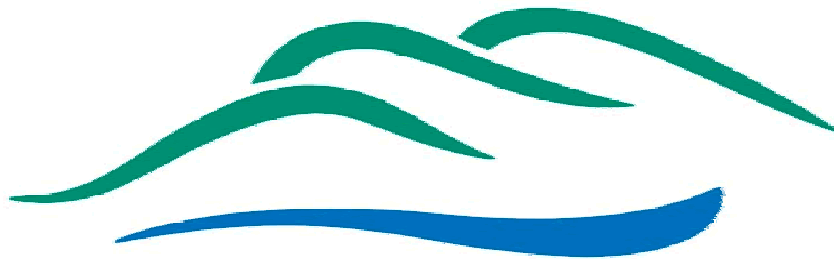


The Brickfields, Seaford.

Site Management Plan

2002 - 2007

Amended October 2004.



Lewes District Council

www.lewes.gov.uk

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Seaford Brickfields: Site Management Plan

0. Summary

The Brickfields at Seaford occupies a former tidal inlet, cut off to the north and south by the railway and Marine Parade embankments respectively. The site is surrounded on two sides by housing, and to the south is separated from the sea by the main promenade road, Marine Parade.

Its value in conservation terms is recognised in the designation of S.N.C.I. (Site of Nature Conservation Interest), and is exemplified by the rich diversity of flora and fauna present on site. There are also two habitats present that are of national importance, recognised as such through the regional Biodiversity Action Plan (From Rio to Sussex, and the U.K. B.A.P. 1999). These are remnant salt marsh, and vegetated shingle.

The site is managed to maintain and enhance the habitats present on site, for the local community to use for informal recreation, education and as informal open space.

Little is known about the history of the Brickfields, but its name suggests some connection to the brick making industry, (see history section in appendices).

1. General Information

The site is roughly 2.4 Ha and comprises of semi-natural vegetation, in a topographically depressed former tidal inlet. (Tait, 1997).

1.1 Location

Grid ref: TV 472996 (O.S. sheet no. TQ 4799 NW / SW).

1.2 Site Status

Designated a S.N.C.I., (L.D.C. 1992). Possibility of L.N.R. status, if considered necessary (on English Nature's list of possible L.N.R. sites). Protected in the County Structure Plan under policies s13(d), s27(a)(c) & (e) (1991). SNCI's are sites of countywide importance of non-statutory wildlife interest. The importance of wildlife sites are recognised under P.P.G.9 of the governments planning policy guidance on conservation and are defined as "sites of importance to local communities, often affording people the only opportunity of direct contact with nature, especially in urban areas" (P.P.G. 9).

1.3 Tenure

Owned and managed by Lewes District Council (acquired April / May, 2001). Adjacent land ownership: Marine Parade - East Sussex County Council, Highways, Shingle Beach - Lewes District Council, Railway Line - Railtrack Plc, Buckle Close - Lewes District Council, Kimberly Rise - Private gardens.

1.4 Site Definition and boundaries

See maps in appendices (Lewes District Council ownership map)

1.5 Legal and other official constraints and permission

- Underground services (Gas, Electricity, Telecom, Water), are located in plans, held at L.D.C offices.
- Permission for below ground landscape works (e.g. fencing) must be sought from BT, Seaboard, Southern Water, Railtrack, Transco, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Highways, and private residences.
- Public Rights of Way were designated across the site by ESCC in 2003 (see map in appendices).
- LDC declared bylaws for this site in 2004.

2. Environmental Information

2.1 Physical

2.1.1 Hydrology

The site in the past was frequently inundated with seawater, and until recently, would have been flooded for a certain part of the year. However, improved seas defences, and beach nourishment, has meant that this is a less frequent occurrence. A pipe under the road, connected to the beach, could potentially be restored to encourage seawater back onto the site, to increase salinity and water logging, necessary for the salt marsh to remain present. This will still require a feasibility investigation, as it may not be possible, and the benefits may be limited.

Much of the standing water on site is believed to be brackish.

Generally the site appears to be drying out. In the recent past the site was much wetter (according to local people), but it is virtually all dry today, especially in summer months. This is notable even in the last 3 years, since the public enquiry. It would be useful to assess the affect this is having on the salinity of the soil and associated flora.

There is some standing water present on site, to the far North Eastern side, which are fringed by reeds.

