



# Bramford Meadows

## Management Plan 2022 - 2027



## Issue Control

Issue No.	Change Details	Issue Date	Updated By	Approved By
Issue 1	Initial issue following agreement by BOS directors / trustees	01/02/2013	Pete Brand	
Issue 2	Minor editorial changes and reworking of Section 7 (Mgmt Policy).  Removal of references to Jubilee Meadows  Up-issue following agreement by BOS directors / trustees	10/06/2013	Pete Brand	Agreed at BOS Board meeting held on 10/6/2013
Issue 3	Update to reflect changes to Work Plans, and BOS Governance.  General editorial changes based on discussions with J.Hooker & N.Howard  Minor edits & pictures updated following review by Trustees	23/12/2015	Pete Brand	Reviewed & agreed with BOS Trustees by email
Issue 4	Update to reflect planned activities over next five years	06/06/2022	Pete Brand	

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Context

This management plan sets out how Bramford Open Spaces Ltd (BOS), a charitable company, will manage Bramford Meadows, as well as giving a detailed description of the meadows.

Through its defined management objectives, Bramford Open Spaces Ltd will aim to conserve and enhance the biodiversity interest of these meadows, and maintain the open spaces for the benefit of the residents in Bramford and the public in general.

## 1.2 Brief Description

The meadows are comprised of two sites: the Northern Meadows are a designated Local Nature Reserve (LNR), and the Southern Meadows are set aside as a Picnic Area and public open space. They are bordered to the east by the main Ipswich railway line and to the west by the River Gipping and the village of Bramford. The Gipping Valley riverside footpath runs along the length of the meadows.

The site consists of a series of floodplain meadows which are separated by a number of drainage ditches. The water in these ditches is of a high quality and supports diverse aquatic and flora species. A botanical survey undertaken in July 1993 identified water-plantain, purple loosestrife and flowering-rush plants along the ditch edges. The latter species is a scarce plant in Suffolk and is restricted to the fringes of clean watercourses. Small areas of scrub and trees are also present particularly on the area between the railway line and the old water course parallel to the River Gipping.

A detailed invertebrate survey of the meadows also carried out in 1993 showed that the site was of considerable importance for its invertebrate populations. A total of seven species of grasshoppers and crickets were recorded during two visits to the site.



Of particular importance are the margins of rank vegetation and bare mud along the dyke edges. These habitats were found to contain large populations of two species of bush cricket which are considered to be scarce in Suffolk. Furthermore, the site is also noted for its butterfly fauna; fourteen species were

recorded in three visits to the site. Brown Argus, a butterfly with a widespread but patchy distribution in Suffolk, was recorded here in reasonable numbers in 2004 and 2005 but nothing since, although its colonies are often disturbed by agriculture and do not all flourish year after year

A further Species Survey was undertaken in July 2014 (carried out by BOS members) which identified over 270 different species of flora and fauna on the meadows.

Flora / Fauna	Species
Birds	38
Fish	7
Trees / Plants	130
Insects	78
Mollusc	12
Reptiles	1
Spiders	2
Mammals	5

Full details of the survey are recorded in Appendix B.

Both meadows also form a flood plain for the River Gipping and protect the housing in Bramford alongside the river from flooding during periods of high rainfall.

### 1.3 History

Bramford Parish Council records indicate that the meadows have formed an important local visual and recreational amenity for the village

of Bramford for as long as living memory recalls.

The land has previously been used as a grazing meadow, while also forming part of the natural flood plain of the Gipping Valley.

In March 1990 a planning proposal was submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council for a change of use of the land on the North Meadow from a grazing meadow to allow the construction of football pitches. This would undoubtedly have involved raising the natural levels of the land and hence cause interference to the flood plain capability of the meadows as well as damaging the natural wildlife habit. The planning application was subsequently refused

In June 1992 the meadows were bought by Suffolk County Council and initially managed as part of the Gipping Valley Countryside Project established by the council. Later in 1992 the meadows were entered into the Countryside Commission’s Countryside Stewardship Scheme. This scheme provided funding for management and some restoration of the meadowland (ie tree planting, fencing, pond construction, etc.). This Countryside Stewardship management of the meadows expired in 2012.

Freehold of The Meadows was purchased from Suffolk County Council by Bramford Parish Council in September 2012.



BOS, an independent charitable company has been established to manage the Meadows on behalf of the Parish Council.



## 1.4 Local Nature Reserve

The Northern Meadows site was designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 1995, and is one of 37 LNRs in Suffolk and 1,280 in England.

LNRs are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer the local community the opportunity to study or learn about nature or to simply enjoy the open space afforded by the LNR.

Natural England recommends that LNRs are managed with the conservation of nature and the opportunities for study research or enjoyment of nature as the main priorities..

## 1.5 Charitable Objectives

The charitable objectives of BOS are:-

- To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Parish of Bramford and its surrounding area.
- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and to enable access through the provision of public facilities.

In relation to Bramford Meadows this involves:-

- Ensuring that management of the meadows fulfils all legal and other obligations
- Conserving and enhancing habitats, particularly the floodplain meadows, fen/scrub and ditches/watercourses with connectivity to the wider countryside in mind.
- Encouraging public access and promoting Bramford Meadows LNR to the local community as a wildlife study-site.
- Maintaining the value of Bramford Meadows LNR and Picnic Area as landscape assets by maintaining grassland cover and sympathetic management of boundaries.
- Maintaining interpretation provision where possible.

