

Shenstone Parish Council



**Shenstone Lammas Land and Little Holmes
Management Committee**

5 Year Management Plan

**for the
Lammas Land & Little Holmes
2024 to 2028**



Shenstone Parish Council.
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Shenstone Parish Council

Shenstone Lammas Land and Little Holmes Management Committee 5 Year Management Plan

1. Introduction to the Management Committee

1.1 Relationship with the Parish Council

Following the end of a 25 year dispute in 1998 over the ownership of the Lammas Land, the Parish Council formed the Management Committee. The purpose of the Committee was to implement the wishes of the villagers to maintain the land as a lightly managed natural area for their benefit.

Since its formation and first meeting in 1999, the documented constitution of the Committee had become outdated. Consequently, in 2023 a new Constitution was drawn up and approved by the Parish Council – see Appendix 1. The Lammas Land and Little Holmes Management Committee is an Unincorporated Association and answerable to the Parish Council, which approves, supports and funds agreed actions and activities.

1.2 Aim of the Management Committee

The aims of the Management Committee as stated in the Constitution are:-

To manage the area known as the Lammas Land and Little Holmes (an area of approximately 11.5 acres):

1. as a natural open space for the benefit of the general public;
2. to prepare and maintain a general management plan;
3. to communicate any special needs to the Parish Council;
4. to arrange for the general development and maintenance of the area.

The Lammas Land is situated between the Black Brook on the north, the Lichfield to Birmingham railway line on the west, the Millbrook housing estate on the south and the Birmingham Road on the East, but excluding the central section (10 feet back from the Black Brook), currently known as Smith's Land. The Little Holmes is a strip of land some 100 to 80m wide following the Footherly Brook north from Lynn Lane and bounded on the east by the Birmingham railway line.

1.3 The Object of the Management Plan

The Management Plan has been drawn up to comply with the aim of the Committee's constitution and provide a road map for its activities over the 5 years from 2024 to 2028 inclusive.

The Plan will provide a baseline against which the activities of the Committee can be monitored. From this starting point maintenance programmes for each distinct habitat area and land use are written. Specific projects, agreed by the Committee, are identified and implementation programmes drawn up.

The Plan should not be 'fixed in stone', but reviewed and amended on a yearly basis.

2. Brief History of Lammas Land, Little Holmes and the Management Committee

The following is largely adapted from About My Area (2007) and notes adopted by the Management Committee in 2011.

'Lammas land' is land with 'common grazing rites', which are grazing rites belonging to those commoners who had registered the rite to graze their animals on the land. The lammas rites go back to the middle ages, but only existed between, August 1st (Lammas Day) and February 1st (Candlemas), when the animals were removed to allow crops (usually hay) to be grown for harvesting in mid-summer. Then on Lammas day the animals were returned to graze off the stubble. The Shenstone Lammas Land, which was originally bounded on its northern side by the Black Brook and on the western side by the Fotherly Brook, provided very good grazing as well as wholesome drinking for the stock.

The site originally covered the area denoted Smith's Meadow, Lammas Land and Little Holmes on Fig 1, but the building of the railway in 1884, severed the land. The part, to the west of the railway (Lynne Lane end), became known as 'The Little Holmes' - a holmes being land alongside a stream. The remainder of the land, then also became known as 'The Big Holmes', being the larger of the two areas.

The path to the land from Pinfold Hill down to the Lammas Land, is the old 'drift road' which crossed private fields, now Millbrook estate. It can be seen that this has been worn away, below the level of the base of the hedges on either side, by long usage by herds of beasts moving to and fro.

After the 1939-45 war the use of the rites diminished and eventually ceased. Due to a technical problem the land was not properly registered as 'Common Land' in the early 1960's under the National Commons Registry, so its common use was lost. A dispute subsequently developed between the Parish Council and a local builder, both of whom claimed ownership of the land. A 25-year battle ensued, which was finally settled in 1998 when the parties agreed to divide the land into Smith's Meadow and the Lammas Land (Fig 1). For much of the dispute the Council's campaign to obtain the land for the future use of the villagers was led by Stephen Leopard, By the time of the settlement, Steve had passed away and the path through the site was then named Leopards Way in his honour.

In 1986, the area shown as Lower Meadow on Fig 1 came into the ownership of the Parish Council when the Millbrook Estate was constructed. Subsequently, through common usage, the Parish Council land from the Birmingham Road to the railway (eg: the Lower Meadow and Lammas Land of Fig 1) has become known as the Lammas Land (Fig 2) and will be referred to as such in the Management Plan.

In late 1998 the Parish Council held a public meeting to enable the villagers to air their views on the future of the land. The overwhelming view was to keep it much in its current state as a lightly managed natural area. To this end the Council formed the Management Committee.

At its first meeting on February 1st 1999, Jim Calder was elected Chairman and remained so until his death in 2009. He was the driving force behind the Management Committee's achievement during this time, and it was a unanimous decision to plant a copse on the Lammas Land and name the new Little Holmes footbridge in his memory.

Since that time, the Committee has endeavoured to create a number of areas with different characters. Starting at the Birmingham Road end, the first section of the Lammas Land is a lightly wooded area, passing into an open area, and then on to a narrow, winding, stream-side path. This then opens out to an open meadow, which extends up to the railway. Passing under the railway leads to the Little Holmes, an area of a wilder and overgrown nature extending to Lynne Lane opposite the railway station.

The Lammas Land was designated a Green Space in the 2015-29 Neighbourhood Plan and under the title 'Little Holmes', the whole of the Lammas Land is a Staffordshire County Council Biodiversity Alert Site.

