

Spa Common Folly

Management Plan

Date:	2007	to	2027
Owner / tenant:	North Norfolk District Council		
Agent / contact:	Robert Goodliffe		

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Location

Nearest town, village or feature	North Walsham, Manor Road
Grid reference	TG295303
Total area (ha)	

1.2 Description of the woodland(s) in the landscape

Spa Common Folly was planted during the development of the adjacent residential area in the late 1980-90's and incorporated existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees. It is visible from a Manor Road and the adjacent estate. There is a small playing field to the south of the wood.

1.3 History of Management

Spa Common Folly was planted as part of the adjacent Brick Kiln Road development. The species mix is very diverse and incorporated native and non native broadleaves and conifers. The woodland incorporates two old farm hedges and hedgerow English Oaks. A circular path network was installed and is regularly cut. Light thinning occurred in 2004 to remove Sycamore trees and most of the tree guards have been removed. Some Larch have been removed due to wind blow.

See site map for areas of the woodland.

2. WOODLAND INFORMATION

2.1 Areas and features

2.1.1 Designated Areas	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Special Areas for Conservation (SACs)			
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
Ramsar Sites (see note on Guidance)			
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)			
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)			
Other designations eg: National Parks (NPs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)			
Details			
2.1.2 Rare and important species	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Red Data Book or BAP species	X		
Rare or threatened species	X		1. Site Map
Details			
Bats are likely to feed on the edges of the woodland and may roost in old hedgerow oaks. (Sch 5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)			
2.1.3 Habitats	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)			
Other semi-natural woodland			
Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)			
Semi-natural features in PAWS			
Woodland margins and hedges	X		1. Site Map
Veteran and other notable trees	X		1. Site Map
Breeding sites			
Habitats of notable species			
Unimproved grassland			
Rides and open ground			
Valuable wildlife communities			
Feeding areas			
Lowland heath			
Peatlands			
Others			
Details			
English Oaks and young Peach tree.			

2.1.4 Water	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Watercourses			
Lakes			
Ponds			
Wetland habitats			
Details None			
2.1.5 Landscape	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Landscape designated areas			
Landscape features			
Rock exposures			
Historic landscapes			
Areas of the woodland prominent from roads	X		
Areas of the woodland prominent from settlements	X		
Details			
2.1.6 Cultural Features	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Public rights of way			
Prominent viewing points			
Permissive footpaths	X		1. Site Map
Areas managed with traditional management systems			
Details The site is currently open to the public for quite informal recreation.			
2.1.7 Archaeological Features	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Scheduled monument			
Historical features			
Details None.			

2.2 Woodland resource characteristics

The wood is of one age group and of very mixed deciduous and conifer species. Planted trees include English Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore, Silver Birch, Wild Cherry, Hawthorn, Hazel, European Larch and Scots Pine. The older hedgerows include Hawthorn and English Elm. The Hedgerow Oak trees are of varying quality and have lost bows in the past.

The stand is due for a thin and would benefit from pruning. The northern area of the plantation is impenetrable from brambles and requires clearing. The English Elm is suffering from Dutch Elm Disease.

2.3 Site description

This wood is on a flat site and is accessible by vehicles through the playing field off the brick Kiln Road. The soil is very heavy in parts and becomes waterlogged along the pathways during sustained wet weather. There is a loop of footpaths and these are used by local residents for walking, dog recreation and children playing. The northern side is flanked by a minor road and to the south the site borders gardens on the residential estate. Current management is for quite informal recreation and there is currently no provision for timber production.

2.4 Significant hazards, constraints and threats

Public access is 24 hour and so any work must be carried out in consideration to this. The road, permissive paths and residential areas adjacent to the wood increase the risk of potential tree hazards so annual inspections are required. The site is sometimes used for fly tipping in particular garden waste. The soil has a heavy nature and is prone to water logging along pathways.

3. LONG TERM VISION, MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

3.1 Long term vision

North Norfolk District Council is committed to manage the woods to Green Flag standards and improve all its woodlands for conservation, public access and small scale timber production where appropriate.

3.2 Management Objectives

No	Objective
1	Maintain a clean and welcoming place which encourages positive public access and contributes to local wellbeing.
2	Maintain and enhance the conservation value of the wood.
3	Encourage a mixed stand of broadleaf woodland.

3.3 Strategy

The young trees will be managed to encourage vigorous growth and good form. Access will be maintained, site inspections will continue at a quarterly frequency with an annual tree inspection. An ongoing species survey will commence.

4. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS/OPERATIONS

4.1 Silvicultural systems

4.1.1 Harvesting

Timber during early thinning will be stacked into habitat piles and firewood removed if required.

4.1.2 Phased felling and restructuring of plantations

Due to the limited size, the woodland will be managed as one compartment with the management prescriptions applying to the whole area.

4.1.3 Establishment, restocking and regeneration

The woodland is young and has a good stocking rate. No restocking is currently required within the coup. Where English Elms are removed in the hedgerow, suitable native species will be used as replacements at 4 plants per meter.

4.2 New planting

Where planting is used local provenance will be sought if possible.

4.3 Other operations

Quarterly inspections of the site to check for litter, fly tipping, vandalism or any other hazards. Annual tree inspections to be carried out along paths, boundaries and road edge. summer grass cuts along paths and winter pruning to allow easy access.

4.4 Protection and maintenance

4.4.1 Pest and disease management

Deer and Grey Squirrels do not pose a threat to the tree stock. Pesticides will only be used to kill Sycamore stumps.

4.4.2 Fire plan

Bonfires from unknown persons monitored.

4.4.3 Waste disposal and pollution

Litter is removed from site by Rangers and recycled where necessary. Fly tipping is removed by contractors and disposed of through District Council Environmental Protection Team.

4.4.4 Protection from unauthorised activities

Site is monitored for unauthorised activities such as vandalism, fly tipping, motorbikes and quad bikes. Action is taken where possible to deter these issues.

4.5 Game management

N/A

4.6 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

4.6.1 Management of designated areas

N/A

4.6.2 Measures to enhance biodiversity

The following measures are being put in place to enhance biodiversity:

- Management of new plantings
- Retention of standing deadwood away from paths and boundaries and maintained where possible in other areas
- Felled timber retained for habitat piles.
- Avoid woodland management in nesting season (April-July)

4.6.3 Special measures for ASNW and SNW

N/A

4.6.4 Special measures for PAWS

N/A

4.7 Management of social and cultural values

4.7.1 Archaeology and sites of cultural interest

N/A

4.7.2 Public access

See Site Map for permissive paths, access points and public areas.

5. CONSULTATION

Organisation/individual	Comment	Response/action
Forestry Commission	Felling Licence once above 5 cubic meters.	Monitor.
Town Council	Prior to work being carried out	Letter to inform of proposed actions
Public	Prior to work being carried out	Use of local press and sign to inform of future plan.
Sadler's Wood Action Group	Prior to work being carried out	Discuss upcoming work.

6. MONITORING PLAN SUMMARY

Objective number, issue or UKWAS Requirement	Indicator	Method of assessment	Monitoring period	Responsibility	How will information be used
Maintain a clean and welcoming place which encourages positive public access	Condition of site	Inspection	Quarterly	Owner	Identification of issues arising from inspections will feed into the Ranger work programme and hazards/issues identified can be managed accordingly.
Local wellbeing	Feedback from public	Letters/ phone calls/ Informal on site discussions	Ongoing	Owner	Issues arising will be feed into management planning process and actions taken when in accordance with management plan.
Maintain and enhance the conservation value of the wood.	Species Present	Survey	Ongoing	Owner	To highlight sensitive areas and special areas requiring further enhancement/protection.
Encourage mix stand of broadleaf woodland.	Species present	Survey	Ongoing	Owner	To inform future thinning regimes.

7. WORK PROGRAMMES

7.1 Outline long-term work programme (2007 to 2027)

Compartment	Activity	Year
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or area		6-10	11-15	16-20
All	Thin and prune to allow vigorous broadleaf growth of good form	X	X	X
Paths	Cut back in winter and cut in summer	X	X	X

7.2 Short-term work programme (2007 to 2011)

Compartment or area	Activity	Year				
		1	2	3	4	5
Northern area	Clear brambles to allow access to area.	X				
All	Thin and prune systematically to favour broad leaves.	X	X	X	X	X
Paths	Cut in summer	X	X	X	X	X
Paths	Prune back trees in winter	X	X	X	X	X
Roadside hedge	Remove and replant areas of dead Elm	X				

8. MAPS

List all maps here and append to plan.

Map No/Title	Description
1	Site Map

MAP 1 - Site Map - Spa Common Folly

Key

Permissive Path	
Notable Oaks	
Hedgerows	
Woodland Margins	
Playing Field	
Site Boundary	
Access Points	

