

Shotover Wildlife's Vision for Brasenose Wood and Shotover Hill SSSI

Shotover Wildlife's vision is to deliver optimum management for species and habitats at Brasenose Wood and Shotover Hill SSSI ('the SSSI') for the benefit of wildlife and the community.

Surveying and monitoring

- To survey and monitor species in support of ecological understanding and the conservation of habitats and biodiversity.
- To expand surveying and monitoring to geographical and taxonomic areas that are under-recorded.
- To increase and expand surveying and monitoring skills within *Shotover Wildlife's* membership.
- To actively network with external specialists for the benefit of both the SSSI and *Shotover Wildlife* members.

Conservation

To deliver conservation management across all habitats and known species for optimum habitat quality, including consideration for the relative scarcity of habitats and species, both nationally and locally.

- To manage woodland habitats and species for optimum ecological quality. This includes mature woodland, secondary woodland, mature scrub, and semi-natural ancient woodland.
- To maximise the area of wetland habitats where possible, for optimum ecological quality. This includes ponds, spring-line flushes and marshes.
- To maximise the area of open habitats, where appropriate, for optimum ecological quality. This includes meadow, open scrub, and an increase in the overall extent of heath and acid grassland.

Where habitats are considered for expansion:

- To ensure that the habitat expansion does not compromise the replaced habitat, maintains the balance of habitats, is of net benefit to biodiversity, and proceeds at an appropriate and sustainable rate.
- To incorporate the principles of regional habitat objectives, whilst ensuring that the application of generalised external objectives do not compromise species or habitat niches of specific importance within the SSSI.
- To help deliver public authority broad targets where they do not compromise any important species or habitat niches.

Species and habitat protection

To ensure that the best knowledge and analysis goes into all *Shotover Wildlife* conservation work. This is being achieved through research, consultation and adherence to *Shotover Wildlife's* Conservation Action Plans.

To monitor potentially negative influences on the SSSI that may compromise or degrade species or habitats. This includes:

- Public leisure activities
 - Permitted – e.g. cross-country, horses and bicycles where permitted
 - Not permitted – e.g. fires, camping, motorcycling, barbeques etc.
- Public events
- Insufficiently informed conservation practices
- Site maintenance as a public park – e.g. mowing, flailing etc
- Inappropriate directives imposed by government agencies or local authorities
- Vandalism – e.g. fires

Public opinion

To gather public opinion on wildlife conservation in the SSSI.

To incorporate an appreciation and understanding of public opinion into the planning and delivery of conservation management in the SSSI.

Communication

To be aware of current thinking on national and regional targets for species and habitats.

To maintain Shotover Wildlife's relationship with relevant public authorities so that maximum regard is afforded to biodiversity.

To work with other organisations and individuals to ensure that activities in the SSSI do not compromise (1) the viability of any species, (2) the evidence-based integrity of any habitats, (3) current site-based research projects, 4) Shotover Wildlife's site-based Programmes, Projects and other initiatives operating in the SSSI.

To communicate the importance of the SSSI as a special site for wildlife diversity, both in general and in detail and to the widest possible community.

To raise awareness of the role and importance of the SSSI with the objective of preventing degradation to the SSSI's wildlife diversity.

Education

To make the best use of the SSSI and members' knowledge as an educational resource, and for life-long learning.

To support school initiatives which may (1) encourage the next generation of naturalists and (2) further promote the importance of Shotover Hill to the local community.

To supply wildlife leaflets free of charge.

To support University students in their scientific wildlife study as a means of inspiring the next generation of naturalists.

To encourage University research in the SSSI as a mutual learning experience: for the advancement of the student and as additional input for Shotover Wildlife's wildlife conservation in the SSSI.

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