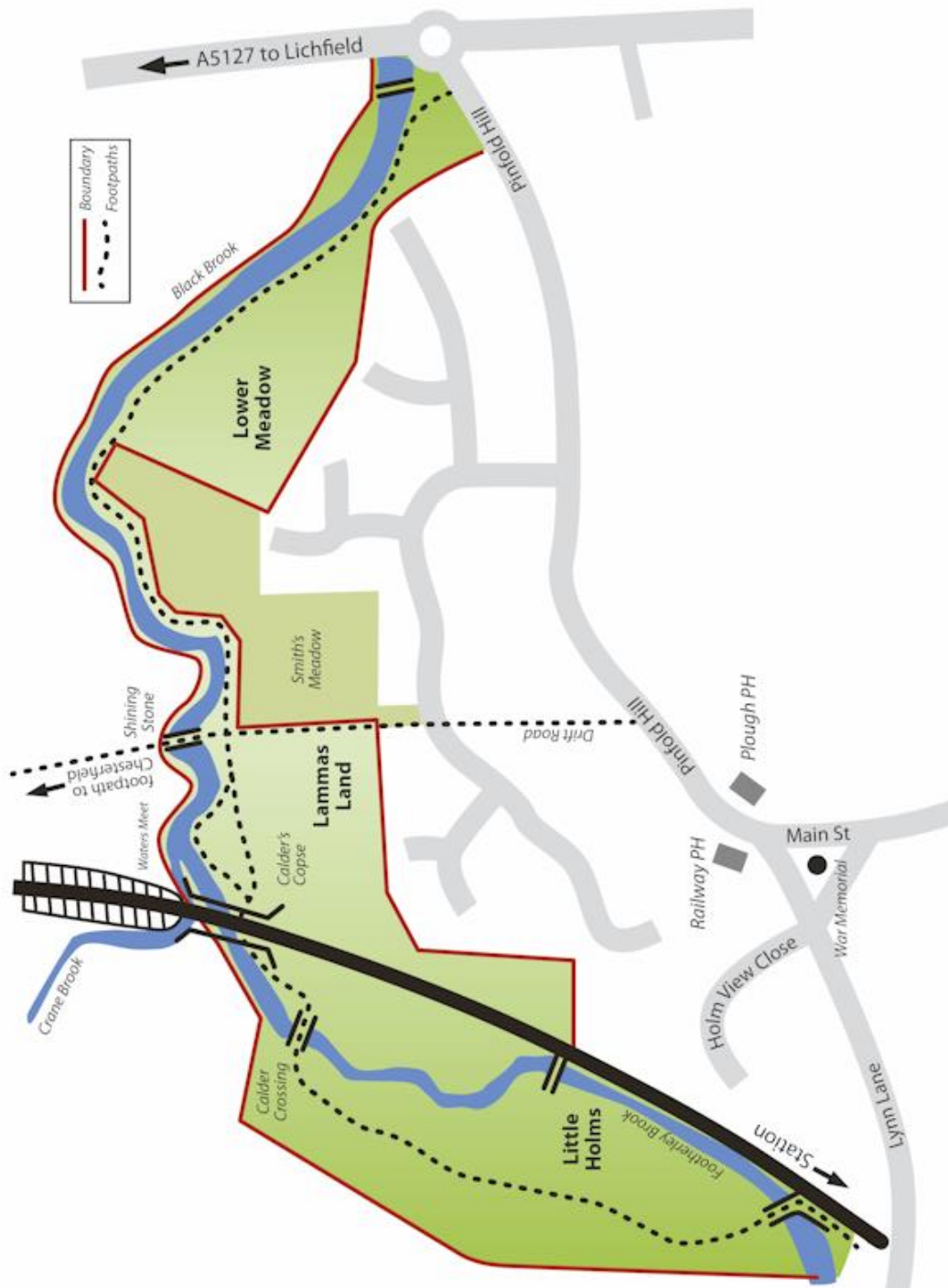


Fig 1. Plan of Common Land
 (courtesy of Gill Slassor of twothirds design)

3. The Brook

The name of the stream that runs along the northern edge of the Lammas Land appears to vary according to the source being consulted. In 1990 the National Rivers Authority (forerunner of the Environment Agency) undertook a low flows study (NRA, 1990) and called it the Black Brook, the name that will be adopted in the Management Plan. It has two tributaries, the Fotherly Brook and the Crane Brook, whose confluence is just downstream of the railway at Waters Meet (Fig 1).

The Fotherly Brook rises close to Little Aston and flows north through arable farmland, passes through Shenstone industrial estate, under Lynn Lane and enters the Little Holmes at its southerly end. It then flows north through Little Holmes, swings eastward under the railway embankment and joins the Crane Brook.

The Crane Brook rises at New Town, flows east through Hilton and meets the Burntwood Brook just south of Chesterfield. It then continues under the railway embankment, enters the Lammas Land and after some 50m joins the Fotherly Brook. The source of the Burntwood Brook is at Hammerwich, and it subsequently flows south east until its confluence with the Crane Brook.

All three of these Black Brook feeder streams receive discharges from Severn Trent Water’s wastewater treatment works (WTW), and both the Crane and Burntwood Brooks pass under the A5 and the M6 Toll Road. As a consequence of the effluent input from the three WTW, the 1990 NRA study concluded that although there can be high levels of licenced abstraction for farm irrigation during summer periods, the overall base flow is adequate. However, due to the significant proportion of flows contributed by the WTWs the quality of the brooks is not as good as might be expected.

The M6 Toll Road was completed in December 2003, and an examination of satellite imagery shows balancing ponds that feed into the Crane and the Burntwood Brooks. Although no hard evidence is available, it is almost certain that runoff from the A38 and the M6 Toll Road finds its way into these two streams and impacts both the stream quality and high flow levels that have been observed in recent years.

4. Habitat Survey and Site Plans

Drawing upon site visits, committee members’ personal experience and satellite imagery, each distinct habitat area across the Little Holmes and Lammas Land was identified and plotted on base maps: Fig 2 and Fig 3. Each area was allocated a simple code and a Phase 1 Habitat Survey classification (JNCC, 2010) together with the dominant fauna and these are catalogued in Table 1 for the Lammas Land and Table 2 for the Little Holmes.

Table 1. Lammas Land Habitat Areas (read with Fig 2)

Habitat Area Code	Phase 1 Survey Classification	Dominant Species	Notes
LT1	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	Canopy: Mixed deciduous trees Understory: grasses, himalayan balsam.	Mature plantation
LT2	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Canopy: beech, holly Understory: grasses, briars, himalayan balsam: Spring: daffodils and snowdrops	
LT3	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Canopy: birch, alder: avenue of cherry along southern side of Leopards Way at Pinfold Hill end Understory: grasses, briars, nettles, himalayan balsam.	
LT4	A1.3.2 Woodland Mixed, Plantation	Canopy: alder, silver birch, scots pine Understory: largely bare	Mature plantation

