

Lingfield Nature Reserves Lease Extension Business Case

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1. Executive Summary

The Lingfield Nature Reserves have developed into an exceptional site for wildlife as can be demonstrated by applying the criteria in the *Surrey Wildlife Trust's Guidance for the Selection of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) in Surrey*.

The reserves have been well managed and governed for the last 25 years by a thriving and committed group of volunteers who have adhered to the management agreements with TDC and LPC.

The management committee have applied for a grant of approximately £90,000 from Your Fund Surrey. The grant would pay for the resurfacing of the network of hard paths which provide access across the reserves and are a safe route to school for the North end of the village. An extension of the leases will be critical for the reserves to be given serious consideration for the grant of significant funds in the future.

The reserves' finances are robust. This reflects the prudent management of the volunteer committee and the remarkable energy, skill and success shown in identifying, applying for and securing funds from a wide variety of sources over the last 27 years.

The management committee and volunteers have delivered an impressive and ongoing programme of maintenance and improvements over the last 5 years. These range from safety and access activities such as repairing the bridge and handrails between Jenners and Bloomers Field to a variety of habitat creation projects such as hedge planting and the creation of ponds and wetlands.

The reserves have a committed volunteer group of around 58 individuals. Around 15 attend the monthly Sunday morning work parties. A wide range of groups, schools and organisations visit and

have used the reserves in the last year including Lingfield Primary School and the local Rainbow and Brownie groups.

These are all very strong arguments for granting a lease extension for the lands which make up the Lingfield Nature Reserves.

2. Introduction

Approximately 25 years ago some horse paddocks in Lingfield were saved from development for housing and the village decided that Lingfield Nature Reserves should be created on the two parcels of land. The fields are owned by Lingfield Parish Council and Tandridge District Council. An association with trustees which was formed specifically to manage the reserves and the fields were leased to this association. The leases are still running. The TDC lease expires in 2027 and the LPC lease expires in 2024. The Lingfield Nature Reserves have been managed by a committee of volunteers ever since in line with the provisions of a management agreement with the landowners TDC and LPC. This business case has been prepared to explain the value of the nature reserves and to support the case for the renewal of the two leases in line with a request for information from Kate Haacke of TDC.

The stated aim of the reserves is to encourage wildlife, education and amenity for the benefit of the community.

Since the reserves were set up an infrastructure of paths, benches, hard standings, roads, planters, arbours and a field shelter were constructed. A mosaic of habitats has also been created including a butterfly garden, a community orchard, five ponds and associated wetlands, two planted woodlands, areas of scrub, ditches, bunds, scrapes, banks, rubble mounds, habitat piles, several hedges and areas of meadow restoration within the overall 25 acres of the reserves. All this was done through funds and donations secured by the management committee and supplemented by considerable community volunteer time and effort all at no cost to the community.

After 27 years, the reserves have gone far beyond establishment and are now maturing and developing and are an outstanding example of what can be achieved for wildlife by volunteer groups. They are arguably a template for what could be achieved elsewhere in Tandridge.

3. The exceptional wildlife found on the LNR

This section of the business case explains the value of the biodiversity recorded on the reserves.

The reserves lie in the heart of the village on its North West side accessible from various village streets. To the North and West lies open country and assortment of fields and large gardens which are what remains of the old Lingfield Common.

As explained above, a great deal of effort has been put into creating a mosaic for different habitats on the reserves and with the specific aim of creating opportunities to maximise the number of species present. There is a strategy of maintaining dynamism in these habitats through management actions such as varying the mowing regime, hedge laying, creating scrapes, coppicing etc. This is ongoing.

Species rich grasslands found on the LNR are a rare and important habitat

According to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the UK has lost 97% of its flower rich grasslands since WW2. According to the Surrey Nature Partnership, only 33 hectares of neutral grassland remain in Surrey. This is compared to 43,446 hectares of agriculturally improved grassland. Can you imagine what this represents in terms of loss of wildflowers, insects, birds, ecosystems and places of unique beauty? The Lingfield Nature Reserves meadows are restored examples of these lost neutral grasslands and are full of abundant wildflowers.

The LNR is 10 hectares of species rich neutral grassland which, through innovative and informed management intervention, continue to develop an increasingly diverse and abundant flora. ***That is the equivalent of 30% of the Surrey total of this hugely important habitat.***

According to Plantlife, the UK wildflower conservation charity,:

A report published this week by RSPB and WWF UK shows the immense importance of permanent grasslands and rough grazing pasture for their carbon storage – even more than our woodlands. It recommends the protection and restoration of species-rich grasslands, lowland heath and other open habitats as a priority action.

As our meadows are species rich, they are making a **significant contribution to carbon storage** and help fight climate change. Our efforts to make the reserves wetter by impeding drainage and digging ponds, ditches and scrapes also contribute to carbon capture.

By area, neutral grassland is by far the main habitat type on the reserves. After twenty five years of consistent mowing and hay removal augmented by the creation of areas of bare subsoil then seeding and planting appropriate native plants, they are now low fertility, species rich meadows and the management committee have been surprised and delighted by the transformation.

The fields are covered in abundant birds foot trefoil, one of the most important herbs for butterflies both as a caterpillar food plant and nectar source. Equally abundant is the deliberately introduced yellow rattle which suppresses grasses and opens up the sward for other wildflowers to thrive. We have discovered that the rare Surrey priority moth, the grass rivulet, is present on the reserves. Yellow rattle, which we introduced and established, is its food plant.

Other notable species of plant are present or have been introduced including quaking grass, betony, devils bit scabious and, the rare in Surrey, corky fruited water dropwort. All of these are doing well and spreading. The improving species richness of the grasslands is illustrated by the status of common spotted orchids on the reserve. They were originally introduced by spreading locally collected seed on the bare sides of newly dug ditches. In 2017 we counted 50 flower spikes mainly in the areas originally seeded. In 2021 we counted 446 flower spikes, a close to tenfold increase. The orchids are now found widely across the fields.

The most important points to make about our grasslands is that they are of conservation importance in Surrey and they are making a contribution towards fighting climate change which the equivalent area of improved agricultural fields or even woodland in the surrounding countryside is incapable of doing to the same extent.

Butterflies

The variety of habitats found on the LNR is reflected on the impressive list of butterflies recorded which now includes over 30 species. That exceeds the number found in the whole of Northern

Ireland. This is exceptional for a reserve that has no special conservation status. What is more remarkable is that many butterfly species on the reserves are bucking national trends and increasing. In 2021, Butterfly Conservation held their largest ever Garden Butterfly Count. Their results showed, once again, widespread declines nationally. We have been monitoring butterflies in the reserves for 20 years and recording the data as part of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. Our results show that last year was our best ever year and the increases in certain species over time such as common blue and small heath can be seen to have begun when we began to prioritise the creation of flower rich habitat roughly ten years ago. We are proud to say that these and many other notable and rare species such as brown hairstreak, dingy skipper and white letter hairstreak are present and seem to be stable if not doing well. Our butterfly garden, which was subject to a make-over in the last couple of years is now a wonderful place to observe many species of butterfly enjoying the large range of available nectar sources and is a reliable spot to see brown hairstreak butterflies in late Summer.

