



Derbyshire LNRS

Guidance

Management Plans and Good Practice

Management planning for nature conservation sites is particularly important and should include best practice guidance. Embracing the approaches recommended in best practice guidance for habitat restoration, maintenance, and monitoring is the starting point for creating higher quality habitats. These emphasise the importance of activities such as grazing and mowing regimes in grassland habitats, woodland management, natural flood management, invasive species management, and habitat connectivity. Good management ensures that habitats remain suitable for native species, supports ecological balance, and enhance the resilience of natural areas against environmental changes.

The following table lists management plans and good practice guidance resources that can inform effective strategies for delivering the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Please note that new guidance and strategies are continually being updated, and therefore it is best practice to speak with the relevant experts and consider actions with due diligence before executing.

Many thanks to Leicestershire LNRS for sharing this resource.

Theme	Name	Source	Link	Content
Woodland Management	How to Manage Your Woodland	Forestry Commission	How to manage your woodland - GOV.UK	This collection of resources provides practical advice on managing woodlands sustainably, covering topics such as tree planting, woodland creation, thinning, and managing woodlands for wildlife. It also includes information on pest control, disease management, and woodland economics.
Woodland Management	Managing Your Woodland for Wildlife	Woodland Trust	Managing-your-woodland-for-wildlife.pdf	This guide focuses on enhancing biodiversity within woodlands. It provides detailed guidance on habitat creation, species-specific management, and how to manage woodlands in a way that supports a wide range of wildlife.
Woodland Management	The UK Forestry Standard	Forestry Commission	The UK Forestry Standard - GOV.UK	This is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. It outlines best practices for woodland management, ensuring that activities contribute to environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
Woodland Management	Forest Development Types	Forest Research	Forest Development Types - Forest Research	This is a guide to stand transformation to move woodlands towards continuous cover systems which are best suited to the soil, moisture and geographical conditions of a site.
Woodland Management	ESC-DSS (Ecological Site classification - decision support system)	Forest Research	Ecological Site Classification (ESC) - Forest Research	This is a decision support system relating to future climate projections to inform new planting, or restocking species choices.
Woodland Management	Managing ancient and native woodland in England	Forestry Commission	Managing ancient and native woodland in England - FCPG201.pdf	This is a UKFS practice guide to inform management actions in ancient and priority woodlands

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Woodland Management	Woodland Wildlife Toolkit	Silva Foundation	Woodland Wildlife Toolkit	This is a collection of reference material to allow woodland owners to consider what wildlife may be found within their woodland and how management could be tailored to provide suitable conditions.
Woodland Management	Hedgerows - How to manage a hedgerow for wildlife	The Wildlife Trust	How to manage a hedgerow for wildlife The Wildlife Trusts	The Wildlife Trusts interactive webpages not pdf download.
Woodland Management	Woodland condition assessment	Forestry Commission & Silva Foundation	Woodland Wildlife Toolkit	This is a new web based condition assessment tool (also available as an app for mobile use) to provide land owners and managers a practical tool for assessing the ecological condition of their woodland - with further links to management actions showing how to improve condition scores. This will be used in BNG assessment and will be useful for all woodlands of all sizes and types.
Woodland Management	Managing Ash trees and woodlands	Forest Research	Managing Ash trees and woodlands	A high-level guide to managing Ash trees in the landscape and in woodlands with links to other specific guidance.
Woodland Management	Managing woodland SSSI and ancient woodland with ash dieback	Forestry Commission & Natural England	Managing woodland SSSIs and ancient woodland with ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) - GOV.UK	Guidance and management advice for protected and irreplaceable woodlands impacted by Ash dieback

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Woodland Management	Adapting forest and woodland management to the changing climate	Forestry Commission	Adapting forest and woodland management to the changing climate	This is a practice guide for management actions to build resilience against future climate change within woodlands.
Woodland Management	Climate change: impacts and adaptation in England's woodlands	Forest Research	Climate change: impacts and adaptation in England's woodlands	As above
Woodland Management	Creating and managing riparian woodland	Forest Research	Creating and managing riparian woodland	A new UKFS practice guide on riparian woodland creation and management to benefit ecology and water improvement criteria.
Woodland Management	Resources for managing woodland for resilience	Royal Forestry Society & Forestry Commission	Resources-for-Managing-for-Resilience-2022.pdf	A collection of resources grouped by theme to support woodland owners in considering and managing for future resilience.
Woodland Management	Best practice guides - wild deer management	The Deer Initiative	The Deer Initiative Guides Landing: BASC	A collection of resources on management of deer populations including survey methodology and species ecology.

