

**Prestwick Road  
Meadows  
Management Plan  
2026-2036  
11/03/2026**

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026**

PART I

**PRESTWICK ROAD MEADOWS MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2036  
ADE**

**1 Summary**

- 1.1 New ten-year management plan has been developed for Prestwick Road Meadows in South Oxhey.
- 1.2 The new plan contains management actions over the next ten years from financial year 2026/27 until 2035/36. The detailed actions relate to habitat management, scrub/vegetation management, pond clearance and tree works.
- 1.3 Officers are recommending that this plan is approved by the Climate Change and Leisure Committee and adopted by the Council. Should the plans be approved, Officers will seek to implement the actions within the plans over the next ten years. Work will be completed within existing budgets or subject to external funding.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Climate Change and Leisure Committee:
- 2.2 Adopt the new ten-year Management Plan for Prestwick Road Meadows.
- 2.3 Give delegated authority to the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or funding agreement above the value of £25,000, subject to securing external funding to facilitate works to support the implementation of the Management Plans.
- 2.4 That public access to the report be immediate.
- 2.5 That public access to the decision be immediate.

Report prepared by: Kelly Barnard, Leisure Assets Manager

**3 Details**

**3.1 Plan development process**

- 3.1.1 The plans were developed and produced by Countryside Management Service (CMS) part of Hertfordshire County Council, who commissioned by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) to assist with the management of TRDC Open Space.
- 3.1.2 Public consultation on the management plan was carried out in two stages. An initial period of consultation was held to encourage residents, site users, Councillors and other interested parties to share ideas and thoughts on the management of the meadows over the next ten years.

3.1.3 Once draft plans had been completed, a second period of consultation was held to enable stakeholders to comment on draft versions of the plans. Minor amendments were made to the plans to produce the final version.

### 3.2 Consultation Process

3.2.1 An initial engagement period was held from 1 - 22 September 2025, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 4 of the management plan.

3.2.2 A second stage of engagement was held from the 13 - 28 November 2025, which enabled stakeholders a further opportunity to comment on the proposed management actions for the site.

3.2.3 A summary of engagement responses are included in the management plan under 7.1 to 7.1.3.3 Engagement Summary. Responses to the engagement periods were received by Local Residents, Butterfly Conservation Trust, Watford Rural Parish Council and Hertfordshire County Council.

### 3.3 Aim and Objectives

3.3.1 The aim and objectives of the management plan is to provide a valuable, welcoming green space for the community whilst ensuring the biodiversity features are protected and enhanced.

3.3.2 The key detailed actions relate to maintenance of trees and scrub/vegetation management, taking into account and working with the Butterfly Conservation Trust to protect the brown hairstreak butterfly which has been found on this site and are noted as one of Britain's rarest and most elusive butterflies and pond clearance.

## 4 **Options and Reasons for Recommendations**

4.1 The officer recommendation is that the new ten-year management plan for Prestwick Road Meadows is formally adopted by the Council.

4.2 Officers will then begin to implement the actions within the plans, subject to available funding where necessary.

4.3 If the plans are not approved by the committee, maintenance of the site will continue at a minimum level, but no additional improvements for biodiversity or public access will be undertaken.

## 5 **Policy/Budget Reference and Implications**

5.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed budgets. The proposals also relate to securing additional funding, as outlined within the report.

5.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators for the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure Service Plan 2026-2029.

5.2.1 LNI04 - External Funding secured to support Leisure and Natural Infrastructure Projects and Activities.

5.2.2 LNI05 - Year on year increase in the area of land owned by Three Rivers District Council, being managed for biodiversity benefit.

5.3 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following Corporate Framework Objectives:

5.3.1 Healthy, safe and thriving communities

5.3.2 A green and sustainable future

5.3.3 A well-run council

## **6 Financial Implications**

6.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan includes an annual budget to maintain 13 sites with management plans, including the management of Prestwick Road Meadows. This is not sufficient to deliver the actions planned within the Management Plan as such the delivery of projects will be dependent on securing external funding which will need to be obtained in advance of projects proceeding.

## **7 Legal Implications**

7.1 All proposed works and equipment will be tendered within the Council's constitution and Contract Procedure Rules, where required.

7.2 The preparation of this plan is being undertaken in order to support compliance with the Council's statutory obligations and its Corporate Framework and Priorities.

