

Insch Meadows

Management Plan 2020 – 2024



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1 Introduction

1.1 Location

Insch Meadows is located in the centre of Insch. The area of the meadows is 1.3ha. A signpost on the High Street directs visitors to the site. The location is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – location of Insch Meadows



1.2 Designations

Insch Meadows does not have any statutory conservation designations nor is it listed on Aberdeenshire's Local Nature Conservation Sites; however, the site is locally important as a natural area of open space within Insch.

1.3 Ownership and management

Aberdeenshire Council own and manage most of Insch Meadows and manage a small adjacent part which is owned by Leith Hall. The former tennis court and curling pond are owned by Leith Hall and lie outwith Insch Meadows; this land is not owned by the Council.

A volunteer group) is actively involved in the management of the site. In 2008 members of the group obtained a lottery grant and made significant improvements to the site; these are summarised in the previous management plan. The group also organise litter clean ups and are involved in the day to day management of the site.

1.4 History of Insch Meadows

The following table gives a brief chronological history of the site.

Table 1 – Summary of the history of Insch Meadows

Year	History
Pre 1992	Limited information available on old maps. Some suggestions that the land was grazed by cows, possibly when a church glebe.
1992	In 1992 a wet hollow was excavated, trees were planted, shrubs were planted in the borders, paths were laid out and information boards installed.

1993?	The wildflower meadow was first planted (following the success of the one in Haughton Park). The meadow was cut once a year in September/October.
1994	A 5 year Insch Meadows Maintenance and Management Plan was prepared. The plan outlined a statement of intent for the area with the aim of 'Improving the overall site and encouraging greater use by the public and increasing the visual and ecological diversity of the site'.
2007/2008	In 2007 the Bennachie Community Council were awarded a grant of £8,000 by the Breathing Places programme of the National Lottery. There is an excellent report, written and illustrated by Janette Taylor, describing the work completed by the community using this grant (Taylor, 2008). Ian Mitchell also wrote a report for the Lottery. The completed projects included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildflower meadows – rank grassland sprayed, first meadow ploughed and re-seeded, wildflower plug plants planted in second meadow. • Trees – trimmed. • Wetland – pond rejuvenated, dipping platform constructed. • Bird feeding area constructed. • Bird boxes and bat boxes put up. • Covered display boards x2 installed. • Signpost on High Street put in place. • Picnic tables – x2 (re-cycled plastic) installed. • Litter cleaned up. • General tidying up. • Logo designed. • Events – open day x1 – attended by 130 people. • Events – x7 training courses run by NESBReC.
2009	ICAN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sent out a questionnaire about the meadows. Janette Taylor wrote a report. • ran two event days and a photography competition. • put in the display boards and signpost. • updating the management plan started and looking for funding but only got as far as the draft plan. • encouraged the school to work with the group.
2010	The draft management plan started for the period 2010 – 2014. "It would appear that the majority of the 1994 maintenance and management plan has been executed, aims that have not been met or remain partially complete include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting of the butterfly border (partially complete) • Spot control of dockens In fact the Council have regularly spot-sprayed the dockens, but the dockens have fought back very successfully.
2011	The Council built a children's play area in the spring. The work involved removing one of the butterfly borders along the back wall of the cemetery.

2012	Family picnic day held
2013	Family picnic day held
2014	Family picnic day held Started Facebook page
2015	Family picnic day held Path built to bird area Two new benches installed
2018	Pond topped up with pumped water during dry summer.
2019	Paths surfaced around meadows. Revised management plan 2020 to 2024 public consultation via Facebook in December. Trimmed bushes and buddleia next to children's play area.
2020	Pond vegetation scraped back, bird hide repaired, meadow one works to re-establish pollinator friendly wildflower meadow.

1.5 Structure of this management plan

This management plan has three sections:

- Managing biodiversity on Insch Meadows
- Managing Insch Meadows for people
- Managing the nature reserve of Insch Meadows

Each section contains management proposals which are also listed in the table of projects at the end of each section.

To manage a site efficiently it must be clear what each project is, when and where it will be carried out, who is leading and who will deliver the project, and how much it will cost. Therefore the project plan in Appendix 1 lists the projects and gives timing (when), who leads and delivers the projects (who) and an indication of cost (how much).

2 Managing Biodiversity on Insch Meadows

Aim – Biodiversity

To maintain and enhance the wildlife at Insch Meadows.