There is a small pond to the north of the railway track, accessible through an overgrown culvert. This may provide a source of fresh water during heavy rain conditions, although the extent and feasibility of which remains to be investigated. Management of the culvert is the responsibility of Network Rail.

2.1.2 Geology

Not much is known about the geology here. According to Marshall, it is probably dominated by former river alluvial silts as this was possibly originally an outlet of the river Ouse, (Marshall, 1997). The underlying solid geology is Folkstone Formation.

2.1.3 Soils

Clay in texture, but clearly the shingle is also an important substrate at the southern end. Data unavailable at present, but a soil survey is suggested as a possible research approach. The embankment to the south was constructed by the railways and consists of a variety of imported substrate. Local people also refer to possible buried domestic rubbish in the North Eastern vicinity of the site. This would need to be confirmed by survey, but there is no clear visual indication of this through topography of vegetation development.

2.2 Biological

2.2.1 Habitats (See habitat compartment map in appendices)

The habitats have formed from the physical conditions present, including substrate, exposure to salt spray, and the physical landform (Tait, 1997). To the south of the site, nearest the sea, coastal habitats have evolved, whereas to the north of the site, there are far more typical terrestrial habitats present.

Vegetated Shingle (Compartment 2 & 4): South bank, adjacent to Marine Parade: This is a nationally important habitat and a target B.A.P. (Biodiversity Action Plan) habitats, regionally and nationally. (Sussex B.A.P.) There is a well-developed vegetation community containing an abundance of thrift, and some of the rare Sea Heath present.

Remnant Saltmarsh (Compartment 7): Also a B.A.P. target habitat, but the condition of this habitat is very poor due to the site no longer becoming inundated by the sea. It is drying out significantly, and is succeeding to a grassland community. Some salt marsh species remain, such as Sea Couch Grass, and Saltmarsh Rush.

Rough Grassland (sheltered micro climate, compartment 6 & 8) - The mixed sward height is largely as a result of varying wind and sheltered conditions, and a network of informal and designated footpaths across the site. The shorter sward tends to be richer in floral diversity e.g. Vetches, Purple Toadflax. But the longer grass is home to many reptiles, such as grass snakes and slow worms. There are also a host of small mammals, which in turn provide food for a kestrel seen daily on site. Larger mammals include foxes.

Fresh water areas (within compartment 8) – There are some shallow standing water pools, fed from rainwater, and run off through the railway culvert. These vary in size depending on the season and the weather, and contain Common Reed and various mosses.

Bankside vegetation (scrub, compartment 5, 9 & 10). Dominated by bramble and blackthorn, this habitat is predominantly to the north of the site. The banks on the east and west are less densely vegetated. The denser scrub is a good habitat for small birds.

Rough concrete structures (Compartment 5 & 10), and eroded areas: The open areas provide a habitat for reptiles, such as common and sand lizards, but also slow worms. They are also important areas for invertebrates.

2.2.2 Flora

Surveys carried out during the public enquiry, 1997 found a range of species. Flora represents typical communities found on coastal and terrestrial habitats (see habitats section). Also present are nationally rare Sea Heath (*Frankenia laevis*). Nationally Scarce *Parapholis incurca* (carved hard grass).

Clearly the survey data is out of date, and further flora surveys and monitoring should be undertaken.

2.2.3 Fauna

Over 100 species of insect and other animals present, indicating a healthy community (Hodge 97). Small mammals are present providing food for Kestrels etc. The site is of particular interest for entomological reasons. Rare insects include *Lixus scabricollis*, a type of weevil, R.D.B. (under threat). *Longitarsus parvulus*, a beetle, Nationally Scarce, category A.

Reptiles include slowworms (*Anguis fragilis*), legally protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981), grass snakes and possible common lizards. Amphibians include newts, frogs and an abundance of common toads, which the Sussex Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) expressed and interest in surveying in 2003. (Toads are in significant decline in Sussex - SARG, 2003.

Survey data is again lacking, and should be undertaken as soon as possible.

2.3 Cultural

2.3.1 Commercial use

There is no commercial use of the site at present, and there is not likely to be in the future. The past history of the site suggests that it may once have been used for the manufacture of bricks, but this is a long gone industry in this area.

2.3.2 Recreational use

This is a very important aspect of the site, and is mainly informal, and quiet in nature. Dog walking, short strolls, children making dens in the bushes, and picnicking are all regular activities not likely to cause significant damage.