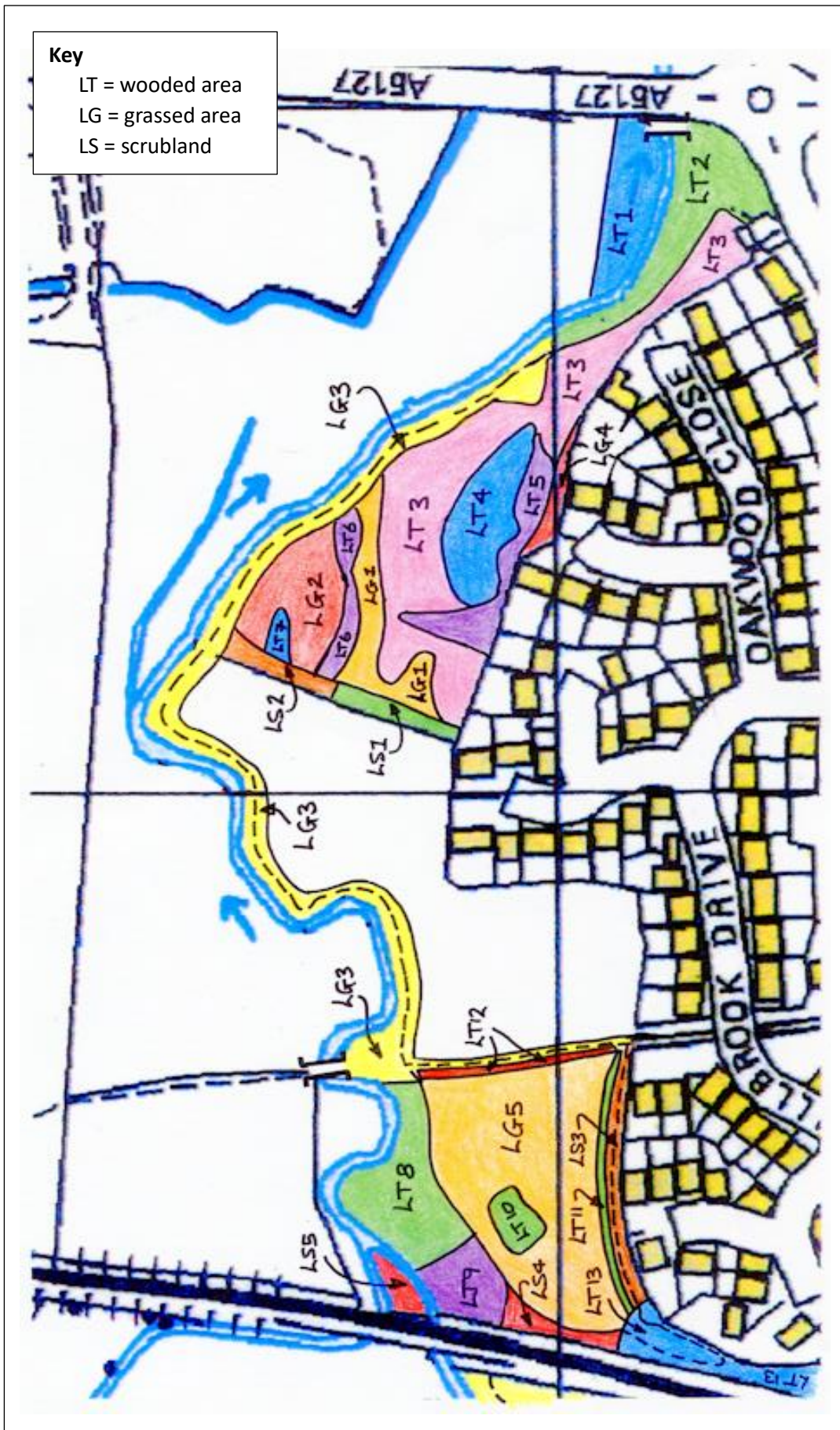


Fig 2. Lammas Land Habitat Areas

Table 1. Lammas Land Habitat Areas – cont'd (read with Fig 2)

Habitat Area Code	Phase 1 Survey Classification	Dominant Species	Notes
LT5	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	Canopy: mountain ash, blackthorn, hazel Understory: grasses, broom	Planted as whips by Greysbrooke Primary School pupils in 2023
LG4	J1.2 Amenity Grassland	Grass	Mown flood bank
LS1	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Laurel, bamboo	
LG1	J1.2 Amenity Grassland	Grass	Mown
LT6	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	Canopy: mountain ash, blackthorn, hazel Understory: grasses, broom	Planted as whips by Beavers in 2023
LG2	B2.1 Neutral Grassland Unimproved	Grasses	
LT7	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	Canopy: oak, horse chestnut Understory: grasses	Mature plantation
LS2	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Briar, grasses, himalayan balsam.	
LG3	J1.2 Amenity Grassland	Mown grass alongside Leopards Way, by benches, & approach to the Shining Stone.	Trees along banks of Black Brook: see BB1
LS3	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Bracken with some holly and mixed birch	
LS4	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Bracken	
LG5	B2.1 Neutral Grassland Unimproved	Grasses 20m strip along northern edge seeded with wild flowers.	Referred to as the Hay Meadow. Crossed by mown paths.
LT8	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Canopy: hawthorn, oak, silver birch Understory: grasses, bluebells in spring, himalayan balsam.	
LT9	A1.3.2 Woodland Mixed, Plantation	Canopy: mixed Understory: briars, grasses, himalayan balsam.	
LT10	A1.3.2 Woodland Mixed, Plantation	Canopy: mix of individual tree species Understory: grass	Calders Copse. Mown grass understory
LS5	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Grasses	Island at confluence of Fotherly and Crane Brooks
LT11	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	Canopy: mixed birch Understory: grasses	Recently planted avenue of trees along south side of LG4
LT12	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	Canopy: mixed cherry blossom trees Understory: grass	Jubilee Walk: avenue of cherry planted on eastern edge of LG4 alongside drover road in 2023.
LT13 (see also Fig 2)	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Canopy: mixed deciduous. Understory: bracken	Southern portion very wet for much of the year.

