Crowborough Country Park

Five-Year Management Plan

2023 to 2027

Dolphin Ecological Surveys

On behalf of Crowborough Town Council

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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Location & Ownership

Crowborough Country Park covers an area of 7.68ha at central grid reference TQ529300 in the south-east of Crowborough in East Sussex. There is housing along the eastern and southern boundaries of the Country Park whilst Tollwood Road curves around its north and west sides.

The Country Park occupies the site of a former clay quarry and brickworks, which closed in 1980 (Platt 2001). After its closure one part of the former quarry was retained as a Country Park and another part was developed for housing. In 1990/91 some minor landscaping, path work and car park creation was carried out in the Country Park but there was little other remediation work.

The Country Park was at first owned by Wealden District Council and in 2006 ownership was transferred to Crowborough Town Council (CTC). The CTC Ranger oversees and carries out all management at the Country Park with the assistance of volunteers and specialist contractors when necessary.

1.2 Site Status

In 1995 the Country Park was recognised as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (now known as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)). LWS designation is a non-statutory, county level designation that recognises the site's value to wildlife and as a community asset. The Country Park has also been declared a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), which is a statutory designation.

The site lies entirely in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and for many years the whole site has been covered by a blanket Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

In 2016 the LWS designation was reviewed and the LWS boundary subsequently revised to encompass additional areas of woodland and sandstone outcrops to the south of the original boundary. The boundary review has increased the area of the LWS from 6.2ha to 7.68ha. The LWS citation for "CW71 Jarvis Brook Country Park" is included as an appendix to this plan.

1.3 Previous Management Plans

In 2006 CTC commissioned an ecological survey and the first five-year management plan for the Country Park (Dolphin Ecological Surveys 2006) to guide the management of their newly acquired asset. That document covered the original 6.2ha of the LWS and contains details of the background and history of the site.

Two subsequent five-year management plans have been prepared, in 2013 (Roots Ecology 2013) and in 2018 (Dolphin Ecological Surveys 2018). The latter plan included management recommendations for the additional 1.48ha of CTC land that was added to the LWS and which also falls within the LNR.

1.4 Summary Site Description

The Country Park contains a range of habitats but is dominated by secondary woodland including significant amounts of ecologically important wet woodland. Some small fragments of older, possibly ancient, semi-

natural, woodland remain on the western boundary and other marginal areas, presumably left intact during the years of active clay extraction..

The minor headwater stream of the River Medway that runs through the site from north-west to south-east and is an important feature of the Country Park that shapes its post-industrial landform and its wetland habitats. The stream runs through an area of mixed, coppice woodland before cascading over sandstone boulders in a short length of steep-sided “gill” woodland. In the base of the old clay pit the stream meanders through diverse wet woodland habitat with fragments of wetland and the lower pond.

Along the edges of the main path and in small glades there are areas of grassy vegetation, tall herbs, scrub and even a tiny fragment of relict heathy vegetation. These more open areas within the woodland increase structural complexity of vegetation within the Country Park and provide important resources for wildlife. The flowers, fruit, seeds and berries are a rich source of food for insects, small mammals and birds. The invertebrate-rich habitats provide prey for populations of amphibians, reptiles and other fauna.

Two ponds in the Country Park support a variety of wildlife including invertebrates, aquatic flora and breeding amphibians, notably a strong population of Common Toad *Bufo bufo.* Patches of scrub are valuable habitat for nesting birds whilst standing dead trees, dense Ivy, tree hollows, bark flaps and crevices are present in some older trees and can support roosting bats and nesting birds. Areas of bare ground and exposed sandstone boulders have the potential to support specialised plants and animals.

There has been progressive erosion of the stream channel and banks at the head of the short, steep gill for many years, exposing the underlying sandstone and clay. This has required re-routing of the main path around the Country Park and, more recently, the installation of a new footbridge to accommodate the changing landform.

Erosion below the footbridge 2022

In recent years there has been an apparent increase in peak flows and rapid water level rises, which may be due to additional surface water run-off being directed into the stream from surrounding developments. Whatever the cause, rapid erosion of the stream banks once again threatens the integrity of the main path.