Particular sorts of recreation are however likely to cause damage, including BMX and mountain bike riding, or any activity that damages the vegetation, for example fires. A survey of the 1991 census revealed that over 800 people live within walking distance of the site (Tait, 1997).

2.3.3 Research, survey and monitoring

The potential of the site for research and monitoring is greatly increased by the urban nature of the site. The proximity to people and schools makes this an ideal site for field study, educational interpretation work, and flora and fauna survey and monitoring.

The site has had only sporadic survey work, for example at the time of the public enquiry. But this is largely out of date, and in need of standardised monitoring strategies to be implemented. Recently flora and reptiles have been surveyed, but more work is needed to produce reasonable baseline data.

The potential for a research and monitoring project is therefore a prime reason for the site's importance to the local community.

2.3.4 Conservation management already achieved

Conservation management was non-existent prior to 2002, but it does appear that the site has not suffered particularly without it. The site is in relatively good physical condition, with the exception of minor maintenance issues and so basic habitat management. However, illegal excavations of the salt marsh flora for BMX ramps in 2002 caused significant damage to the rare saltmarsh communities.

The site has a relatively rich flora and fauna, (which will need further survey and monitoring to establish a reliable baseline), and succession appears to be limited. The spread of scrub into the grassland could reduce the diversity of the grassland habitat. The drying out of the site may also lead to disappearance of the salt marsh flora.

Since 2002, the site has been actively managed by Lewes District Council through the Community Ranger and the Friends of the Old Brickfield Group, which has had a significant impact on the site, especially in terms of maintenance, access, interpretation and general aesthetics.

3. Evaluation (against Ratcliffe criteria 1977).

3.1 Size

The site is roughly 2.4 hectares. This is a small site and a relatively isolated green space in the urban environment. It does however fall within the minimum size recommendation for L.N.R. status, of 2.0 ha (Barker, 1999). The fact that there are 800 people within walking distance meets English Nature target criteria for green space usage (E.N., 1999).

The isolated nature of this site may well limit its ecological significance in the wider context, but for a cultural resource, it is a very important site for informal recreation and intrinsic value.

3.2 Naturalness

The site has never been subject to intensive agriculture, and has not been developed, and has not been managed for conservation. The habitats present are therefore relatively natural, affected by physical pressures, such as salinity, wind and water, substrate and geology. However, the proximity to housing and large cultural usage limits the natural aspect of this site.

3.3 Rarity

There are several rare species and habitats present here, for example, Sea Heath. However it is the scarcity of the habitats represented that merits particular notice, including the vegetated shingle, and the remnant saltmarsh, both target U.K. B.A.P. species.

3.4 Diversity

There are relatively diverse coastal flora communities, and a good rough grassland community here. This supports a wide variety of insects (Hodge, 1997), which in turn supports reptiles and some bird species. However the diversity of the flora and fauna present is limited given the isolation and size of the site, but also the pressure from recreational usage, and the changing salinity conditions from reduced inundation.

3.5 Fragility

The site can be considered considerably fragile, as the habitats will be easily damaged by inappropriate disturbance, such as digging, fly tipping and trampling (for the vegetated shingle areas). However it has survived with no management up till now, and this suggests a degree of robustness that will suite its urban location.

3.6 Typicality

The site represents typical vegetated shingle communities and some grassland communities relatively well, however the salt marsh is in considerable decline and in need of possible restoration. The habitat's typicality is again limited by its heavy recreational use. However, it remains a more typical urban coastal site than anything else.

3.7 Recorded history

This is very poor, and there are no survey information before or after the 1997 public enquiry. This is a relatively new site for the managers, Lewes District Council, and it is now an important task to begin to accumulate good survey and monitoring data.

3.8 Position in ecological unit

The isolated nature of the site gives this a low value against this criteria. The site is surrounded by houses on two sides and a railway to the north. The road to the south and the sea beyond will therefore afford little scope for local in and out migration of flora and fauna. However the culvert in the railway embankment links the site to a pond, which is believed by local people to be a breeding site for frogs, toads and newts. SARG are due to survey the pond in 2004.

3.9 Potential value

This is a very important category for this site. The potential for this site is very great in terms of enhancing habitats, educational and interpretation information, survey and monitoring data, landscape value and ultimately increased cultural awareness and value to the local community. The urban fringe sites are very important links for people between nature and their home environment, and can be used to increase cultural awareness of environmental issues, and are crucial educational resources for children. This site represents a good-sized local site, with regular users and large local population, including schools. It is along these community lines that the site will come into its own. The habitat management side will be only part of this sites management.