2.1 General description

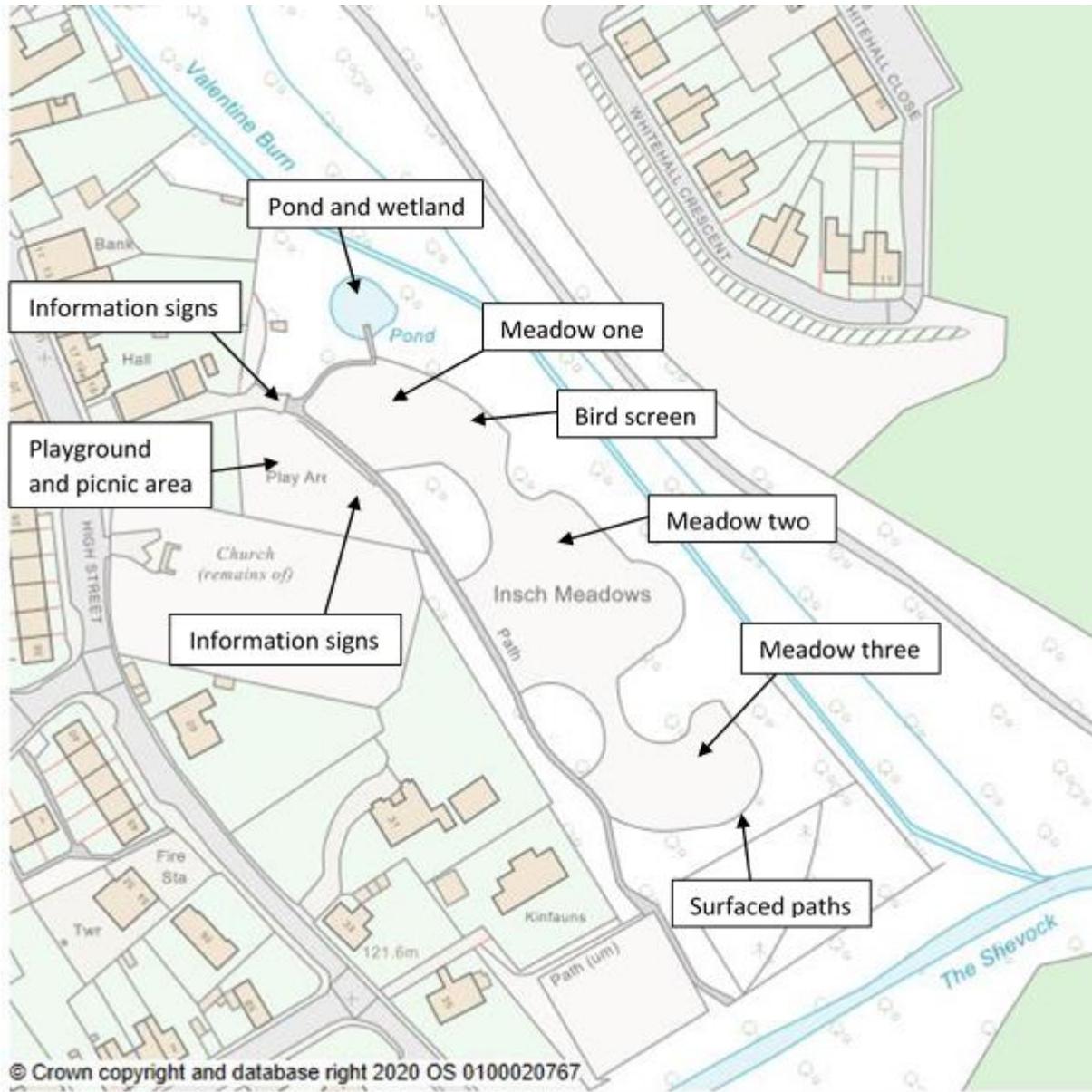
This section on biodiversity looks first at the habitats starting with grasslands including the three meadows and the amenity grassland around the picnic area. This is followed by the woodland and shrub borders, and the wetland/pond area. The final section is about species and covers the bird feeding area and invertebrates. For each habitat there is a brief description, a few words about the previous management and a few words on management proposals. The management proposals are repeated in the table at the end of chapter and included in the project plan at Appendix 1.

2.2 Habitats

2.2.1 Meadows and grassland

There are three small areas of 'meadow' – called one, two and three in this plan. Meadow one is at the northern end of the site, meadow three is at the southern end. The picnic area with amenity grassland is also discussed in this section. The locations of the meadows are shown on the map in Figure 2.

Figure 2 – location of main features at Insch Meadows



It is understood that wildflower meadows one and two were first planted about 1993 and cut once a year, they were re-planted in 2008.