1.5 Management Objectives

- To conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the Country Park through appropriate management.
- To maintain and enhance the diverse habitats and vegetation structure of the Country Park.
- To manage the Country Park for safe, informal recreation by local residents and visitors from further afield.
- To inform management decisions and monitor the impacts of management actions by gathering robust biological data and monitoring wildlife.

1.6 Progress to Date

Management priorities in previous five-year plans were:

- Control of invasive non-native species (INNS).
- Providing enhanced access infrastructure.
- Diversifying habitats in the Country Park through creation and maintenance of grassland and scrub vegetation along path edge and in glades.
- Enhancing the structural complexity of woodland areas and increasing dead wood resources.

CTC has made good progress on these priorities since the Country Park came into their ownership

Management of glades and path edge zones has increased light levels and enhanced woodland structural diversity. Thinning and essential tree safety work is also beginning to improve the woodland age structure.

Public access and interpretation have been greatly improved since 2006. The interpretive boards are now somewhat worn and out of date but renewal of these items is already in hand.

A significant and noticeable reduction in the populations of several key invasive species in the Country Park has been achieved, however, ongoing control of INNS will be needed for the foreseeable future.

Careful management of invasive species and bankside vegetation has enhanced the upper pond for its populations of breeding amphibians and a new, lower pond has been created. A proposal to create a third, seasonal pond was not taken further due to technical difficulties.

Leaky dams have been installed in the upper reaches of the stream to help attenuate high flows. These have been successful during moderate flows but natural flood management techniques of this kind are insufficient to prevent the severe and rapid erosion that is taking place at the head of the gill.

Biological surveys and monitoring carried out in the Country Park include a regular butterfly transect, fixed-point photographic monitoring and, most recently, a breeding bird survey. However, there are still some important gaps in the biological data that is essential to inform future management decisions. Greater focus on gathering biological data is recommended over the next five-year period.

Figure 1
Site Features

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS for 2023 to 2027

2.1 Priority Actions

The Country Park is a relatively small site that is designated as both a Local Wildlife Site and a Local Nature Reserve. Its size and the amount of public access impose some limits on the management options available.

This management plan sets out recommendations for actions that aim to balance the ecological requirements of the species and habitats that make it a special place for wildlife, with the needs of visitors to the site.

The five-year action plan provides a summary of recommended management activities, with suggested seasonal timing, scheduled over the life of the plan. Increasing seasonal unpredictability due to climate change makes precise prescriptions for the timing of some habitat management work less valid. Therefore the action plan generally recommends the season during which work should take place rather than the exact months.

The CTC Ranger is encouraged to use professional judgement and exercise flexibility when implementing the recommendations set out in this management plan according to circumstances at the time. This is essential to deliver successful management of the Country Park in a changing environment.

The key recommendation for the next five-year period (2023-2027) is to prioritise management that enlarges and enhances glades and path edge zones to increase the habitat diversity and structural complexity of woodland areas.

Increasing biological surveys and monitoring activities on the site is also a high priority. The results of such studies are essential to inform future management decisions and to highlight any areas where current management activities need to change.

Management of path edges and glades should aim to increase the extent and connectivity of grassy, flower-rich vegetation and low, dense scrub across the site. This will improve habitat quality and diversity to support strong populations of fauna such as invertebrates, herpetofauna, small mammals and birds.

Gradually thinning trees and selective ring-barking within even-aged stands is recommended to promote the development of a more varied woodland age structure and provide more standing dead wood over time. Creating more varied conditions and increasing light levels within the woodland areas will encourage greater botanical diversity.

The 2022 breeding bird survey (Sylvan Consultancy 2022) supports an increase in the amount of low, dense scrub and provision of more standing dead wood to increase nesting opportunities for birds at the Country Park. The report also suggests that providing installing nest boxes suitable for Marsh Tit in areas of Alder woodland could encourage more breeding pairs of this UK Red Listed bird to use the Country Park.

The core, ongoing management of INNS and path edge mowing for access purposes remain important activities and should continue as they have done in previous years.