3.10 Intrinsic appeal

It is suggested by English Nature that everyone should have access to a "natural green space" within 300 metres of their house, and at least one of which is over 20 ha, within 2 km of their household. A further 100 ha site should be available within 5 km. They also recommend that L.N.R.s are provided so that there is a minimum of 1 ha per 1000 of the population. (Barker, 1999).

Even if the site is not used directly by some local people, its very value can be construed as its own existence. The green space in an urban environment is very important in its own right, and this can be its intrinsic value.

3.11 Other criteria: Cultural Value

This is the essential criteria for this site, and has been explained largely by the potential value criteria. However, the existing cultural use of the site is significant. It is an informal recreational area used by people to walk dogs, and children to make dens in the scrub etc. There was pressure in 2002 with the construction of ramps for mountain bikes, which damaged the saltmarsh habitat, but this damage was limited. The site needs to be seen as a site for local informal recreation by any management, and will need to balance this with any conservation management.

4.0 Confirmation of important features

- Diverse range of habitats: representing some typical coastal and terrestrial communities.
- Rare habitats present: including vegetated shingle and remnant saltmarsh

- Good diverse range of insects, birds and animals: e.g. Kestrels.
- Rare species: including plants like sea heath, and insects (e.g. rare weevil species) and reptiles (for example Slow worms).
- Green space in the urban landscape.
- Meets most of the criteria for L.N.R. status, and is already an S.N.C.I.
- Important cultural resource for informal recreation and contact with nature.
- Potential educational value
- Potential for enhancement is great through relatively modest physical and financial resources.

5.0 Potentially Damaging Operations

- Fly tipping
- Digging
- Use of motor vehicles of any kind, including motorbikes
- Excessive trampling of sensitive habitats, e.g. Shingle and some grassland areas
- Importing of foreign material
- Artificial nutrient enrichment, e.g. dumping of garden matter across site, or not picking up after dog.
- Any form of development.
- Release of any invasive plant or animal (may need to control Japanese Knotweed at north east end of site).
- Fire, or any such activity that destroys vegetation.

6.0 Main Factors influencing management of the site

- Ecological: conservation management of habitats and species. The main issues will be controlling succession (scrub encroachment), increasing habitat diversity (e.g. creating open areas on the banks for insects and reptiles), grassland sward management (ecological experiments), and survey and monitoring.
- Cultural: recreational issues, educational potential, vandalism and fly tipping.
- Formation and active involvement of the “friends of the Brickfields” group.
- Financial resources: Limited budget for the site maintenance means labour will be voluntary or occasional contracted labour (e.g. LMO Leisure Management Outdoors contract). Community group can apply for grants.
- Expertise: conservation management guidance will come from the Ranger, in consultation with the Friends of the Brickfields.

6.1 Land of conservation importance of strategic importance in the vicinity of the site.

The proximity to the sea is an essential characteristic of the site influencing the hydrology and the flora.

The railway embankment to the south is of conservation interest, even though it is outside of the site, due to its south facing nature, and its steep characteristics. There is scope to increase the diversity of this habitat by creating open zones within the scrub, for invertebrates to colonise.

There is a small pond the other side of the railway embankment, linked via an overgrown culvert. This could be important as it is a local source of fresh water, and adds to the diversity of habitats within the locality.

7.0 Management Policy

7.1 Management aims and objectives

Overall aim: Maintain and enhance the Brickfields, for nature conservation and quiet recreation for the local community, through community participation.

Objectives:

- Effectively manage habitats, to increase their diversity, and protect their integrity.
- Increase the diversity of species present on the Brickfields.
- Maintain the Brickfields in reasonable repair, including fencing, pathways and access points. Maintain steps and footpath width and control litter.
- Support the Friends of the Old Brickfield community group.
- Manage and maintain interpretation board, with up to date material.
- Increase the educational potential of the Brickfields, involving local schools and community groups.
- Organise community events with the friend of Brickfields group.

