



28/9/2026

Dear Amanda,

It was a pleasure to meet you last Tuesday and thank you for outlining the project the parish council wishes to deliver at Moat Pond. I can see the rationale for doing it and believe the improvements could be fantastic for local people and wildlife.

I would be very happy to support you with this improvement project on the basis I set out previously to your Clerk, Mrs Emma Freemantle. I charge £350 per 8 hour day for my services and can handle everything from the scope and feasibility to procurement and costing, compliance and licensing, through to overseeing the actual site work. I have suitable public liability and public indemnity insurance to cover me to act in this way. I have a degree in Wildlife Conservation and Land Management BSc Hons and over 20 years' experience in land management, grounds maintenance and landscaping.

I am experienced in operating on behalf of landowners, particularly within public environments where managing public perception is so crucial. I also understand the critical importance of keeping you and your Clerk up to date throughout the process.



This project requires a number of factors to be carefully considered and managed, not only to achieve a successful outcome and good value for money, but also to ensure the Council meets all relevant environmental and regulatory requirements.



I recommend,

1. You ask the Grounds Team to remove 3 boards from the boardwalk in 4 locations (12 in total), so that a suitable contractor can assess the condition of the boardwalk. That same contractor gives you a quote to retain but strengthen the low kick-rails around the other side of the pond. Get them to quote for total replacement of everything as well, just for interest.
2. Determine the ownership and management responsibility of the land and trees and look to reduce some trees in size to allow more light to reach the pond.
3. The pond will need to be surveyed to determine if there are any protected species living within it. Correct methodology and timing are important. The silt in the pond will also need to be tested for heavy metals and other pollutants to ensure it is non-hazardous waste.
4. Licensing from the E.A to dredge the pond and then transport the waste to the land adjoining the allotments needs to be fully scoped (possibly SR2010 No.4 landspreading permit/deployment). This will determine what can be done with the silt.
5. Cost up the dredging and ensure H&S compliance is met within quotes, including welfare for workers.
6. Cost up the transportation of the material IF the Environment Agency allows this.
7. Allow a budget for replanting the pond and 'making pretty'.
8. Of course, reporting to Cllrs and managing public perception needs to be built in at every key stage.

It is very difficult to estimate the cost of this project now as there are still so many unknowns. The ecological and silt surveys have the potential to affect costs greatly or even make it unfeasible. The condition of the boardwalk is still unknown. The licensing requirements from the EA are still unknown because the silt condition is unknown and a plan for moving it isn't yet scoped. If these were better understood I could start to give better estimates.

I would say you need to spend (NET) £2000 on pond surveys, £3500 on tree work, £500 on planting, £8,000 on dredging. I'm afraid estimating anything else would be fairly pointless but if I'm absolutely pushed to estimate it, I would say this feels like a £30-£50,000 project including my time.

Yours sincerely, **Oliver Saunders**

I have added more photos below as a record for myself more than anything.