2.2 Path Management

2.2.1 Path Network Review

The surfaced path around the Country Park is very popular with visitors and the crushed sandstone surface appears to be lasting well, however, smaller desire line paths continue to appear in places. If these minor paths are allowed to become established and proliferate there is a real danger that the already small blocks of woodland habitat could become further fragmented This would cause damage to ground flora and increase levels of disturbance to wildlife.

Brash used to restrict access to a desire line path

Dead-hedging with brash to discourage access to some paths has been successful in recent years but a more strategic approach to defining and managing the path network is now needed. All the minor and non-surfaced paths should be mapped and an assessment made of their level of use.

The least used minor paths and those that cross or provide access to particularly sensitive habitats that are susceptible to damage (such as wet woodland and the lower pond) should be identified. These paths should not be maintained in any way and their use discouraged by the strategic placement of dead-hedging. Conversely, the most heavily used desire line paths and those which do not threaten areas of waterlogged or fragile vegetation could receive low-key management actions to facilitate access out as needed, for example periodic clearance of overhanging woody vegetation or consolidation of very wet sections.

2.2.2 Path Management

The current path edge mowing regime that has promoted the development of grassy, locally flower-rich margins should be continued and new, wider edge zones should be created around the main path. The overall aim should be to increase the amount of structurally diverse, species-rich and well-connected path edges zones around the site.

Flower-rich, sunny bay on the path edge

Narrow swathes are mown alongside path edges as necessary during the growing season to maintain a fairly low sward. The remainder of the path edge vegetation is mown annually, late in the season with the cuttings removed. This regime successfully allows a mixture of short and tall swards to develop alongside paths.

Extending and widening path edge zones with scallops and bays to increase the amount of grassy and scrub habitat in the Country Park will benefit a variety of wildlife. A band of low, dense scrub at the back of path edges will also help to discourage new paths opening up into wooded areas.

There are particularly good opportunities to create sunny, path edge bays and scallops by selectively removing young trees and coppicing alongside the main path north of the Osborne Road car park and also at several points alongside even-aged Alder woodland (see Figure 2).

Removing young trees on the left of the path would create a sunny, south- and east-facing bay

Brash from tree and woodland management should be used as dead-hedging at the back edge of new bays and scallops to help restrict access into adjoining woodland. This is especially important to protect the fragile soils and ground flora of wet woodland areas. The dead-hedging will gradually rot down as coppice stools re-grow and Bramble scrub develops.

Coppice stools and scrub alongside the paths and at the back of path edges zones will need to be cut on rotation to promote and sustain dense woody growth and structural complexity across the site. As a guide approximately 20% of this woody vegetation alongside paths should be cut per year (i.e. a 5-year rotation).

Flexibility in selecting which areas to cut each year is important when managing scrub edges because shrub growth rates will vary across the site and between species.

Routine safety work to cut back overhanging, fallen or dangerous trees alongside paths should continue as previously.

2.3 Glade Creation & Management

2.3.1 Glade Creation

There are currently four glades in the Country Park; above the Osborne Road car park, the heathy glade on the edge of the upper wet woodland, Tollwood Road car park glade and the linear glade (see Figure 1).

A fifth glade should be created at the southern entrance from Tollwood Road where tall herb and low scrub vegetation is already present on both sides of the path that enters the Country Park.

The existing open area could be widened into a glade by cutting back the vegetation on both sides of the path, including coppicing some of the surrounding trees and shrubs. The new glade should be maintained by a combination of regular path edge mowing, rotational cut and collect management and periodic scrub edge cutting in line with the other glades in the Country Park.

Site for a new glade on the path at the southern entrance from Tollwood Road

INNS control will be needed in the new glade to ensure that the invasive species of garden origin that occur here they do not spread further into the Country Park (see section 2.4 below).

2.3.2 Glade Management

The central areas of all the glades should be managed by annual, late season cut and collect of the herbaceous vegetation. This will prevent woody species encroaching into open, sunny zones that support grassy vegetation with nectar- and pollen-rich wildflowers that are attractive to insects including butterflies, hoverflies and bees.

