



Staffordshire
Wildlife Trust

Marshes Hill Common

Reserve Management Plan

2026 - 2036

Marshes Hill Common is a site of biologically important heathland, designated for its plants and animals



Date written	March 2026
Date last reviewed	

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Reserve Description

Marshes Hill Common is a 5-hectare Local Nature Reserve comprising a remnant fragment of lowland heathland within the Staffordshire Moorlands landscape. Formerly heathland was much more widespread but has declined significantly because of agricultural improvement, woodland succession and development. As a result, Marshes Hill Common now represents an isolated “island” of heathland within a predominantly pastoral landscape. Despite its relatively small size, the reserve retains important ecological value and provides an accessible area of semi-natural habitat for both wildlife and people.

The reserve occupies an elevated position within the local landscape and offers extensive views across the surrounding countryside. This elevated location contributes to the sense of openness that characterises the site and adds to its recreational appeal. The Common forms a prominent local landmark and provides an opportunity for visitors to experience heathland habitat and panoramic views within a relatively small area.

The site supports a mosaic of heathland vegetation dominated by heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and gorse (*Ulex spp.*). These dwarf shrub communities are interspersed with areas of heath-grassland transition and patches of developing scrub, primarily consisting of silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and occasional oak (*Quercus robur*). In the absence of regular disturbance such as grazing or cutting, these scrub species gradually encroach onto open heathland areas. Active management is therefore required to maintain the open heathland structure and prevent succession to woodland.

The varied vegetation structure across the reserve provides a range of microhabitats that support a diversity of wildlife. The heathland vegetation offers important breeding and feeding opportunities for several bird species associated with open upland habitats. Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*) and meadow pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) are regularly recorded on the site, using the mosaic of gorse and heather for nesting and foraging. The site also supports a range of invertebrates typical of heathland environments. Butterflies such as the green hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*) can be seen during spring and early summer, while the day-flying emperor(*Saturnia pavonia*) moth is also present, typically active between late April and May. The presence of gorse and bilberry provides important food plants and shelter for these and other invertebrate species.

In addition to its ecological importance, Marshes Hill Common is a valued local green space that provides opportunities for informal recreation and nature appreciation. Public access is provided via a small car park accommodating approximately fifteen vehicles. From the car park, a circular habitat trail allows visitors to explore the reserve and experience its heathland character. The reserve also acts as a starting point for the Brown Edge Green Vale self-guided walk, a longer six-mile route that links the Common to the surrounding countryside and nearby settlements.

Visitor use of the site is generally informal and low-key, with walkers, dog walkers and birdwatchers forming the primary user groups. A public footpath runs north –south along the ridge, and another cross the side east west across the centre of the site. Benches located at viewpoints allow visitors to pause and enjoy the surrounding landscape. The combination of open heathland habitat, scenic views and accessible paths makes the reserve an important resource for local people as well as a refuge for wildlife.

Marshes Hill Common is designated as a Site of Biological Importance (SBI) in recognition of the ecological value of its heathland habitat and associated species. Heathland is now a rare habitat in the UK, with a significant proportion lost over the past century due to changes in land use. The conservation and management of remaining heathland fragments such as Marshes Hill Common play an important role in maintaining biodiversity within the wider landscape.

Management aims to maintain and enhance the heathland habitat by preventing excessive scrub encroachment, maintaining a varied age structure within gorse and heather stands, and creating small areas of bare ground that benefit invertebrates and other wildlife. Through active management, Marshes Hill Common will continue to function as both a valuable wildlife habitat and a place where people can connect with nature within the Staffordshire Moorlands.

Topography and Soils

Marshes Hill Common occupies a prominent hilltop position within the local landscape. The site forms a gently sloping plateau with open views across the surrounding countryside. The elevated nature of the reserve contributes to the exposed conditions that favour the development of heathland vegetation, particularly species adapted to relatively nutrient-poor soils.

The soils underlying the reserve are generally thin and nutrient-poor, conditions that favour dwarf shrub heath species such as heather and bilberry. These low fertility soils limit the growth of more competitive grasses and trees, helping maintain the characteristic heathland vegetation. Without management, the accumulation of organic matter and natural succession processes will allow scrub species such as birch and gorse to spread.

The open topography of the site also influences wind exposure and drainage, both of which play a role in shaping the heathland plant communities present across the reserve.

Landscape Context

Marshes Hill Common sits within a wider pastoral landscape dominated by improved grassland, farmland and scattered woodland. Within this landscape, areas of semi-natural habitat are relatively limited, making the reserve an important refuge for wildlife.

The reserve contributes to the ecological network of habitats within the Staffordshire Moorlands by providing a patch of semi-natural heathland within a largely agricultural matrix. Although relatively small, sites such as Marshes Hill Common can act as important stepping stones for species moving through the landscape, particularly invertebrates and birds associated with heathland habitats.

The elevated location of the reserve also provides a visual and landscape connection to the surrounding countryside, reinforcing its role as a locally valued natural space.