Trees

The LNR contains most of the species native tree found in the UK many of which were planted especially to attract wildlife. Among these are more unusual trees like wild service and black poplar while the orchard includes walnut, medlar, mulberry, quince, the Lingfield Forge apple and mistletoe. For historic reasons we also have some interesting exotics including a fine specimen of giant redwood or wellingtonia

Birds

The LNR is a wonderful place to see birds. It attracts species that are still common but that are declining worryingly like starlings, house sparrows, song thrushes, swifts, swallows and house martins but it is also home to birds that are now uncommon like bullfinch, common and lesser whitethroat, linnets and yellowhammers. It is exceptional for raptors and it is not unusual to see kestrel, buzzard, sparrowhawk and red kite in the space of twenty minutes and hobbies visit. We have been told that barn owls are sometimes seen. We know they are present locally. Ravens now regularly fly over. Kingfishers, grey herons and little egrets visit the ponds. Almost anything can turn up and stone chat, meadow pipit, reed warbler, spotted flycatcher and even a nightingale have been recorded.

Mammals

We do not know very much about the mammals on the reserve but hedgehogs and foxes have been recorded, there are badger setts within a mile or two, deer have been reported. Fallow and roe are common locally. Signs of bank voles have been spotted. What is very obvious is the thriving population of moles which suggests a healthy subterranean invertebrate fauna but is also key to the increasing plant and insect diversity as they are responsible for creating so much bare soil. In some areas this could be as much as 50% in a m² and creates wonderful basking areas for insects and places to germinate for plants like yellow rattle.

Reptiles and amphibians

Night surveys show amphibians and even reptiles are widespread. At least one species is usually present in almost every water body even the small unfenced ones affected by daily dog traffic. Great crested newts breed and in 2021, thirty eight adults were counted in one pond alone. They are almost certainly present in numbers which justify the reserve being considered for Site of Special

Scientific Interest status. Smooth newts are extremely common, frogs breed and are found all over the reserves and toads are present in the ponds and ditches.

Grass snakes have also been seen in all parts of the reserves. Baby snakes have been recorded in the past. Viviparous lizards are present but although elusive. We suspect the colony is stable and they have been recorded in two separate parts of the reserves. Slow worms have been reported. We have heard accounts of recent adder sightings very close to the reserve but, due to the frequent confusion with grass snakes, we await undeniable evidence.

Dragonflies and damselflies

We have recorded 15 species of odonata on the reserves and several species have been seen egg laying in our various water bodies. We believe this level of diversity is significant and of conservation importance. The latest species to be added to the reserve list is the emerald damselfly which was first recorded in 2021. White legged damselflies are seen locally and are very likely present.

Other wildlife

Needless to say, all sorts of other wildlife occurs on the reserves but our limited expertise means there is a lot we are yet to discover. This Summer we attempted a bioblitz and recorded various insects including a 14 spot lady bird. Grasshoppers and crickets abound and roesells bush crickets are present. Wasp spiders are a recent colonist. The extensive bare soil on the reserves especially the vertical faces of banks, are home to solitary bees and their colonies can be observed in many locations. We do not know which species are present unfortunately. Unidentified leeches have been found in some of the ditches and the ponds are home to many different aquatic beetles including great diving beetles. There are fish in the scout hut ponds. Some were unauthorised and unwelcome introductions including goldfish etc but there are also native species such as roach and sticklebacks which could have arrived naturally.

Important species are listed in Appendix A

To further illustrate how exceptional the Lingfield Nature Reserves have become for wildlife, we have included lists of species of conservation interest in Surrey that have been recorded on the reserves in Appendix A. These species have been selected using guidance given by Surrey Wildlife Trust in their document dated May 2008 and entitled ***Guidance for the Selection of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) in Surrey.***

4. The LNR and how they are governed and managed

The Lingfield Nature Reserves Association is governed by the association constitution and the management agreement with Lingfield Parish Council. All management on the reserves is undertaken by the management committee in accordance with these documents and the lease with TDC.

In accordance with the association constitution the Lingfield Nature Reserves are managed by a committee currently comprising

1. Nominated Representatives

Surrey County Council	-	Lesley Steeds
Lingfield Parish Council	-	Liz Lockwood
Tandridge District Council	-	Mark Ridge
Local Schools Representative	-	Stephanie Dickson

2. Co-opted Members: John Madden, Anne Richards, Sue Macdonald, Finella Gray and Richard Stephens.
3. Officers for the year 2021/22: John Madden (Chairman), Sue Macdonald (Treasurer), Stephanie Dickson (Secretary).

The committee meets formally four times a year. The committee is reviewed annually and officers are appointed or reappointed as necessary. The certified accounts for the year and a report of the activities on the reserve are provided to the Lingfield Parish Council annually. The quarterly meetings are minuted and approved. The treasurer approves all expenditure, ensures annual budgeting and that expenditure is managed to budget. A finance report is provided to the full committee and discussed at each quarterly meeting.

The practical management of the reserves is reviewed on an ongoing basis as it is the principal activity of the committee and the volunteers. An example of the plan is included in the appendices.

5. Our Your Fund Surrey Application

We are unable to include our Your Fund Surrey Application in its entirety as it was completed on line SCC's online system and we are unable to extract our data. We have included below extracts from our records of the pertinent content. The references are to the question numbers in their online submission numbering system. This link takes you to their website where our project is listed.

[Your Fund Surrey for community projects - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

12. Describe your project in no more than 500 words, please using bullet points if necessary. Your summary should include: o What the asset is such as the name of the building(s), name of land, type of machine. o What you plan to do with the asset

Our project would take place on 25 acres (11 ha) of land in the middle of the village of Lingfield turning it into a more thriving Local Nature Reserve. Plain, grassy paddocks, that were surrounded by barbed wire are being turned into wildflower meadowlands, a traditional orchard, ponds with wetlands, ditches, thickets, copses, butterfly garden, quiet garden, planted and restored hedges, planted hedgerow trees and a fruiting hedge. One objective is to provide a wide, hardstanding pedestrian route through the site with two new kissing gate entrances to give full public access at all times. It connects the village, amenities and primary school with other parts of the village and is an off-roads, which are narrow and congested, route to school. The area covered would be 2,550 sq.m. We aim to provide a safe, green and peaceful site for all, including disadvantaged, a place for rest, recreation, education, enjoyment and shelter. The meadowlands would be visible from the pedestrian path along with other habitats and the ponds. Entrances from the long hardstanding path into the Butterfly Garden and Quiet Garden are via two muddy, deep scoops. Our project would build up and make a wide, flat access, suitable for buggies and wheelchairs and a safer path for all the community and volunteers, especially those with ambulatory difficulties. Another objective is to provide an interpretation board illustrating wild flowers and explain how we are increasing sustainable biodiversity for the benefit of community and wildlife. New blossom tree circles are also planned, visible from the path. This is another part of this capital project that will be beneficial for wildlife and planted in National Tree Week in November 2021. The species would be Common Hawthorn and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus Monogyna* and *Laevigata*) with sweet-scented white