Glade margins and edge zones should be managed a little less frequently than the central section to allow taller herbaceous vegetation and low Bramble scrub to develop. The edge zones of each glade should be maintained by cut and collect management on a two-year rotation. Cutting only half of each glade's edge zone will ensure that some tall vegetation and Bramble around the margins is retained to provide over-wintering habitat for invertebrates and cover for other fauna.

The Osborne Road car park's west-facing glade would benefit from continued thinning of the larger trees and shrub (in addition to annual cut and collect management). The woody species on this bank should be re-cut periodically to promote a structurally diverse mosaic of low scrub within the more open, sunny area. Growth rates will determine how often the trees and shrubs will need to be cut, but the Gorse scrub in particular may need management every 2-3 years to prevent excessive shading of the glade's ground flora.

Vegetation in the glade above Osborne Road car park

The linear glade lies on a plateau near Tollwood Road and has now developed into a valuable semi-open and secluded feature on the western edge of the Country Park. It could be extended slightly by selective coppicing of the trees and shrubs on its margins, taking care to avoid encouraging increased access.

The secluded linear glade

2.4 Woodland Management

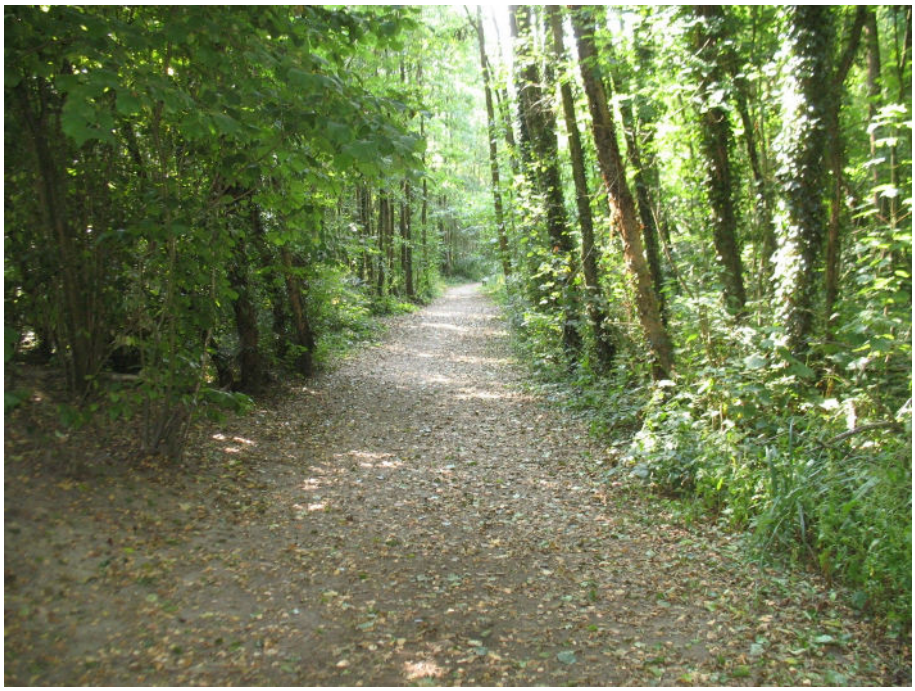
2.4.1 Thinning & Coppicing

Gradual thinning of trees in the most even-aged areas of woodland should be continued. This will create a more diverse woodland age structure with a better developed shrub layer and promote greater botanical diversity. Some Oak thinning is already scheduled for the winter of 2022/23.

Woodland thinning should focus on the areas where trees show the most dense and spindly growth, particularly the northern, Alder-dominated wet woodland and the young plantation immediately to its north. These two areas should be thinned by approximately 20% over the lifetime of this management plan.

There is also scope to thin and coppice the area of mixed woodland around the upper reaches of the stream, although this is of lower priority.

Work to thin dense stands of trees should be combined with selective removal of trees on the woodland edges as part of path edge scalloping and widening work to promote more scrubby woodland edge habitat.



Even-aged woodland suitable for thinning and selective removal on the path edges

At the time of writing the Country Park is still subject to a blanket Tree Preservation Order (TPO) which can cause delays to approval for tree work. Wealden District Council has been approached to review the situation in order to facilitate more flexible woodland management for conservation purposes.