Historical Land Use

Heathland habitats such as those found at Marshes Hill Common have traditionally developed through centuries of low-intensity land use, including grazing, turf cutting and the removal of vegetation for fuel. These activities maintained the low nutrient conditions required for heathland plants to thrive.

Across much of the UK, including Staffordshire, these traditional land uses have largely ceased, leading to the gradual loss of heathland through agricultural improvement or natural succession to woodland. Marshes Hill Common represents a surviving fragment of this historic landscape.

Historically, the elevated hilltop location of Marshes Hill also made it a focal point for local gatherings and outdoor events. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the hill was known as a site where large open-air meetings were held, reflecting its prominence within the local landscape. Today the site is managed primarily for nature conservation and public enjoyment, with active habitat management replacing the traditional land uses that once maintained the heathland.

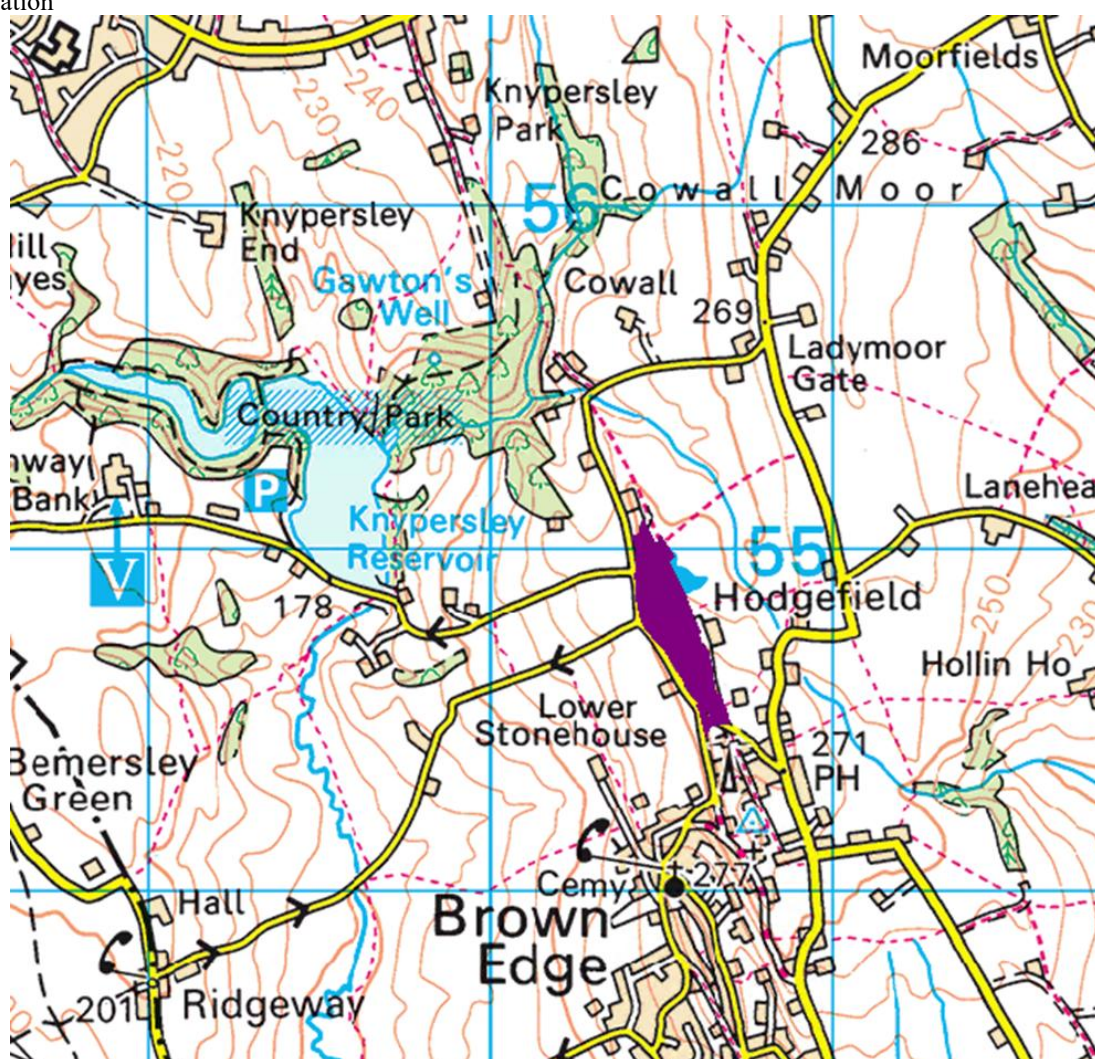
Location and Conservation Status

Reserve Information

Reserve size	6 hectares
Entrance grid reference	SJ907 544
Nearest post code	ST6 8TY

Local authority / Parish	Staffordshire Moorlands District
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Reserve location



Reserve status	Reserve
Living Landscape	

National Character Area	Potteries and Churnet Valley
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Statutory Designations

Site of Biological Importance (SBI)

Local Nature Reserve

Common Land

Public Footpath Brown Edge Number 32 (runs north - south) along the ridge and Brown Edge 33 (runs east-west)

Reserve boundary and designated sites



Non- statutory Designations
No Non-statutory Designations

Aims of the Management Plan

This plan aims to set out our vision and priorities for the nature reserve over the next 10 years. Some of the planned works are essential for wildlife, people or statutory reasons, whilst other works may be aspirational and will be delivered as the Trust's priorities and resources allow.

