

Riverside Nature Reserve/ Parsonage Water Meadows Infrastructure Improvement plan:

Hendryk Jurk, Update 10/05/2024

1) Purpose:

This plan is intended to create the resources to replace and upgrade the infrastructure at Riverside Nature Reserve and Parsonage Water Meadows SANG site

- to provide safe access and fulfil our duties as owner/ occupier,
- to fulfil our duties under the Habitat Regulations and Environment Act,
- to improve the site's resilience to increasing visitor numbers.

Budget: The funding would be provided from financial contributions from developers that are collected to deliver new SANG sites, improve existing SANG land, provide infrastructure and site maintenance and cover staff costs associated with management.

2) Aims:

1. Protect the nature conservation value of the site and the ecosystem services it provides.
2. Provide access to nature for people's health and wellbeing.
3. Manage the site as part of a wider ecological network in accordance with the Council's Countryside Vision 2017 – 2027.
4. Maximise the opportunities to provide an exemplar site for accessibility.
5. Continue to provide sustainable commuting routes through the site.
6. Work with and preserve the wetland character of the site and its role as habitat and flood alluviation space.

3) Detail:

We intend to create a project officer resource for delivering project planning and design, permitting, public engagement and information, contractor engagement and supervision, co-ordination with works by inhouse teams.

Due to the nature of the site works are seasonal timebound.

We intend to carry out a public consultation on works that change the current access arrangements or impact on the natural character of the site. This includes layout/ route of the replacement boardwalk, path surfacing and the long-term management plan.

4) Actions:

What do we propose to do?	Provisional Timescale	Initial Cost Estimates
Creation of Staff resource to manage project 3 years	by August 2024	£135,000
Total Riverside Nature Reserve		£606,000
Total Parsonage Water Meadows		£392,500
Total Project		£1,133,500

Riverside Nature Reserve

Developing consultation documentation to consult on boardwalk replacement, paths and long-term management direction of the site	Sep 2024	£3,000
Public consultation	Nov 2024	£1,500
Detailed design for Planning approval and flood consent	Nov 2024 - Jan 2025	£10,000
Procurement Phase	Feb 2025	£0
Site Clearance and Boardwalk construction	Jul - Aug 2025	£400,000
Path works	Aug 2024 – Feb 2026	
Surface path (PRoW) from footbridge along River		£12,000
Improve surface path on east side of lake, surfacing or drainage		£25,000
Level paths to reduce crossfall and regulate width in wooded area, remove trees to allow surface to dry in wet conditions		£14,000
Level path to best ability with sloping ground to allow water run-off in middle field		£8,000
Tow path improvement from new bridge in car park field to new bridge in small meadow		£15,000
Lower car park entrance and drain cover to reduce steepness of ramp		£15,000

Surface car park		£18,000
New car park signage		£5,000
Provide new selection of benches including wheelchair accessible benches at picnic area	Summer 2025	£15,000
Signage: Replace interpretation boards to include accessibility, biodiversity and we links to wider SANG network	Summer 2025	£9,000
Install new directional signage on site	Summer 2025	£4,000
Review of bin provision	Summer 2025	£1,500
Conservation Management: Review grazing areas and continue use of invisible fencing incl. water access and links between areas	Spring 2025	£3,000
Ditch work in fen	Sep- Oct 2024/25/26	£20,000
Repair of existing sluices	Summer 2025	£15,000
Establish sluice management plan	Summer 2025	£0
Environmental assessment	May 2026	£12,000
Update Man Plan and Risk assessment	Jan - Feb 2025	£0
Total Riverside Nature Reserve		£606,000

Parsonage Water Meadows

Developing consultation documentation to consult on boardwalk/ raised causeway construction	Early 2025	£3,000
Public consultation	March 2025	£1,500
Detailed design for Planning approval and flood consent	June - July 2025	£20,000
Procurement Phase	Feb - Mar 2026	£0

Site Clearance and Boardwalk construction	August - Nov 2026	£350,000
Signage for accessibility	Spring 2027	£6,000
Environmental assessment	June 2027	£12,000
Total Parsonage Water Meadows		£392,500