2.4.2 Minimal Intervention & Safety Work

The established minimal intervention zones should be retained to provide relatively undisturbed areas where wildlife conservation takes priority over access. Management in these areas, in the south of the Country Park, the valley bottom wet woodland and the steep eastern slopes, should be limited to essential tree safety work and INNS control.

Routine safety felling and coppicing of dangerous trees that overhang main paths will always be needed at the Country Park. This is likely to include Ash trees affected by disease and Alder in the north of the site.

2.4.3 Dead Wood

The lack of standing dead wood has been identified as a possible limiting factor to some breeding bird populations at the Country Park. Creating more standing dead wood would increase the available resources for a range of wildlife, from hole-nesting birds to fungi and invertebrates.

Selected trees should be ring-barked and left standing in areas where it is safe to do, for example in the largely inaccessible interior of the northern area of wet woodland.

All naturally occurring standing and fallen dead wood, as well as the products of woodland management, should be retained on site and in situ wherever possible.

2.5 Control of Invasive Species (INNS)

The Country Park now has significantly lower levels of all the INNS that were identified in previous management plans but vigilance is needed and several species that are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are still present.

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, Portugal Laurel *P. lusitanica* are much less prominent across the site and control of Wilson's Honeysuckle *Lonicera nitida* has been very successful.

Chemical control of INNS is avoided as far as possible on CTC nature reserves which means that the cut stumps of laurel shrubs are not treated with herbicide. Where re-growth from stumps is sparse, with no possibility of supporting nesting birds, it is acceptable to cut the new growth back in spring and early summer, as soon as they are noticed, to progressively weaken the plants.

Unfortunately Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* has recently re-appeared near the Osborne Road car park where it had previously been treated and believed eliminated. Control measures for this species will have to resume.

INNS control will be needed in the new glade at the southern Tollwood Road entrance to target variegated Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon ssp.argentatum* and Montbretia *Crocosmia x crocosmifolia* (which also occurs in quantity on the eastern slopes).

The different techniques for controlling various INNS across the site that have been successful in previous years should be continued. These include hand removal of aquatic species in both ponds (Parrot's-feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*, Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis* & New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*), pulling and brush-cutting Indian Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, especially in the valley bottom wet woodland along with repeated cutting of woody species re-growth.

Plant fragments derived from INNS must be disposed of appropriately to ensure they does not remain viable or spread outside the Country Park.

2.6 Pond & Stream Management

2.6.1 Upper Pond

Selective coppicing of bankside trees and shrubs around the upper pond has successfully created a mixture of dappled shade and sunny areas suitable for a range of aquatic fauna and flora. Trees and shrubs around the pond should be re-coppiced on an ad hoc basis to maintain the balance of light and shade.

The upper pond has been divided into two zones in order to reduce the excessive erosion of the pond banks that risked disturbance to the habitat and adverse impacts on breeding amphibians. The southern section has had access to the water restricted using temporary bankside fences with explanatory signs.

Fencing and signage at the southern part of the upper pond

Now that visitors are used to this zoning, it is recommended that the temporary fence around the upper pond should be replaced with more permanent and robust post and rail fencing.

The northern section of the pond has been left unfenced to allow some access to the water. A willow shrub has fallen across this part of the pond and is re-sprouting, which not only provides excellent habitat for aquatic wildlife but also helps to limit disturbance from dogs that will inevitably swim in this unfenced section.

Unfenced, northern section of the upper pond

2.6.2 Lower Pond

The lower pond is now well-established and recently there have been breeding attempts by amphibians, however, considerable disturbance from people and dogs has caused considerable trampling of the banks. Temporary fencing and signage to limit access has been installed where the path meets the pond.

View of the lower pond showing trampled bank

The lower pond lies on the edge of fragile wet woodland and wetland in the valley bottom. Ideally there should be restricted public access here to limit potential disturbance to the wildlife and damage to wetland

soils and flora. The path leading to the pond is narrow, it often lies wet and should not be widened or made any easier to navigate.