7.3 The Council has a duty to have regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity under S40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. This does not mean that the duty must be given greater weight than other matters and the Management Plan recommendations that are being presented within this report satisfy the duty, which is for the Council to 'have regard' when it exercises its functions.

7.4 Subject to the receipt of external funding, under the Council Constitution (as outlined in part 3, section 4.1.3 of the Council Constitution), Committee approval is required to enter into any contract above the value of £25,000.

## **8 Equal Opportunities Implications**

8.1 An Impact Assessment has been completed for these Management Plans.

8.2 On the whole the new Management plans should have a positive impact on the accessibility of the site.

8.3 Funding will need to be sourced in order to make these improvements.

## **9 Staffing Implications**

9.1 Delivering the Management Plan project and objectives as well as securing external funding in order to deliver these will be led by the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure Service.

9.2 In particular, it will require the time of the Leisure Assets Manager and the Principal Trees and Woodlands Officer.

9.3 Officers will also be working collaboratively and will require support and input from Officers in other services, including Regulatory Services, Property

Services, Environmental Protection, Community Partnerships, Finance and Legal.

**10 Environmental Implications**

**11 Community Safety Implications**

11.1 None Specific

**12 Public Health implications**

12.1 Accessible, well-maintained parks and open spaces have never been more vital to the health and wellbeing of individuals. Being able to connect with wildlife has a positive impact on both the physical and mental health and wellbeing of individuals.

**13 Customer Services Centre Implications**

13.1 None specific

**14 Communications and Website Implications**

14.1 The website will be kept updated with any relevant changes to the site, following the adoption and ongoing delivery of the Management Plan.

14.2 Good news stories will be circulated and shared via the Communications team, including across a range of social media channels.

**15 Risk and Health & Safety Implications**

15.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council’s duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

15.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Leisure & Natural Infrastructure service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

| Nature of Risk   | Consequence                        | Suggested Control Measures   | Response<br><i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i> | Risk Rating<br><i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i> |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Actions within the Management Plans are not implemented due to a lack of resources | Reputational damage to the Council | Implementation of the plans is monitored and reported to hi-light any issues at an early stage | Tolerate  | 4  |
| Harmful materials (inc Asbestos)   | Reputational damage to the         | Implement monitoring   | Treat   | 4  |

|  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  | Council<br><br>Management plan actions couldn't be carried out including working parties by volunteers | procedures for exposure levels, if necessary.<br><br>Ensure any hazardous waste is appropriately disposed of following correct containment methods (double bagged for asbestos etc) |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|

15.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

|                    |               |               |                  |                     |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Very Likely</b> | <b>Low</b>    | <b>High</b>   | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b>    |
|                    | 4             | 8             | 12               | 16                  |
|                    | <b>Low</b>    | <b>Medium</b> | <b>High</b>      | <b>Very High</b>    |
|                    | 3             | 6             | 9                | 12                  |
| <b>Likelihood</b>  | <b>Low</b>    | <b>Low</b>    | <b>Medium</b>    | <b>High</b>         |
|                    | 2             | 4             | 6                | 8                   |
| <b>Remote</b>      | <b>Low</b>    | <b>Low</b>    | <b>Low</b>       | <b>Low</b>          |
|                    | 1             | 2             | 3                | 4                   |
|                    | <b>Impact</b> |               |                  |                     |
|                    | <b>Low</b>    | ----->        |                  | <b>Unacceptable</b> |

**Impact Score**  
4 (Catastrophic)  
3 (Critical)  
2 (Significant)  
1 (Marginal)

**Likelihood Score**  
4 (Very Likely (≥80%))  
3 (Likely (21-79%))  
2 (Unlikely (6-20%))  
1 (Remote (≤5%))

15.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

**Data Quality**

Data sources:

Public and Stakeholder Consultation

Data checked by:

Andrew Taylor – Projects Officer, Countryside Management Service (CMS)

Data rating: Tick

|          |                   |   |
|----------|-------------------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Poor</b>       |   |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Sufficient</b> | ✓ |
| <b>3</b> | <b>High</b>       |   |

**Background Papers**

**APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS**

APPENDIX A: Prestwick Road Meadows Greenspace Action Plan 2026 - 2036