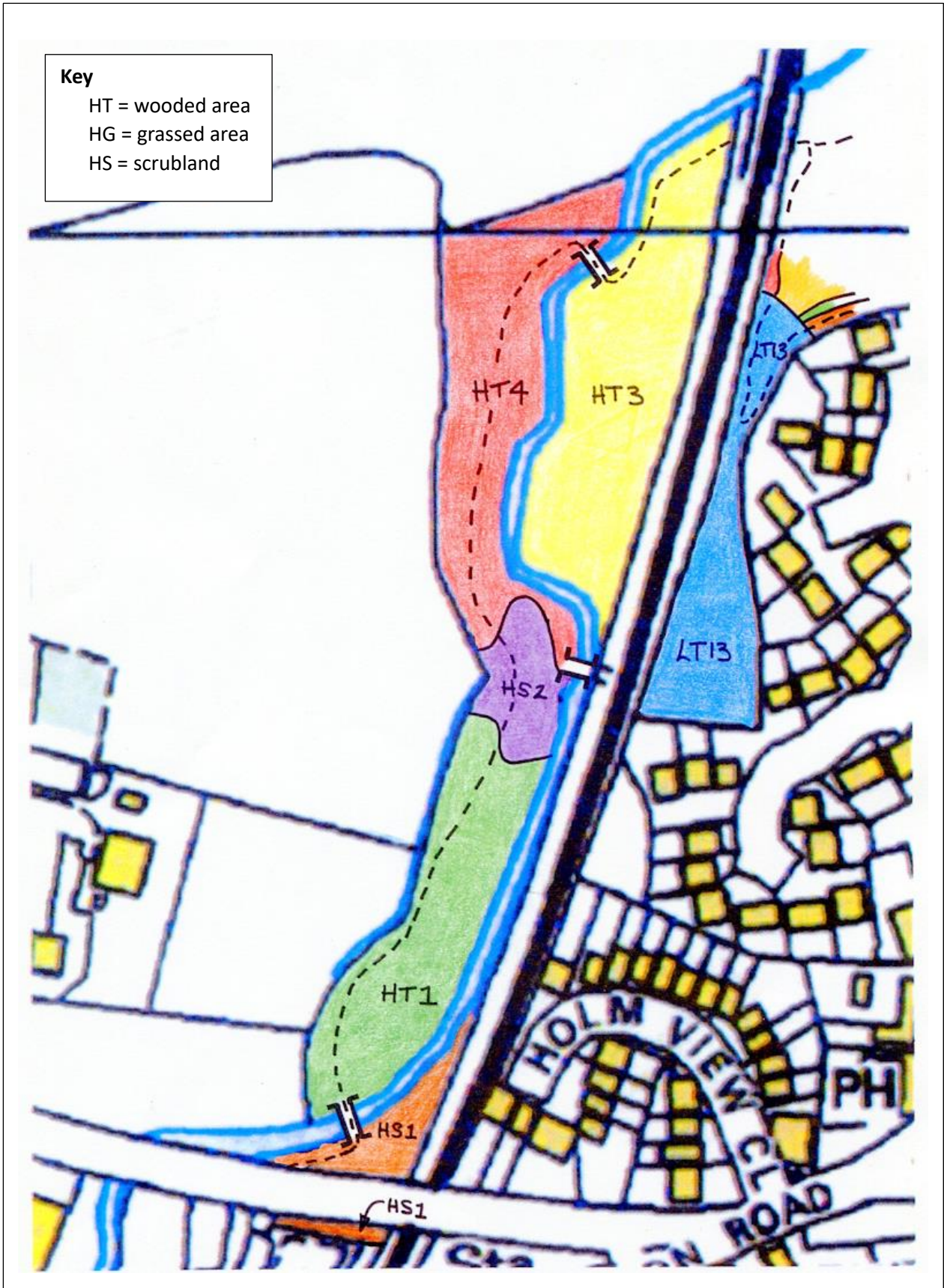


Fig 3. Little Holmes Habitat Areas

Table 2. Little Holmes Habitat Areas (read with Fig 3)

Habitat Area Code	Phase 1 Survey Classification	Dominant Species	Notes
HT1	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Canopy: birch, bird cherry Understory: grasses, nettles, himalayan balsam. Residual patches of wildflower meadow.	Southern end effectively wet woodland
HS1	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Briar, himalayan balsam.	
HS2	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Briar, grasses, rosebay willowherb, himalayan balsam. Scattering of a variety of planted trees	
HT3	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Canopy: willow, silver birch Understory: grasses, nettles, himalayan balsam. Patches of reed at northern end.	Much effectively wet woodland
HT4	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Canopy: oak, silver birch, hawthorn Understory: briar, nettles, dog rose, himalayan balsam.	

Table 3. The Brook (read with Figs 4 & 5)

Habitat Area Code	Phase 1 Survey Classification	Dominant Species	Notes
FB	G2.3 Running Water, Oligotrophic	Stream bed: white water-crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>) Banks: himalayan balsam.	Footherly Brook
CB	G2.3 Running Water, Oligotrophic	Stream bed: white water-crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>) South bank: himalayan balsam.	Crane Brook. Only south bank responsibility of Lammas Land Cttee
BB1	G2.3 Running Water, Oligotrophic	Stream bed: white water-crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>) South bank: himalayan balsam.	Black Brook from confluence to Shining Stone. Only south bank responsibility of Lammas Land Cttee
BB2	G2.3 Running Water, Oligotrophic	Stream bed: white water-crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>) South bank: scattered willow and alder; mix of mature trees and willow saplings. Himalayan balsam.	Black Brook from Shining Stone to Birmingham Road. Only south bank responsibility of Lammas Land Cttee

NB: Oligotrophic definition – water very clear; plankton sparse; pH usually less than 7; substrate rocky, sandy or peaty.