## 2 Site Details & Maps

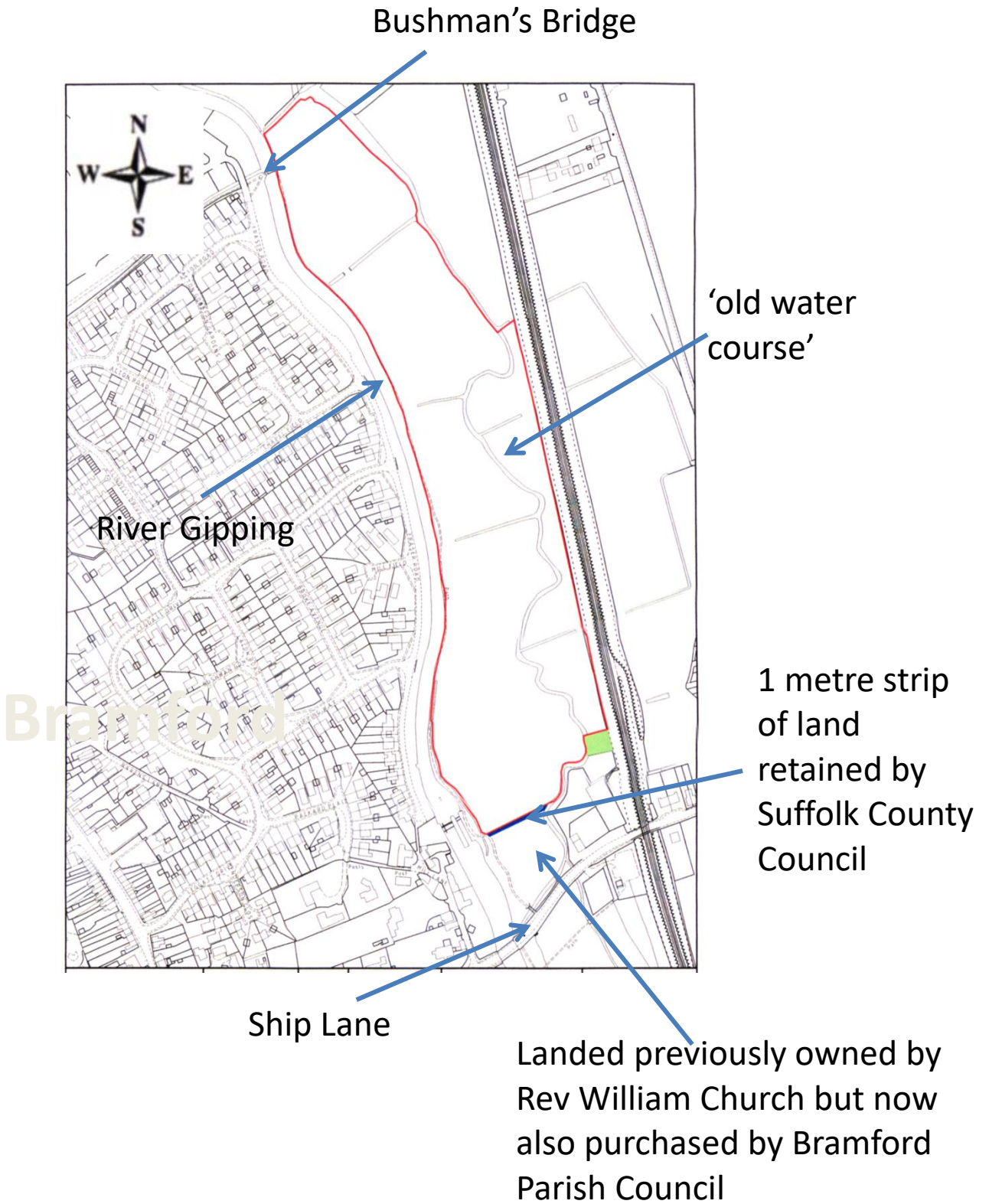
### 2.1 Northern Meadows

Site Name:	Bramford Meadows – Local Nature Reserve
Grid Reference:	TM127467
Land Registry Title Number:	SK341610
Area (in hectares):	8.231 hectares



# Northern Meadow (Local Nature Reserve)

- outlined in red





## 2.2 Southern Meadows

Site Name:	Bramford Meadows – Picnic Area
Grid Reference:	TM127467
Land Registry Title Number:	SK341609
Area (in hectares):	7.064 hectares