7.2.1 Management rationale supporting objectives

- Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity is a key aim of the regional and national B.A.P. By increasing the quality and diversity of habitats present, the site become an important wildlife site, and may be eligible for L.N.R. status.
- To increase community participation, will install a sense of ownership and engagement with the Brickfields from the community, and will lead to greater awareness, and hopefully reduced incidents of vandalism and inappropriate recreation. Community support and involvement is essential if the site is to become sustainable in the long term. This has been successfully undertaken since 2002 with the Friends of the Old Brickfield group.
- The use of the site as an educational tool, will increase awareness of environmental issues amongst children and adults, and can lead to greater concern for the local environment, and even greater participation in practical management and environmental events. Local schools will find the site a useful resource as it is within walking distance.
- The community "Friends of Seaford Brickfields Group", is an essential tool in participating in general management of the site, organising events, and carrying out survey and monitoring. The existence of the group will allow us to apply for grants unavailable to the local authority, and will hopefully take a lead on project approaches to local community environmental action.

7.2.2 Management options.

- Habitat Management & possible habitat recreation.
- Site ground maintenance (footpaths, fences, steps, litter etc)
- Education and interpretation material produces (on and off site)
- People management (litter, vandalism, dog litter control and recreational pursuits limitation.
- Survey and monitoring

7.3 Management prescriptions.

This section details the management prescriptions for each management compartment within this site. A map of habitat compartments is found in the appendices.

Habitat area	Brief description	Management Prescription	When to take place	Who to carry out work.
1	<p>Tall, rough grassland, maritime species, including tree mallow, sea beat, and cocks foot grass.</p> <p>This small area of grassland in front of Beach Cottages should be managed in accordance with the wishes of the residents of beach cottages, as they have rights written into their housing deeds (in practice this is no different from other site management).</p>	<p>Vegetation: Leave pretty much as it is. Keep an eye on tree mallow, possible pruning. Watch for scrub encroachment, and if over grown, consider cutting once or twice a year.</p> <p>Access point: possible interpretation board. Signage (clear up after your dog). Possible steps down to site and erosion control.</p>	Cut scrub, if it develops, once per year, in autumn.	Ranger / volunteers.
2	Vegetated shingle, rich in lichens and bryophytes. Target B.A.P. habitat, rare habitat and species present, e.g. Sea Heath.	<p>Survey and monitor shingle flora, and assess % cover, and monitor Sea Heath stability.</p> <p>Maintain vehicle prevention bollards Maintain and top up steps</p>	Survey all year, especially summer. Installed vehicle prevention bollards along Marine Parade in 2003.	<p>Contractor to install bollards. Ranger to supervise survey and advise on techniques and friends of Brickfields to carry out surveys.</p> <p>Volunteer party to installed steps in</p>

				2003. Ranger to maintain
3.	<p>Site of former beach overflow pipe, seawater used to come in to site at this point. Residents have reported seeing large numbers of common toads in this area.</p>	<p>Discuss and assess feasibility of restoring saltmarsh population by opening this pipe to seawater, to increase seasonal inundation.</p> <p>On top of wall could be a good point for an interpretation board.</p> <p>Monitor toad populations.</p>	When ever funds and agreement is reached.	<p>Contractor, with advice from the Environment Agency, and county Highways department.</p> <p>Discuss with the Friends of group.</p> <p>Residents should be encouraged to help with project ideas.</p>
4.	Vegetated shingle community dominated by Bucks Sea Plantain, with good higher plant communities.	This is where shingle is least disturbed, and should be maintained as a minimum disturbance area, by subtle management, decreasing access here and encouraging it elsewhere. There is a Tamarisk bush that will need light pruning in the autumn.	Monitor this area once every few months.	Ranger to carry out.
5	West Bank, central area dominated by tree mallow, but also many garden escapees, and nettles. Some large concrete slabs present.	<p>Prevent further dumping of garden rubbish down slope. Create open areas in the bank, for reptiles and insects (e.g. burrowing bees), by cutting vegetation in small patches on the bank.</p> <p>Leave major concrete blocks in</p>	Scrub control must be done in autumn and winter, but other works can be year round.	Ranger to devise monitoring strategy and zonation for scrub control and ride creation.

