Mere Pond update for Priority Management tasks 2025 to 2030

Introduction

This document is designed to inform and identify key management tasks and actions for the next 5 years that have been identified as high priority for nature conservation and amenity value. Priorities have been pulled together and updated from existing site-specific documents and issues raised by interested third parties. This document will lay out actions and timeframes required in a single format with accompanying diagrams.

For additional in-depth information regarding Mere Pond and the priority tasks please refer to the 2018 Surrey Wildlife Trust Ecological Services Habitat Management Plan Project Number 3192 and the Mere Pond Hydrological Report, produced for the Walton Village Forum by David C Beale MSc November 2022.

High Priority Works

The Works Programme 1 below shows (in no particular order) the high priority tasks required from 2025 through to 2030.

Site Layout

Appendices 1 shows the site features and areas associated with the vegetation management works.

Appendices 2 shows the Inflow areas to be maintained and enhanced through silt trap construction and planting. Location of water quality measuring at high and low water level points.

Future plans

This is document is intended to be a ‘live document’ and as such will be added too as works progress and further information from surveys, monitoring and works completed come available.

Works Programme 1			
Objective	Task	Timescale	Work Force
Manage Willow spread	Selectively manage emerging willow sapling spread on the north east and west side of pond. Coppice saplings at lowest point possible in a phased regime to provide a varied height and age mosaic of vegetation. Phased areas shown on **Appendices 1**.	November – March starting in 2024/2025	RBBC Tree team
Improve aquatic and marginal flora diversity	Replant identified areas with aquatic plants on **Appendices 1**. Interplant between Bogbean plants 20-30% of area in the north and west of the pond. Use emergent native aquatic plants such as Purple Loosestrife, Water Mint, Marsh Marigold, Water Plantain, Flowering-rush, Floating Sweet-grass, Reed Sweet-grass, Gipsywort, Amphibious Bistort, Common Water Crowfoot, Lesser Spearwort, Celery-leaved Buttercup and Brooklime. On the edges plant up with marginal plants 10-20% area such as Hemp Agrimony, Meadowsweet, Sharp Flowered Rush, Hard Rush, Ragged Robin, Water Figwort and Marsh Woundwort.	Investigate new areas that would benefit from aquatic planting in 2025/6. Start planting in 2026/27 Investigate approved suppliers of aquatic plants to ensure no invasive species get introduced during planting.	Greenspaces Team/Countryside Officer

Monitor and record any terrapins or fish sightings.	Explore costs for removal by specialist provider or charity. Cost electro fish survey and removal procedures with EA.	In summer months when water level is lower. To be investigated in 2025	Countryside Officer to organise
Control spread of Bogbean	Annual review and removal of up to 20% of Bogbean or as required. Ensure the pond always has an acceptable coverage of Bogbean as it provides refuge for waterfowl and invertebrates.	September – December annually starting in 2025	Residents work parties/ Rangers/Greenspaces
Replace Duck house	Design, Spec and cost construction of a new Duck House. Construct and Install back onto floating platform.	2026	Greenspaces / Contractors
Monitor outflow pipe	Monitor outflow grate to ensure it does not inhibit output of water volume in winter months.	September – December. Annually starting in 2025	Countryside Officer and RBBC Engineer
Inflow pipe maintenance and improvement	Three inflow pipes are located on mere pond. See Appendices 2. **Inflow 1** to be maintained free of debris. **Inflow 2** which takes water from Sandlands Road to be cleared of low vegetation to expose the inflow area. Mature trees to be protected. A silt trap to be constructed at point of entry measuring approx. 4 to 5m square. Silt trap area to be planted with reed to aid in water quality as runoff enters the pond. Reed to be cut and arisings removed every 3 years.	Investigate and start implementation in 2025	Countryside Officer / RBBC Engineer