and occasionally pink flowers; Wild Cherry (*Prunus Avium*), which is a large tree, 10 — 30 m. high with white blossoms as the leaves open; other *Prunus* trees with open flowers for bees and other pollinators. Crab apple varieties also with open flowers. All trees would provide food for the community and wildlife with colourful berries in the autumn. The "circles" would vary in size; 3 trees, 5 trees, 13 trees, the latter around the outside of our amenity field and around 4 young oaks growing in the field centre. Benches: new resting places for visitors in an open position. A raised bed in the centre bed Of the Butterfly Garden: this would be filled with free draining soil suitable for plants attractive to bees and lepidoptery such as lavender and scabious. With a bench nearby, the community would enjoy the flowers and wildlife. Our plan is also to do some reprofiling of our main oxbow pond using a local contractor and coppicing some surrounding trees to allow more light into the pond and wetland

13. How will your project make a difference to your community?

Our project will give an improved full public access, to both able-bodied or disadvantaged, through kissing gate entrances and a hardstanding path surface suitable for buggies and wheelchairs. New drainage beside the path will decrease mud migrating to the path from the meadows. This path criss-crosses The Lingfield Nature Reserves and would make it a safe, off-road walking route to school and village amenities and from the centre of the village to other populated areas of our community. New benches will make suitable resting or meeting places in beautiful surroundings with long views to The North Downs. Better access to the Nature Reserve will improve the opportunity to visit a safe refuge and help to avoid isolation and loneliness by seeing and meeting other people. This project will give greater opportunities to volunteer and do something worthwhile for themselves and the wider community. It will give employment to local and surrounding area contractors It will increase enjoyment and sightings of wildlife as the meadowlands, orchard, wetland and ponds, woodland and Other habitats become more attractive and diverse. This will be achieved with a new raised bed in The Butterfly Garden, the new interpretation board, volunteers planting trees to give blossom for nectar in the Spring, berries in the Autumn for wildlife and community food and attractive leaf colours Access and enjoyment will also be increased through our volunteer-led work parties with marginalised people; from the school nearby for neurologically impaired children and young adults called Young Epilepsy. Also, from a local Mental Health Group of adults facing rehabilitation into society after hospitalisation following abuse and exclusion. After the pandemic we can recommence our educational visits for schoolchildren. Our local Lingfield primary school, opposite The Reserves, has 20% children with some disability or who are marginalised. This includes children coming from a permanent travellers and circus people's settlement in our area. There are only two local Nature Reserves in this part of Surrey (the other is in Woldingham) and, with this project, more visitors from the wider community can take advantage of this special place. It has good transport links to the site and two parking bays for disadvantaged use. With improved access a " Walking for Health " and a " Mums with Buggies" group can expand their numbers and increase their enjoyment

The list below is the detail of the sums applied for in our submission to the Your Fund Surrey.

SURREY "YOUR FUND" Environmental project application

March 2021

Title of project

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT BENEFITTING THE COMMUNITY WITH NEW HABITATS AND IMPROVED ACCESS AND ENJOYMENT FOR ALL

<u>Paths.....</u>	<u>£80,000</u>
<u>Kissing gates/contractor.....</u>	<u>£ 1,750</u>
<u>Benches/Tree " Blossom" circles.....</u>	<u>£ 1,900</u>
<u>Raised beds in Butterfly Garden with chalk soil filling.....</u>	<u>£2,200</u>
<u>Restoration /profiling of wildlife pond/wetland. Contractor £</u>	<u>500</u>
<u>Wildflower Interpretation board.....</u>	<u>£3,500</u>
<u>Trees near path with benches. Nectar/wildlife food.....</u>	<u>£1,1 00</u>
	<u>TOTAL £90,950</u>

6. Three years accounts and how the reserves are funded

Three years certified accounts for the reserve can be found below in Appendix C.

How the Lingfield Nature reserves are funded

This is a description of the historical funding over 27 years from start of The Reserves in 1994. We have been very successful in obtaining funding and this success continues today.

English Nature (later Natural England/Defra and now payments through the Rural Payments Agency) declared the site as a Local Nature Reserve 26 years ago due to its environmental importance and have provided us with funding since the reserves were first established.

All capital projects since 1994 have been funded by awards and grants from various bodies. There are no outstanding debts, loans or retrospective funding required.

English Nature Funding

The reserves are subject to a Natural England Countryside Stewardship Agreement and an Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship agreement.

The funding received annually is variable according to 1) payments made for giving educational access visits 2) additional payments for capital projects e.g. hedgelaying, coppicing 3) Special projects e.g. creating scrapes (for water catchment) 4) planting tree copses or thickets.

Regular funding of £1600 is received annually for: the maintenance of lowland meadows (wild flower meadows); planting and maintenance of hedgerows for wildlife; maintenance of all ponds and scrapes for aquatic and amphibian life. This is now paid by the Rural Payments Agency, RPA.

Lingfield Parish Council

LPC pay a contribution Of £1500 annually towards the maintenance of disadvantaged access on the reserves. The work comprises keeping the hardstanding path system free from invading grass, maintaining the kissing gate access points and scraping mud and debris from the granite topping hard track from Vicarage Road towards the Community Orchard and around the "lollipop" track beside the allotments.

LPC pay £120 towards the insurance premium for public liability to The Zurich.

Mowing of the grass paths in Beacon Field, the Wild Flower Meadow and Community Orchard is paid for by LPC. This cost varies according to dryness/wetness of the Summer season.

The cost of any remedial work needed on boundary trees in existence before 1994 is met by LPC.

A contribution is received from LPC towards our annual cut, bale and clearing of hay from our meadows (vital in reducing soil fertility and encouraging wild flowers within the species-rich habitats).

Tandridge District Council

TDC provide a mowing grant of £700 per annum to be set against the cost of the annual hay cut, bale and clear of the meadows.

Other funding over 26 years

Over the last 26 years we have secured funding in the way of a variety of grant body donations, awards, private donations and gifts. Some of the organisations who have given the reserves donations are listed below. Many individuals have given personal donations.

• The Co-op	• Surrey Community Foundation
• Tree Council of Great Britain	• Tandridge District Council " Small Grant Scheme"
• Shell Better Britain	• Lingfield Parish Council
• British Trust of Conservation Volunteers	• Surrey Tree Warden Network
• Surrey County Council " Pride of Place"	• Lingfield Marathon Fun run
• Brogdale Fruit, Faversham, Kent.	• Local Chamber of Commerce

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Ground (for Community Orchard) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gatwick Airport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry Commission
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lottery - "Wildspace" and "Breathing Places" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Grinstead Natural History Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrey Hills Fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Council Members allowances 	

The amount of funding, grants and donations secured by the Lingfield Nature Reserves and invested in the reserves over the last 27 years is approximately £ 250,000.