Path through wet woodland to the lower pond

2.6.3 Stream

The severe, ongoing erosion of the stream banks at the head of the gill probably need some level of hard engineering to at least slow the rate of erosion and reduce potential undermining of the main path.

Recent erosion of the stream banks 2022

Options for measures that could be taken are outside the scope of a conservation management plan but it is recommended that advice should be sought from an appropriate, and ideally local, engineering contractor with experience of working in sites of high nature conservation value.

Otherwise there is currently limited management that is needed on the stream itself now that leaky dams have been installed in the upper reaches.

2.7 Survey & Monitoring

The biological survey and monitoring of wildlife at the Country Park should be taken forward as a high priority in the life of this Management Plan. Some of the recommended survey and monitoring actions could be carried out by the CTC ranger and volunteers whilst others may need input from specialist contractors.

The regular fixed-point photographic monitoring should be supplemented by commissioning an aerial survey of the Country Park using a UAV/drone. When repeated this would help document and monitor change in vegetation structure over time. An aerial survey should be carried out in the winter or early spring when trees are bare.

Regular recording of a butterfly monitoring transect should continue.

The 2022 breeding bird survey provided valuable baseline and insight into the current use of the Country Park by breeding birds and the potential to improve its habitats for birds. Annual surveys of breeding birds would be extremely valuable to build on the baseline data and help to assess the effectiveness of management actions.

The last full botanical survey was carried out in 2006 and is now somewhat out of date. Commissioning a vegetation assessment with a particular focus on the southern area, path edges and glades should be considered during the life of this plan.

The Country Park appears to support an interesting variety of fungi for its size and further investigation of its mycological value should be considered as part of the survey programme. Other biological surveys that should be considered when resources allow are of bats and invertebrates.

Populations of breeding amphibians, particularly Common Toad, are an important part of the biodiversity of the Country Park. Recording amphibian breeding success should be part of the annual monitoring work on the site.

Progress on INNS control work should be monitored by a combination of INNS mapping supported by visual checks and repeat photography of treated areas.

2.8 Other Management Actions

Regular litter picking by the CTC Ranger is effective in keeping the Country Park looking well cared for and should continue.

The current interpretive boards located at the Osborne Road car park and the northern Tollwood Road entrance are now rather worn and in need of updating. This is already in hand and due to be completed in winter 2022/23.

A recommendation in the 2022 breeding bird survey is to install nest boxes for use by Marsh Tit. Suitable nest boxes should be purchased if resources allow or it may be possible to find a local Men's Shed or similar voluntary organisation willing to construct nest boxes at low or no cost.

This management plan should be reviewed and a new five-year plan prepared towards the end of 2027.

COUNTRY PARK FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN 2023 to 2027

MANAGEMENT TASK	AREA	TIMING	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Paths							
Map, review & rationalise the path network	Whole site	ASAP	✓				
Block small paths that affect sensitive areas & maintain others	Whole site	As necessary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mow strip along path edges for public access	All main paths	April – September	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mow full width of grassy margins & remove cuttings	All main paths	Autumn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Extend scallops & bays to widen path edge zones	All main paths	Winter	✓		✓		✓
Use dead hedging to discourage access to sensitive habitats	All main paths	Winter	✓		✓		✓
Re-cut/coppice approx 20% of scrub along path edge zones	All main paths	Winter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Essential safety work on trees affecting paths	All paths	As necessary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glades							
Create a new glade	Tollwood Road S entrance	January/February	✓				
Cut & collect vegetation from the centre of glades	All glades	Autumn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

MANAGEMENT TASK	AREA	TIMING	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Cut & remove 50% of tall herb & scrub edge vegetation per year in each glade	All glades	Autumn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continue to thin trees & shrubs	Osborne Road glade	Winter	✓				
Re-cut/coppice trees & shrubs on short rotation	Osborne Road glade	Winter		✓		✓	
Enlarge the linear glade	Western plateau	Winter	✓				
Woodland							
Retain minimal intervention areas (INNS control & essential safety work only)	Southern area, wet woodland, eastern slopes		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continue tree safety inspections & essential work	Whole site	All year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thin even-aged stands by 20% in total to enhance the shrub layer & promote better growth of remaining trees	Northern wet woodland & young plantation	Winter	✓			✓	
Coppice approximately 10% of woodland	Upper stream reaches	Winter					✓
Retain deadwood & ring bark selected trees	Whole site		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
INNS							
Remove Japanese Knotweed	Osborne Road bank	ASAP	✓	✓			

