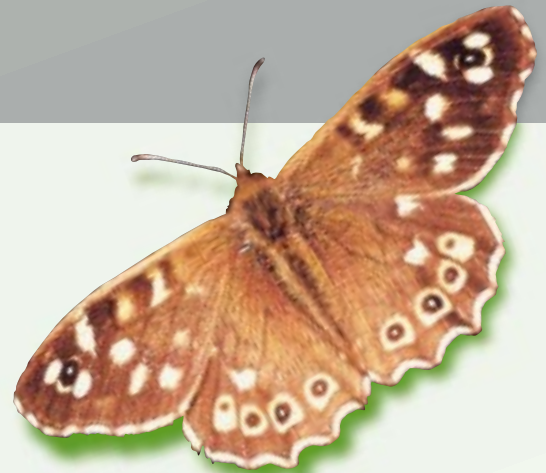


LIGHTMOOR
wildlife



English Partnerships
The National Regeneration Agency

intro

The future of the Wildlife Site at the southern end of Lightmoor has concerned almost everyone who has had a view about the plans for Lightmoor Village. The area of the site is shown on the plan, clearly separated from the Village by a substantial buffer zone. It is mostly owned by English Partnerships who are developing the Village in a joint venture with Bournville Village Trust.

This was once a busy, productive area in which mineral extraction, the consequent tipping of spoil, and farming have all taken place. Over many decades nature has reclaimed the land and overgrown all sorts of industrial relicts so that, to the ecologist, this is now one of the most interesting areas in Telford. The present pattern of small fields and woodlands, often upon steep-sided pit mounds, supports many protected species. These include bats, badgers, great crested newts, grass snakes, lizards and various woodland birds. There are also many kinds of plants and grasses.

The big question, simply put, is **will the development of Lightmoor Village have an impact on the Wildlife Site?** Despite the buffer zone, there could be some adverse effects resulting from the likely increase in human pressure from new residents moving into the Village over the next few years. English Partnerships is determined that this will not happen and is fully supported in this aim by the Borough of Telford and Wrekin and Bournville Village Trust. The protection of the Wildlife Site will be achieved by means of a Management Plan which has been commissioned by English Partnerships and drawn up by TEP, with input from Atkins. It has been approved by the Council as fulfilling one of the planning conditions of the consent to develop the Village.

This leaflet summarises what is proposed in the Management Plan.

site



LIGHTMOOR WILDLIFE SITE Simplified Environmental Plan

key to plan

Historic Features

- H1 Squatters Cottage
- H2 Line of former Shropshire Union Canal branch
- H3 Pitmound
- H4 Site of former Shutfield Tile Works
- H5 Tramways
- H6 Tramways
- H7 The Finney

Hazardous Features

- Z2 Soil assessment to be undertaken at Shutfield Tile Works
- Z3 Dilapidated culvert
- Z4 The Finney (derelict)
- Z5 Burroughs Bank Pools
- Z6-Z7 Untreated mineshafts
- Z8-Z11 Untreated wells

- Area covered by Wildlife Management Plan
- Watercourse
- Woodland
- Scrub
- Grassland
- Waterbody
- Residential properties
- ★ Hazardous feature (refer to key on left)
- Historic feature (refer to key on left)
- Vehicular tracks
- Existing Public Rights of Way
- Possible new paths



the aims

OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN



The broad aims of the plan are to:

- Set out what needs to be done to manage the landscape, ecology and heritage of the site
- Ensure that it is conserved carefully in the long term and not harmed by the construction of Lightmoor Village over the next few years
- Allow for safe and secure public access
- Protect the site from excessive or damaging intrusion

The whole plan is based upon our commitment that there will be no new building within the Wildlife Site on English Partnerships' land.

SHORT TERM

proposals

First of all it is necessary to deal with some potential hazards, especially as parts of the site are crossed by bridleways and footpaths. Old records suggest that there are two untreated mineshafts and a depression in the land at one point indicates a possible third. There are also two untreated wells.

The mineshafts will be investigated by drilling to establish whether they do exist and, if so, precisely where they are. If necessary they will be gradually filled with grout, a cement-based material which will make them safe.

The wells will be checked out by a method known as trail trenching which involves the use of a JCB or similar type of excavator. Once identified, they will simply be back-filled or grouted like the mineshafts.

A further job will be the erection of **a barrier** to protect pedestrians and drivers along the 30m length of road which runs between and close to the Burroughs Bank pools.

This necessary and important safety work will start late in September 2004. It will be subject to the grant of a licence by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) which will need to satisfy itself that there will be no threat to protected species as a consequence of the proposed works. The work will take about one month, after which the affected sites will be re-shaped exactly as they were, all equipment removed from the site and nature left to complete the work of restoration.



plans

The longer term management of the site will involve investigations and work under several different headings:

■ DRAINAGE

Flows of water from some of the larger bodies of water will need to be regulated, for example where past tipping has caused a blockage. This will be done carefully to maintain present water levels and avoid changing the nature of the pools which are both visually attractive and of ecological interest.

■ SECURITY

The partially used roads through the site are often used for illegal tipping. One solution might be to put a barrier in the loop of road formed by Burroughs Bank and Lightmoor Road to prevent joy-riding and/or to close some of the lay-bys and passing places which also attract tipping. However, any barriers or closures would be in consultation with local residents, some of whom might find the road loop useful.

The bad condition of some of the road surfaces has the advantage of putting off joy riders but re-surfacing will probably be necessary here and there, provided it doesn't change the rural character of the area. Fencing will be provided in places to restrict access to waterbodies.

■ ACCESS

The Management Plan will provide for carefully managed public access to the site. The eastern part already has a number of legally established rights of way, but the creation of a new network of trails will take some of the pressure off the more sensitive areas.

■ GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Some fields have been abandoned because they are difficult to farm. The result has been a loss of habitat for interesting grassland and heathland plants (a number of which thrive on acidic soils) as dense scrub has grown over many areas. It is proposed that the scrub is cleared, and mowing or grazing reintroduced in due course.

Those fields presently grazed by horses are in quite good condition but grazing licences will be reviewed to ensure that the richness of the grassland is not reduced by, for example, over stocking. Mains water will be supplied to some fields to maintain grazing quality.



■ WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

Some trees are dangerous and need to be removed. In certain areas woodland glades are becoming over-run by dense scrub, the removal of which would benefit nature conservation. Other areas are rather dominated by alien species such as rhododendron. These will be gradually reduced with a view to native English Oak becoming the dominant species.

Where woodlands are crossed by power lines, the glades formed below are not well managed by the utility companies. These areas will be managed in a more attractive way to improve their amenity and ecological value.

■ ARCHAEOLOGY

There is little public information about the man-made remains within the Wildlife Site. It is proposed that the 1991 archaeological survey of the site by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust be reviewed, and steps taken during the management works to preserve such features as the tramways, the former tile works, the lagoons and the pit mounds.

The competing interests within the Wildlife Site are well illustrated by the need to preserve the work of nature for the most part, whilst preventing it from compromising some of the more interesting remnants of human occupation.

■ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The needs of existing residents and the future occupiers of Lightmoor Village must be taken into account. As the local population increases it would be desirable to involve the community in the management of the Wildlife Site. In the first instance we hope to work with and involve people living and farming within the site.

■ TIMING

The aims of the Management Plan are expected to have been fulfilled by Summer 2009. After that, the whole management process will be reviewed and a plan for the longer term care of the site will be drafted.



find out more

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