The objectives outlined in each section of this management plan have been allocated a number between 1 and 3, based on the criteria outlined below:

- ❶ These objectives are key planned work the Trust undertakes for wildlife, people or statutory reasons. They are the Trust's main priorities for the reserve and, where ever possible, should be achieved.
- ❷ These objectives are a priority to be completed, but will require additional funding or consent from other organisations to undertake. If funding can't be sourced, some of these objectives may not be achieved.
- ❸ These objectives aren't essential to manage the reserve for wildlife, people or statutory reasons but would complement key planned work. They will be completed as resources allow

A Place for Wildlife: Key species and habitats

The Trust's reserves should act as a first-class example of their habitat(s) and be places where wildlife can flourish. Each reserve has its own range of key species and habitats which are the main features of the reserve as a place for wildlife. The habitats and species listed below are not exhaustive but should be the priority for resources and management.

	Heathland Flora The dominant habitat at Marshes Hill Common is lowland heathland, a priority habitat that has declined significantly across the UK due to agricultural improvement, woodland succession and development. The conservation of remaining fragments such as Marshes Hill Common is therefore important for maintaining biodiversity within the wider landscape. The heathland vegetation on the reserve is primarily composed of dwarf shrub species, most notably heather and bilberry (<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>). These plants are well adapted to the nutrient-poor and often acidic soils found on the site. Patches of gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) are also present and contribute to the structural diversity of the habitat, providing areas of shelter and nesting habitat for birds as well as nectar sources for invertebrates. In addition to dwarf shrub heath, the site also contains areas of acid grassland and transitional vegetation where grasses such as wavy hair-grass (<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>) occur alongside heathland plants. These transitional zones increase the overall habitat diversity across the reserve and provide additional resources for wildlife. Scattered areas of scrub vegetation, particularly silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) and occasional oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), are present in places where natural succession has begun to occur. While some scrub can be beneficial in providing shelter and structural variation, excessive scrub encroachment can lead to the loss of open heathland. Active management of scrub is therefore necessary to maintain the characteristic heathland vegetation and prevent succession to woodland. Maintaining a mosaic of vegetation at different growth stages is an important management aim. Rotational management of gorse and selective removal of scrub will help ensure the continued presence of dwarf shrub heath species and maintain the open character of the reserve.
	Heathland Birds The open heathland and scrub mosaic at Marshes Hill Common provides habitat for several bird species associated with heathland and rough grassland environments. Species such as linnet and meadow pipit are present on the reserve and make use of the open ground and low vegetation for feeding and nesting. Stands of gorse provide particularly valuable habitat for birds. The dense, spiny structure of gorse bushes offers protection from predators while also supporting a variety of insects that provide an important food source during the breeding season. These areas can therefore support nesting birds and act as important feeding locations. Maintaining a varied vegetation structure across the reserve is essential for supporting bird populations. A mosaic of open heathland, patches of gorse and areas of transitional grassland provides suitable nesting sites, feeding opportunities and shelter for a range of bird species.