7. Work undertaken in the last 5 years

Every year routine work takes place such as the cut and bale of the hay in the meadows, the cutting of selected hedges in line with our Higher Level Stewardship Agreement, the mowing of grass paths on LPC land, targeted scrub and sapling control, weeding and tidying in the butterfly garden and keeping vegetation clear of the reserve paths. These tasks have continued over the last five years.

Over 24 specific activities or projects have been undertaken by volunteers and, in some cases, contractors in the last 5 years to encourage and increase biodiversity but also to maintain good access and improve safety. A list of these projects is given in **Appendix D**.

We conservatively estimate that this significant effort in managing the reserves over the last five years equates to approximately **579 hours of volunteer time** and a further **132 hours of paid contractor time** all provided for the benefit of the community.

8. Volunteers, visitors, groups using the LNR

The contribution of volunteers in maintaining and improving the reserves at no cost to the public is enormous. The total time given by volunteers at the monthly Sunday work parties alone since the reserves were created is estimated to be 9,000 person/hours. If the calculation was extended to attending meetings, organising contractors, monitoring butterflies and other wildlife, organising events, giving talks, giving guided tours, applying for funding and grants, writing reports, carrying out emergency repairs, additional maintenance and projects etc, etc it would equate to many times this amount.

Apart from mowing the fields which is paid for by the councils, all other activities are paid for through grants and donations. These are secured through the dedication, hard work and skill of the volunteers. The cost of maintenance works to the hard paths to date alone is at least £30,000 in addition to the original capital cost, the benefit of which the community has enjoyed at no charge. The hard paths are a safe route to school used every day by many families from the North end of the village to reach Lingfield Primary School.

There are 58 contacts on our volunteer work party mailing list. We estimate about 25 form the core of people that turn up regularly for work parties (this includes all members of the committee). Over 40 people attended the National Tree Week hedge planting in 2020 (6/12/20) and over 30 for the National Tree Week tree planting this year (28/11/21). The average attendance is probably 12 to 15 volunteers at the monthly work parties.

Our recent school and youth group visits have obviously been impacted by the restrictions of the pandemic, but here are some key users over the past couple of years:

- Little Chums preschool nursery, Lingfield: regularly use the Reserves for Forest School activities (see their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/littlechumsforestschool/>).
- Lingfield Primary School: during 2018/19 there were at least 10 visits by the school for Forest School activities, including an afternoon of pond dipping and meadow sweeping on 9/7/19 at which we provided equipment and volunteers to help the children with activities. I am in contact with Wendy Tuvey at the school and hope that they will be able to resume more activities on the Reserves soon.
- Lingfield Brownies: pond dipping and meadow sweeping on 6/7/21 and a nature detectives walk on 14/9/21, both supported by Reserves volunteers.
- Lingfield Rainbows: regular annual visitors who last visited for pond dipping/meadow sweeping on 9/7/19.
- Dormansland Primary and Lingfield College have visited on an annual basis regularly in the past but this has been impacted by the pandemic for the last couple of years and staff changes at the schools. I will contact them in the new year to see if they would like to visit.
- 4th East Grinstead Beavers have approached us for a visit (still to be arranged)

We know that an assortment of local groups visit the LNR independently of us including mental health groups, art groups, metal detectorists and Young Epilepsy.

In addition to the above, we held our latest moth trapping evening with Dr Julian Clark on 10/8/21. We hosted a virtual tour for the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People. We have conducted numerous guided tours for a variety of interested people from the local MP, Claire Coutinho and BBC Radio Surrey to members of the public who have contacted us wanting to learn more about the wildlife on the reserves. In the past, we have given talks about the reserves to groups such as the East Grinstead Natural History Society and including to the councillors of Tandridge District Council. More talks are planned for the future.

We currently anticipate Warlingham School using the reserves as a volunteering opportunity for 6th form students in 2022.

9. Testimonials

The testimonials received recently in support of the Lingfield Nature Reserves can be found in Appendix E.

10. Concluding comments

The management committee of the Lingfield Nature reserves would like to renew the leases for the land the reserves occupy as they are due to expire in the next few years. TDC and LPC, the landowners, want to be satisfied that this is the best use for these assets.

There are many good arguments to justify the extension of the leases. The reserves are well used and appreciated by the people of Lingfield. They are a beautiful stretch of countryside on Lingfield's doorstep, a wonderful place to walk and exercise and to experience being close to nature. In these times of heightened appreciation of good mental health, awareness of the therapeutic affect of being in green spaces, of concern about climate change and the biodiversity extinction crisis, they are a place where addressing all these issues comes together positively. A network of hard surfaced

paths which give accessibility to all and provide a safe route to school between two extremities of the village.

The reserves are maintained by a committed and passionate group of volunteers who are dedicated to improving and enhancing the reserves for wildlife and the community. They have been leading and innovative in their management interventions with remarkable results in terms of attracting wildlife. They are a group who have consistently secured funds from a variety of sources and invested them in the reserves for the benefit of the community and at no cost to LPC or TDC.

The reserves, through the vision of the volunteers, have developed into a rich mosaic of habitats which are now home to all sorts of important wildlife, trees and wildflowers, a significant proportion of which are of conservation importance in Surrey and some are nationally rare.

With the new emphasis on the delivery of public goods aimed at halting the crisis in the environment, sources of new funding for land management are emerging such as the Environment Land Management Scheme, biodiversity net gain and private companies wishing to invest in green capital. Potentially the Lingfield Nature Reserves could apply for funding from these sources to invest in the reserves for the benefit of Lingfield. This would only be possible if investors and funders are satisfied that the reserves have a long-term future.

These are all very strong arguments for granting a lease extension for the lands which make up the Lingfield Nature Reserves.

Appendix A

Species of Nature Conservation Importance for Surrey recorded regularly on the Lingfield Nature Reserves

The following lists have been compiled using a *Surrey Wildlife Trust* document dated May 2008 and entitled *Guidance for the Selection of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) in Surrey*

The lists below are conservative. Many more species of plant of conservation interest are present but only in small numbers and are possibly not in permanent populations and, therefore, have not been listed. Similarly rare birds such as nightingale and spotted flycatcher have been recorded from time to time but have not been listed as they are not resident. We have not listed all red and amber species of bird here but the reserves are home to an impressive list of these species. For example house sparrows, starlings and song thrushes are commonly seen and lesser whitethroat are heard every year among others. Our lists are limited to those animal groups where we have the expertise to identify species and compile lists. Groups such as wasps, solitary bees, grasshoppers and crickets and dragon and damselflies are well represented on the reserves and may include species of nature conservation importance but we are unable to monitor them due to lack of expertise.

Plants

Species of plant typical of grassland of conservation interest in Surrey found on the LNR.