MANAGEMENT TASK	AREA	TIMING	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Control INNS & garden escapes	New glade at Tollwood Road south entrance	Autumn/winter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continue to control Rhododendron & Laurel re-growth	All wooded areas	Winter (or spring/early summer for sparse re-growth)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continue to control Indian Balsam	Wet woodland	June/July	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Control Montbretia	Eastern slopes	Autumn/winter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor for return of aquatic INNS & control if necessary	Upper & lower ponds	Late summer/early autumn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stream & Ponds							
Replace temporary fencing with post & rail fence	Upper pond	Autumn	✓				
Re-coppice bankside trees & shrubs as necessary	Upper pond	Winter		✓		✓	
Seek advice on engineering options to mitigate erosion	Upper stream valley	ASAP	✓				
Survey & Monitoring							
Continue regular fixed point photograph	Whole site	As previously	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continue regular butterfly monitoring transect	Whole site	April - September	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

MANAGEMENT TASK	AREA	TIMING	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Commission aerial photographs	Whole site	Winter/early spring	✓				
Conduct annual breeding bird monitoring	Whole site	March - June	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commission a botanical survey	Whole site	April - July		✓			
Commission surveys of fungi, bats and invertebrates as resources allow	Whole site	As appropriate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor breeding amphibians	All ponds	February -April	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor success of INNS control via visual checks photography & mapping	Whole site	Spring/Summer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other Actions							
Regular litter removal	Whole site	As necessary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Install bird nest boxes suitable for Marsh Tit	Wet woodland areas	ASAP	✓				
Review management & prepare new five-year plan		Summer					✓