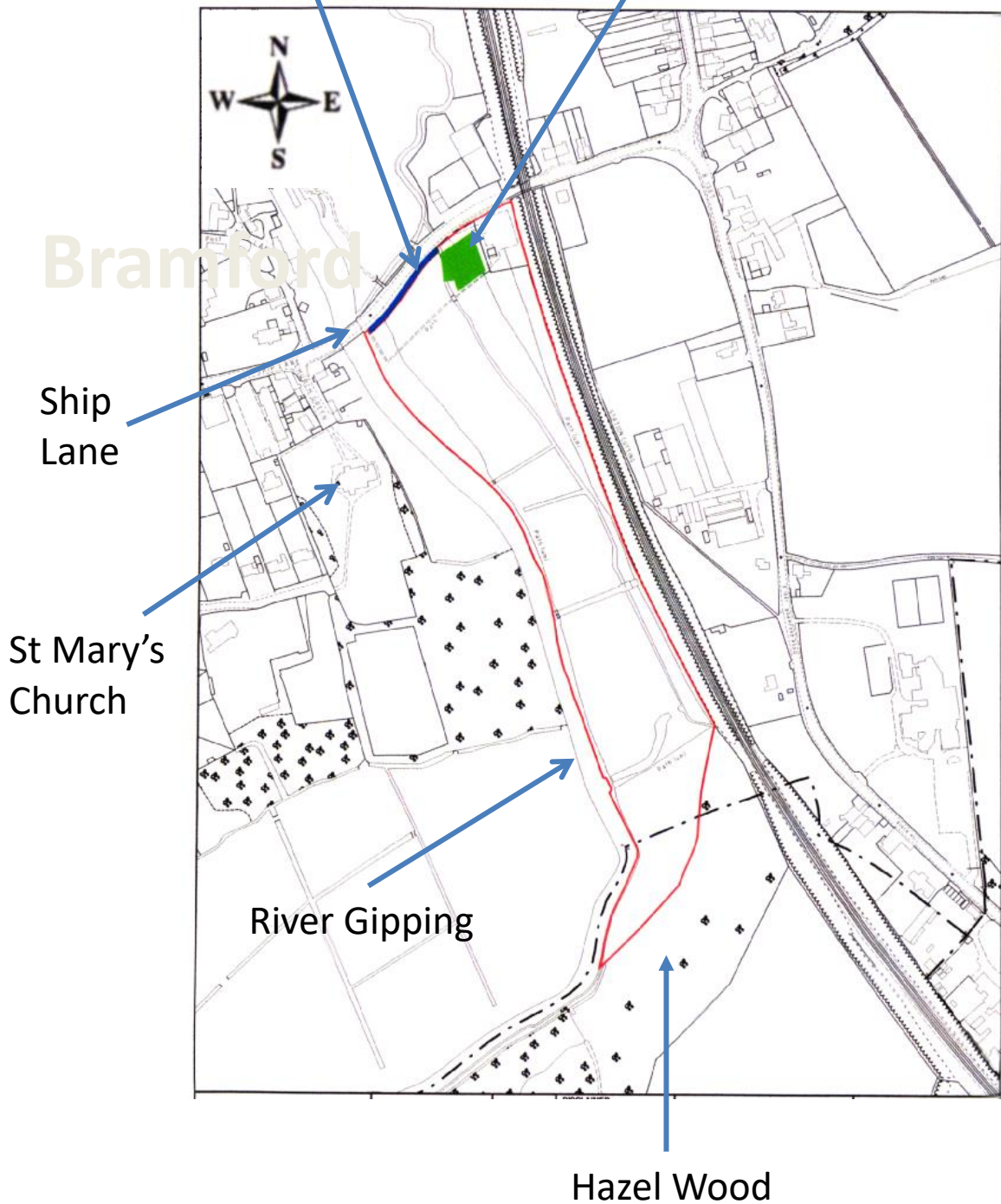


## Southern Meadow (Picnic area)

- outlined in red

1 metre strip of land retained by Suffolk County Council

Car Park



## 2.3 Adjacent Land

A small plot of land adjacent to the Northern Meadow was owned by Rev William Church. He has agreed that Bramford Open Spaces Ltd would manage this land in the same manner as the rest of the meadows. This land has subsequently been purchased by Bramford Parish Council. And continues to be managed by BOS.

Suffolk County Council has also retained the ownership of a small 1 metre wide strip of land on both the Northern and Southern Meadows.



## 2.4 Access

Bramford Meadows can be accessed directly off Ship Lane (east of the river bridge), via Bushman's Bridge (Northern Meadow access) or via the Gipping Valley River Path from Sproughton (Southern Meadow access).

There is a car park adjacent to the Southern Meadow. Pedestrian and wheelchair access to the Picnic Area is accessible directly from the car park.

A public toilet block is also located next to the car park. This toilet block is currently closed,

but may be opened for use by booked groups visiting the meadows if feasible.

There are fishing platforms alongside the river on the Northern Meadow site, one of which is easily accessible to wheelchair users via Bushman's Bridge.

## 2.5 Interpretative Boards

Interpretative boards have been installed at a number of locations across both meadows (particularly by the fishing platforms and the footpaths through the meadows). These provide details of the flora & fauna visible on the meadows and pictorial displays of the site layout.



## 3 Habitats & Species

### 3.1 Grassland

Under the Countryside Stewardship agreement (which expired in 2012) the meadows were managed for an annual hay cut or were grazed to conserve this site as grassland. The grazing was kept to the fenced off part of the Northern Meadow.



Hay-cuts have helped to reduce nettle concentrations, except in small patches which may be nutrient-rich. A wild flower seeding trial took place in the early 1990s though was not successful due to flooding but remnant flora is still present (e.g. ox eye daisy, lady's bedstraw and meadow buttercup).

To help Wildlife conservation, the annual hay cuts will be maintained on both meadows, and an area on the Southern Meadows will be left uncut during the year to encourage wild flower growth.

### 3.2 Ponds & Ditches

The ditches and the old course of the river were de-silted in 2006 and again during late 2012, with some areas of the bank scraped back to enhance the profile and provide areas for bankside wildflowers. This management needs to be repeated on a regular basis to prevent silting up of this water channel and to conserve its wildlife value.

A sluice gate has been installed to retain water levels on the old water course to further

improve the habitat for wildlife.

Access to the area between the old water course and the railway line is restricted to provide suitable undisturbed habitat for reptiles, small mammals & birds.

### 3.3 Woodland & Trees

In the winter of 1992/3, up to 600 trees were planted on the site, mainly as screening from the railway line and upstream factories. These species included Alder, Ash, White Poplar and Osier. This planting has subsequently been topped-up and a series of instant willow pollards were also planted along the river and ditches, although some of these have suffered from dieback and broken limbs.

Further enhancements have taken place over the years, including the planting of native Black Poplars.



### 3.4 Ecological

Reptile surveys were carried out by Network Rail in the summer of 2011 to identify existing species and populations. Slow worms were recorded in a wide dispersion across the Meadows LNR, particularly to the northern part of the site (and near the pond / back water on the Southern Meadow).

The meadows provide shallow south facing slopes near the old water course ditches which form a preferred basking area for slow worms.

With enhancement of the habitat, the meadows were identified as a suitable site for translocation of grass snakes and slow worms from land owned by Network Rail that was directly affected by rail track upgrades of the Great Eastern Main Line and East Suffolk Line. Under a licence previously granted by Suffolk County Council when they owned the meadows (and now transferred to Bramford Parish Council with the change of ownership), Network Rail agreed to undertake the required habitat improvements to allow the migration of the slow worms and grass snakes to proceed.

A number of hibernacula and basking areas for slow worms and any other reptile species subsequently translocated to the site have been constructed.