Anthoxanthum odoratum Sweet Vernal Grass

Briza media Quaking-grass

Cardamine pratensis Cuckooflower

Conopodium majus Pignut

Dactylorhiza fuchsii Common Spotted-orchid

Filipendula ulmaria Meadowsweet

Leucanthemum vulgare Oxeye Daisy

Lotus corniculatus Common Bird's-foot-trefoil

Oenanthe pimpinelloides Corky-fruited Water-dropwort

Phleum bertolonii Small Timothy

Phleum pratense Timothy

Rhinanthus minor Yellow-rattle

Rumex acetosa Common Sorrel

Stachys officinalis Betony

Stellaria graminea Lesser Stitchwort

Succisa pratensis Devil's-bit Scabious

Mammals

Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*)

Amphibians

The reserves host “good” if not “exceptional” populations of smooth newts and great crested newts. Frogs and toads are also present. The former breed successfully and is found all over the reserves.

Reptiles

The reserves hold what are probably “good” or “exceptional” populations of grass snakes. They are found all over the reserves. Viviparous lizard and slow worms are also present. There are various unconfirmed reports of adders from locations within a few hundred meters of the reserves.

Birds

Bird species of Conservation Concern within Surrey recorded on the LNR:

Hobby, *Falco Subbuteo*

Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*

Siskin, *Carduelis spinus*

Bird assemblages likely to be of county importance in Surrey recorded regularly on the LNR are as follows (the numbers represent weightings to reflect relative importance):

Farmland

Kestrel 2	Linnet 1
Jackdaw 1	Yellowhammer 2
Greenfinch 1	Reed bunting 1.5
Stock dove 1	Whitethroat 1
Goldfinch 1	

A score of 11 or more points is indicative of high quality habitat.

Lingfield score: 11.5

Woodland

Grey heron 2.5	Coal tit 1
Blackcap 1	Nuthatch 1
Red kite 5	Treecreeper 1
Chiffchaff 1	Green woodpecker 2
Sparrowhawk 2	Jay 1
Goldcrest 1	Great spotted woodpecker 1
Buzzard 2	Siskin 2
Hobby 4	Redpoll 3
Long-tailed tit 1	Bullfinch 1.5
Stock dove 1	

A score of 25 or more points is indicative of high quality habitat.

Lingfield score: 34

Butterflies

Butterfly species of importance within Surrey are recorded on the LNR:

Brown Hairstreak (*Thecla betulae*) Regularly recorded. Eggs found every year.

Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*) A small but seemingly thriving colony exists.

White-letter Hairstreak (*Satyrrium w-album*) Present on wych elm. Discovered recently.

Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*) Regularly recorded.

Brown Argus (*Aricia agestis*) Regularly recorded.

Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) Regularly recorded. Increased over the last 10 years.

Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) Appeared around 10 years ago. Now regularly recorded and increasing.

White Admiral (*Limenitis camilla*) A single record.

Purple Emperor (*Apatura iris*) A single record.

Silver-washed Fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*) Several sightings.

Moths

The following are the rarer **local** moth species recorded on the reserves. It includes two **nationally notable** species.

<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i> Bird-cherry Ermine	<i>Roeslerstammia erxebella</i> a small ermine moth	<i>Olindia schumacherana</i> a tortrix moth
<i>Euzophera pinguis</i> a pyralid moth	<i>Tethea</i> or Poplar Lutestring	<i>Dypterygia scabriuscula</i> Bird's Wing
<i>Ligdia adustata</i> Scorched Carpet	<i>Miltochrista miniata</i> Rosy Footman	<i>Acronicta aceris</i> Sycamore
<i>Laspeyria flexula</i> Beautiful Hook-tip	<i>Comibaena bajularia</i> Blotched Emerald	<i>Pterapherapteryx sexalata</i> Small Seraphim
<i>Hyloicus pinastri</i> Pine Hawk-moth	<i>Plagodis dolabraria</i> Scorched Wing	<i>Eilema sororcula</i> Orange Footman Notable/Nb
<i>Craniophora ligustri</i> Coronet	<i>Elaphria venustula</i> Rosy Marbled Notable/Nb	<i>Nycteola revayana</i> Oak Nycteoline
<i>Idaea trigeminata</i> Treble Brown Spot	<i>Perizoma albulata</i> Grass Rivulet	<i>Ennomos erosaria</i> September Thorn

Appendix B

Management Plan

Action	Type	Reason	Agreed	Timings	Who
Cut 30% Of hedges	Annual maintenance	NE stewardship agreement	Yes	Winter	Wickingtons
Manage scrubbing banks, Bloomers	Annual maintenance	Wildflowers	Yes	Autumn	Richard & John
Mow and bale meadows	Annual maintenance	NE stewardship agreement	Yes	September	Wickingtons
Mow paths for disabled access	Annual maintenance	Disabled access	Yes	As required	Phil Edwards
Mow paths for parish council	Annual maintenance	Lease agreement	Yes	As required	Countrywide
Mow Q&G meadow	Annual maintenance	Wildflowers	Yes	Autumn	TBA
Plant trees in Nursery	Annual maintenance	More trees/hedges/scrub	Yes	Autumn	Volunteers
Scythe and rake Cobham Hedge ditch	Annual maintenance	Wildflowers	Yes	Winter	Richard & John
Scythe and rake Cold Harbour ditch	Annual maintenance	Wildflowers	Yes	Winter	Richard & John
Scythe and rake Derek Blade ditch	Annual maintenance	Wildflowers	Yes	Winter	Richard & John
Scythe and rake ponds	Annual maintenance	Wildflowers	Yes	Winter	Richard & John
Tidy butterfly garden	Annual maintenance		Yes	As required	Volunteers
Coppicing/pollarding Coldharbour	Cyclical maintenance	Improve habitat	Yes	Winter	Roger
Lay Bloomers hedge	Cyclical maintenance	Improve habitat	Yes	Winter	Roger
Reduce scrub around original	Cyclical maintenance	Pond shading, access	Yes	Winter	Roger
Fence ponds	Project	Keep dogs out	Yes	Completed 2020	Richard & John
Hibernaculum	Project	Reptiles, amphibians	Yes	Completed 2021	Dhani
New hedge and ditch, Bloomers Field	Project	Brown hairstreak, wildflowers, birds	Yes	Completed 2020	Contractor
Planting willows	Project	Purple emperors	Yes	Winter - ongoing	Richard & John
Seed new hedge and ditch, Bloomers	Project	Devils bit, betony, insects	Yes	Nov	John
Seeding/planting in Coldharbour	Project	Improve habitat	Yes	Winter	John
Extend hazel coppice, Coldharbour	Project	Source of hazel rods	TBA	Winter - ongoing	
Mend bridge in Jenners	Project	Safety	TBA	Completed 2021	
Bracken bashing	Annual maintenance	Bracken control	No		TBA
Clear ponds of pond weed	Annual maintenance	NE stewardship agreement	No		TBA
Coppice bank behind Scout Hut	Cyclical maintenance	Good neighbour	No		
Lay hedge along Scout Hut	Cyclical maintenance	Good neighbour	No		
Avenue of trees, Jenners	Project	Wildflowers	No		TDC
Bat hibernaculum in air raid centre	Project	Bats	No		TBA
Create nettle bed	Project	Red admiral, comma, peacock etc	No		
Meadow restoration, Jenners Triangle	Project	Wildflowers	No		Contractor
Meadow restoration, Wildflower meadow	Project	Wildflowers	No		Contractor
Remove fish	Project	NE stewardship agreement	No		
Annual tidy up	Annual maintenance	Scrub control	NA	Completed in November	Countrywide
Collect wildflower seed	Annual maintenance	Spreading wildflowers	NA	TBA	Richard & John
Rake hay from flower rich areas	Annual maintenance	Spreading wildflowers	NA	TBA	
Wildflowers in Nursery	Annual maintenance	Spread wildflowers	NA	Autumn	Leahys