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Woodland Creation	A guide to planning new woodland in England	Forestry Commission	A guide to planning new woodland in England - GOV.UK	A guide to the regulatory system and key decisions required in planning a new woodland.
Woodland Creation	Plant Healthy	Plant Healthy	Plant Healthy Certification Scheme - Plant Healthy	Guidance for nurseries including for forest species on biosecurity and reduction of pest and disease spread via management standards. Includes access to directories of approved nurseries for purchase of planting stock for woodland creation.
Woodland Creation	Woodland Creation Guide	Woodland Trust	Woodland Creation Guide - Woodland Trust	A practice guide (with accompanying site assessment and tree species information) to creating new native woodlands
Woodland Creation	Using natural colonisation for the creation of new woodland	Forestry Commission	Using natural colonisation for the creation of new woodland	A practice guide to support creation of new woodland via natural colonisation (natural regeneration)
Woodland Creation	Priority open habitats and woodland creation	Forestry Commission	Priority open habitats and woodland creation 11092020.pdf	A field guide to priority open habitats with detail of survey requirements and considerations required in woodland creation schemes.
Woodland Creation	Agroforestry handbook	Soil Association	Agroforestry on your farm	A practical handbook covering the benefits of and different systems of agroforestry, including guidance on how to plan/design and implement.

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Policy / general guidance	Open habitats Policy	Forestry Commission	England Open Habitats Policy.pdf	Guidance on when to convert woodlands and forestry to open habitats including detail of the regulatory process.
Policy / general guidance	Wading birds and afforestation guidance	Forestry Commission & Natural England	2024 APRIL Trees and Wader Guidance V6.pdf	A policy practice document detailing the survey requirements and considerations required when planning afforestation in areas with wading bird populations.
Policy / general guidance	Decision framework for peatland protection: new woodland and existing woodland	Forestry Commission & Natural England	July 2023 Decision support framework for peatland protection V4.pdf	A decision support framework relating to peatland protection and creation of new woodlands, or re-establishment of existing woodlands in areas of peat.
Policy / general guidance	Ancient woodland and trees -advice for making planning decisions	Forestry Commission & Natural England	Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK	Standing advice from Forestry Commission and Natural England for decisions relating to planning applications with impacts to ancient woodland, ancient trees or veteran trees.
Policy / general guidance	Guidance for professionals - Resources	Bat Conservation Trust	Home - Bat Conservation Trust	The Bat Conservation Trust encourages people working with bats, or those who might come into contact with bats or their roosts during their daily lives, to follow good practice.

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Grassland Management	Managing Grasslands	Plantlife	Managing Grassland & Green Space - Plantlife	Plantlife's guide provides advice on managing grasslands to enhance wildflower diversity and support pollinators. It includes sections on mowing regimes, controlling invasive species, and the use of grazing animals to manage grassland ecosystems.
Grassland Management	Lowland Grassland Management Handbook	Natural England	Lowland Grassland Management Handbook (Second edition) – GRASSLAND	This handbook focuses on the management of lowland grasslands, providing detailed guidance on maintaining species-rich swards, managing soil fertility, and preventing encroachment by scrub and invasive species.
Grassland Management	Roadside verges - Managing road verges for wildlife	The Wildlife Trust	Managing road verges for wildlife The Wildlife Trusts	Wildlife Trusts work with highways authorities, councils and landowners to advise and help manage road verges. This guide has step by step details on the best way to manage grass verges for wildflowers and pollinators.
Freshwater Habitat Management	The River Restoration Centre's Manual of River Restoration Techniques	The River Restoration Centre	Manual of River Restoration Techniques the River Restoration Centre	This manual provides practical techniques for restoring and managing river habitats. It includes case studies and best practice methods for improving river habitats for biodiversity, water quality, and flood management.
Freshwater Habitat Management	The Pond Management Handbook	Freshwater Habitats Trust	Pond Management Hub - Freshwater Habitats Trust	This guide offers comprehensive advice on the creation, management, and restoration of ponds. It focuses on maintaining water quality, managing vegetation, and supporting a diverse range of aquatic species.
Freshwater Habitat Management	The Water Framework Directive	Environment Agency	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	This document provides guidance on how to meet the Water Framework Directive requirements, which are essential for managing freshwater habitats sustainably. It covers river basin management, water quality improvement, and ecological status assessment.