Meadow One

Previous management – The current wildflower meadow was created in 2008. Local residents, using a grant from the national lottery, ploughed and seeded the ground with a wildflower mix. Later the same year they planted plug plants into the meadow too.

The Council have cut the meadow once or twice per year /pa (as weather conditions have allowed) as well as spot-sprayed the docks. However, the docks have continued to survive and this meadow now has limited botanical diversity.

Management proposals – Future management of meadow one was discussed by the volunteer group as part of the preparation of this management plan. Options considered included spraying the docks, rotavating the ground and reseeded the meadow with a new wildflower mix, which would be a mix of grasses and flowering species which attract pollinating insects (e.g. dandelion, yellow rattle and cornflower). Other options were to plough and redesign the area with areas of mown grassland and shrub beds.

The preferred option was to spray off the docks, rotavate the soil to remove roots and then reseed the meadow with a pollinator wildflower mix.



Meadow Two

This meadow contains a mix of wildflower species, including areas of meadow cranesbill, birdsfoot trefoil and rosebay willow herb. It looks attractive in the summer when the plants are in flower and attracts a range of wildlife.

Previous management – In 2008 local residents planted plug plants into this meadow but, unlike meadow one, they did not cultivate or re-seed it. They did however plant several trees in the centre of this meadow, including fruit trees like apple and plums.

The Council cut this meadow at the same time once a year in the autumn.

Management proposals – This meadow appears to be well established and whilst some people may not like to see an area of rosebay willowherb, it is a colourful plant which provides a nectar source for pollinating insects. Therefore the existing management of this meadow should be continued, with the Council continuing to cut this meadow once a year, preferably in the late summer. Removing the cuttings would help to reduce some of the nutrient loading on the site, which over time should help to increase floristic diversity.

Meadow Three

This meadow is owned by Leith Hall Estates and the ground is to be used for the benefit of Inch residents. It is not managed by the Council. In common with the other two meadows, this ground is sometimes used for outdoor learning activities by local groups.

Previous management – As far as is known, this area was not re-seeded or enhanced by planting plug plants. The Council do not cut this area.

Management proposals – This area will continue to be managed in the same way, with no cutting.

Play Park

The Council built the play park in the spring of 2011, with amenity grassland between the equipment.

Previous management – The Council (Landscape Services) maintain this grassland and mow it regularly during the growing season.

Management proposals – No change required, continue with the current management regime, i.e. the Council continues to mow this amenity grassland regularly. The play equipment is checked on a regular basis by Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services to ensure it is safe and has not been damaged.

2.2.2 Shrubs and Borders

Description – The borders have a mixture of native and non-native shrubs. Species present include hollies (*Ilex* spp.), *Viburnum bodnantense* and buddleias (also called the butterfly bush). In some places fruit trees, including apples and plums, have been planted.

Previous management – The 1994 management plan included a proposal to create a butterfly border. This project was carried out with species like buddleia planted in the borders to attract butterflies. Additional planting was carried out in 2008 as part of the lottery-funded project, at this time various bulbs were planted under the shrubs too. The species planted are named in the 2008 report by Janette Taylor.

The Council trim back shrubs overhanging the paths, but otherwise the maintenance of the shrub borders is minimal.

Management proposals – The border would benefit from additional pruning of shrubs as some of them are quite large and leggy now, particularly the Buddleia area near the playpark.

2.2.3 Wetland and pond



The pond has been cleared out on a regular basis, but due to high nutrient levels it can quickly become overwhelmed by tall emergent vegetation. The dipping platform is used by local school children. In very dry summers, the water level has been topped up with the use of a pump from the river.

Previous management – The records indicate that a wet hollow was excavated in 1992. In 2008 a local contractor dug out and re-instated the pond. The pond has no natural inflow so has to be filled when the water level gets low. In the past the local fire brigade has helped pump water from the Valentine Burn into the pond and this is now done by the volunteer group if required. For the past few years, the vegetation has been dug out on a three yearly cycle.

Management proposals – The emergent vegetation which can quickly choke the pond needs to be removed on a regular basis. Tall emergent vegetation spreads rapidly in shallow ponds like this, and clearing it on a three yearly cycle does not appear to have kept it under control. Therefore a two yearly cycle is recommended. This involves clearing half of the pond including the roots and removing any rubbish.

Early autumn is the best time to clear the pond; ideally the vegetation should be piled up by the side of the pond for a day or two (to let creatures slip back into the pond) before it is taken away off the site.