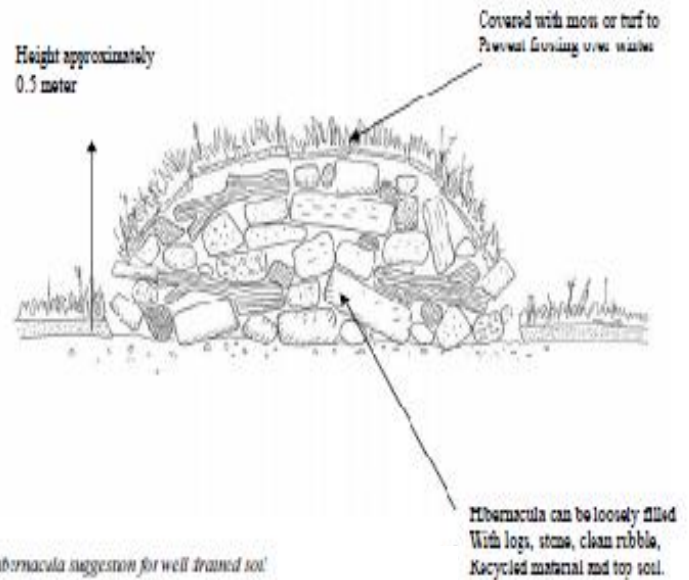
In future a mosaic of open habitats and scrub should be maintained by clearing the vegetation in areas, creating a variation of vegetation height to help improve reptile activity. The cleared scrub could be retained on site along with piles of grass or herbaceous vegetation cuttings as egg laying sites for grass snake. There is evidence of rabbits on site, (visual and field evidence recorded). Burrows provide suitable hibernacula for reptiles and are readily available on site. Network Rail is responsible for this maintenance until End April 2017.

Tree stumps and fallen trees in the woodland provide suitable hibernacula for larger snakes. A food source is important to sustain reptile habitat and there is a plentiful source of invertebrates across the Meadows LNR, including worms, spiders and beetles that provide a suitable food source for slow worms

Network Rail has also provided a number of bat boxes on suitable trees across the site.

### Artificial Hibernacula Creation

*Hibernacula suggestion for poor draining soil*



## 4 Use by Local People & Schools

### 4.1 Public Access

The site constitutes a valuable natural habitat within the village setting. It is well used by locals and others for dog walking, relaxation and enjoyment of the area and the wildlife.

### 4.2 Educational Opportunities

An important function of the Northern Meadows as a Local Nature Reserve is to provide an accessible and valuable study site for local schools, colleges and local interested groups.

The site has been used in the past by local schools for a variety of environmental education activities. This should continue to be encouraged whilst ensuring that the ecology of the meadows is protected.

Interpretative facilities are available on a small scale in the form of display boards and these provide informal education opportunities.

There are opportunities for research and study. Such research would provide useful information for the future management of the site, and will be encouraged wherever possible.



## 5 Legislation / Health & Safety

Management of the Meadows will be undertaken in full compliance with prevailing environmental legislation and Health & Safety requirements. This includes, but is not confined to, the list below

### 5.1 Environmental Legislation

The following environmental legislation is recognised:-

- **National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (Sections 16 & 21) & Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Section 39.**  
Designation of Bramford Meadows (northern meadows) as a Local Nature Reserve in 1995 requires BOS to use their best endeavours to manage the Meadows as a Local Nature Reserve within the meaning of, and in accordance with the provisions of the 1949 Act and 1981 Act.
- **Habitat Regulations 2010 & European Protected Species**  
Forestry Commission procedures for any tree felling / surgery should be followed to avoid risks to any protected species (i.e. bats). Additionally, any operation likely to affect the integrity of the local populations of otters will trigger the need for a survey and assessment with regard to applying to Natural England for a European Protected Species licence.
- **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) & Countryside and Rights of way Act 2000**  
All wild plants are afforded general protection against intentional, unauthorised up-rooting under Schedule 8, Section 13(1)(b) of this Act, though at present no species listed in the schedules are known to exist on Bramford Meadows LNR.  
  
A licenced bat worker would be required to check any occupied bat boxes under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Otter and water vole are both fully protected species therefore any management work on water-courses must comply with best practice and the relevant legislation.
- **Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006**  
This is the Statutory Duty that all public bodies (including Parish Councils – and in this case the ownership of the Meadows is retained by Bramford Parish Council) have, pursuant to Section 40 of the Act, to actively have regard (that is promote) the conservation of biodiversity.
- **Felling Licence Approval**  
Approval may be needed from the Forestry Commission for any trees to be felled that are not dead, dying or diseased.
- **Environment Act 1995**  
The Environment Agency has responsibility for keeping ‘main’ rivers clear of debris and for monitoring and controlling pollution – as such, the Environment Agency will require access to the river and lock structure for any river maintenance.
- **Rights of Way Act 1990 –**  
The Rights of Way Act requires all public rights of way to be kept open (e.g. riverside footpaths – in this case the Gipping Valley River Path). There are no other public rights of way (within the terms of the Act) within the site although open public access has been allowed.

- **Land Drainage Act 1991**

This Act prevents the construction of dams, culverts and other structures in the watercourse without permission in writing from the Environment Agency.

Land drainage charges to the Internal Drainage Board may be payable.

- **Water Resources Act 1991**

This Act prevents the altering of structures in the watercourse.

- **Town and Country Planning Act 1990**

Section 336(1) of this Act covers the definition of Open Spaces, which is particularly related to the management of the Southern Meadows Picnic Area.

- **Occupier's Liability Act 1984**

This Act requires that every reasonable care is taken to remove any risk, both to legitimate visitors and to trespassers.

## 5.2 Health & Safety

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, all operations carried out on site must be undertaken using safe working methods and equipment, and also in compliance with any local safety procedures. The Act covers any employees, volunteers, and sub-contractors working on the site.

A Risk Assessment (see Appendix C) has been produced for all work undertaken on the site by charity members or other volunteers. The guidance identified in the risk assessment must be adhered to by all working on the site.

The Risk Assessment will be reviewed and updated as necessary on at least an annual basis.

In addition to the requirements of the risk assessment, and in order to comply with the Occupier's Liability Act to safeguard the general public, it is recommended that a survey of all trees on the meadows should be undertaken regularly, both in winter and summer, (and action taken as appropriate) to ensure that any danger to the public from falling trees and branches has been minimised.