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Freshwater Habitat Management	Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Manual	CIRIA (Construction Industry Research and Information Association)	The SuDS Manual C753F	The SuDS Manual provides best practice guidance for designing and implementing sustainable drainage systems. These systems are crucial for managing surface water in urban areas while enhancing freshwater habitats and biodiversity.
Freshwater Habitat Management	Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	GOV.UK	National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) - GOV.UK	Information for designers, property developers, local authorities and other interested parties, with links to additional supporting information relating to sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). These standards are intended for application in the design of surface water drainage systems of uncontaminated runoff for new infrastructure and development.
Freshwater Habitat Management	River basin management plans: updated 2022	GOV.UK	River basin management plans: updated 2022 - GOV.UK	Find the 2022 update to the river basin management plans which describe the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed.
Freshwater Habitat Management	Flood risk management plans 2021 to 2027	GOV.UK	Flood risk management plans 2021 to 2027 - GOV.UK	Flood risk management plans (FRMPs) set out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to manage flood risk in England.
Freshwater Habitat Management	England Catchment Data Explorer	DEFRA	England Catchment Data Explorer	Explore and download information about the water environment in your area and access river basin management plans.

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Freshwater Habitat Management	Floodplain Meadows - Beauty and Utility A Technical Handbook.pdf	By: Emma Rothero(Editor), Sophie Lake(Editor), David Gowing(Editor)	Floodplain Meadows - Beauty and Utility A Technical Handbook.pdf	This publication covers the history, management, restoration and creation of species-rich floodplain meadows.
Freshwater Habitat Management	Owning a Watercourse	Gov.UK	Owning a watercourse - GOV.UK	Your responsibilities and rules to follow for watercourses on or near your property, and permissions you need to do work around them.
Freshwater Habitat Management	GCN-Conservation-Handbook_compressed.pdf	Froglife	Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook	The Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook is a comprehensive guide to habitat management, pond creation and restoration.
Freshwater Habitat Management	Habitat Management Handbooks Amphibian and Reptile Conservation	Arc-Trust	Habitat Management Handbooks Amphibian and Reptile Conservation	This handbook forms a resource for a range of users including conservation professionals and interested volunteers.

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Sustainable Urban Habitat Management	Building with Nature: A Benchmark for Green Infrastructure	Building with Nature	Building with Nature - Sintali	This guide provides a framework for designing, delivering, and managing green infrastructure in urban areas. It covers best practices for creating multifunctional green spaces that provide environmental, social, and economic benefits.
Sustainable Urban Habitat Management	Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development	CIEEM, IEMA, and CIRIA	Biodiversity Net Gain Principles and Guidance CIEEM	This document outlines best practice principles for ensuring that urban development leads to a net gain in biodiversity. It includes strategies for enhancing urban habitats, creating green corridors, and integrating natural features into urban planning.
Sustainable Urban Habitat Management	Green Infrastructure and Planning Design Guide	Natural England	Natural England Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide 2023	This guide provides best practices for creating and managing urban green spaces, such as parks, community gardens, and green corridors. It focuses on enhancing biodiversity, improving ecosystem services, and making urban areas more resilient to climate change.
Sustainable Farming	DEFRA's Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme Guidance	DEFRA	Future of farming in England - GOV.UK	The ELM scheme provides financial incentives for farmers and land managers to adopt sustainable practices. Guidance documents cover topics like soil health, water management, biodiversity, and climate adaptation.
Sustainable Farming	Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Guidance	Natural England	Agreement holder's information for SFI24 and re-opened SFI24 - GOV.UK	This series of documents supports the Countryside Stewardship scheme, offering guidance on managing land sustainably for wildlife, water quality, and reducing flood risk. It includes specific advice on creating wildlife habitats, managing hedgerows, and protecting watercourses.