Appendix C

Accounts for the three years ending 31st March 2019 – 2021

2018	LINGFIELD NATURE RESERVES RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019	2019
£		£
8,453	Balance brought forward 1 April 2018	9,917
	Receipts	
2,401	Lingfield Parish Council	2117
680	Tandridge District council	700
3,259	RPA/DEFRA	1500
1,000	Wheels4U (sponsor)	0
105	Donations	45
0	Photo/calendar project	1435
3	Bank Interest	10
<u>7,448</u>		<u>5,807</u>
	Payments	
228	Insurance	234
1,358	Maintenance	984
1,197	Mowing	1,626
84	Half Hire	85
13	Trees/Plantings	0
2,756	Projects	2,008
36	Sundry Expenses	50
220	Event Expenses	462
0	Calendar printing + exps	1,170
92	Web Site	72
<u>5,984</u>		<u>6,691</u>
1,464	Net surplus (deficit) for the year	-884
<u>9,917</u>	Balance carried forward 1 April 2019	<u>9,033</u>
	Made up as follows:	
	High Interest A/C	7,420
	Current A/C	1,613
		<u>9,033</u>

The above receipts and payments account is in accordance with the books and records maintained

Peter Francis FCA

05.10.2019

Treasurer

10.10.2019

**LINGFIELD NATURE RESERVES
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

2019		2020	
£		£	£
9,917	Balance brought forward 1 April 2019		9,033
	Receipts		
2,117	Lingfield Parish Council	3,883	
700	Tandridge District council	700	
1,500	RPA/DEFRA	3463	
45	Donations	280	
1,435	Photo/calendar project	0	
10	Bank Interest	24	
<u>5,807</u>		<u>8,350</u>	
	Payments		
234	Insurance	234	
984	Maintenance	3,664	
1,626	Mowing	1,996	
85	Hall Hire	66	
0	Trees/Plantings	632	
2,008	Projects	1,737	
50	Sundry Expenses	112	
462	Event Expenses	26	
1,170	Calendar printing + exps	0	
72	Web Site	111	
<u>6,691</u>		<u>8,578</u>	
-884	Net surplus (deficit) for the year		-228
<u>9,033</u>	Balance carried forward 1 April 2020		<u>8,803</u>
	Made up as follows:		
	High Interest A/C	7,444	
	Current A/C	1,359	
		<u>8,803</u>	

The above receipts and payments account is in accordance with the books and records maintained

[Redacted Signature]

J Independent Examiner

13.10.2020

[Redacted Signature]

Treasurer

19.10.2020

**LINGFIELD NATURE RESERVES
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

2020		2021
£		£
9,033	Balance brought forward 1 April 2020	8,578
	Receipts	
3,883	Lingfield Parish Council	2,117
700	Tandridge District council	700
3,463	RPA/DEFRA	1,539
280	Donations	6,381
24	Bank Interest	4
<u>5,807</u>		<u>10,741</u>
	Payments	
234	Insurance	234
3,664	Maintenance	1,103
1,996	Mowing	2,635
66	Hall Hire	22
632	Trees/Plantings	86
1,737	Projects	2,585
112	Sundry Expenses	33
26	Event Expenses	0
111	Web Site	0
<u>8,578</u>		<u>6,698</u>
-228	Net surplus (deficit) for the year	4,043
<u><u>8,803</u></u>	Balance carried forward 1 April 2021	<u><u>12,846</u></u>
	Made up as follows:	
	High Interest A/C	7,448
	Current A/C	5,398
		<u>12,846</u>

The above receipts and payments account is in accordance with the books and records maintained

[Redacted Signature]

Independent Examiner

[Redacted Signature]

Treasurer 19/06/21

Appendix D

List of work undertaken in the last 5 years

Safety and access

- The tidying of the fallen horse chestnut in the orchard and the creation of habitat piles to encourage invertebrates and hedgehogs. Estimated volunteers hours: 8, contractor 2.
- Removal of a hanging bough in the Orchard for safety reasons. The arisings were used to create habitat piles primarily for reptiles and small mammals. Estimated contractor hours: 8.
- The bridge linking Jenners to Bloomers was reconcreted and new handrails constructed to improve safety and amenity. Estimated volunteers hours: 50.
- Three ponds were stock fenced and gated primarily to prevent excessive dog traffic but also to improve safety. The ponds have since all cleared, are now being naturally colonised by native vegetation and have attracted exceptional wildlife including little egret, great crested newts and kingfisher. Estimated volunteers hours: 4, contractor 24.
- Swales and channels were dug to drain the hard paths and reduce mud accumulation and subsequently sown with wildflowers to enhance the habitat. Estimated volunteers hours: 2, contractor 8.

Butterflies and invertebrates

- The make over of the butterfly garden by opening it up, making new paths and planting a multitude of nectar rich plants all aimed at increasing invertebrates especially butterflies. It has been a remarkable success. Estimated volunteers hours: 80, contractor 32.
- The creation of rubble and chalk beds in the butterfly and quiet gardens to allow a greater diversity of plants and to attract a wider variety of wildlife. Estimated volunteers hours: 8, contractor 8.
- Broad leaf willow thickets have been planted to attract purple emperor butterflies. Approximately 75 trees, truncheons and cuttings have been planted so far. Estimated volunteers hours: 20.
- Planting of several Dutch elm resistant elms to encourage white letter hairstreak butterflies in various parts of Bloomers Field. Estimated volunteers hours: 8.
- The planting of a border of crab apples and common pears around Coldharbour copse to attract pollinators. Estimated volunteers hours: 4.

Ponds and wetlands

- The creation of a fenced pond in the butterfly garden. It now has breeding smooth newts and is visited by frogs and grass snakes. Estimated volunteers hours: 25, contractor 8.
- The digging and fencing of a large scrape near Coldharbour gate and the sowing of the spoil with wildflowers. The resultant pond already has breeding frogs and the wildflowers attract small copper, common blue and dingy skipper butterflies. Estimated volunteers hours: 8, contractor 8.
- Creating an additional ditch and bank in Bloomers Field to retain flood water within the field and encourage wet grassland. Estimated volunteers hours: 2, contractor 8.