The pond doesn't have a natural inflow, so it will have to be topped up from time to time. A pump is needed to pump water from the burn. The volume of water pumped from the burn will not require a licence from SEPA (at present, a licence is required for more than 10,000litres/day) but abstraction must comply with the General Binding Rules as set out in the Controlled Activity Regulations Practical Guide (see: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/34761/car_a_practical_guide.pdf).

One option to consider for the pond would be the use of a liner, which may reduce water loss in the summer and slow down the spread of vegetation. However, this may be quite costly to install, so an initial stage would be to investigate the practicality and cost for installing a liner.

The dipping platform should be regularly inspected and repaired as necessary. The aim should be to replace the platform if it is no longer structurally sound or inspections detect the wood is rotting.

2.3 Species

2.3.1 Bird feeding station with bird feeders

The bird feeding station has bird feeders screened by a wooden blind with viewing holes cut at different heights. It was built in 2008 as part of the lottery-funded project and proved very popular with users. The bird feeders are filled with seed provided by a local company.



Management proposals – The bird feeding screen needs to be repaired and/or repainted on a regular basis. The bird feeders need to be repaired or replaced and a supplier of bird food needs to be maintained.

The bird screen should be inspected regularly, and repainting scheduled for every 3 years and partial replacement every 5 years.

The bird boxes must be checked annually and cleaned, maintained and repaired as necessary during the winter.

The volunteer group and visitors can record and keep a list of the birds seen on Inch Meadows. Records should be sent to the North East Scotland Biological Records Centre who will store the records in their database and make them available to the public. The sightings are also used to update the group's Facebook site and to update the information board on a seasonal basis.

2.3.2 Other species

The rangers and the volunteer group could encourage visitors to record the species that visit the Meadows and send their records to North East Scotland Biological Records Centre. The volunteer group could consider appointing a recorder to collate the records locally and forward them to NESBReC.

Table 2 – Projects to manage biodiversity on Inch Meadows

Project No	Habitat	Project Title	Type
Grassland management			
B1	Meadow 1	Spot spray docks, rotovate and reseed with species rich road verge mix.	New
B2	Meadows 2 and 3	Continue current management regime, with meadow 2 being cut annually and meadow 3 remaining uncut.	Existing
B3	Play Park	Council to continue existing management regime with regular mowing of grassland.	Existing

Project No	Habitat	Project Title	Type
Woodland management			
B4	Scattered trees	Check health and condition of planted trees – replace if necessary.	Existing
Shrubs and borders management			
B5	Shrub borders	Prune buddleia area adjacent to play park.	Existing
		Trim back tree and shrubs overhanging paths.	Existing
Wetland and pond management			
B6	Pond	Clear emergent vegetation from pond on a 2 year cycle.	Existing
B7	Pond	Continue to use a pump to top up the pond from the burn if required.	Existing
B8	Pond	Research the feasibility and cost of installing a liner.	New
B9	Dipping platform	Inspect dipping platform regularly (monthly) and repair and maintain dipping platform.	Existing
Species management			
B10	Bird feeding	Inspect, repair and repaint bird screen. Assume repair and repainting needed every 3 years.	Existing
		Repair or replace bird feeders annually.	Existing
		Maintain supply of bird food.	Existing
		Fill bird feeders regularly – several times a week.	Existing
		Check, clean, maintain and repair bird and bat boxes each winter.	Existing
B11	Bird species	Record birds seen in Insch meadows.	Existing
		Keep a list locally. Display on noticeboard, and highlight changes through the seasons as ‘what you can see now’. Also highlight on Facebook site.	Existing
		Send records to NESBReC.	Existing
B12	Other species	Record other species using Insch Meadows. Keep a list locally, display it on noticeboard seasonally highlighting ‘what you can see now’ and highlight on Facebook site.	Existing
		Send records to NESBReC.	Existing
B13	All species	Volunteer group to consider appointing a local person/s to collate species records on Insch Meadows.	Existing

3 Managing Insch Meadows for People

Aim – Managing for people

To encourage visitors to enjoy and appreciate the wildlife and open space at Insch Meadows safely without causing damage.

3.1 General description

The visitor facilities at Insch Meadows include a children's playground, surfaced paths, picnic benches, various signs and noticeboards, one litter bin, and one dog waste bin.

A variety of public events have been held on site including open days and training days. The site is promoted locally on the volunteer group Facebook page. The rangers use the site for educational activities.

3.2 The visitor facilities

3.2.1 Play park and picnic area

The play park area had 7 pieces of equipment installed in 2011 – one spinning wheel with climbing net, one bunch on springs, two spring-mounted swings, winding snakes, bridge structure with slide and one set of 4 swings.



