

Ruan Riverside Community Project

Restoring native habitat for wildlife and people

Background

- The council engaged LT Services to conduct an ecological survey and MEI LOCI, a Truro-based landscape architecture firm, to develop design proposals based on the survey. Both were funded by a Community Capacity Fund grant.
- The survey results provided a detailed habitat assessment and actionable recommendations for restoring the area to its native ecological state.
- The piece of land starts from the Reading Room and follows the road to the boundary edge of Pedlar's Cottage.
 - Some residents may be aware that the land in question is referred to as having a 'Caution' on it which is defined in the UK as:
 - Land ownership status: A Caution is registered on the land due to a past ownership dispute, indicating an unresolved claim or interest.



Funded by
UK Government



Existing



A - Back to the parking area, there are grass clippings but no planting or trees in this area. Grass clippings need to be disposed of off site.



B - Large Bay and Japanese Rose both Non Native - Japanese Rose to be removed, any dead and dying trees to be removed.



D - Large clump of Pampas Grass Non Native - Pampas grass to be removed to stop spread and return area back to native habitat.



C - Large clump of Pampas Grass Non Native - Pampas grass to be removed to stop spread and return area back to native habitat.



E - Japanese Rose, Bamboo and Eucalyptus all Non Native - all to be removed to stop spread and return area back to native habitat.



Existing



F - Drainage channel overgrown bamboo towards the river Non Native - Bamboo to be removed to stop spread and return area back to native habit.



H - Large clump of Pampas Grass Non Native - Pampas grass to be removed to stop spread and return area back to native habitat.



I - Clump of Pampas Grass Non Native - Pampas grass to be removed to stop spread and return area back to native habitat.

J,K,L - Clump of Pampas Grass Non Native, Bramble bank next to road - Pampas grass to be removed to stop spread and return area back to native habitat. Bramble bank to be removed to be replaced with native hedging. Any dead or dying trees to be removed.

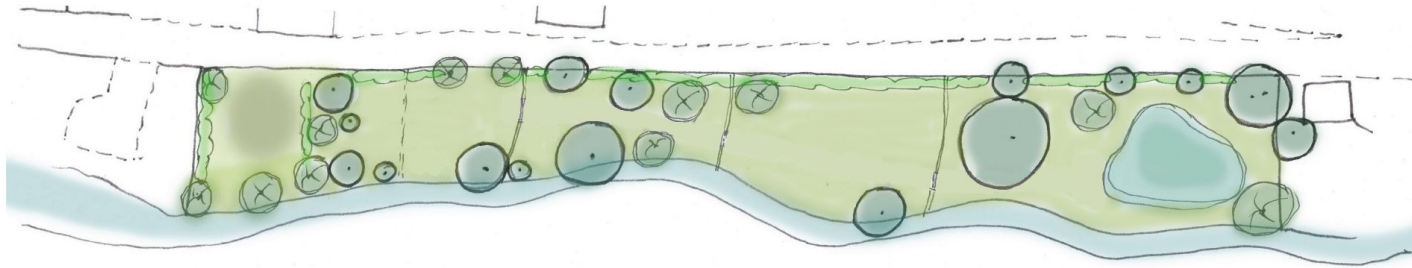


Benefits of removing non-native plants

- **Increase bio-diversity and improving ecological health:** Research by the University of Stirling indicated that sites with high invasive non-native plants (INNP) cover experienced a 33% reduction in macroinvertebrate (they play vital roles in nutrient cycling and serving as a food source for other aquatic animals).
- **Enhances ecosystem balance:** Helps restore natural plant communities and improves habitat quality.
- **Restores native biodiversity:** Creates space for native plants to thrive, supporting local wildlife.

Option 1 - Native Habitat Restoration

Remove non-native vegetation to restore the riverside space to a fully native ecosystem. Implement ongoing monitoring and swift removal of any re-emerging non-native plants to maintain ecological integrity.