## 6 Covenants

As part of the agreement of the sale of the meadows to Bramford Parish Council, a number of covenants are recorded in the Land Registry documents relating to the meadows that need to be adhered to as part of the management of the Meadows.

### 6.1 Northern Meadows (LNR) Covenants

Covenants relating to the management of the Local Nature Reserve state that:-

- The site must be maintained as a Local Nature Reserve and best endeavours must be made to manage the meadows in accordance with the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- Access to the meadows will be available for anyone to carry out scientific, environmental observation, investigation, research or experiment, and for educational purposes.
- The general public will be permitted to enter the meadows at all times for all purposes associated with the proper use of the site as a Nature Reserve. However, for management purposes it is allowable to restrict access to the parts of the Nature Reserve (i.e. to protect species or habitats at certain times of the year).
- Requests to allow publication of publicity material related to the meadows will not unreasonably be withheld.
- Reasonable endeavour will be used to encourage dog owners to control their animals and not disturb the flora and fauna or interfere with educational groups visiting the meadows.
- Harmful or uncontrolled fires will not be started except in the interest of good estate management of the meadows.
- Ploughing of the meadows, or any form of land reclamation or cultivation will not be allowed.
- Planting of non-native trees or shrubs, or the introduction of non-native animals or plants will not be allowed.
- Commercial mining or mineral extraction on the meadows will not be allowed.
- All contractors working on the meadows (including for game keeping & pest control purposes) shall be instructed to use best endeavours to adhere to and observe these covenants.

### 6.2 Southern Meadows (Picnic Area) Covenants

Covenants relating to the management of the Picnic Area state that:-

- The meadows must be retained as an 'open space' as defined in Section 336(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

## 7 Meadows Management Policy

A separate Bramford Meadows Management Policy has been produced (see Appendix E) that details the top level aims and objectives of Bramford Open Spaces Ltd in relation to the management of the Meadows.

Additional clarity and guidance on the interpretation of this policy document is provided below to show how the stated objectives will be met during the day-to-day activities required to maintain the meadows.

### 7.1 Objectives

#### **Obj 1: Meet legal obligations**

The Trustees and the Management Group have a responsibility to ensure that the charitable aims of Bramford Open Spaces Ltd are fully met, and to also recognise that legal obligations and covenants must be followed during all activities associated with the management of the Meadows.

#### **Obj 2: Ensure that an effective flood plain is retained**

The meadows provide a vital floodplain capability to prevent the River Gipping flooding houses in the village of Bramford. The meadows will to be preserved as a floodplain to act as a natural overflow in times of flooding, thereby providing an important service to local people by way of managing surface waters.

#### **Obj 3: Encourage the natural habitat**

The management philosophy adopted for the Meadows will aim to maintain the open nature of the meadows and the Local Nature Reserve designation.

The grassland is the major feature of the LNR and whilst it may provide either hay or be used for grazing, it is the retention of this habitat (rather than planting it up as woodland) that is vital for the many species adapted to the conditions provided by this habitat, particularly invertebrates.

Maintaining the diversity of grassland habitats will provide for a range of wildlife suited to the different conditions. While annual hay cuts may be undertaken to maintain the habitat (an early cut in May is recommended to enhance floristic diversity), the invertebrates on the site also need long grass to be maintained around the margins of the meadows.

The mature trees, mainly along the ditches and adjacent to the River Gipping, should be managed to maintain their value for wildlife whilst ensuring public safety. Standing dead-wood is particularly important for a variety of birds, bats and invertebrates such as stag beetle. Any removal considered essential for safety reasons should be re-located on site to maintain this deadwood habitat.

The smaller self-sown trees along the cross ditches should be removed as part of the ditch restoration/maintenance regime.

The ditches and water courses will be managed on a five to ten year rotation to provide suitable habitat for a range of plants (i.e. flowering rush) and mammals (i.e. otter, water vole etc.). Further restoration of the old water course will be considered including the creation of open pools where this meets the side ditches. Regular ongoing maintenance of ditches and the old water course will be necessary to conserve the aquatic habitat on the LNR.

**Obj 4: Retain as a public amenity**

Public access is available at either end of the meadows and continued open access to the whole site will be maintained unless there is evidence of disturbance or damage to existing habitats and species in which case some areas may require limited access arrangements to be created if conservation is to be actively promoted. This is currently the case between the railway line and old water course of the Northern Meadow.

Provision for educational visits organised by school/college parties should be available all year round - bearing in mind however that the site could be flooded at any time. Developing productive links with schools, and individual teachers would aid future development and environmental education should be encouraged.

In addition, consideration will be given to maintaining the provision of interpretative information boards and the production of leaflets to provide details of the species and habitats found on the meadows – these will have the benefit of further promoting the meadows and the LNR for public enjoyment, environmental education and the use of the Picnic Area as an open space.

**7.2 Operational Objectives****Op 1: To identify and acquire a working knowledge of relevant legal requirements and act accordingly**

A working knowledge of the relevant legal requirements will be acquired to ensure that all Meadows management activities are undertaken in full compliance with legal obligations and covenants. The main legislation applicable to the Meadows is identified in Section 5 of this document.

**Op 2: To set and maintain standards for management of the Meadows**

The standards adopted for the management of the Meadows will endeavour to follow ‘best practice’ identified to ensure that the meadows are maintained to an appropriate level to enable the management objectives to be fully achieved.

**Op 3: To secure the necessary funding, set and maintain budgets**

A five year budget forecast (updated annually) will be prepared by the Meadows Committee to control expenditure

**Op 4: Ensure value for money**

Financial prudence will be exercised to ensure that value for money is realised and that the management objectives can be achieved within the budget agreed and set by the Bramford Open Space Ltd charity trustees.

The financial controls used to govern the management activities for the Meadows are contained in Appendix D – “Bramford Open Spaces Ltd Financial Controls”.