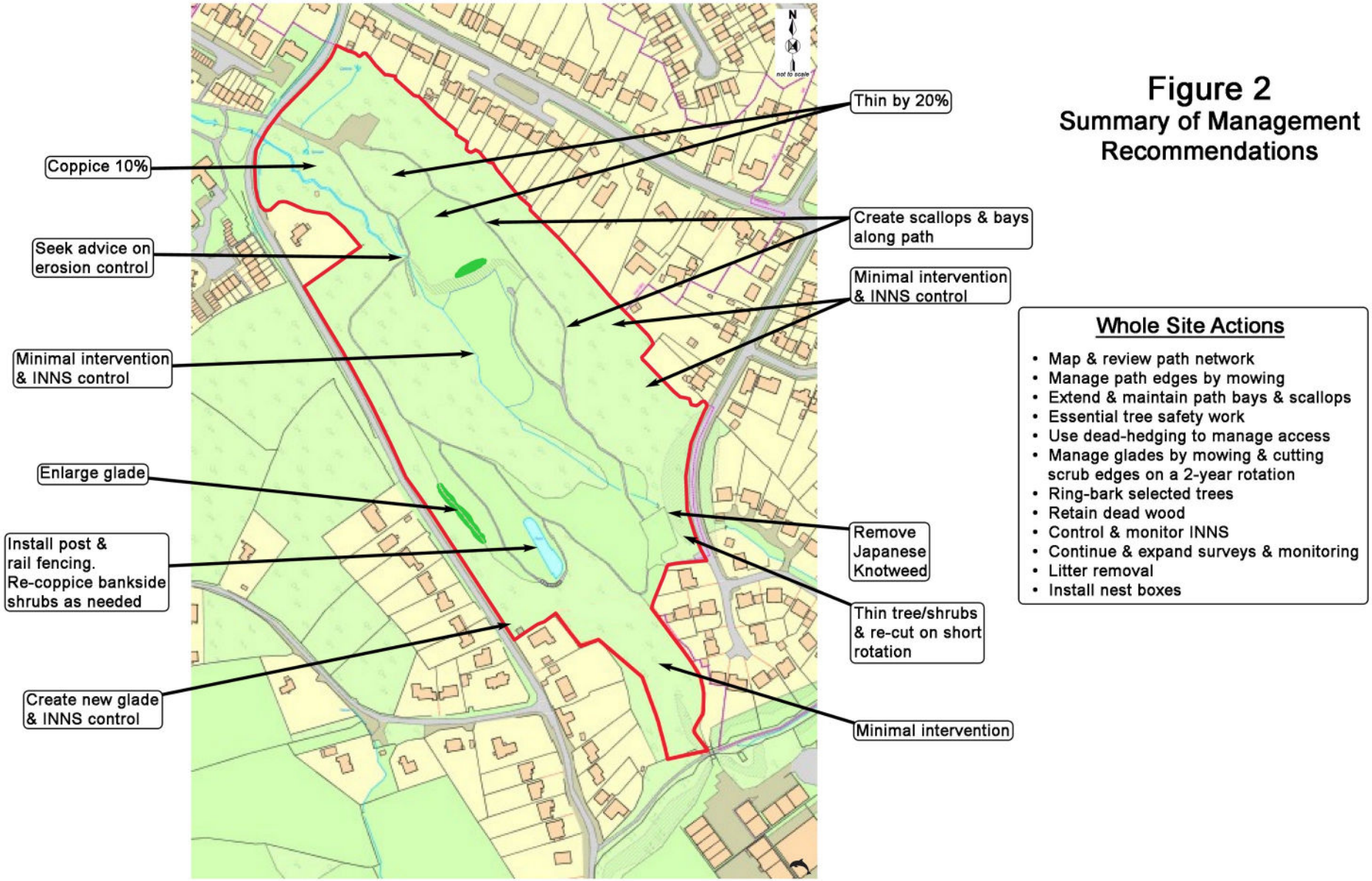


Figure 2
Summary of Management Recommendations

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APPENDIX: Local Wildlife Site Citation Provided by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

East Sussex

Site Name:	**Jarvis Brook Country Park**		
Site Ref(s):	CW71	**Owner(s):**	
District(s):	Wealden	**Size (ha):**	8.36
Parish(es):	Crowborough	**Date(s):**	Identified May 1995 Last Revised Jun 2016
Grid Ref:	TQ530299	**Surveyor(s):**	Kate Ryland

Summary

Jarvis Brook Country Park lies in the south-eastern part of Crowborough and occupies the site of a disused clay pit and brickworks. It supports a range of structurally diverse habitats, most of which have developed since brick production ceased but with relict areas of longer established vegetation.

The site has been designated a Local Nature Reserve and is extremely popular with local people for informal recreation.

Site Description

The pond in the southwest of the site supports populations of breeding Common Toad *(Bufo bufo)* and Palmate Newt *(Lissotriton helveticus)* as well as providing good habitat for invertebrates such as odonata. There are areas of secondary woodland, wet woodland and scrub, fragments of ancient woodland, grassy and heathy glades, streams and ponds. The steep slopes around the edges of the site and the upper stream valley are notable for their sandstone exposures and seepages, which support a diverse range of mosses, ferns and liverworts.

The secondary woodland includes extensive areas of Birch *(Betula spp.)*, Ash *(Fraxinus excelsior)*, Willow *(Salix spp.)*, and Oak *(Quercus robur)* whilst Alder *(Alnus glutinosa)* woodland occurs across large parts of the site. The wet woodland areas have a diverse ground flora that includes many wetland species such as Marsh Marigold *(Caltha palustris)*, Hemlock Water-dropwort *(Oenanthe crocata)*, Water Mint *(Mentha aquatica)* and Lesser Spearwort *(Ranunculus flammula)*. Hazel *(Corylus avellana)* coppice with Bluebell *(Hyacinthoides non-scripta)* and Wood Anemone *(Anemone nemorosa)* occur in the ancient woodland fragments on the site edges.

Open areas alongside paths and in small glades provide a contrast to the woodland and support a range of common grassland plants that are valuable to invertebrates.

Management Recommendations

There has been on-going control of invasive, non-native species in the Country Park and this management will need to continue for the foreseeable future.