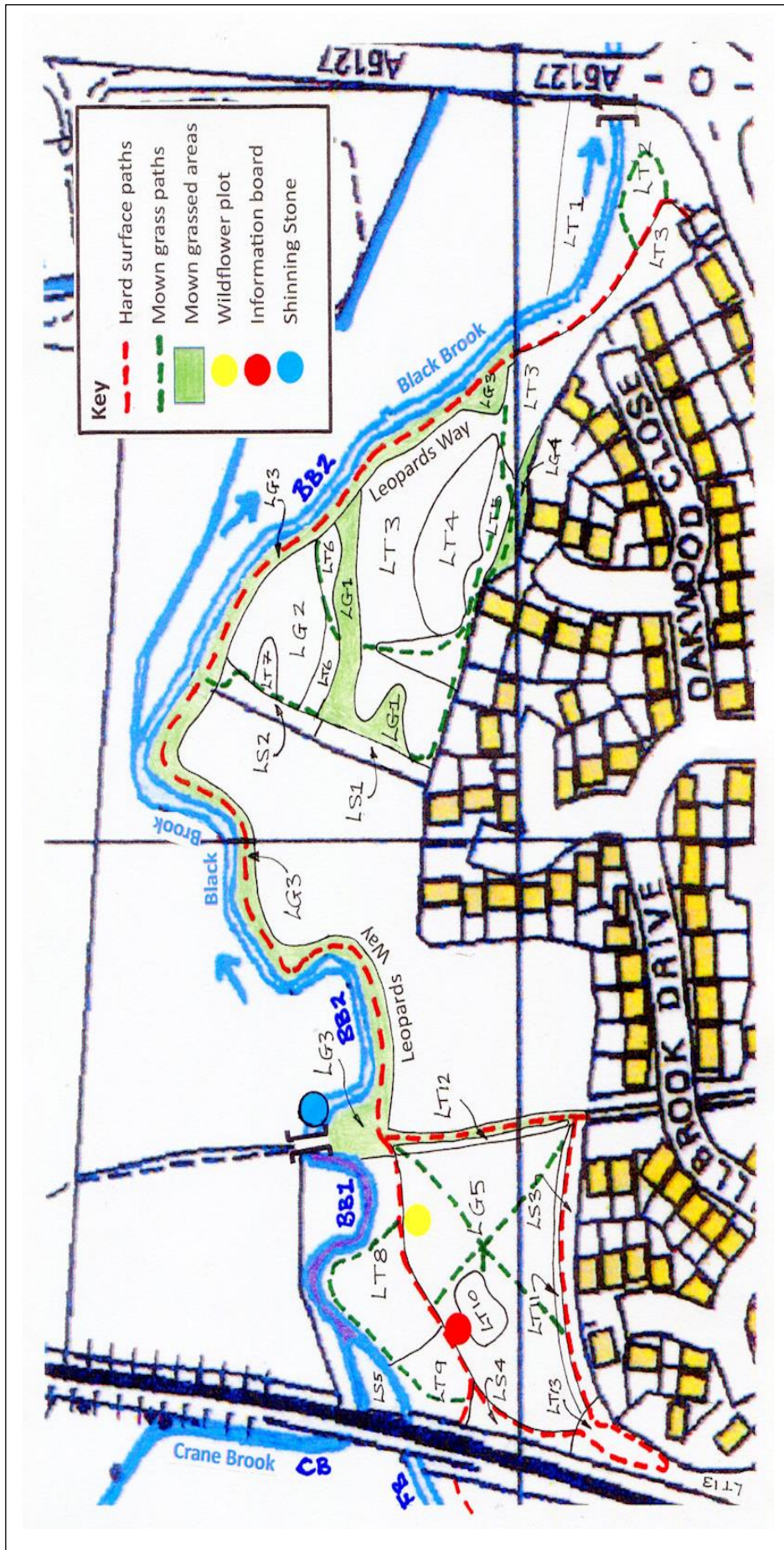


Fig 4. Lammas Land Brook, Paths & Features

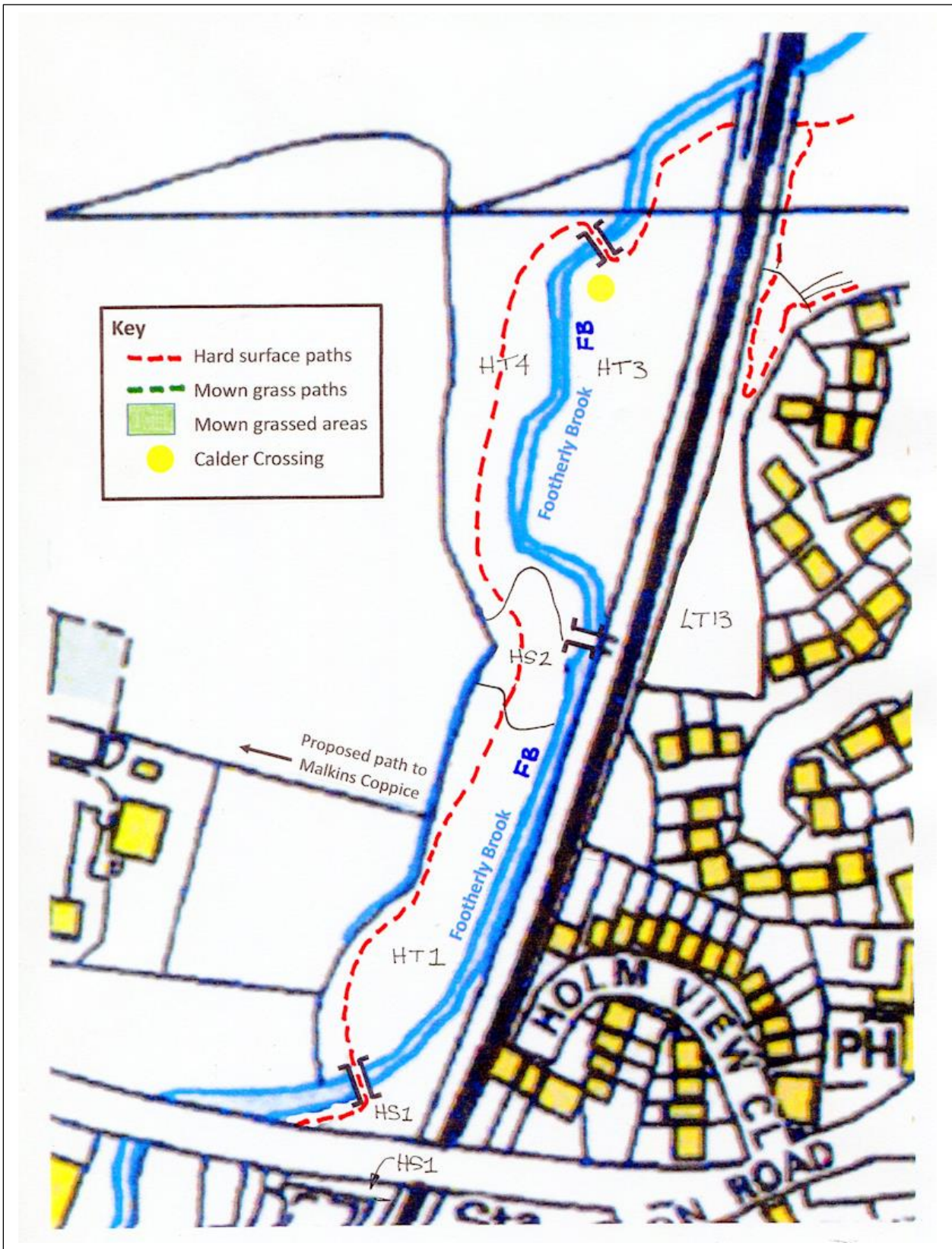


Fig 5. Little Holmes Brook, Paths & Features

5. Projects

It was agreed that with the developments and plantings that had taken place over the years since the formation of the Management Committee, no projects of any significance would be undertaken over the duration of the Management Plan to adjust any on the habitat areas or to intervene and alter the flora.

5.1 Wildflowers in The Meadow

In spring 2023 a strip approximately 1m x 20m of The Meadow (LG5 in Fig 2) adjacent to Leopards Way and East of Calders Copse was seeded with wildflowers under the supervision of the Management Committee (see Fig 4). This, the first growing season, proved relatively successful and as an experiment, further plantings of a similar nature are planned over the next three years. These will be monitored to see how they fair over time, and if the experiment proves successful a programme to seed more of The Meadow will be developed and rolled out.

5.2 Malkins Coppice

Malkins Coppice is a small area of listed ancient woodland and a Staffordshire County Council designated Site of Biological Importance which is some 200m north of Lynn Lane and approximately 600m west of Little Holmes. At the time of compiling this Management Plan, the Parish Council are in negotiation with South Staffordshire Water (SSW) for the creation of a path that links Little Holmes (see Fig 5) with Malkins Coppice and then circles around it. See Appendix 2 for the proposal and site plan, with Table 4 providing habitat details.

Table 4. Malkins Coppice Habitat Area

Habitat Area Code	Phase 1 Survey Classification	Dominant Species	Notes
MK	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Canopy: oak, birch Understory: bracken, bluebells	Site of Biological Interest. Listed on ancient woodland inventory

If the negotiations are successful and the path constructed, the Management Committee will have responsibility for:

- Fallen trees
- Minor footpath maintenance
- Cutting back as required
- Routine maintenance of gates

5.3 Educational Opportunities

The potential of the Lammas Land and Little Homes as an educational resource will be explored with appropriate community groups, including: the scouts, brownies and beavers; Greysbrooke Primary School. If deemed relevant this may lead to minor interventions in selected habitat areas.

A leaflet detailing the history, flora and fauna of the Lammas Land and Little Holmes will be compiled, published and made available through Shenstone Community Library.

5.4 Enhancement of Grassed Path

The feasibility of improving the grass path to the western end of the Lammas Land, running around the northern boundary of LT8 and LT9 adjacent to Waters Meet, the confluence of the Fotherly and Crane Brooks, (see Fig 4) will be investigated and a solution implemented if deemed viable.

6. Management Plans for Habitat Areas

When determining the proposed management for each habitat area of the Lammas Land and the Little Holmes, there was a consensus that the principle to “maintain the land as a lightly managed natural area” would be adhered to. As stated in Sect 5, no habitat adjustments or enhancements will be undertaken for the duration of the Management Plan. The focus is therefore on minimal maintenance with intervention only when and as deemed necessary, and to control the invasive species.

The consequent management plans for each habitat area are presented in Tables 5, 6 and 7.

Table 5. Management Plans for Lammas Land Habitat Areas (read with Fig 2)

Habitat Area Code	Phase 1 Survey Classification	Management Plan
LT1	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	No regular maintenance. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LT2	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Maintenance limited to strimming in March and controlling Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LT3	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Strimming of brambles every 2 years and control Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LT4	A1.3.2 Woodland Mixed, Plantation	No regular maintenance. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LT5	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	Annual strimming to facilitate growth of planted whips and clearing access path.
LG4	J1.2 Amenity Grassland	Mowing every 2 weeks when weather permits access. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LS1	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Maintenance limited to strimming in March. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LG1	J1.2 Amenity Grassland	Mowing every 2 weeks when weather permits access.
LT6	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	Annual strimming to facilitate growth of planted whips.
LG2	B2.1 Neutral Grassland Unimproved	No regular maintenance. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LT7	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	No regular maintenance. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LS2	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	No regular maintenance other than to control Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting . Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LG3	J1.2 Amenity Grassland	Mowing every 2 weeks when weather permits access and controlling Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting.
LS3	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Maintenance to control bracken when required. Intervention only when deemed necessary.