Hedges

- An 80 metre ditch, scrapes, bank and hedge created in Bloomers Field in 2020. The hedge was planted with hawthorn, blackthorn, alder buckthorn and spindle specifically to attract birds and brown hairstreak and brimstone butterflies. The ditches were sown with wildflowers and are now covered in betony, devils bit, corky fruited water dropwort and ox eye. Estimated volunteers hours: 80, contractor 16.
- A 40 metre flowering hedge has been planted containing trees such as Rowan, hazel, blackthorn, raspberry and common pear. Estimated volunteers hours: 30.
- Several sections of hedge have been laid by volunteers probably totalling around 100 metres in length. If undertaken by South of England Hedge Laying Society it would have cost at least £1,000. Estimated volunteers hours: 120.

Meadows

- In 2019, a 70m² meadow was created in the quiet garden. Top soil was removed, seeds sowed and plugs introduced. Despite its small size around 60 species of wild flower have been recorded in this area. Chalk was added at one end and the meadow now contains unusual calcifuge plants like field scabious, wild clary, dropwort and majoram. Estimated volunteers hours: 20, contractor 8.

Woodlands

- The coppicing and pollarding of Coldharbour Copse and the building of dead hedges with the resulting brash to increase the woodland flora and provide cover for small mammals and birds. Estimated volunteers hours: 40.
- The sowing and planting of Coldharbour Copse with wildflowers to create a woodland flora. Foxgloves, primroses, blue bells, red campion, wood anemone, wood sage, hedge bedstraw are now establishing. Estimated volunteers hours: 4.

Miscellaneous

- The building of a reptile hibernaculum behind the scout hut ponds. Grass snakes are common in this area. Estimated volunteers hours: 20.
- The purchase and hanging of a bat hibernaculum in a large oak in Jenners Field. It is believed that at least four species of bat frequent the reserves. Estimated volunteers hours: 2, contractor 2.
- The creation and maintenance of a tree and wildflower nursery in the allotment to provide additional plants for the grasslands and woodlands. Estimated volunteers hours: 20.
- The planting of various standard trees around the reserves including small leaved limes, flowering cherry and ornamental hawthorns. Estimated volunteers hours: 16, contractor 16.
- Refelting of the popular and well used field shelter roof following vandalism. Estimated volunteers hours: 8.

Total estimated volunteers hours: **579**, contractor hours 132.

Appendix E

Testimonials

1. Louise Riley
2. Richard Leader
3. Chris and Larry Edwards
4. Celia Carter
5. Topsy Rudd
6. Roger Ohlson
7. John & Anne Ball
8. Suzanne Birch
9. Sue & Ted Quelch
10. Alan Orbell
11. Mark Ridge
12. Clive Jecks
13. Ashley Neverclift

From: Louise Riley <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Testimonial
Date: 17 December 2021 at 18:45:09 GMT
To: Lingfield Nature Reserves <enquiries@lingfieldreserves.org.uk>

Hi,

I would like Lingfield nature reserve to continue as I am a keen young conservationist and I love volunteering there when I get a chance. It is also very important in educating other young people as well as others about the importance of conserving nature. It would be a shame to lose that nature reserve as there is lots of good work being done, such as tree planting and the rise in certain species. As well as volunteering on the reserve I also love walking through it with my dog, where I meet many others who love having a beautiful local space where they can bring their pets to socialise. Lingfield nature reserve holds a special place for me and I want to continue to help out and see the benefits of conservation in my local area.

Thanks,
Louise Riley

From: Richard Leader <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Testimonials
Date: 22 December 2021 at 14:04:00 GMT
To: Lingfield Nature Reserves <enquiries@lingfieldreserves.org.uk>

Dear Committee

We moved to Lingfield 15 years ago with our baby daughter, unaware of the nature reserve. We walk through the reserve and Jenner's Field on the way from our house to the village - and what a delight it was to discover for the first time!

Over the years, our children have joined in the pond dipping to discover newts and fish and invertebrates - it's something they look back on fondly and I see as important for their education and development. We have all marvelled at the changing views over the seasons, been excited to see wild animals (including the albino squirrel!) and loved seeing the wild orchids.

We've eaten the blackberries and the occasional damson and, over lockdown in particular, been so grateful for the space.

The reserve is essential for the village - I'm very thankful for the committee and volunteers for keeping it so well and to the council for allowing it to continue long into the future.

Best Regards
Richard Leader
Lingfield Common Road

From: "Chris& Larry" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Testimonials
Date: 22 December 2021 at 16:00:16 GMT
To: Lingfield Nature Reserves <enquiries@lingfieldreserves.org.uk>

no-one has any idea how this patch of land helps us all in this time of stress also before and I am sure in the future to walk your dogs or just go for a walk to clear the mind and listen to the birds its wonderful please do not take this safe haven away from us it is so important to all of us.

Mrs C Edwards

From: Celia Carter <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Testimonials
Date: 22 December 2021 at 15:19:15 GMT
To: Lingfield Nature Reserves <enquiries@lingfieldreserves.org.uk>

Testimonial.

Hello,

I was very pleased to find a nature reserve in Lingfield and during the Covid pandemic it has been very useful as a safe place to meet outdoors with my family where there is a playground etc for my grandson and nature and walks for the adults. I was also pleased to find a dedicated team of volunteers looking after it and occasionally I have been able to help, which is great for exercise and safe outdoor socialising. My particular interest is mammals and by tracking I have recorded fox, mole, rabbit, squirrel and bank vole here as well a possible signs of other species. The Butterfly Garden is a mass of insects in summer and planting is being put in to encourage biodiversity. In view of climate change, biodiversity loss and issues of public exercise, mental health and covid safe outdoor socialising, this nature reserve is invaluable to the local community. Celia Carter.

17:30 (2
hours ago)

[REDACTED]
to me

Hi John

I am a local resident and user of the Lingfield Nature Reserves and I would like to provide a testimonial in support of them. As an environmental scientist, I am very appreciative of the efforts made by the management committee and the volunteers to maintain and develop the reserves for the benefit of both wildlife and the community.

The reserves contain a range of habitats, still under development, that reflect the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats, including lowland meadows; hedgerows; orchards and ponds, as well as species specific habitat such as a butterfly garden. Many of these habitat types are declining in the UK and are vital for supporting native wildlife. Although small, reserves of this nature offering a patchwork of connecting habitats can be valuable for providing a safe space for wildlife to overwinter and then to breed in spring and summer, and subsequently to move out and populate surrounding areas. The increased floristic diversity of the meadows and hedgerows, compared to the previous agricultural land, provide nectar and pollen for a wide range of insects, which in turn supports birds, reptiles and the wider ecosystem.

In addition to supporting wildlife, the reserves benefit our local community in a number of ways. They provide an excellent educational resource for local youth groups, for example children undertaking pond dipping and learning about aquatic life forms, with dragonfly larvae being a particular favourite. They also provide a recreational resource where we can walk or play, enjoy a bit of peace and tranquillity in the Quiet Garden, and watch the wildlife, specially the butterflies which are thriving. The community orchard provides free fresh food from a range of apple, pear, cherry and other fruit and nut trees, and we have collected windfalls to make jam. All these factors contribute to the wellness of local residents using the reserves, which is beneficial in terms of both their mental and physical health.