There are two picnic benches made from recycled plastic, which were funded by the lottery grant. A third metal picnic bench was supplied by the Council.

Management proposals – Aberdeenshire Council will continue to maintain the play park and to check the condition of the picnic benches and they should be repaired or replaced if necessary.

3.2.2 Paths

The paths through Insch Meadows were laid out in 1992. The path along the western boundary is an all-weather surfaced path. The other path meandering through the meadows was a mown-grass path but was upgraded to a surfaced path in autumn 2019.

Management proposals – Aberdeenshire Council (Landscape Services) continue to maintain paths by filling in potholes etc.



3.2.3 Signs

There several signs on and close to Insch Meadows.

- A pole-mounted sign directs people from the High Street to Insch Meadows Wildlife Area.
- A noticeboard welcomes people onto site – this is ideally placed to welcome visitors onto the site, orientate them and provide information who to contact about the site and any problems.
- Two large covered information boards with double glass doors, one in the play park and one by the bird feeding area, display information about the wildlife on site.
- Near the tennis courts there is an older sign for Insch Wildlife Area. This sign was erected in 1992 and would benefit from cleaning / refurbishing.



Management proposals – The volunteer group should ensure information on display is current and up-to-date. Consider updating the noticeboard which welcomes visitors to the site.

Aberdeenshire Council to repair the steps to allow children to read notices posted on the high noticeboards.

The sign near the tennis courts should be cleaned and/or refurbished.

3.2.4 Litter and litter bins

There is one litter bin on Inch Meadows located in the play park. There is very little litter on site at the present time, but this can easily change so should be monitored. The volunteer group could periodically organise a community event to clean up the litter.

Management proposals – Volunteer group to continue organising events to clean up litter on Inch Meadows.

3.2.5 Dogs and dog waste bins

Many local people walk their dogs through Inch Meadows, some continue on through Drumrossie Woods. In autumn 2019 there was not a lot of dog mess evident on the site, although this can easily change over time.

The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 makes it an offence not to clean up after dogs in any public open space.

In addition the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (s3.55) says ‘in places where other people are around, particularly children, keeping your dog under close control or on a short lead will help avoid causing them concern.’

Management proposals – Inch Meadows will continue to attract dog owners wanting to exercise their dog/s. The volunteer group will need to continue to encourage people to clean up after their dog and dispose of the dog mess responsibly.

3.2.6 Health and safety

Landowners are obliged to maintain visitor facilities in a safe condition, so all the visitor infrastructure must be inspected regularly and maintained properly. The Council must have a system to record problems and ensure that any reported hazards are dealt with promptly.

Management proposals – Aberdeenshire Council’s Landscape Services team maintain a H&S inspection system for reporting and recording the condition of all visitors’ facilities. The volunteer group and all site users should report faults they spot to the Council. At all times there will be a sign on the noticeboard asking people to supervise their small children when visiting the pond. This site is close to primary and nursery schools (and has a pond with a pond dipping platform) and the law requires extra vigilance is taken for children. Everyone can help prevent accidents by timely reporting of any faults and defects they observe.

3.3 Promoting and using the site

The 2009 survey confirmed that most people using Inch Meadows are local residents; it is a resource for local people not a tourist destination. The publicity material and events need to be aimed at local residents, educational groups and other local groups.

3.3.1 Publicity material

The volunteer group publicise events at Inch Meadows in their newsletter/Facebook pages. There is no need to publicise Inch Meadows widely; local publicity is sufficient.

Management proposals – The volunteer group to continue publicising events locally.

3.3.2 Events for the public/local residents

The volunteer has organised various 'social' events on Inch Meadows such as open days. They have also organised 'training' days on various topics. In 2008, the group worked with NESBReC and held seven training events (free and funded by the lottery grant) including identification of plants, mosses, fungi, freshwater invertebrates and mammal trapping. ICAN also organises events enabling local people to actively participate in the management of the site such as picking up litter.

There is scope to hold more 'management' events to help with weeding, pruning shrubs or harvesting the wildflower meadows if there is sufficient interest and a willing organiser could be found.

Management proposals – The volunteer group to agree a programme of events for Inch Meadows each year.

3.3.3 Educational use

There is a nursery school and a primary school within walking distance of Inch Meadows. School groups have made good use of Inch Meadows in past years with a range of outdoor learning activities taking place. Usage by other children's environmental groups like Beavers, Cubs and Scout groups also takes place. The Garioch ranger is able to support school groups on request and can run events for out-of-school events in the holidays.