	<p>Area nearest to road to northern end of Buckle Close is mowed by residents.</p>	<p>place, as these add to habitat diversity (used by insects and reptiles as refuges).</p> <p>Cut bramble scrub if it is encroaching into grassland, but maintain bramble areas on banks for nesting small birds.</p> <p>Strim verge to the south of mown area adjacent to Buckle Drive.</p>		<p>Volunteers to carry out works.</p> <p>Contractors to strim verge.</p>
6	<p>Main grassland area dominated by Cocks foot and couch grass. Tussocky rough grassland. Occasional yellow meadow anthills, and evidence of good insect and reptile communities. This area has dried out considerably in the last 4 years according to resident's observations.</p>	<p>Survey data suggests that the short sward areas are richer in lichens and bryophytes, but the long grass is good for nesting birds, mammals and insects. The footpaths should also be mowed to a width of 2 metres. ALL CUTTINGS MUST BE REMOVED to reduce nutrient build up, nettle and scrub encroachment. Also possibly undertake a experimental cutting regime, taking a mosaic approach. Shortly cut patches could be cut regularly into the tall grass, and the effect monitored.</p> <p>The Blackthorn and Hawthorne patches should be monitored, and if seen to be encroaching, should be removed.</p>	<p>Cutting every other month during the summer. Experimental cutting zones to be determined.</p>	<p>LMO contract (Wyevale)</p>

		Possible monitoring project would be to map and plot anthills across site.		Possible use of schools.
7	Former saltmarsh habitat. Target B.A.P. habitat, but severely drying out, and salinity is appearing to be reducing. One or two brackish pools remain in winter. Damaged by Mountain bike ramp construction in 2002, but has recovered well since.	This area is a potential target area for habitat restoration. Salt water will need to inundate the site for lengthy periods in order to establish saltmarsh. Research is needed, and feasibility to be checked. Survey and monitoring should take place in the meantime, to chart the saltmarsh flora decline.	Survey in the summer will be easiest, as it is easier to identify species. The restoration project is for the future.	Surveys by Community group, schools, or volunteers, under supervision from the ranger.
8	The northern grassland. Dominated by red fescue, occasional bramble scrub, and dome wild honey suckle. Some large garden privet bushes have emerged. The area to the extreme north has some standing water, and reeds have developed, providing a good habitat for lizards, newts and birds.	Monitor the hydrology of the area, and possibly assess the cross management with the owners of the pond in the Rodmill Estate, through the railway culvert. This would need negotiation with pond owners and Network Rail. Maintain footpaths at a minimum of 2m in width, and mow regularly. (From Kimberly Road access to main circular footpath -see appendices). Leave area to north of Private bushes, to be wild area, until plans to open up pond come into effect.	Monitor all year, particularly in the height of summer and winter, to see what the water levels do. Footpaths to be maintained during summer months.	Monitoring by the community group. Embankment and culvert works undertaken by Network Rail. Footpaths to be maintained by LMO contract
8a	Freshwater areas:	Possibility for a pond creation here, in order to increase the area of	Pond creation to occur in autumn to	Possible schools project created with

		standing water.	minimise disturbance to breeding season of birds and amphibians (e.g. newts).	voluntary labour.
9	Scrub dominated bank dominated by bramble and nettles, with well-maintained pathway and access point onto site.	Contain scrub, and prevent from spreading, by cutting along path.	All year, but especially in autumn and winter, outside of the bird breeding season.	Community group, schools, volunteers.
(10)	Railway embankment. Outside site boundaries. Management to be undertaken by Network Rail, through agreed specification.	Create new and maintain existing open glades in south facing bank, for invertebrates and reptiles.	Winter time, to avoid bird breeding season	Network Rail contractors.

7.4 Visitor services, interpretation and education

As part of the management of the site, educational and interpretation material will need to be produced. This will be to provide visitor information as to the sites history, and what is present of value on the site. It will also be aimed at reducing inappropriate activities, such as mountain biking, scrambling, and not picking up after your dog.

Design and production of the material could be part of a wider educational project aimed at getting local schools involved in studying the site. The Community Group is very important in attracting and applying for grants for such projects, which can be co-ordinated by the Ranger, and Lewes District Council.

An interpretation board was produced and installed on site in 2003, with much of the artwork being designed by a member of the Friends of the Old Brickfield Group.

7.5 Estate services and major machinery

Controlled vehicle access to the site is via a locked drop bollard. Near to Kimberly Rd. Machinery used in maintenance includes mowers, strimmers, and ride on mowers.

7.6 Public relations and administration

The Friends of the Old Brickfield group was established in 2002, and constituted in 2003. A bank account was opened for the group in spring 2004. They help with the management and administration of the site. Collection of survey data, organisation of projects, and application for grants is all done through the group under supervision of the Community Ranger.