Considerations

Pros

- Managing riverbanks to favour native vegetation can improve habitat conditions and encourage increased use by wildlife*

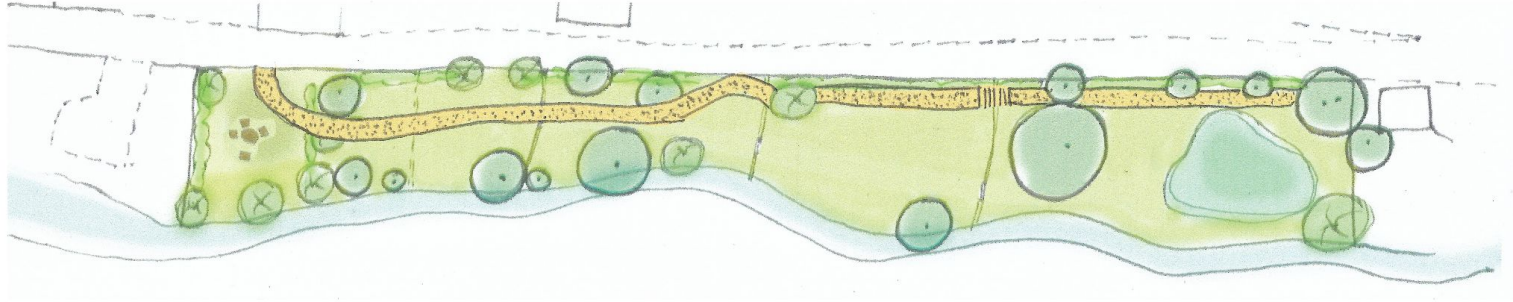
Cons

- Initial disruption to existing wildlife
- Labour intensive
- Costly to remove large amounts of vegetation

*A study by the University of Stirling found that sites with high invasive non-native plants (INNP) cover experienced a 33% reduction in macroinvertebrate diversity, raising concerns about the ecological health of these streams.

Option 2 - Riverside Access & Habitat Integration

Building on Option 1, this plan adds a raised footpath, with the inclusion of a small footbridge, leading from the car park to the boundary edge. It includes a seating area.



Considerations

Pros

- Provides a raised, stable, walking surface
- Creates a space where locals and visitors can enjoy being immersed in nature and have a space to enjoy the wildlife safely

Cons

- Requires initial investment, volunteers and ongoing upkeep
- Initial disruption to existing wildlife
- Wood and other materials can become slippery in wet conditions without proper treatment

Native Planting Palette

NATIVE WETLAND MARGINAL EMERGENT PLANTS



Ranunculus flammula



Lychnis flos-cuculi



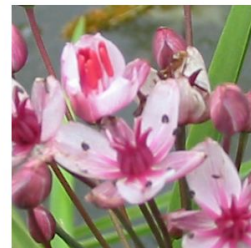
Carex acutiformis



Eriophorum angustifolium



Baldellia ranunculoides



Butomus umbellatus



Carex nigra



Geum rivale



Carex panicea



Filipendula ulmaria



Carex paniculata



Eleocharis acicularis



Glyceria maxima



Iris pseudacorus



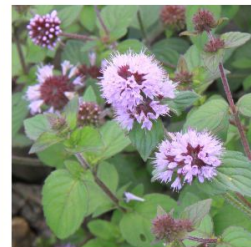
Juncus articulatus



Leucanthemum vulgare



Lythrum salicaria



Mentha aquatica

Native Planting Palette

NATIVE WETLAND MARGINAL EMERGENT PLANTS



Myosotis scorpioides



Nasturtium Aquaticum



Nymphaea alba



Oenanthe fistulosa



Osmunda regalis



Potentilla palustris



Primula vulgaris



Primula veris



Stachys officinalis



Veronica beccabunga



EM8F Wild Flowers for Wetlands &
EG8 Meadow Grass Mixture for Wet Soils

Emorsgate Seeds
www.wildseed.co.uk

Summary of Proposed Plan

- Community Engagement: Gauge interest and support for the project. If supported, break the work into phases.
- **Phase 1 – Invasive Plant Removal**
 - Organise a volunteer group to remove non-native pampas grass, bamboo, and brambles.
- **Phase 2 – Footpath Development**
 - Finalise footpath plans, source materials, and carry out construction with volunteer support.

Financial Summary

- The Parish Council can contribute a small amount (TBD) and will seek community support through volunteers, material donations, and tool lending.
- Larger-scale plans may require additional fundraising to bring ambitious ideas to life.

Want to get involved?

- Notices will go up around the parish and on the WhatsApp group letting people know when events will take place
- If you would like to get more involved in the coordination effort, please contact our Clerk, Tomas Hill on ruan-clerk@live.co.uk.
- If you would like a copy of the full proposal from Mei Loci, please ask Tomas to send you an online version.

Questions?