**7.3 Financial Resources**

Bramford Parish Council (via contract with Bramford Open Spaces Ltd) provides funding to maintain the current condition of the Meadows (i.e. Picnic Site grass cutting, tree cutting, etc.).

Network Rail is funding the enhancement project related to the Slow Worm hibernaculas and the

translocation of the slow worms & grass snakes, and will maintain the migration site for a five year period (until 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017).

Funding for any further enhancement of the site will be the responsibility of the charity set up alongside Bramford Open Spaces. Fund raising activities may be undertaken and / or grant applications submitted to secure the funding required to meet the costs associated with planned enhancements.

## **7.4 Staffing Resources / Volunteers**

Bramford Open Spaces Ltd has no employees, and as a charitable company only has a small board of directors / trustees to manage the legal and charity responsibilities of the company.

A Meadows Committee made up of volunteers from the local community has been established to oversee and discharge the work plan and day to day activities required to maintain the meadows. It is anticipated that a number of volunteer working party events will be required to help with this day to day management of the meadows.

## **7.5 Governance Model**

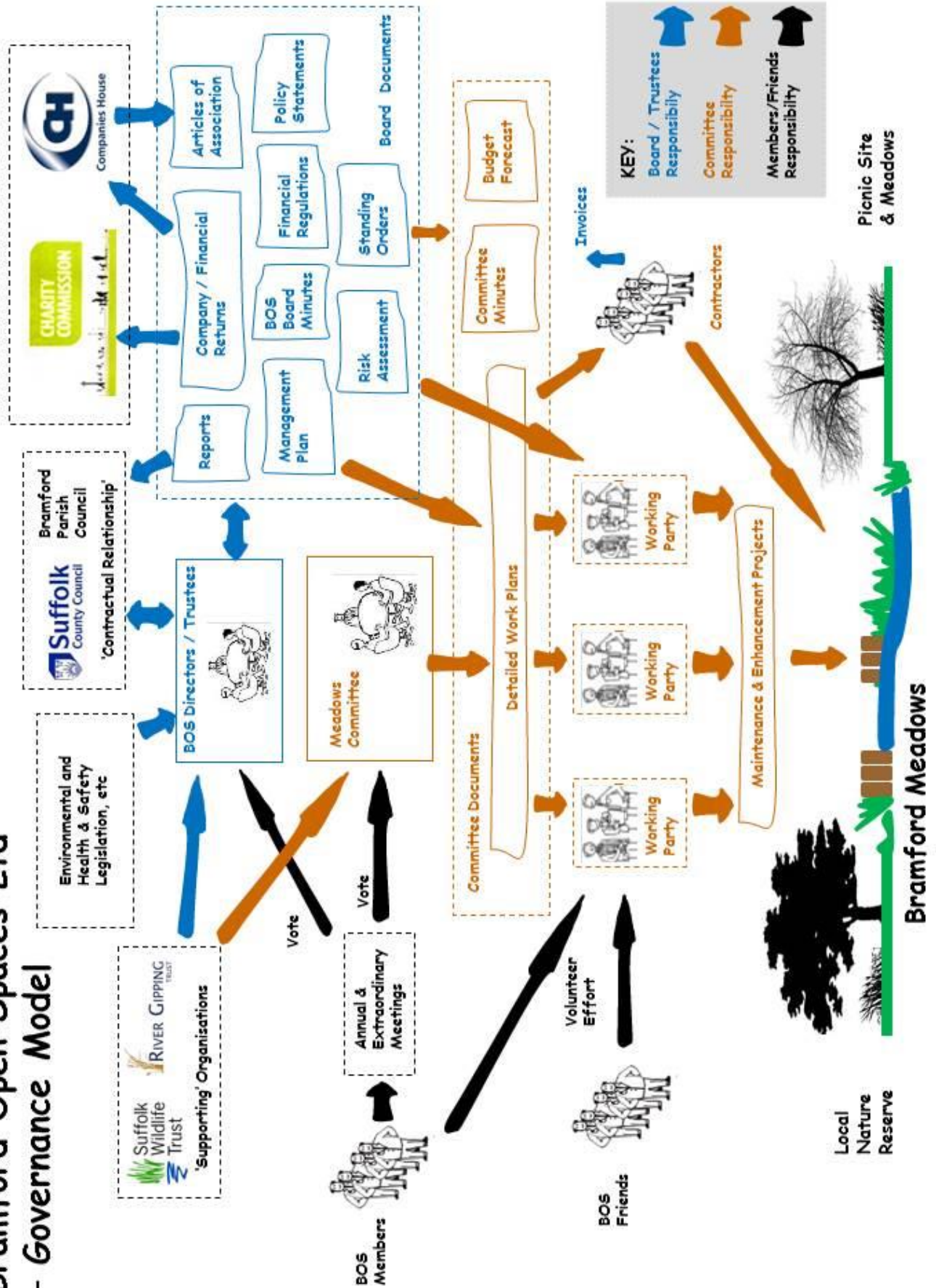
The Governance Model shown overleaf describes in a pictorial representation the various roles, responsibilities, relationships and documents pertinent to Bramford Open Spaces Ltd.

This is included in this format to more easily demonstrate the inter-relationship between the various roles (trustees, committee, members, friends, etc.) and the breadth & flow of documentation from board level to committee.

The board of trustees are responsible for legal compliance and financial probity. External relationships and the day-to-day maintenance of the meadows (in line with the defined Management Policy) is the responsibility of the committee.

The rules governing the operations of Bramford Open Spaces Ltd are contained in the company's Standing Orders (see Appendix F) and the Articles of Association (See Appendix G).

# Bramford Open Spaces Ltd - Governance Model



## 8 Top Level Work Plan

To manage the Meadows a number of regular maintenance tasks are required, while to broaden and encourage greater ecological diversity a number of possible enhancement projects may be considered. This section provides a top level view of the maintenance work and possible enhancement projects – greater detail will be provided in Appendix A – Detailed Work Plan.