Management proposals – Volunteer group/rangers to maintain contact with the primary school and nursery to allow them to use the meadows for activities.

Table 3 – Projects to manage the visitor facilities of Inch Meadows

Project No	Area	Project Title	Type
Managing the visitor facilities			
P1	Play park and picnic area	Aberdeenshire Council (Landscape Services) to maintain play park and picnic area.	Existing
P2	Picnic tables	Aberdeenshire Council (Landscape Services) to maintain picnic tables.	Existing
P3	Paths – all weather paths	Aberdeenshire Council (Landscape Services) to maintain all weather paths.	Existing
		Volunteer group and rangers to report any problems with paths.	Existing
P4	Signs and noticeboards	Volunteer group to agree what information each of the noticeboards. Boards should be used for and ensure information on display is current and up-to-date.	Existing
P5	Signs and noticeboards	Volunteer group to consider updating the welcome noticeboards.	New
P6	Signs and noticeboards	Aberdeenshire Council to repair steps to allow children to read notices posted on the high noticeboards.	New

Project No	Area	Project Title	Type
P7	Signs and noticeboards	The sign near the tennis courts to be cleaned and/or refurbished by the volunteer group.	New
P8	Litter bins and litter	Volunteer group to continue to organise events to clean up litter.	Existing
P9	Dogs and dog waste	Volunteer group to continue to encourage people to clean up after their dog and dispose of the dog mess responsibly.	Existing
P10	Health and safety	Regular inspections of visitor facilities by Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services to continue.	Existing
Publicity and events			
P11	Publicity material	The volunteer group to continue publicising events locally using the Facebook site and noticeboards.	Existing
P12	Public events	The volunteer group to continue to develop a programme of events each year. These can be social events, training days or management days.	Existing
P13	Educational events	The volunteer group/rangers to maintain contact with the primary school and nursery to enable them to use the meadows for outdoor learning activities.	Existing

4 Managing the nature reserve of Inch Meadows

Aim – Managing the nature reserve

Aberdeenshire Council and the volunteer group to work together to manage Inch Meadows efficiently and effectively for people and wildlife.

4.1 Introduction

Aberdeenshire Council owns Inch Meadows and manages them along with a small bit of adjoining land belonging to Leith Hall. The purpose of this management plan is to guide the way the Council, and the volunteer group use manpower and money on Inch Meadows during the next 5 years. Plans and projects are not set in stone and usually new projects appear and other projects are dropped during a five year plan. The management plan must therefore remain flexible and it is essential to have a recording system to keep track of progress with the management plan.

This section looks at the management structure, the manpower and the money needed to deliver the management plan and report on progress.

4.2 The site boundary

The boundary of Inch Meadows is clear in some parts but is not obvious in other places.

The boundary by the entrance could be better demarcated. The agreement with Leith Hall needs to be checked and amended if necessary.

Management proposals – Continue to ensure that the boundary remains known/visible.

4.3 The management structure

Aberdeenshire Council, as the owner, is responsible for the management of Inch Meadows. The local environment planner has overall responsibility for managing the site. Landscape Services carry out practical management like cutting the meadows, and maintaining the paths and the equipment in the play park. The ranger service works with local schools and local groups.

Aberdeenshire Council want to continue working with local volunteers and residents. In 2007/8 local people obtained lottery money to improve the biodiversity and facilities on the site.

Aberdeenshire Council are keen to encourage local people to become more actively involved in managing Inch Meadows in whatever ways they can.

Management proposals – It is recommended that the Council and the volunteer group meet formally at least once a year to discuss plans and progress.

The Council and the volunteer group can continue to explore if there are projects in the management plan (or new projects) which they could take responsibility for.

4.4 Manpower for the site

The Council use a variety of manpower to manage the site.

- Landscape Services look after the play park, mow the grass, mow the wildflower meadows, spray the dockens, and generally keep the site tidy.
- The Council employ contractors to work on large or specialist projects like excavation of the pond.
- The Council can use community payback teams to work on selected projects.
- Rangers organise activities for education groups on site.

- Local people contribute significantly to management of the site – cleaning up litter, feeding the birds and organising events.

Management proposals – The Council and the volunteer group continue to work together to agree who provides the manpower to implement projects in the management plan and any new projects that arise. It is important that both parties are clear about who is responsible for what.

4.5 Money and budget

The Council has a limited budget to maintain Inch Meadows, so extra money will have to be raised to pay for larger projects. The volunteer group can play a pivotal role in obtaining such money.