Table 5. Management Plans for Lammas Land Habitat Areas – cont’d (read with Fig 2)

Habitat Area Code	Phase 1 Survey Classification	Management Plan
LS4	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Strimmed annually March/April. Control of Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting
LG5	B2.1 Neutral Grassland Unimproved	Meadow cut annually in October. Paths mown every 2 weeks when weather permits access. Develop experimental wildflower strips over 3 years (see Sect 5.1).
LT8	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	No regular maintenance other than controlling Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LT9	A1.3.2 Woodland Mixed, Plantation	Understory mown as deemed necessary to facilitate growth of planted trees. Controlling Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting. No intervention envisaged
LT10	A1.3.2 Woodland Mixed, Plantation	Understory mown every 2 weeks when weather permits access. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LS5	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	No regular maintenance. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
LT11	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	Trees to be thinned in 2024. Otherwise no regular maintenance or intervention.
LT12	A1.1.2 Woodland Broadleaved, Plantation	Damaged cherry trees replaced and protection provided in March 2024. Maintain as deemed necessary for welfare of trees. Grass mown every 2 weeks when weather permits access.
LT13 (see also Fig 2)	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	No regular maintenance. Intervention only when deemed necessary.

Table 6. Management Plans for Little Holmes Habitat Areas (read with Fig 3)

Habitat Area Code	Phase 1 Survey Classification	Management Plan
HT1	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	No general regular maintenance except to nurture hedge alongside path at southern third of HT1 and control Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
HS1	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	No regular maintenance. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
HS2	A2.2 Scrub Scattered	Strim round trees to facilitate growth and control Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting. Otherwise minimal maintenance and intervention.
HT3	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	No regular maintenance other than controlling Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting where accessible. Intervention only when deemed necessary.
HT4	A1.1.1 Woodland Broadleaved, Semi-natural	Strim in March to keep down briars and control Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting. Otherwise minimal maintenance. Monitor land drain entrance and clear when required. Intervention only when deemed necessary.

Table 7. Management Plans for The Brook (read with Fig 4 & 5)

Habitat Area Code	Phase 1 Survey Classification	Management Plan
FB	G2.3 Running Water, Oligotrophic	No regular maintenance other than to control Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting. Intervention to clear fallen branches and debris when necessary.
CB	G2.3 Running Water, Oligotrophic	No regular maintenance. Intervention to clear fallen branches and debris when necessary.
BB1	G2.3 Running Water, Oligotrophic	No regular maintenance other than to control Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting. Intervention to clear fallen branches and debris when necessary.
BB2	G2.3 Running Water, Oligotrophic	No regular maintenance other than to control Himalayan balsam in June by strimming/cutting/uprooting. Intervention to clear fallen branches and debris when necessary, and to repair eroding banks. Replacement planting of alders when required.

Further to the above management plans for each individual habitat area, the Parish Council will undertake bi-yearly inspection of trees to ensure public safety.

Table A1 in Appendix 3 is an easy-access table which provides a calendar of the regular maintenance activities identified in Tables 5, 6 and 7.

7. Ancillary Features

Hard surface and mown paths, together with the locations of bridges and key features are shown on Figs 4 and 5.

Minor maintenance of paths and ancillary features, including gates, fences, signage and bridges will be undertaken by the Committee in accordance with its aims (see Sect 1.2), together with oversight of the Parish Council’s mowing contract. Major works, replacement, repairs etc. will be referred to the Parish Council for action as required.

The feasibility of improving the grass path adjacent to the Waters Meet will be explored – see Sect 5.4.

8. Policies

To facilitate the work of the Management Committee in maintaining the Lammas Land and Little Holmes as a “natural open space for the benefit of the general public” (see Aim in Sect 1.2), the following policies will be implemented.

Policy 1. Memorial Benches

A balanced distribution of memorial benches exists within the Lammas Land and Little Holmes, and consequently no further such benches will be allowed across the site.

Policy 2. Memorial Tree Planting

To facilitate the implementation of the Management Plan, any members of the community wishing to plant a memorial tree must consult with the Committee regarding the viability, proposed species and location of the tree together with the mode of planting. No memorial plaques will be allowed.

9. Conclusion

This document sets out a 5 year management plan for the Lammas Land and Little Holmes and allows for the incorporation of Malkins Coppice into the Committee's responsibilities, should negotiations with SSW be successful.

The Committee's responsibilities for managing the area, both regarding the ecology and the ancillary features have been set against its aims as established by Shenstone Parish Council. A habitat survey together with consideration of potential projects provide a baseline against which a management plan has been drawn up for each of the identified habitat areas within the Lammas Land and Little Holmes. Two policies to facilitate the work of the Committee have been written.

References

About My Area (2007), Shenstone Lammas Land [Online]. Available: <http://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/Staffordshire/Lichfield/WS14/News/Reviews-and-Features/34176-SHENSTONE-LAMMAS-LAND> [2024, February 8].

JNCC (2010), Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey, Joint Nature Conservation Council [Online]. Available: <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/9578d07b-e018-4c66-9c1b-47110f14df2a/Handbook-Phase1-HabitatSurvey-Revised-2016.pdf> [2023, December 6].

NRA (1990), NRA – Severn Trent Region Alleviation of Low Flows (ALF) Study: Site 4 Black Brook, Howard Humphreys & Partners Ltd.

Appendix 1 Lammas Land and Little Holmes Management Committee Constitution

1. Name

The name of the group shall be **Shenstone Lammas Land and Little Holmes Management Committee**

2. Aims

The aims of the Shenstone Lammas Land and Little Holmes Management Committee will be:

- To manage the area known as the Lammas Land and Little Holmes (an area of approximately 11.5 acres), situated between the Crane Brook on the north, the Lichfield to Birmingham railway line on the west, the Millbrook housing estate on the south and the Birmingham Road on the East, but excluding the central section (10 feet back from the Crane Brook), currently known as Smith's Land,
 1. As a natural open space for the benefit of the general public
 2. To prepare and maintain a general management plan
 3. To communicate any special needs to the Parish Council
 4. To arrange for the general development and maintenance of the area

3. Membership

Membership is open to anyone and will begin as soon as the nomination is approved by a majority of the committee members.

The officers of the committee will relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

A list of all members will be kept by the secretary.

Ceasing to be a member

Members may resign at any time in writing to the secretary.

Any offensive behaviour, including racist, sexist or inflammatory remarks, will not be permitted. Anyone behaving in an offensive way or breaking the equal opportunities policy may be asked not to attend further meetings or to resign from the group if an apology is not given or the behaviour is repeated. The individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the management committee, accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made.