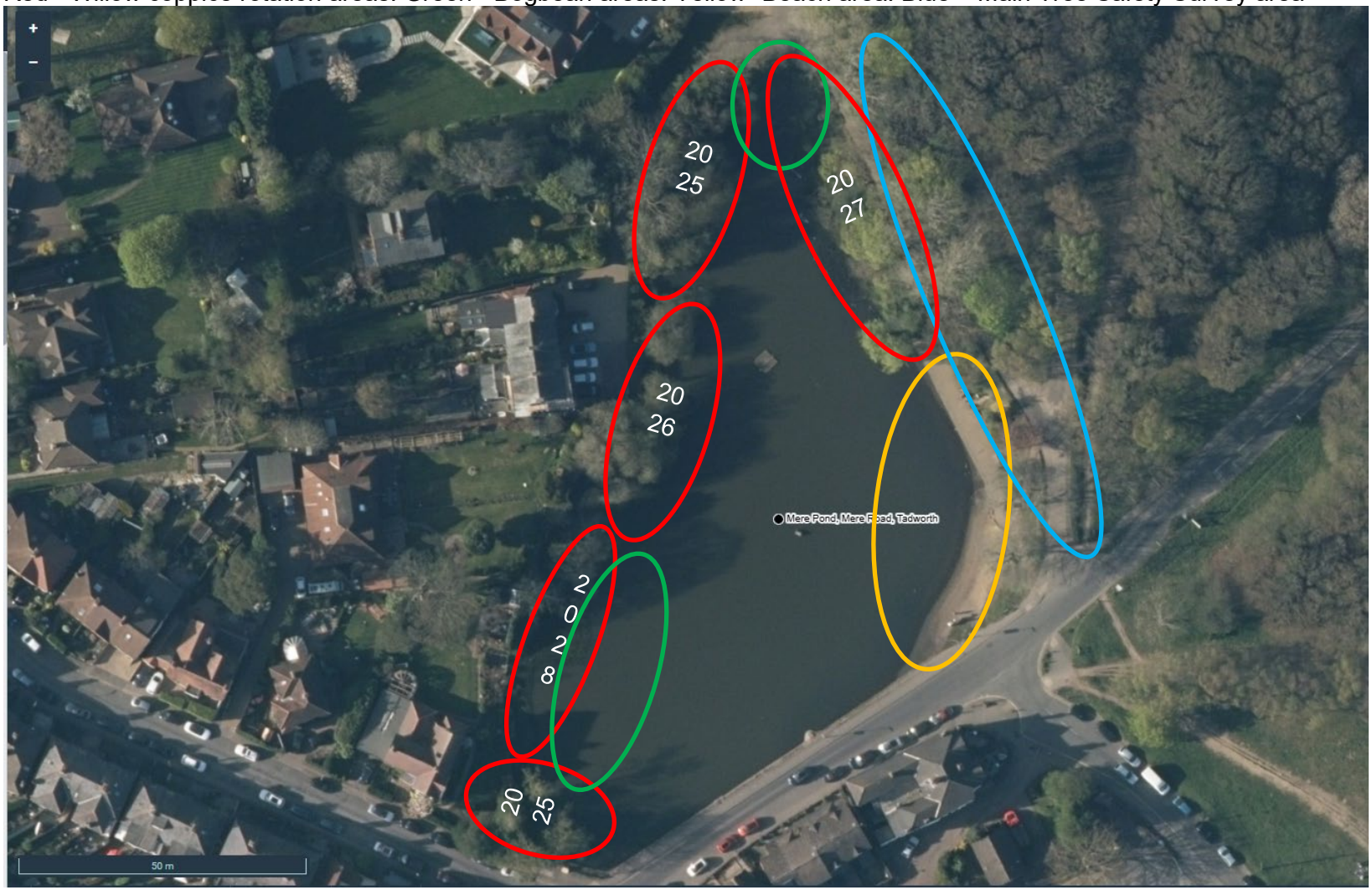
	Inflow 3 this smaller inflow pipe the is located opposite the Dean Lane junction runs over the beach area into the pond. This area to be kept clear of woody growth to allow flow. Reed bed planting to be planted here, approx. 4m square area of reed to aid in water quality and chemical uptake. Reed to be cut down to the base every 3 years. Area of planting to be protected with aesthetically pleasing barrier whilst reed establishes.		
Build profile of wildlife and flora on site.	Carry out annual pond dipping at three different locations around the pond, waterfowl counts and flora surveys of the whole site. Build on information previously provided on the Surrey Wildlife Trust Ecological Services Habitat Management Plan Project Number 3192	Pond surveys July to August Waterfowl counts summer and winter. Flora surveys July to August. Starting in 2025	Countryside Officer
Water level and condition monitoring	Engauge with Walton Village Forum and Community Groups to record and monitor water levels throughout the year and more frequently during periods of dry and hot weather. Level monitoring to follow datums used on the Mere Pond Hydrological Report, produced for the Walton Village Forum by David C Beale. If access is allowed monitor and record water level of new	Summer (June – August). Annually starting 2025	Countryside Officer / Community Groups / Village Forum