### 8.1 Regular Maintenance

Regular maintenance activities on the Meadow include:-

- Annual Hay Cutting across the Northern Meadows (leaving a margin to protect the wildlife around the edges of the meadows – particularly alongside the old river course)
- Regular grass cutting on the Picnic areas and paths
- Bramble / nettle clearance alongside paths across the meadows
- Ragwort clearance
- Ditch clearance on Northern Meadows (on a 5 yearly basis) to maintain the flow of water through the old river course
- Tree & hedge maintenance

### 8.2 Planned Enhancement Projects

Planned enhancement activities that may be considered during the period of this issue of the management plan include:-

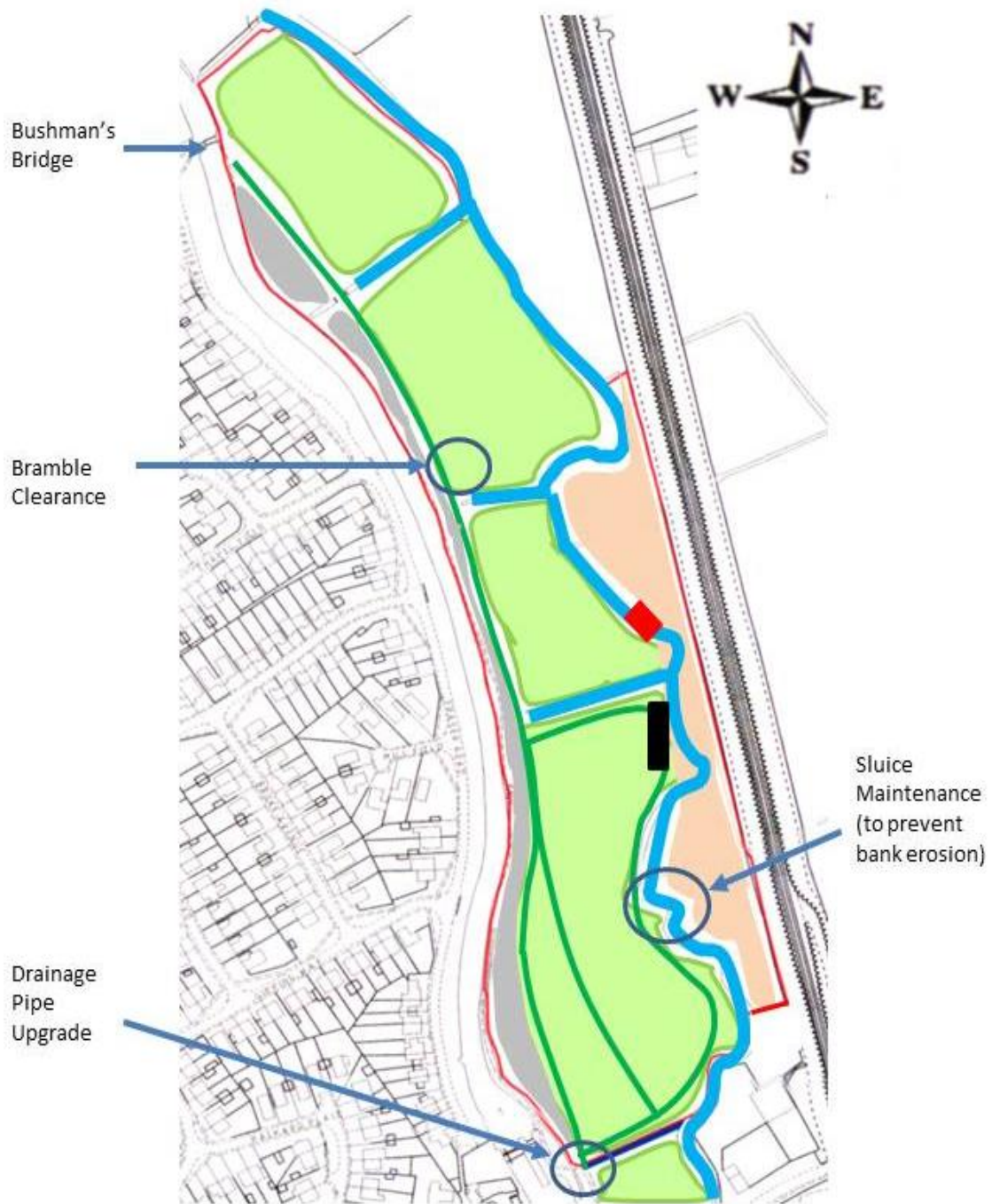
- Possible enlargement of the backwater / pond (potentially as a joint activity with the Environment Agency)
- Preventative measures to stop erosion of the riverbanks

- Continued pollarding of tress across the meadows to help overall tree management
- Continued tree planting on both the North and Southern Meadow
- Potential Bird hide for public use.
- Potential creation of an otter holt by the enlarged pond / backwater area
- Continued maintenance of the wild flower meadow

In addition, further drainage pipes may be required on the Northern Meadow to prevent erosion of the paths by the river and bank erosion by the recently installed sluice gates on the old river course.

The following two maps provide a pictorial view of the management work that needs to be undertaken on the meadows, and show the areas where possible enhancement projects may take place. The precise details of the work undertaken will be dependent on sufficient funding and volunteer help being available. The Meadows Committee will be responsible for deciding and agreeing the work to be done, subject to finances being available.