4. Equal Opportunities

Shenstone Lammas Land and Little Holmes Management Committee will not discriminate on the grounds of sex, race (including colour, ethnic or national origin), sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious or political belief, pregnancy or maternity, marital status or age.

5. Officers and Committee

The business of the group will be carried out by a Committee whose officers will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will meet as necessary and not less than three times a year.

- The Committee will consist of all members, and include 2 officers and up to two Parish Council Representatives

Members may be co-opted onto the committee at the discretion of the committee, at any meeting.

The officers' roles are as follows:

- Chair, who shall chair both general and committee meetings
- Secretary, who shall be responsible for the taking of minutes and the distribution of all papers

In the event of an officer standing down during the year a replacement will be elected at the next General Meeting of members.

Any committee member not attending a meeting without apology for three months will be contacted by the committee and asked if they wish to resign.

The Committee meetings will be open to all members of the public who may speak but not vote.

6. Meetings

A record of All meetings will kept by the secretary and circulated to the committee promptly. A copy of the minutes will be sent to the Parish Clerk within 14 days of the meeting.

6.1. Annual General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held within fifteen months of the previous AGM.

All members and the public will be notified in writing at least 3 weeks before the date of the meeting, giving the venue, date and time.

Nominations for the committee and for the Chair or Secretary may be made to the Secretary before the meeting, or at the meeting.

The quorum for the AGM will be 3 members.

At the AGM:-

- The Chair will present a report of the work of the Shenstone Lammas Land and Little Holmes Management Committee
- The officers for the next year will be elected.
- Any proposals given to the Secretary at least 7 days in advance of the meeting will be discussed.

6.2 Special General Meetings

The Secretary will call a Special General Meeting at the request of the majority of the committee or at least three other members giving a written request to the Chair or Secretary stating the reason for their request.

The meeting will take place within twenty-one days of the request.

All members will be given two weeks notice of such a meeting, giving the venue, date, time and agenda, and notice may be by telephone, email or post.

The quorum for the Special General Meeting will be 3 members.

6.3 Committee Meetings

Committee meetings will be held up to 4 times a year or more often if required. Committee meetings may be called by the Chair or Secretary. Committee members must receive notice of meetings at least 7 days before the meeting.

The quorum for Committee meetings is 3 Committee members.

7. Rules of Procedure for meetings

All questions that arise at any meeting will be discussed openly and the meeting will seek to find general agreement that everyone present can agree to.

If a consensus cannot be reached a vote will be taken and a decision will be made by a simple majority of members present. If the number of votes cast on each side is equal, the chair of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote.

8. Finances

A sum of money (Currently up to £1500 - 2021), given by the Parish Council is reviewed and agreed yearly by the Parish Council Finance sub-committee and approved by the full council. The money will provide financial support for the work of the committee. This will be managed by the Parish Clerk who will provide a simple update to the secretary before all meetings. Any expenses incurred by the committee will be approved by the Chair and presented to the Parish Clerk for payment on presentation of a valid receipt. Any money not used in a financial year will be returned to the Parish Council.

Records of expenditure will be maintained by the Parish Clerk and a simple financial statement given at each meeting.

Any money raised by or donated to Shenstone Lammas Land and Little Holmes Management Committee is only to be used to further the aims of the group, as specified in item 2 of this constitution.

9. Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the constitution may only be made at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

Any proposal to amend the constitution must be given to the Secretary in writing. The proposal must then be circulated with the notice of meeting.

Any proposal to amend the constitution will require a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

10. Dissolution

If a meeting, by simple majority, decides that it is necessary to close down the group it may call a Special General Meeting to do so. The sole business of this meeting will be to dissolve the group.

This updated constitution was agreed at the AGM of the Shenstone Lammas Land and Little Holmes Management Committee on 24th April 2023.

Annex: Ownership of Land Little Holms, Lammas Land and Lower Meadow

Little Holms

The area on the left of the map identified as A:

A1 is land owned by the Parish Council having been purchased from Rail Track in 200?, Matthew Ellis , the then Chair of the Parish Council carried out the purchase on behalf of the council.

A2 is land currently leased by the Parish Council from South Staffs Water.

Lammas Land

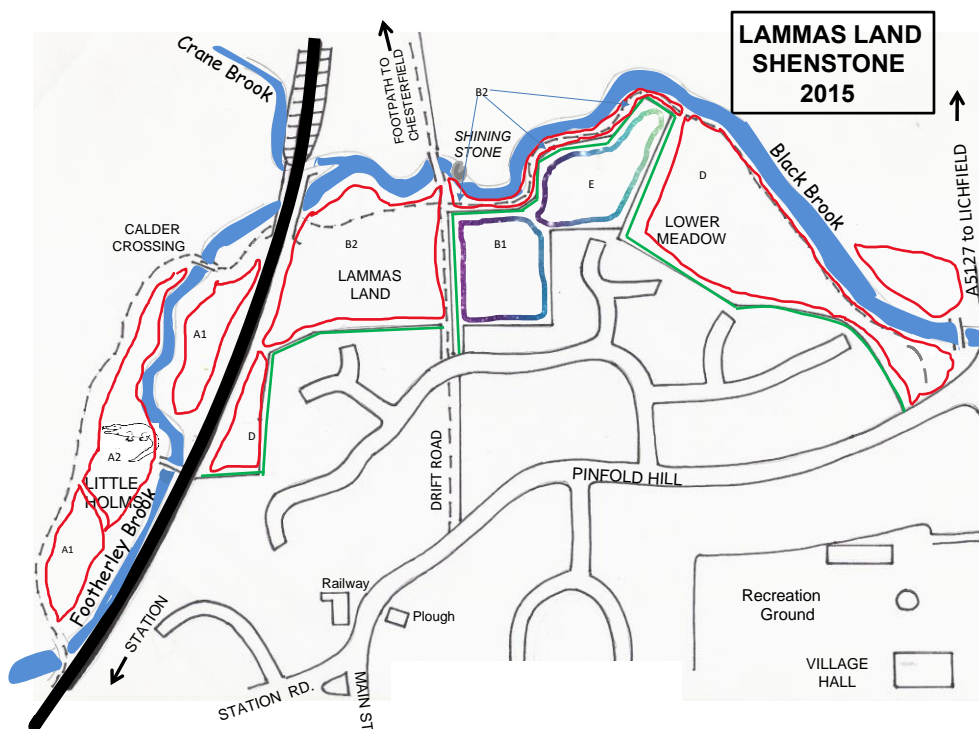
B1 and B2. Ownership of this land was contested, when law decreed that all common land should be registered (Circa 1980) with the Parish claiming that it was common land and a local builder, Mr AC Smith who resided at 31 Pinfold Hill (since demolished) claiming that the land was his. This resulted in a County Court judgement which allowed Smith legal rights to the land from January 1st until July 1st every year for the purpose of harvesting hay. From August until the end of December it was treated as common land.

This continued until 1998? When Smith and the Parish Council came to an agreement to split the land between them. This resulted in Smith becoming the owner of the parcel of land B1 and the Parish Council owners of the land B2. This included a strip of land 10' wide from the bank of the stream to the edge of the land B1 and E.

