



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
Peterborough

King's Wood Local Nature Reserve Community Consultation Report



Photo: Lorraine Dziarkowska

February 2011



Protecting wildlife
close to home

Contents

SUMMARY

1. Brief introduction to the King's Wood Local Nature Reserve Community Consultation

2. Key Recommendations

MAIN REPORT (available upon request)

3. Introduction to the King's Wood Local Nature Reserve Community Consultation

4. Recommendations

5. Considerations

6. Summary analysis of public surveys

7. Summary analysis of stakeholder consultation

Appendices

1. Consultation documentation

2. Results and analysis of public surveys

3. Results and analysis of stakeholder consultation

SUMMARY

1. Brief introduction to the King's Wood Local Nature Reserve Community Consultation

King's Wood is a 32 ha (79 acre) Local Nature Reserve, located in the south west of Corby. It is owned by Corby Borough Council and managed by The Wildlife Trust.

The site was once part of the medieval Rockingham Forest and was the first designated Local Nature Reserve in Northamptonshire. As well as woodland, there are also 2 ponds at King's Wood, along with areas of grassland and wood-pasture. This diversity of habitats makes the reserve a valuable home for a wide variety of wildlife, including over 250 species of plant. King's Wood is very much an urban reserve. It is popular with dog walkers and many local residents use it as a cut through. Due to its location the site is known to suffer somewhat from fly-tipping and general littering, as well as other forms of antisocial behaviour.

The Wildlife Trust believes that the longevity of sites like King's Wood cannot be achieved without involving a wide range of people, and it is therefore essential to effectively engage with local communities to find out how they currently view King's Wood and how they would like to see it used in the future. This had never been done on a significant scale before and so a period of consultation, forming part of The Great Outdoors Project, was deemed appropriate.

The community consultation comprised onsite and offsite consultation with the general public, as well as consultation with key local stakeholders. Public consultation comprised both onsite and offsite surveys, as well as informal discussions and attendance by project staff at external meetings. Stakeholder consultation comprised completion of stakeholder surveys and one-to-one meetings with key individuals.

2. Key recommendations

Listed below are the summarised key recommendations for King's Wood Local Nature Reserve. These are examined in more detail in the main body of this report.

2.1. Access and Interpretation

Increase onsite signage and interpretation to better identify the site as a nature reserve.

Carry out any necessary maintenance/repair work to existing signage and interpretation and ensure all remain in good condition and free of vandalism and graffiti.

Investigate possibility of locating an information board about King's Wood either onsite or in the nearby neighbourhood centre.

Produce a new, updated reserve leaflet for the site.
Ensure the main woodland rides are maintained in the best possible condition.
Ensure all reserve entrances are kept open and clear, as well as secondary paths where possible.
Investigate feasibility of upgrading the surface of some of the secondary paths.

2.2. Site management

Continue regular litter-picking done by the Friends of King's Wood group.
Support and promote this group to encourage greater participation.
Report any fly-tipping to appropriate persons as soon as possible.
Investigate feasibility of locating some appropriate seating within the reserve.
Promote use of the adjoining park as a suitable picnic site when visiting King's Wood.

2.3. Events, Activities and Engagement

Promote existing opportunities at King's Wood through The Friends of King's Wood group.
Organise regular seasonal walks and look into the possibility of holding occasional indoor talks at the Neighbourhood Centre.
Establish a Wild Walk in conjunction with Corby Borough Council.
Promote Trust conservation task days happening at King's Wood and investigate feasibility of organising occasional supplementary work days.
Set up a King's Wood Wildlife Watch group.
Provide regular informal learning and participation opportunities for families and adults through onsite events on themes including survival skills and natural arts.
Expand and build upon existing relationships with other local organisations.

2.4. Communications

Continue to build relationship with local media through The Wildlife Trust communications team.
Produce regular email bulletins with forthcoming events and issues relevant to King's Wood (and other Great Outdoors Project sites).
Utilise community outlets such as libraries, shops and community centres to raise awareness of and promote the reserve.

For more information or to request the full report please contact Louise Tuffin, Community Involvement Officer. louise.tuffin@wildlifebcnp.org or 01604 405285.