Appendix E South Stoke Village Pond Management Plan

John Lindley on behalf of South Stoke Wildlife and Conservation Group (SSWCG)

Version 1.0

December 2025



Overview

South Stoke Village pond is located in South Stoke, in an area known as “The Park”, at Ordnance Survey ref. SU60048354. It is approximately 10m x 5m in size and has a maximum depth of 1m. The water source is rainwater (pumped from the nearby Village Hall) and (if required) from the Borehole located at the Park.

Aims/benefits

When planning for the construction of the pond, the following aims and benefits were established, in the context of The Park as a whole:

- Conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of The Park and its associated habitats
- Provide a safe and enjoyable space for public recreation and education

Construction and establishment

Pond was excavated using a backhoe and arisings spread in The Park. A Butyl liner was installed over a woven polypropylene mat.

The pond was filled with tap water in August 2025 and was stocked in September 2025 with various water and marginal plants from Penny's Pond at Lower Farm, including:

- Water Soldier *Aloides stratiodes*
- Great Reed Mace *Typha latifoli*
- Greater Pond sedge *Carex riparia*
- Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*
- Canadian pondweed *Elodea canadensis*
- Ivy leaved duck weed *Lemna disulca*
- Common duck weed *Lemna minor*
- Hard rush *Juncus inflexus*
- Hornwort *Ceratophyllum sp.*

….and probably others

Current Status

As of October 2025, the pond is newly established, and does not yet support an ecosystem of plants/invertebrates/other wildlife. However, casual observations on 16/10/2025 resulted in sightings of Common Darter Dragonfly, Unidentified Diving Beetle, Water Boatman and unidentified Non-biting midge.

Future enhancements

Build a "dead hedge" wildlife refuge adjacent to the pond. In addition to acting as a wildlife resource, it will hopefully prevent people from running around the pond edge. Construction to be done by SSWCG volunteers in late winter of 2025/2026.

Stock with more local/native water and marginal plants. Based on monitoring, target species are likely to include:

- Yellow Loosestrife *Lysimachia vulgaris*
- Orange Balsam *Impatiens capensis*
- Kingcup/Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*

Plant some small/non invasive native trees nearby. Target species are Hazel, Willow, Hornbeam. Planting to be done in Winter 2025/2026

Erect a sign stating "This site is managed by SSWCG on behalf of South Stoke Parish Council"

Ongoing Management

Monitor water level on ad hoc basis and fill up as required

Monitor water quality in April and October

Remove water plants if needed due to excessive growth in Autumn. Leave removed material by the side of the pond for a few days to allow wildlife to relocate back to the pond, then place removed material in CGA composting area.

Maintain marginal plants – encourage spread and/or remove excessive growth, depending on species in Autumn

Manage surrounding grassy areas:

- Regularly mow access path to the pond and also mow an arc behind the pond
- Mow other areas and remove arisings annually in Autumn

Conduct twice yearly invertebrate surveys in May and September and keep records as required (create a new iRecord location called “South Stoke Village Pond” or similar).

Monitor on an ad hoc basis to see whether Rabbit control/exclusion might be necessary.