The parcel of land E is land that was already owned by the Smith. Family. The agreement also stated that the Parish Council are responsible for erecting and maintaining a fence between the two parcels of land and for installing a water trough so that livestock were able to graze without needing access to the stream.

Land Marked D

These two parcels of land, one by the railway line and the other identified as Lower meadow, came into the ownership of the Parish Council when the Millbrook estate was built in 1986? (It is believed that this may have been one of the conditions of planning permission being granted. Also, this land is prone to flooding and not suitable for building.



Appendix 2 Proposal to Create a Footpath from Lammas Land to and Around Malkins Coppice

Proposal

The area in question is ancient woodland and as such we will seek to retain its natural state. Walking through the middle will be strongly discouraged and we will make every effort to ensure that wild life and other flora remains unchanged

The footpath starts at point A (see map below) and runs to the North side of the existing hedge in a Westerly direction towards the SSW outbuildings following the edge of the field. The path turns North and then West, to avoid SSW outbuildings, to the junction with the NW corner of the Coppice (B). At B it continues to follow the edge of the field until C at which point the path turns South, breaks into the body of the copse and a path cut through existing undergrowth, taking the line of least resistance to point D. This route avoids getting close to existing gardens. At point D the path returns to the edge of the field and heads East to the existing entrance gates. At this point walkers could leave the walk returning to Lynn Land via the existing road access. Alternatively, walkers could continue on a new path created inside the boundary to return to point B and then retrace their steps back to the Lammas Land (761 meters).

There will be a gated entrance to the 'permissive' footpath across SSW land with signage to announce the path and request walkers to keep to the path. At the gated entrance to Malkins Coppice there will be an Information Board similar to existing on Lammas Land announcing area of designated ancient woodland, asking people to keep to the path to avoid disturbing wildlife and including an outline of flora and fauna etc.

Point E, the site of existing overgrown entrance to the Coppice, will be cleared and the gate made usable to provide access to the road from Lynne Lane towards the SSW cottages. This to be designated a permissive footpath and will provide an alternative exit from the walk. Significantly the crossing point at this junction (F) is much safer than the existing road crossing point from Little Holmes (Lammas Land) to the footpath over the railway bridge (G).

The footpath surface is grass or woodland. If materials are required to make a section of the path safe, woodchip or similar will be used to enable grass to grow through. Where necessary post and wire fencing will be used to secure land currently without fencing (approx. 500m).

Maintenance

Essentially light touch

Parish Council:

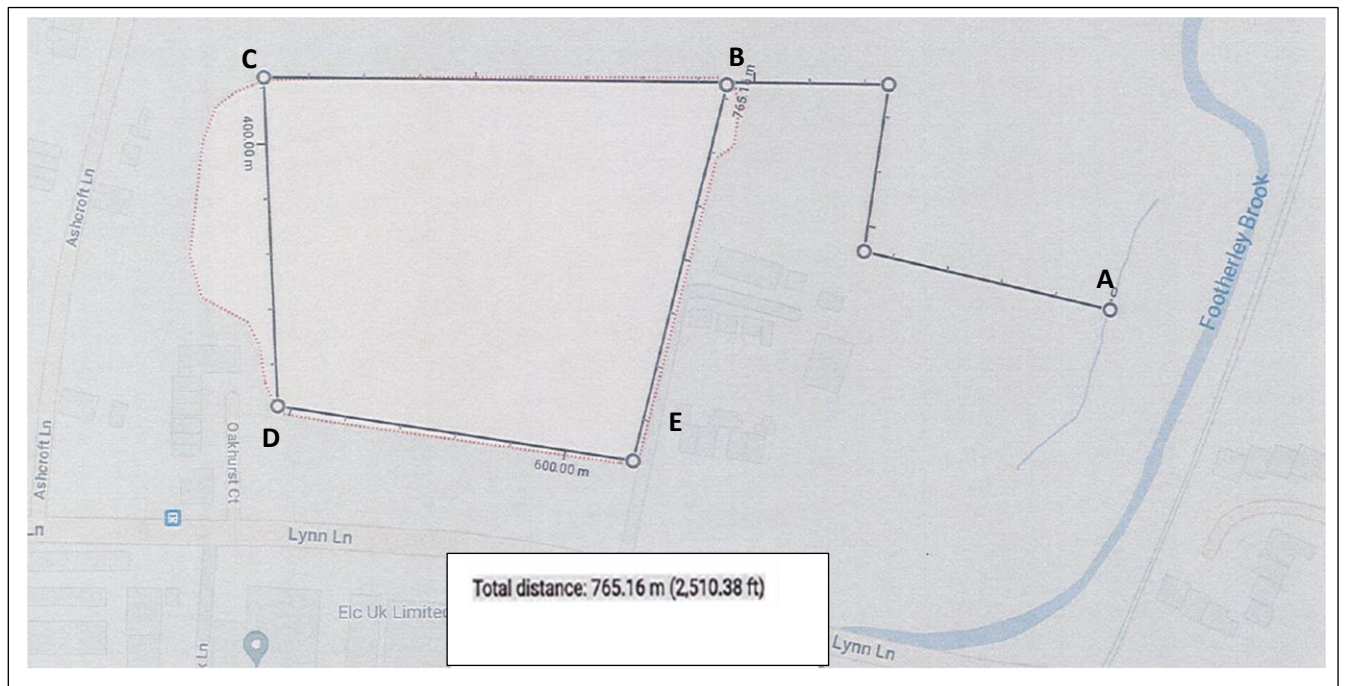
- Responsible for erection of fencing where required and maintenance of all borders thereafter.
- Responsible for gates and signage.
- Bi-yearly inspection of trees to ensure public safety.

Lammas Land Committee:

- Fallen trees.
- Minor footpath maintenance.
- Cutting back as required.
- Routine maintenance of gates.

Lichfield DC:

- Regular mowing of footpath including in existing Lammas Land mowing contract.



Appendix 3 Calendar of Regular Maintenance Activities

Tables 5, 6 and 7 in Section 6 detail the management plans for each of the Lammas Land and Little Holmes habitat areas. Table A1 below provides a summary of the maintenance requirements for those habitat areas requiring ongoing regular maintenance rather than interventions only when required. The table also includes actions necessary in the development of the experimental wildflower strips within The Meadow over the period 2023 to 2026 as set out in Section 5.1, together with the Parish Council’s biannual tree survey.

Maintenance Requirement	When	Habitat Areas
Parish Council		
Tree Survey	Bi-annual	Lammas Land and Little Holmes
Management Committee		
Strimming for bramble control	March	LT2; LS1; LS4 HT4
	Biannually	LT3
Himalayan Balsam control	June	LT2; LT3; LS2; LG3; LS4; LT8; LT9 HT1; HT2; HT3; HT4; FB; BB1; BB2;
Strimming to facilitate whip growth	Annually	LT5; LT6
Mowing when weather permits	Fortnightly	LG1; LG3; LG4; LT10; LT12 LG5 (paths only)
	October	LG5 (full meadow)
Established wildflower strips - mowing	October	Within LG5
New wildflower strips - preparation	April	Within LG5
- seeding	May	Within LG5

Table A1. Calendar of Regular Management Requirements Across the Lammas Land and Little Holmes