

Summary

Whitehead Gardens in Tottington is situated at the heart of the village on Church Street, providing an open green space for the community.

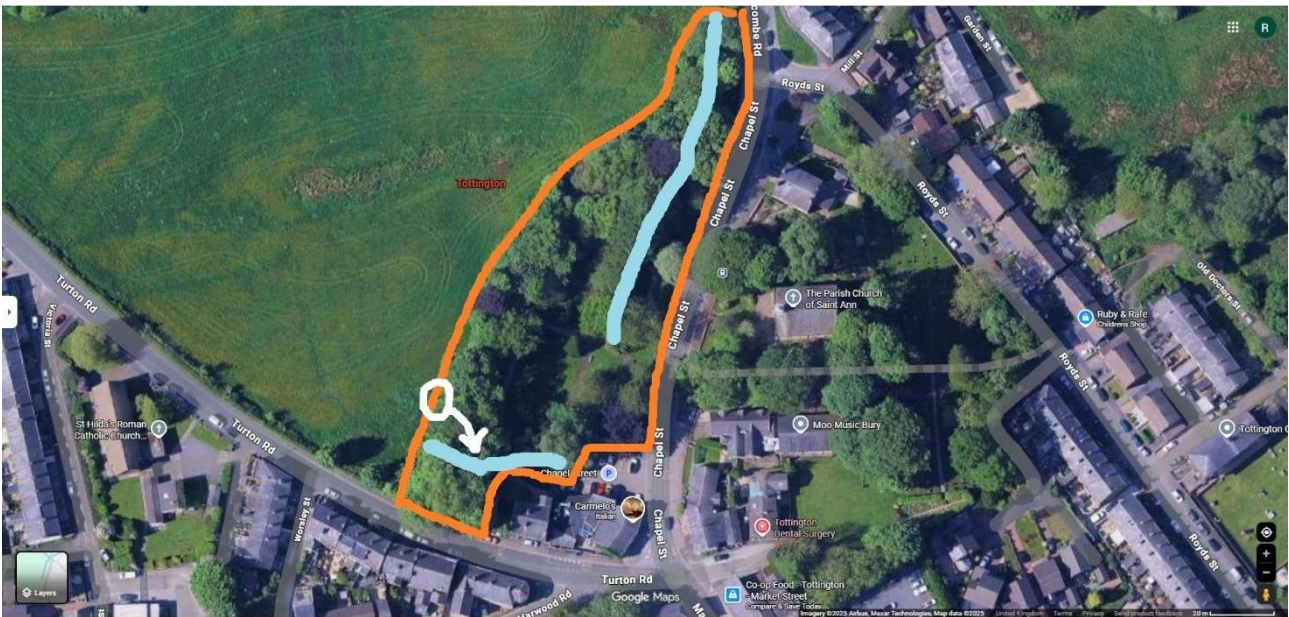
The current proposals are to upgrade and refurbish the site to bring it back into the heart of the community. The surveys carried out have identified methods for best practice with regards to the brook running through the site.

Management and site hygiene methods are detailed below.

Site Location

The map below (taken from Google Maps) shows the locations of the site in relation to the wider surroundings. Areas of balsam are shown in white with the orange line being the approximate site boundary.

The balsam is located outside of the areas under construction as part of this project so will not be disturbed through the general construction.



Development Control

Planning consent was sought for the refurbishment proposals with consent being granted in December 2023.

Condition 8 requires a method statement with regards to the protection of the Brook during the construction works. Condition 9 requests information relating to disposal of surface water into the Brook. This document has been produced in response to these two conditions.

Site Survey

A Preliminary Ecological Assessment was carried out by LP Ecological Services in September 2025 which highlighted the constraints of the site as well as opportunities for improvements within the site.

The Brook was identified in this assessment, noting the need for pollution prevention guidelines.

Site Management Proposals

Construction Methodology

- The contractors propose to access the site over the Brook itself; not the existing bridge as this is unlikely to be able to take significant vehicular weight. The suggestion is to line the concrete base of the brook with a membrane and use heavy duty pipes spanning the width of the brook to allow vehicles to travel over the brook to access the wider site, whilst ensuring no blockage to the flow of water.
- Containers will be used on site for secure storage of materials and machinery. Any material with the potential to cause harm will be stored in a bunded secure container within the large container to minimise the potential for harm. Spill kits will be available on site in case of any incident. Tool talks with all site operatives about the site requirements and water safety.

Disposal of Surface Water

At present, a depression in the adjacent field to the south west corner of the site causes all water run off from the field to spill out into Whitefield Gardens. The area of discharge is overgrown and the original drainage ditch which leads to the Brook is blocked and cannot cope with the volume of water which can discharge from the field in periods of heavy rain. The photos below show the current state of the water discharge.



The images on the left shows the impact of this flooding on the site – paths fully submerged; the grassed areas saturated.

The proposals for tackling this issue are to further shape the existing ditch and remove all debris which currently blocks it, and use excavated material from the other works to create low earth bunds to each side of the ditch, helping to channel the water towards the brook as per the original scheme. The bunds and surrounding areas will be planted with native wetland wildflower plugs and seed (as per the original planting proposals) to stabilise the ground.

Monitoring

Construction is due to take place on site between January – December 2026. The main construction is proposed for January – May with planting following in the autumn. Good site management will continue throughout this entire period.