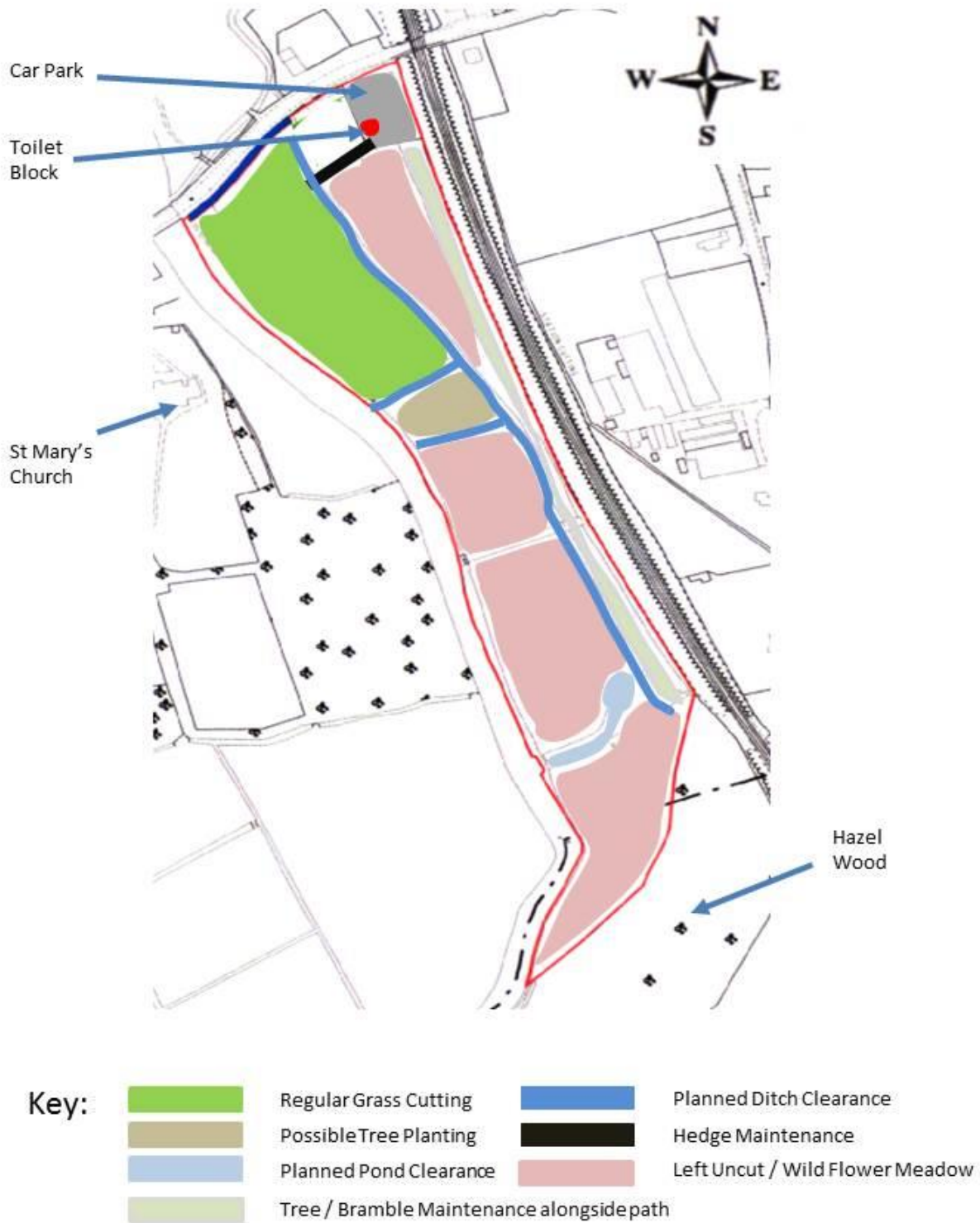
### 8.3 Northern Meadow – Work Plan Map



**Key:**

<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Annual Hay Cut	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #A9A9A9; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Left Uncut
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #008000; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Regular Path Cutting	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #000000; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Potential Bird Hide
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #00BFFF; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Ditch Clearance	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFDAB9; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Restricted Access
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #FF0000; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Potential Otter Holt	

### 8.4 Southern Meadow – Work Plan Map





## 9 Ecological Survey

A previous survey undertaken by Suffolk County Council identified the main ecological aspects of the Bramford Meadows (habitat, flora, fauna, etc.), and noted the importance of the findings from an International, National, Regional and Local perspective. A table summarising the findings of the survey is shown below.

SITE FEATURE	IMPORTANCE			
	International	National	Regional	Local
<b>Habitats</b>				
Grassland: Floodplain grazing marsh		*		
Trees and scrub/fen				*
Ditches & river bank			*	
<b>Flora</b>				
Flowering Rush			*	
Native Black Poplar			*	
<b>Fauna</b>				
Otter	*			
Reptiles (grass snake, common lizards and slow worms)			*	
Bats (including Serotine)	*			
Water Vole and Water Shrew			*	
Birds including Spotted Flycatcher, Barn Owl, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Sedge Warbler & Reed Warbler				*
Invertebrates (Gt Green bush cricket, slender ground hopper, Stag Beetle, Blood Vein moth & butterflies including Brown Argus & Wall)			*	
<b>Education</b>				
Environmental education and ecological study site			*	
Interpretation of traditional management techniques				*
<b>Amenity</b>				
Landscape feature				*
Informal access				*

The results of a survey undertaken by BOS members in July 2014 can be found on the BOS web site in a document entitled 'The Species of Bramford 2014'.

## 10 Associated Documents

A number of associated documents have been prepared that provide further details regarding the way that BOS itself is managed and ensures the safety of volunteers working with BOS.

### **Risk Assessment**

A Risk Assessment has been prepared for all work carried out by volunteers on the Meadows (covering both the Local Nature Reserve & Picnic Area). This will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

### **Bramford Open Spaces Ltd Financial Control**

This document details the controls and financial management principles adopted by Bramford Open Space Ltd.

### **Bramford Meadows Management Policy**

The Management Policy set by Bramford Open Spaces Ltd for the overall maintenance and management of the meadows.

### **Bramford Open Spaces Ltd Standing Orders**

This document provides the rules which govern the operation of the company.

### **Bramford Open Spaces Ltd Articles of Association**

This document contains the articles agreed with Companies House on the formation of the charitable company.

Bramford Open Spaces Ltd

Registered Charity Number 1149928, Registered Company Number 08092773

Registered in England & Wales

Registered Office: The Parish Room, Ship Lane, Bramford, IPSWICH IP8 4AN

Web site: [bramfordopenspaces.onesuffolk.net](http://bramfordopenspaces.onesuffolk.net)