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Sustainable Farming	DEFRA's Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme Guidance	DEFRA	Future of farming in England - GOV.UK	The ELM scheme provides financial incentives for farmers and land managers to adopt sustainable practices. Guidance documents cover topics like soil health, water management, biodiversity, and climate adaptation.
Sustainable Farming	Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Guidance	Natural England	Agreement holder's information for SFI24 and re-opened SFI24 - GOV.UK	This series of documents supports the Countryside Stewardship scheme, offering guidance on managing land sustainably for wildlife, water quality, and reducing flood risk. It includes specific advice on creating wildlife habitats, managing hedgerows, and protecting watercourses.
Sustainable Farming	Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Guidance	Natural England	Catchment Sensitive Farming: advice for farmers and land managers - GOV.UK	The guidance focuses on nutrient management, soil protection, and watercourse management to prevent runoff and erosion.
Sustainable Farming	LEAF Sustainable Farming Review	LEAF	LEAF Sustainable Farming... LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming)	The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review is a comprehensive tool that helps farmers assess their practices against a set of sustainability criteria. It includes guidance on soil management, energy use, water conservation, and biodiversity enhancement.
Sustainable Farming	Pasture for Life's Guide to Sustainable Livestock Farming	Pastures for Life	Pasture-based Farm Management Practices Grazing Livestock	This guide promotes pasture-based livestock farming, which focuses on animal welfare, soil health, and environmental sustainability. It includes information on grazing management, feed, and animal health.

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Sustainable Farming	The Farm Carbon Toolkit	Farm Carbon Toolkit	Home - Farm Carbon Toolkit	This resource helps farmers understand and reduce their carbon footprint. It provides tools and guidance on carbon management, including soil carbon sequestration, energy use, and emission reduction strategies.
Wildlife Gardening	Residential wildlife toolkits	The Wildlife Trust	Wildlife gardening The Wildlife Trusts	Explore ways to attract pollinators, by planting a range of native species to flower throughout the year. The simple act of providing water for wildlife will have a huge impact. Try leaving a patch of logs or long grass undisturbed all year, giving shelter to all sorts of wildlife. And go chemical and peat-free, to maintain a healthy ecosystem.
Wildlife Gardening	Gardening for wildlife	Royal Horticultural Society	Wildlife Gardening / RHS Gardening / RHS	Ideas to help improve habitats and wildlife at home.
Wildlife Gardening	Wildlife-friendly garden guide	RSPB	Our guide to a beautiful, wildlife-friendly garden	Tips and advice for gardening for wildlife at home.

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Biodiversity for schools	Eco-schools	Eco-schools	Home - Eco Schools	Register your school to take part in the eco-schools programme to deliver education around environmental issues. Eco-school topics break large, global issues like climate change into more manageable and directed themes that prompt young people to consider environmental changes that they can make in their school and everyday lives.
Biodiversity for schools	Learning through Landscapes, Climate ready grounds	Learning through Landscapes	Learning through Landscapes - Climate Ready School Grounds -	Many of our school buildings and grounds were not designed and built with the need to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Changes to schools' grounds can inspire and benefit all in our communities with regards to taking action on climate change. Learning through landscapes has developed key resources to assist both schools and design professionals to focus on a few relevant areas related to developing climate ready schools.
Biodiversity for schools	School Grounds Guide	Groundwork	Four things to think about before you improve your school grounds - Groundwork	Practical tips on what to consider in improving your school grounds.
Biodiversity for schools	National Education Nature Park	National Education Nature Park, Commissioned by the Department for Education.	Home Education Nature Park	Empower children and young people to make a positive difference to both their own and nature's future. Get to know your outdoor space and use creative decision-making to improve your grounds for both people and nature. Register for this free programme, which provides all educators with the resources, support and guidance to embed climate and nature into learning in a way that suits your setting and learners.