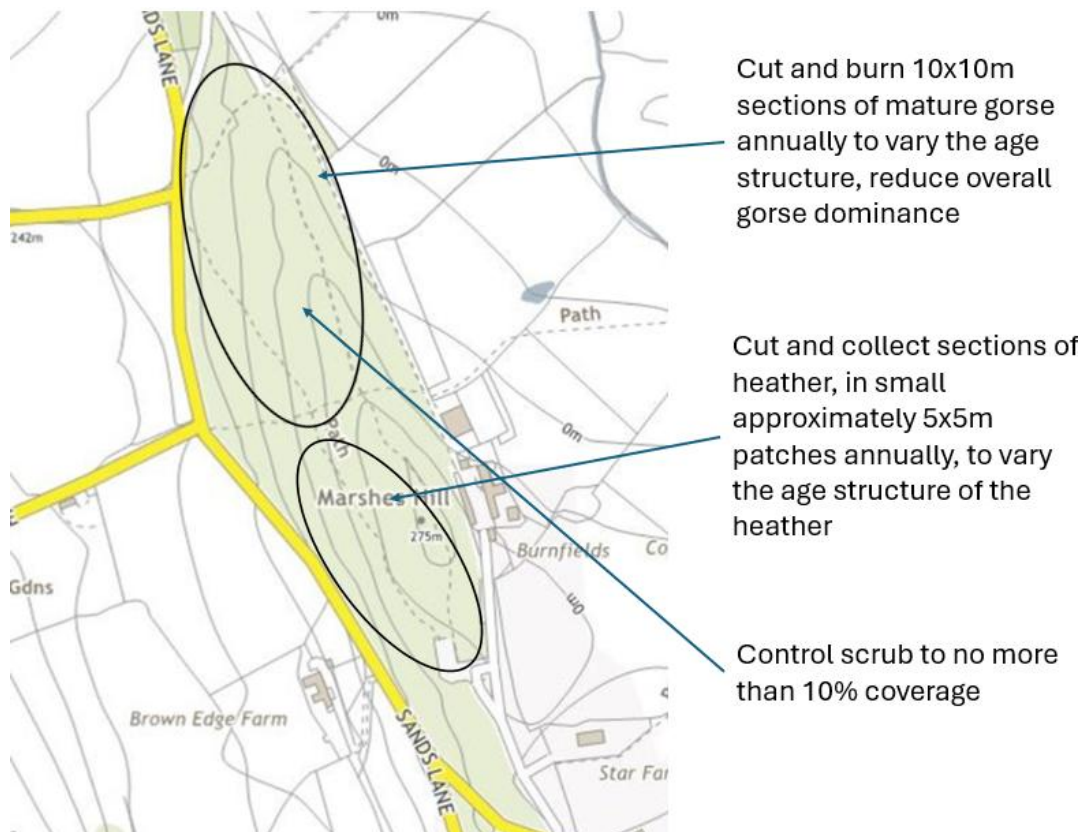
	Heathland Invertebrates Heathland habitats support a wide range of invertebrates, many of which are adapted to the warm, open conditions created by low vegetation and patches of bare ground. The combination of heather, bilberry, gorse and acid grassland present at Marshes Hill Common provides a variety of food plants and microhabitats for invertebrate species. Butterflies associated with heathland habitats may be seen on the reserve during the warmer months. The green hairstreak is one such species that can occur in heathland environments, typically emerging in spring and feeding on nectar from early flowering plants. The emperor moth, a distinctive day-flying moth species, may also occur on heathland sites and is usually active between late April and May. In addition to butterflies and moths, heathland habitats can support a range of solitary bees, beetles, moths and spiders that depend on the varied vegetation structure and warm microclimates found in open heathland environments. Small areas of exposed soil and short vegetation are particularly important for ground-nesting insects and species that require sunny conditions. The management of vegetation across the reserve plays an important role in maintaining suitable conditions for invertebrates. Activities such as rotational gorse cutting, scrub control and the creation of small patches of bare ground help maintain the structural diversity that many invertebrate species require.
	Other species of Interest In addition to the key heathland flora, birds and invertebrates associated with the reserve, Marshes Hill Common may also support a range of other wildlife species that make use of the mosaic of heathland, grassland and scattered scrub habitats. Small mammals are likely to be present within the reserve, particularly species such as field vole and wood mouse, which inhabit areas of rough grassland and dense vegetation. These species play an important ecological role as prey for birds of prey and other predators within the wider landscape. The varied structure of the heathland and scrub habitat also provides suitable foraging opportunities for bats, which may use the site to hunt insects during the evening and night. Species such as common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle, which are widespread across the UK, are likely to forage over open habitats such as heathland and rough grassland. Reptiles may also occur within suitable areas of the reserve where sunny, sheltered conditions and low vegetation provide opportunities for basking and shelter. Heathland habitats are often associated with species such as the common lizard and slow worm, both of which rely on a mosaic of vegetation structure including open ground and areas of dense cover. A variety of pollinating insects, including bees, hoverflies and wasps, may also utilise the site, taking advantage of nectar sources provided by flowering plants such as gorse and heather. These insects play an important role in supporting the wider ecosystem by contributing to pollination and providing food for other wildlife. Although Marshes Hill Common is relatively small in size, the combination of heathland, grassland and scattered scrub habitats provides a variety of ecological niches that can support a diverse range of species. Maintaining this mosaic of habitats through appropriate management will help ensure that the reserve continues to provide suitable conditions for a wide range of wildlife.

A Place for Wildlife: Objectives

Marshes Hill Common is small heathland fragment in a farmland landscape surrounded by relatively intensive grassland management. Management should maintain the quality of the site as a stepping-stone heathland habitat.

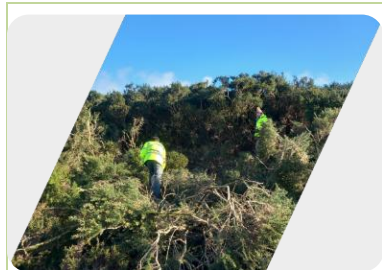
Objective 1	Heathland Flora
① Maintain current vegetation coverage ① Remove excessive areas of scrub ① In mature gorse, cut sections to create a variety of ages, providing diverse habitat and reducing gorse dominance. ① Cut and collect areas of heather to vary the age of the heather ① Ensure current extent of gorse / heather communities consider techniques to reduce gorse if it appears to be spreading ①	
Objective 2	Heathland Birds
① Create and maintain existing habitat, which provides ideal conditions for linnet and meadow pipit. I.e. a mosaic of gorse, bilberry and heather, at various stages of growth. 2 Create habitat for species such as dartford warbler(<i>Sylvia undata</i>, populations of which might exploit the habitat as climate change impact shifts populations north	
Objective 3	Heathland Invertebrates
① Create and maintain existing habitat, which provides ideal conditions for green hairstreak and emperor moths. solitary bees and wasps . I.e. a mosaic of gorse, bilberry and heather, at various stages of growth and regular disturbance to create a patchwork of bare ground of different aspects	

A Place for Wildlife: Area Objectives



A Place for People: Key Messages

Every Trust reserve has the potential to inspire people to value wildlife and habitats, and support the work of the Trust. In order to achieve this, each reserve has key messages that should form the focus of all of our work with people at the reserve.