I feel that the Lingfield Nature Reserves are a really important asset and deserve funding to be able to carry on encouraging future generations to care for the natural world and the benefits it brings us all.

Regards

Dr Thomasine Rudd

Ex FCIWEM, MIEMA, Registered Principal EIA Practitioner

From: "Roger Ohlson" [REDACTED] >
Subject: testimonial
Date: 28 December 2021 at 11:16:11 GMT
To: "Lingfield Nature Reserves" <enquiries@lingfieldreserves.org.uk>

I have worked in the wildlife area almost since it was formed, being part of a group clearing ditches being our first job.

I have since attended many work parties planting trees and new hedges and over the years have maintained some of the corpse areas and have laid several hundred meters of hedge, some of which I planted many years ago.

Even when I am not working in the fields I regularly enjoy just walking through them, looking out to see what nature I can see. When we had a dog a few years ago it was nice to take her for a walk and meet other people in the fields and enjoy the social side as well as the exercise.

It's so nice to have a wildlife area so close to my home and I am sure that apart from the physical exercise I get, it also helps the mental side as well, and as a bonus get some bits of fruit from the orchard.

It would be a great shame and a huge loss to the whole community if the area was closed as so many people use it for a huge variety of things, and the potential loss of all the wildlife and plants that currently call it home.

Roger Ohlson

From: "John Ball" [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re: Testimonials
Date: 24 December 2021 at 09:30:27 GMT
To: "Lingfield Nature Reserves" <enquiries@lingfieldreserves.org.uk>

The nature reserve is a community resource for Lingfield and surrounding areas. A protected open space offering an amazing variety of habitats and open areas. My wife and I have been very happy to volunteer over the last 15 years or so, not just to look after this wonderful space, but for the community involvement generated as a result. The last 2 years or so, when we have been locked down on an off and on basis, have proved the value of the reserves for so many local people. A sanctuary for so many at a time of stress.

The reserve is appreciated by all ages, from children to dog walkers and others just enjoying the open areas. The community involvement is often apparent; witness the tree planting exercises in 2020 and 2021. The tree planting also helps with the national ambition to move towards zero carbon. The open spaces are also useful for community events such as the recent Lingfest.

John & Ann Ball

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

susiebirch [REDACTED] >

13:37 (9
hours ago)

to Japmadden1

To whom it may concern

Lingfield Nature Reserve has been a wonderful resource for both my husband and I and for our boys when they were young.

We have really enjoyed the orchard particularly the range of trees - mulberry, walnuts, medlars etc. I regularly make plum jam from the trees.

We have pond dipped and spotted great crested newts in the wildlife pond.

To have this on our doorstep and open for everybody had been amazing.

Many thanks
Suzanne Birch

[REDACTED]

From: "Sue Quelch" <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Testimonials

Date: 29 December 2021 at 15:03:51 GMT

To: "Lingfield Nature Reserves" <enquiries@lingfieldreserves.org.uk>

Here is our testimonial:

Lingfield Nature Reserve is a wonderful asset – not only for the local community but, by being only the second village-based reserve in the country it is surely also of national importance. My husband and I certainly value it as somewhere not only to observe wildlife but also a place for mental well-being.

Over the years the diversity of species has grown to include many threatened varieties such as the great crested newt and the small heath butterfly. The reserve continues to grow and expand with may future projects on track to encourage more endangered wildlife and with the ever growing band of volunteers it also brings together the whole community.

The district should be proud to have such an asset on its doorstep.

Sue and Ted Quelch

From: Aol Mail <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Testimonials

Date: 31 December 2021 at 11:22:54 GMT

To: "enquiries@lingfieldreserves.org.uk" <enquiries@lingfieldreserves.org.uk>

Reply-To: AOL Mail <[REDACTED]>

My wife and I make virtually daily use of the Lingfield Nature Reserves and we don't have a dog. The Reserves provide a vital natural space where people can walk, meet and simply enjoy the flora and fauna that make the Reserve their home. The Community Orchard is another valuable resource used by many.

The work of volunteers has done much to enhance the Reserves over recent years and it would be a tragedy for the Reserves not to be retained as such.

I hope it will remain an important part of the Lingfield community forever.

Sincerely,

Alan Orbell

CLLr Mark Ridge [via tandridge.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:via.tandridge.onmicrosoft.com)

14:33 (4
hours ago)

to me

Testimonial for Lingfield nature reserves

As a resident of Lingfield and the district councillor for the ward I live in, I would like to say what a much loved asset the reserves are to our local community and the district in general.

These reserves have matured greatly over the last 5 years, with the encouraged biodiversity creating wonderful new habitats for rarely seen species in our area, particularly our butterfly populations.

With the preservation and promotion of biodiversity being high on the agenda in every day life our reserves are a great example of what can be achieved in local communities. We have well attended work parties, which has the added benefit of educating the community and spreading the word, and with the 2021 environment act in place, which promotes biodiversity on all new developments our work is becoming ever more popular.

Lingfield residents love our reserves, and are becoming ever more proud of what we are achieving. These reserves should be protected well into the future, and I can only see that our well motivated group of volunteers will grow from strength to strength

Regards

Mark Ridge

Clive Jecks <[REDACTED]>

18:24 (28
minutes ago)

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing regarding the proposed extension of the lease for Lingfield Nature Reserve. I am a local resident, I chair the Lingfield Chamber of Commerce and am a

Parish Councillor, but my comments are personal and do not necessarily reflect the views of those bodies.

Lingfield Nature Reserve does a fantastic job for the community. They provide a peaceful area for the enjoyment of all, in an environment that allows wildlife to flourish. There are increasingly rare and interesting examples and local people are able to become more knowledgeable about nature. On any typical day, large numbers of local people benefit from the fresh air, views and individual areas such as the butterfly gardens. I fully endorse their request for an extension to their superbly managed lease.

Regards

Clive Jecks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Ashley Netherclift [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 05 January 2022 16:50
To: Anne Richards
Subject: Testimonial- Lingfield Nature Reserve

To whom it may concern

Even though I no longer live in the village I still have strong ties, being a Trustee of the Lingfield Sports Association, where I regularly coach and play cricket.

My parents lived in the heart of Lingfield behind the village pond for over 50 years. They were entwined with most organisations including the Sports Association, allotments and Church, to name a few. The Lingfield Nature reserve was always dear to their hearts, as it is to mine, where I occasionally help at work parties with my family.

I particularly like the many different trees on the reserve from the hawthorn up to the grand oaks and wellingtonia. It was for this reason that I planted on the reserve a crabapple in remembrance of my mother and an apple tree "kidds orange red" for my father.

Whether you are a child pond dipping, one of the many dog walkers or just wanting a time of quiet contemplation, the diverse nature will give you pleasure.

The Lingfield Nature reserve is a place of enjoyment for all age groups and no doubt been a haven of hope for many over the last two difficult years and will continue to be so.

Ashley Netherclift