOWER AREAS
- ENSURE CLEAR WATER THROUGH REED AND SEDGE MANAGEMENT
- BUILD ON NETWORK OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS – USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
- DEVELOP LINKS WITH SCHOOLS AND YOUNG COMMUNITY GROUPS
- LIASE WITH RELEVANT BODIES TO ARRANGE A REPTILE SURVEY

## STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS 2024 – 2025 Calendarised Tasks & Aspirational Objectives

### **STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS ASPIRATIONAL OBJECTIVES 2026-27**

- **REVIEW ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PLAN**
- CONSIDER USE OF GRAZING ANIMALS FOR WILDFLOWER MEADOWS – RISK ASSESSMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES
- PLANT FWAG POND AND ENSURE HABITAT SUITABLE – SURVEY FOR NEWTS
- CONSIDER NEED FOR TREE SURVEY AND CONSIDERATION OF TREE REPLACEMENT PLAN

### **STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS ASPIRATIONAL OBJECTIVES 2027-28**

- **REVIEW ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PLAN**
- ASSESS GRAZING ANIMALS FEASIBILITY IN LINE WITH PREVIOUS FINDINGS
- ARRANGE SURVEYS FOR SMALL MAMMALS TO EVALUATE AGAIN PREVIOUS FINDINGS
- CONTINUE RESEEDING WILDFLOWER MEADOWS AS APPROPRIATE

### **STOCKBRIDGE MEADOWS ASPIRATIONAL OBJECTIVES 2028-29**

- **REVIEW ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PLAN**
- **CONSIDER FUTURE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS**
- **CONTINUE DEVELOPING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF NATURE RESERVES**