Heathland is a Valuable Habitat but requires Management

Heathland is a man-made habitat, created around 5000 years ago, when humans began to clear forested areas for grazing. Formerly part of the agricultural economy, management such as cutting scrub and gorse for fuel and grazing maintained the heathland through nutrient removal. Today, to emulate this it is necessary to cut and collect ground vegetation, clear scrub, control gorse and periodically disturb the site creating bare ground to manage the habitat.



Heathland is rare and needs Protecting and Restoring

Around 85% of heathland has been lost over the past 150 years through agricultural development and the planting of conifers. While only 6 hectares, Marshes Hill common contributes towards the UK's heathland area which is now only a mere 15%, which makes it rarer than rainforest.

Wildfires may damage fragile heathland habitats. The public should take care not to start fires or light barbeques. Fires should be reported immediately to emergency services.

Activities such as mountain biking or horse riding should not be carried out as this will result in excessive disturbance



Scenic Views

Due to its elevated position, Marshes Hill Common offers fantastic views of the surrounding area, with many benches, a great place to sit and take in the view, or as a starting point to explore the wider landscape on foot.

Target audiences

The Trust aims to promote responsible and appropriate levels of access to all its reserves, which can include either creating new access routes or restricting access completely. The following target audiences are those which the Trust would actively promote the reserve to, or make improvements for (i.e. bird hides for birdwatchers, all-ability paths for wheelchair users etc.)

The Trust acknowledges that many other users/groups use the reserve.

Primary	Walkers, bird watchers, dog walkers
Secondary	Families
Other users	Off road cyclists and motorbikes, horse riders, neighbouring landowners accessing properties

A Place for People: Objectives

This section covers objectives aimed at improving the quality of self-led, everyday visits.

Objective 1	Maintain and improve the quality of the visit for the target audiences
	1 New welcome board on 'railway sleeper' design at entrance to reserve 1 Replace existing trail interpretation boards. 1 Clear overgrown areas paths, signs and entrance points 1 Replace infrastructure as required 3 Rebuild drystone wall along eastern boundary if funds allow purchase of stone required
Objective 2	Raise awareness, appreciation and support for the Trust and its work
	1 Install new welcome interpretation board with map, wildlife information and heathland management techniques 1 Include a membership request in at least one piece of interpretation

A Place for People: Targeted Objectives

Objective 1	Clear signage
	2 Way marked promoted pedestrian path 2 Fire awareness signs according to reserve and reserves fire prevention plan protocol 2 Ensure dog fouling signage install in appropriate areas of the reserve
Objective 2	Discourage improper use of the reserve by unauthorized vehicle access
	1 Access barrier locked and unlocked anti motorcycling 1 New Oak bollards to be installed in carpark replacing diamond railing 1 Main no maintain biking signs

A Place for People to Learn: Objectives

This section covers objectives aimed at improving the experience offered through events and activities led by Trust staff and volunteers.