The project plan in Appendix 1 includes an indicative budget for each project.

Management proposals – The Council will provide base level of funding for the management of Inch Meadows but, as in previous years, the volunteer group will need to look for additional money from other sources, such as grants or sponsorship from local companies, to fund large projects. The Council and volunteer group should agree which projects in the management plan are suitable for external funding and agree how to raise the funds.

At the end of each year the Council and the volunteer group should agree a budget and work plan for the following year. During the year the Council and the volunteer group should keep track of expenditure

4.6 Reports and plans

Planning and reporting are integral to efficient site management.

Management proposals – In addition to having a management plan to guide progress, it is useful to keep records of the work completed and the money spent on projects at Inch Meadows.

A review of this management plan should be undertaken in year 5 (2024) before the new management plan prepared.

4.7 Measures of success - did the management plan succeed?

The following table proposes success measures which could be used in 2024 to evaluate whether the management plan for Inch Meadows delivered effective management.

Table 4 – Proposed Measures of Success for Inch Meadows

Whole Site	The 1.3 ha site is intact with no adverse development.
Biodiversity	
Meadows and grassland	The meadows are floristically diverse with named indicator species present.
Wetland and pond	The pond is at least 25% open water. The wetland around the pond is dominated by emergent wetland plants. The water is clean and home to invertebrates indicative of clean water. The pond has breeding amphibians.
Shrub Borders	The shrub borders are a well-maintained mixture of native and non-native species which attract 6 species of butterfly and 6 species of bee.

Species	A variety of birds feed here and are enjoyed by observers through the bird blind.
Species	There is an up-to-date record of the species that have visited Insch Meadows.
Management for People	
Visitors	Local people confirm that the site is well-managed.
Play park	The play park is tidy, well maintained and enjoyed by children safely.
Paths	The paths are in good condition and can be used by people of all abilities.
Litter	There is no litter on site. Local people do not complain about the litter on the site.
Dogs	Visitors do not complain about dogs or dog waste on the site.
Events	Local people regularly organise a variety of events on Insch Meadows.
Groups	The site is well used by local schools and community groups.
Property management	
Management structure	The local community is actively involved in managing the site, helping Aberdeenshire Council deliver projects.
Project and budget management	The management plan is up-to-date. There is an accurate record showing what projects in the management plan were completed when, by whom and how much they cost.

Table 5 – Projects to manage the property of Insch Meadows

Project No	Area	Project Title	Type
M1	The boundary	Ensure boundary is still known / visible.	Existing
M2	Management	The Council and the volunteer group to meet onsite formally at least once a year to discuss plans and progress.	Existing
M3	Manpower	The Council and the volunteer group continue to work together to organise the delivery of projects in the management plan and any new projects that arise.	Existing
M4	Budget and expenditure	The Council to provide base level of funding to manage Insch Meadows.	Existing
M5	Budget and expenditure	The Council and the volunteer group to agree which projects in the management plan are suitable for external funding and agree how to raise the funds.	Existing

Project No	Area	Project Title	Type
M6	Budget and expenditure	Volunteer group to look for money from other sources, such as grants or sponsorship from local companies, to fund large projects.	Existing
M7	Budget and expenditure	During the year the Council and the volunteer group to keep track of expenditure. At the end of each year the Council and the volunteer group agree a budget and work plan for the following year.	Existing
M8	Plans and reports	Write an annual report on progress with projects in the management plan for meeting between Council and the volunteer group. At end of every year check projects in management plan and refresh/update them for following year at the meeting between the Council and the volunteer group.	Existing
M9	Plans and reports	Prepare new management plan in 2024.	Existing
M10	Measures of success	Check success measures in 2024.	New

5 References

Taylor, Results of Meadow Questionnaire, 2009

Appendix 1 – Project plan for Inch Meadows

Project No	Area / Topic	Project Title	Lead	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Season	Cost
Habitats										
B1	Meadow 1	Spot spray docks, rotovate and reseed with species rich pollinator friendly mix. Cut meadow annually.	Ab CI	X					Spring	
B2	Meadows 2 and 3	Continue current management regime, with meadow 2 being cut annually and meadow 3 remaining uncut.	Ab CI	X	X	X	X	X	Late summer	
B3	Play Park	Council to continue existing management regime with regular mowing of grassland.	Ab CI	X	X	X	X	X	Summer	
B4	Scattered trees	Check health and condition of planted trees – replace if necessary.	Ab CI	X	X	X	X	X	Spring	
B5	Shrub borders	Prune buddleia area adjacent to play park and trim back shrubs overhanging paths.	Ab CI and vol group	X		X		X	Winter	
B6	Pond	Clear emergent vegetation from pond on a 2 year cycle.	Vol group	X		X		X	Autumn / winter	
B7	Pond	Continue to use a pump to top up the pond from the burn if required.	Vol group	X	X	X	X	X	Summer	
B8	Pond	Research the feasibility and cost of installing a liner.	Vol group	X	X				All year	
B9	Dipping platform	Inspect dipping platform regularly (monthly). Repair and maintain dipping platform.	Ab CI and vol group	X	X	X	X	X	Winter	