7.7 Research, monitoring and survey.

This is organised by the ranger and carried out by local volunteers, and even school children. There is a large scope for broadening this into a local schools project, to increase environmental awareness amongst children, and reduce vandalism.

The need for good standardised survey and monitoring techniques will be essential to the future management of the site, especially if we are going to try to increase the site's biodiversity and enhance existing habitats.

7.8 Research - management experiments on reserve

A possible experiment will involve cutting patches within the tall grassland, (zone 6 & 8) and monitoring the effect on flora and fauna. Reliable before and after survey data must be acquired for the experiment to have any meaning.

In the future, there is scope for saltmarsh restoration, but this will need expert feasibility studies and external consent.

Other research projects will involve educational events, and schools projects. These will need to be developed in collaboration with the friends of group and the ranger, in order to maximise experience and target resources.

7.9 Monitoring

Survey and monitoring of flora and fauna on the site, including monitoring of management techniques, visitor numbers, water levels, etc. Details to be worked out by the ranger and the community group.

Other possibilities include: Baseline habitat surveys, including N.V.C. classification, butterfly transects, bird surveys, insect surveys, slow worm survey, monitoring of saltmarsh community, salinity survey etc. A butterfly survey was produced in 2003, and a flora survey was undertaken in 2004.

8.0 Five year work plan and costing

Year	Habitat Area	Management work required	When, and how often	Who to carry out.	Predicted cost.
Every Year	Site wide	Survey and monitoring system devised.	All year (see survey programme)	Volunteers & the ranger, + Friends of Brickfield.	£250 / yr is allocated for surveys and covering volunteer surveyors costs.
	1,6,8 & 9.	Cut and maintain paths	3 times annually	LMO Contractors (Wyevale)	The LMO contract has this itemised as £443.88 / yr for three cuts.
	Either in 6, or 1.	Maintain interpretation board	Produced in 2003, maintain all year.	Ranger, with Friends of Brickfields	£50 /yr estimated – e.g. Perspex provision.
	Site wide.	Monitor litter and instruct contractor to clear if a problem.	Three times per week	LMO Contractors (Wyevale)	LMO contract itemised at £3304.24 / yr
	4, 6, 5, 8, 9, 10.	Prune Tamarisk, Tree mallow and other scrub plants (Hawthorne, blackthorn), across the site.	Autumn and winter	Ranger	-
	Site wide	Control and monitor garden rubbish dumping	All year	Friends of Brickfields with local	-

	6 & 8.	Experiment with grassland zones cutting regime. Begin to cut a particular area to predefined specifications.	Begin in summer, and carry over winter period.	residents. Ranger	-
1	1-6	Provide steps down to site as part of erosion control.	Any time, one off construction, annual maintenance	S.D.V.R or B.T.C.V. Discuss location with group	Voluntary costs + materials (x 45 steps cost £150 (timber , stakes and nails)
	2	Prevent vehicle access - provision of bollards along marine parade	Summer, 2002. 15 year life span.	Contractor	£1500
2	1 or 6	Produce permanent interpretation board	Summer 2003	Co-ordination and management by ranger, grant by friends of Brickfields. Manufacture by contract.	£550
	5 & 10	Create open glades in the west bank and possibly in the northern railway land bank	Autumn / Winter	Network Rail	No cost to LDC
	Site wide	Community education project	Flexible	Ranger, Friends of Brickfields, and local schools. Also Sussex Wildlife Trust.	To be assessed: grant applied for by the Friends of Brickfields
3	Site Wide	Feasibility study into saltmarsh restoration.	When possible	Ranger to organise with Environment	-

	Site Wide			Agency and relevant bodies	
	10	Review education project success.	During summer, when schools closed	Help from Friends of Brickfields & Ranger	-
		Assess possibility of management of adjacent pond across railway line.	Discuss with site owners		-
4	7	Possible saltmarsh recreation project. In the fourth year to fully discuss the possibilities and achieve project funding.	Depending on outcome of feasibility study	Various bodies involved in study	Large predicted cost, possibly offset by grant.
	8	Possible pond creation	During winter time, to prevent damage to amphibian breeding	Ranger & Volunteers	Should not cost more than volunteer costs for digging. Must check if a liner is required though.
5		Review management plan.	Annually	Ranger	-

9.0 References

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