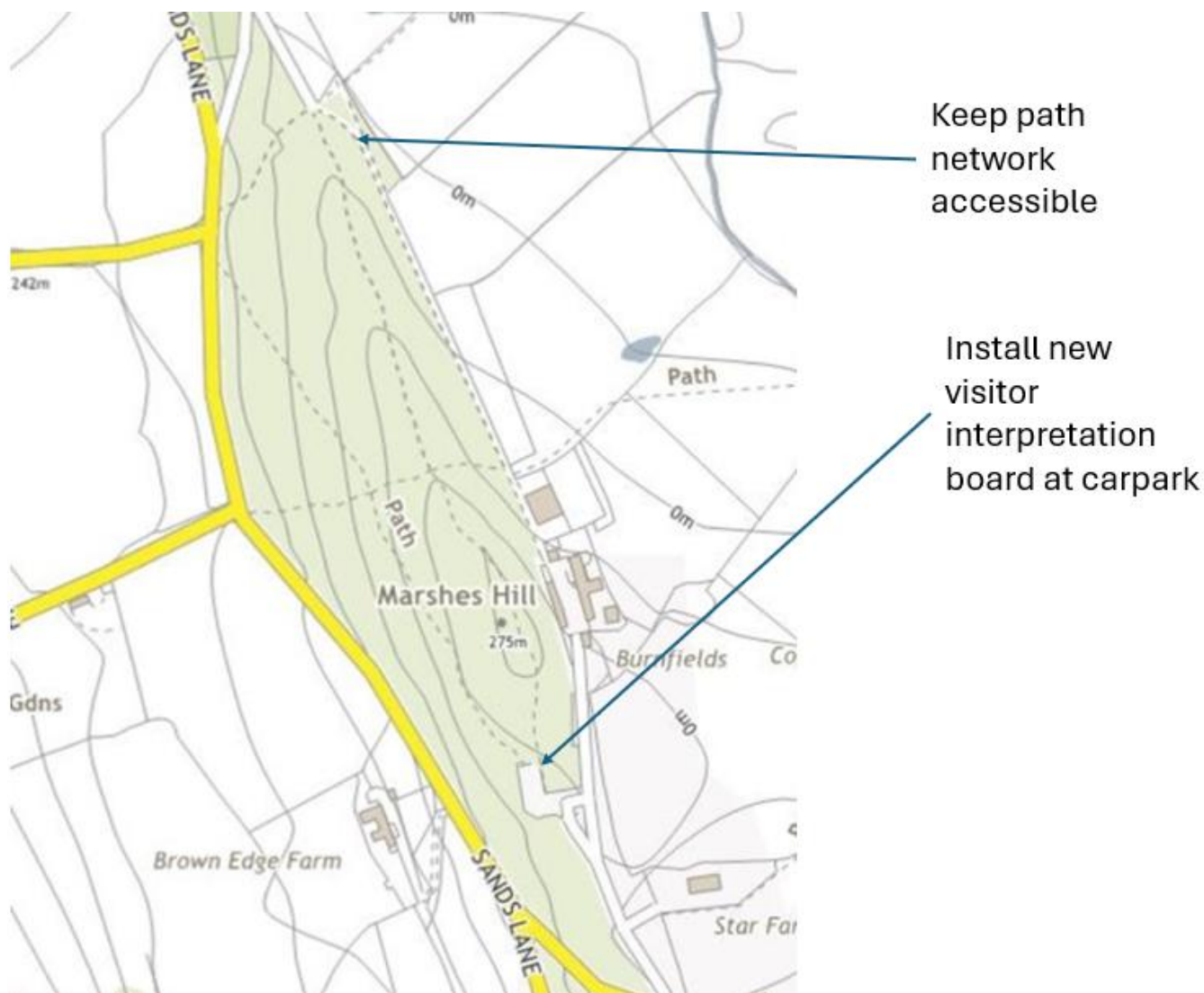
The aim is to increase the Trust's engagement with the target audiences and extend the appeal of the reserve to family visitors.

Formal education visits

Marshes Hill Common is a popular site for dog walkers and the general public, but has limited potential for the Trust to offer more structured formal education visits to schools and colleges as part of the Trust's formal education program.

No additional improvements will be made to the reserve to accommodate formal education visits, nor will the reserve be actively advertised as part of the Trust's formal education programme. Should a school, college, or other education provider seek to book a formal education visit to this reserve, the Trust will always attempt to accommodate the request when possible.

The site could be used for giving guided walks to promote the need for heathland management, protection and restoration, or as part of guided walks or events exploring the wider landscape. The Brown Edge - Green vale Staffordshire Moorlands circular walk marked on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey maps passes through the site



Planning for Climate Change

The Trust acknowledges that climate change could impact our reserves in many ways, potentially affecting the species using them and the level of management required to maintain the habitats.

Natural England has produced a Climate Change Adaptation Manual for guidance on mitigating impacts of climate change on specific habitats. The habitats and potential impacts for this reserve are outlined below. The full document can be viewed as document number NE546 at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Heathland is susceptible to fire damage in the summer months. With warmer dryer summers possible due to climate change. Fire warning signs will be installed to warn people of the dangers of open flames. The site will also be part of the Trusts wider fire plan.

Demonstrating Success

The objectives and resulting work detailed in this management plan are intended to make a positive impact on the reserve, whether they act as a place for wildlife, a place for people or both.

In order to evidence the impact of the management and ensure that the impact is positive, the Trust aims to undertake structured monitoring looking at the attributes for the objectives. The monitoring results will also help to review, and where necessary amend the current management plan period and provide evidence to inform future management of the reserve.

The main attributes and objectives are listed on the accompanying tables. From time to time, the Trust may occasionally undertake additional surveys and monitoring to help inform management.

A Place for Wildlife

The targets listed are intended to provide a realistic and achievable measure of the impact of the reserve's management. Figures, timescales and methods are taken from the existing requirements, such as the Trust's environmental stewardship agreements or best practice guidelines such as JNCC's Common Standards of Monitoring Guidance documents. Where no such reference exists, the Trust consults with experts and partner organisations.

A Place for People

The targets listed are intended to provide a realistic and achievable measure of the impact of the Trust's work with people. As little guidance exists for the best practice of monitoring work with people, the Trust's aims to focus monitoring on collecting quantifiable data that can demonstrate an impact, such as number of visits, proportion of people visiting for specific reasons or whether they would recommend a visit to the reserve to others.

The Trust will continually review and update all aspects of its monitoring work to ensure that the data obtained is able to provide an evidence base.