	attenuation pond north of Mere Pond located on the new estate. Monitor and record Mere Pond for Algae blooms including blue green during hot weather. See **Appendices 3**		
Create dead wood piles at various locations around the site to increase and enhance fungal and invertebrate diversity. Leave standing dead wood in situ unless found to be a safety risk.	Identify small discrete areas for tidy log and brush piles, some in shaded areas, others in full sun. Leave Decaying standing wood and branches if possible. During the cutting back and coppicing cyclical works around 20% of the resulting branches and larger brash should be retained and placed under the trees. Decaying floating wood to be secured bankside to enhance habitat.	As logs become available and coppicing works begin. 2025	Greenspaces Team/Countryside Officer
Install information boards for education and site history. Signage to also alert owners to stop dogs entering the water & for visitors to not feed wildlife including giving bread to waterfowl.	Countryside Officer to work with Village Forum and Community Groups to identify locations and content to be displayed.	Investigate 2026. Implement in 2027	Countryside Officer/Village Forum/Community Groups
Improve and understand water quality and chemistry of the site.	Measure and record results monthly at the same location O_2 - temperature- pH- NH_4-NO_2-NO_3 & Phosphates. To include pond water level at the same time. See **Appendices 3**	March to September. Annually starting 2025 and report back results to Village Forum and Community Groups	Countryside Officer

Remove non-native terrestrial plants	Site to be surveyed for any undesirable plant species and removed if they are inhibiting native species.	Identify in 2025 and arrange to remove in 2026	Countryside Officer
Monitor water levels of the new attenuation pond and any positive impact at Mere Pond.	New attenuation pond constructed to the north of Mere Pond may aid in maintaining higher water levels in Mere Pond. Using potable water to maintain water levels is cost prohibitive and potentially detrimental to the pond ecological balance.	2025/26	Countryside Officer / RBBC Engineer
Tree Survey to reduce risk from trees	Survey whole site on an 18-month cyclical programme and pass works to Tree Team to action. Standing dead wood to be retained if safe to do so. Willows to be monitored for splits and south west corner trees growing over Sandlands Road to be monitored. Ash to the north of the site is believed to not be on RBBC land.	Cyclical starting summer of 2025	Tree Officer
Record monitoring and survey data in this document and allow for review of tasks and information to steer future management of site.	Create additional appendices with information collected and update interested parties as required.	Quarterly	Countryside Officer

Appendices 1

Red - Willow coppice rotation areas. Green - Bogbean areas. Yellow- Beach area. Blue – Main Tree Safety Survey area



Appendices 2

Blue circles - Inflow x 3

Red Circle water quality measuring point when pond is full. Circle in the centre for times of low water level at waters edge.

Appendices 3 Water Quality

Date:	Name:	Weather:	Water Level:	Ambient Temp:
Water Temp ^{o}C		Observations:		
pH				
Phosphate				
NH_4				
NO_2				
NO_3				
O_2				

References

- Surrey Wildlife Trust Ecological Services Habitat Management Plan Project Number 3192 Isobel Girvan BSc (Hons) MCIEEM - Principal Ecologist September 2018
- Mere Pond Hydrological Report, produced for the Walton Village Forum by David C Beale MSc November 2022.