Project No	Area / Topic	Project Title	Lead	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Season	Cost
B10	Bird feeding	<p>Inspect, repair and repaint bird screen. Assume repair and repainting needed every 3 years.</p> <p>Repair or replace bird feeders annually.</p> <p>Maintain supply of bird food.</p> <p>Fill bird feeders regularly – several times a week.</p> <p>Check, clean, maintain and repair bird and bat boxes each winter.</p>	Vol group	X	X	X	X	X	All year	
B11	Bird species	<p>Record birds seen in Insch meadows. Keep a list locally. Display on noticeboard, and highlight changes through the seasons as ‘what you can see now’. Also highlight on Facebook site.</p> <p>Send records to NESBReC.</p>	Vol group	X	X	X	X	X	All year	
B12	Other species	<p>Record other species using Insch Meadows. Keep a list locally, display it on noticeboard seasonally highlighting ‘what you can see now’ and highlight on Facebook site.</p> <p>Send records to NESBReC.</p>	Vol group	X	X	X	X	X	All year	
B13	All species	<p>Volunteer group to consider appointing a local person/s to collate species records on Insch Meadows.</p>	Vol group	X	X	X	X	X	All year	

Project No	Area / Topic	Project Title	Lead	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Season	Cost
Projects to manage the visitor facilities of Inch Meadows										
P1	Play park and picnic area	Aberdeenshire Council (Landscape Services) to maintain play park and picnic area.	Ab Cl	X	X	X	X	X	All year	
P2	Picnic tables	Aberdeenshire Council (Landscape Services) to maintain picnic tables.	Ab Cl	X	X	X	X	X	All year	
P3	Paths – all weather paths	Aberdeenshire Council (Landscape Services) to maintain all weather paths.	Ab Cl	X	X	X	X	X	All year	
		Volunteer group and ranger to report any problems with paths.	Vol group	X	X	X	X	X	All year	
P4	Signs and noticeboards	Volunteer group to agree what information each of the noticeboards. Boards should be used for and ensure information on display is current and up-to-date.	Vol group	X	X	X	X	X	All year	
P5	Signs and noticeboards	Volunteer group to consider updating the welcome noticeboards.	Vol group	X					All year	
P6	Signs and noticeboards	Aberdeenshire Council to repair steps to allow children to read notices posted on the high noticeboards.	Ab Cl	X					All year	
P7	Signs and noticeboards	The sign near the tennis courts to be cleaned and / or refurbished by the volunteer group.	Vol group	X					All year	
P8	Litter bins and litter	Volunteer group to continue to organise events to clean up litter.	Vol group	X	X	X	X	X	All year	

Project No	Area / Topic	Project Title	Lead	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Season	Cost
P9	Dogs and dog waste	Volunteer group to continue to encourage people to clean up after their dog and dispose of the dog mess responsibly.	Vol group	X	X	X	X	X	All year	
P10	Health and safety	Regular inspections of visitor facilities by Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services to continue.	Ab CI	X	X	X	X	X	All year	
Projects to manage the local nature reserve of Insch Meadows										
M1	The boundary	Ensure boundary is still known / visible.	Ab CI and vol group	X				X		
M2	Management	The Council and the volunteer group to meet formally at least once a year to discuss plans and progress.	Ab CI and vol group	X	X	X	X	X		
M3	Manpower	The Council and the volunteer group continue to work together to organise manpower to implement projects in the management plan and any new projects that arise.	Ab CI and vol group	X	X	X	X	X		
M4	Budget and expenditure	The Council to provide base level of funding to manage Insch Meadows.	Ab CI	X	X	X	X	X		
M5	Budget and expenditure	The Council and the volunteer group to agree which projects in the management plan are suitable for external funding and agree how to raise the funds.	Ab CI and vol group	X	X	X	X	X		
M6	Budget and expenditure	Volunteer group to look for money from other sources, such as grants or sponsorship from local companies, to fund large projects.	Vol group	X	X	X	X	X		