A Place for **Wildlife**

Attributes	Targets	Monitoring methods Consult highlighted methodologies for more details	Monitoring frequency	Priority
Objective 1: Maintain Heathland Flora				
Flora	Maintain favorable condition thresholds laid out by SBI and dry heath designations.	Vegetation survey/ mapping	5 years	High
Objective 2: Increase Heathland Bird Species Populations				
Birds	Increase populations of linnets and meadow pipets through habitat improvements Create a varied age structure within the gorse to provide food source and nesting habitat.	Bird Survey	5 years	Medium
Objective 3: Increase Heathland Invertebrate Species Populations				
Invertebrates	Maintain populations of Green Hair Streak and Emperor Moths	Moth Trapping/ visual survey	5 years	Medium
Objective 4: Scrub and Vegetation Control				
Vegetation Control	Maintain predominantly open heathland with scattered scrub not exceeding approximately 20–25% cover across the reserve.	Annual visual habitat assessment and fixed-point photography to record extent of scrub encroachment and open heathland condition.	3 years	High
Objective 5: Rotational Gorse Management				
Vegetation Control	Maintain a mosaic of gorse stands at different growth stages, ensuring no large continuous areas of mature gorse dominate the site.	Map and record gorse management compartments and monitor regrowth following rotational cutting.	3 Years	High
Objective 6: Heathland Restoration				
Monitoring	Encourage regeneration of dwarf shrub species such as heather and bilberry in areas where scrub or gorse has been removed.	Vegetation monitoring through habitat condition checks and species presence surveys.	3 Years	Medium
Objective 7: Climate and Wildfire Resilience				
Fire Prevention	Reduce wildfire risk and improve habitat resilience by maintaining varied vegetation structure and avoiding large areas of dense mature gorse.	Visual assessment of vegetation structure and condition during annual site inspections.	Annually	High

A Place for People

Attributes	Targets	Monitoring methods Consult highlighted methodologies for more details	Monitoring frequency	Priority
Objective 1: Improve the quality of the visit for the target audiences				
Recreation	Maintain the paths, car park and interpretation to a high standard to allow walkers, dog walkers, and bird watchers to enjoy the site.	Visitor survey with specific questions to gather data against monitored attributes. Respond to reports of damage	All	High
Objective 2: Raise awareness, appreciation and support for the Trust and its work				
Membership recruitment	Include QR link within at least one piece of interpretation to allow visitors to view the trusts work and decide if they want to be a member and help support.	Review data from Membership Officer for the join source and reason for joining	All	Medium
Support for work of the Trust	Interpretation includes information on the value of heathland habitat and educates on its management methods used by the trust.	Visitor survey with specific questions to gather data against monitored attributes	Every 3 years from 2015	Medium
Objective 3: Volunteer Engagement				
Recording Numbers	Establish regular volunteer involvement in reserve management, supporting habitat management tasks and monitoring activities.	Record number of volunteer sessions and participants each year.	Annually	Medium
Objective 4: Public Understanding of Heathland Management				
Education	Improve visitor awareness of heathland habitats and management through interpretation and signage.	Visitor feedback, site inspections and monitoring condition of interpretation boards.	Annually	Medium

A Place for Wildlife: Work Plan

Lead staff member may undertake task directly or delegate to other staff or volunteers: Land Management Team (LMT), Monitoring Officer (MO), Visitor Experience Team (VET), Fundraising Manager (FM), Contractors (CON), Volunteers (VOL)

Objective 1 Maintain Heathland Flora						
Management Task	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi
Create age range within the gorse and heather. Maintain dry heath flora	Coppice areas of 10x10m gorse. Cut low to the ground with flat cut to promote new growth. Remove or burn arisings	High	Nov-Feb	LMT/VOL	All	
	Mow multiple areas of heather to promote new growth. Irregular size and shape approximately 20m ² . Away from path edges to prevent development of more desire line paths. Remove cuttings.	High	Nov-Feb	LMT	All	
	Rotivate / dig small areas of bare ground at different aspects and for ground nesting bees wasps					
	Maintain bare areas through cutting	High	Nov-Feb	LMT	All	
Objective 2 Increase Heathland Bird Species Populations						
Management Task	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi
Increase viable habitat for heathland bird species	Carry out objective 1, create a range of nesting habitat and food sources for meadow pipets and linnets.	High	Nov-Feb	LMT	All	
	Reduce disturbance – manage circular promoted path route	High	Any	LMT		
	Monitor Bird Populations	High	April-June	LMT	3 Yearly	

Objective 3 Increase Heathland Invertebrate Species Populations						
Management Task	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi
Increase viable habitat for heathland invertebrate species	Carry out objective 1, create a range of habitat and food sources	High	Nov-Feb	LMT	All	
	Monitor Invertebrate Population	High	April-June	LMT	3 Yearly	
Objective 4 Scrub and Vegetation Control						
Management Task	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi
Control encroaching birch and scrub across heathland areas to maintain open habitat Remove dense scrub where it threatens heathland vegetation. Retain scattered scrub where beneficial for wildlife shelter	Selective cutting of young birch and scrub using hand tools and volunteer work parties	High	Autumn/Winter	LMT/VOL	Years 1-10	
	Monitor scrub distribution and retain suitable patches for birds and invertebrates	Medium	Ongoing	LMT	Years 1-10	
Objective 5 Rotational Gorse Management						
Management Task	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi
Implement rotational cutting of gorse stands. Cut or mulch selected gorse sections to maintain varied age structure. Maintain mosaic of young, mature and regenerating gorse	Divide gorse areas into management compartments for rotational management	High	Planning Year 1	LMT	Year 1	
	Mechanical cutting or volunteer cutting of gorse stands	High	Autumn/Winter	LMT/CON	Years 1-10 (Rotation cycle)	
	Monitor regeneration following cutting and adjust rotation as necessary	Medium	Ongoing	LMT	Years 1-10	

Objective 6 Heathland Restoration						
Management Task	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi
Encourage regeneration of dwarf shrub species following scrub clearance. Create small areas of bare ground to encourage heather regeneration. Support heathland recovery where natural regeneration is limited	Remove cut arisings where possible to prevent nutrient enrichment	High	Following Clearance	LMT/VOL	Years 1-10	
	Scarification of soil in selected areas after scrub removal	Medium	Autumn/Winter	LMT/VOL	Years 2-10	
	Trial heather brash spreading or plug planting if required	Medium	As Required	LMT/VOL	Years 3-10	

Objective 7 Climate and Wildfire Resilience						
Management Tasks	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi
Reduce wildfire risk through vegetation management. Monitor vegetation structure to reduce fire risk. Improve visitor awareness of wildfire risk.	Maintain breaks in continuous mature gorse stands through rotational cutting	High	Winter	LMT	Years 1-10	
	Annual site inspections assessing vegetation density and structure	Medium	Annually	LMT	Years 1-10	
	Install and maintain fire risk signage at site entrance and car park	Medium	Spring/Summer	LMT	Years 1-10	

A Place for People: Work Plan

Lead staff member may undertake task directly or delegate to other staff or volunteers: Land Management Team (LMT), Monitoring Officer (MO), Visitor Experience Team (VET), Fundraising Manager (FM)

For this plan, year one is taken as 2026

Code refers to project entry on CMSi to allow work recording

Task not timetabled as

work only required once funding secured

Objective 1 Maintain and improve the quality of the visit for the target audiences						
Management Tasks	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi
Maintain and improve access and facilities on the reserve for visitors	New welcome board on 'railway sleeper' design at entrance to reserve.	High	Any	LMT	1-2	
	Replace infrastructure as required	High	Any	LMT	All	
	Clear tall vegetation around way markers and furniture as required	High	May-Sep	LMT	All	
	Repair paths as required	High	Any	LMT	All	
	Maintain car park and access track	High	Any	LMT	All	
	Maintain signs to combat illegal and damaging activities	Medium	Any	LMT	All	
	Maintain vehicle access restriction barrier	Medium	Any	LMT	All	
	Fire safety awareness signs erected as per weather warnings and reserves fire safety plan	High	Any	LMT	All	
	Restore viewpoint interpretation	Medium	Any	LMT	1-5	
	Restore dry stone wall on east boundary	Low	Any	LMT	Any	
	Empty two litter bins and clear site of litter – AES contract	High	All	LMT	All	

Objective 2 Raise awareness, appreciation and support for the Trust and its work						
Management Tasks	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi
Use on site signage to help achieve objective	Install new welcome interpretation board with map, wildlife information and heathland management information	High	Any	LMT	1-2	
	Include a membership request in at least one piece of interpretation, include optional donation QR code to help raise money for management of the site	High	Any	LMT	1-2	

Objective 3	Prevent Inappropriate Use of the Reserve						
Management Tasks	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi	
Prevent unauthorised vehicle access to the reserve. Maintain car park bollards and boundary infrastructure. Monitor visitor behaviour and site use	Inspect and maintain barriers and access control points	High	Annually	LMT	Years 1-10		
	Install new oak bollards where required to prevent vehicle encroachment	Medium	As Required	LMT	Years 1-10		
	Record incidents of inappropriate use and review access management where required	Medium	Ongoing	LMT	Years 1-10		
Objective 4	Volunteer Engagement						
Management Tasks	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi	
Establish volunteer work parties to assist with reserve management. Provide training and supervision for volunteer. Monitor volunteer participation and outcomes	Organise regular volunteer work sessions focused on habitat management and site maintenance	Medium	Ongoing	LMT	Ongoing		
	Deliver basic training in tool use and heathland management techniques	Medium	As Required	LMT	Ongoing		
	Record volunteer attendance and work completed during each session	Medium	Ongoing	LMT	Ongoing		
Objective 5	Improve Public Understanding of Heathland Management						
Management Tasks	Projects	Priority	Timing	Lead	Years	CMSi	
Improve interpretation explaining heathland management. Communicate conservation work to visitors. Promote responsible access and site care.	Develop or update interpretation panels explaining habitat management and wildlife value	Medium	Years 2-5	LMT	Years 2-5		
	Provide information explaining management activities such as gorse cutting and scrub clearance	Medium	Ongoing	LMT	Years 1-10		
	Encourage responsible visitor behaviour through signage and communication	Medium	Ongoing	LMT	Years 1-10		

