

# Management Plans Workshop

By

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# Management Plans

## Contents

### 1 Introduction

A general introduction to the site to give an overview- include habitats present and any notable species

### 2.1 Site Information

- Location- address, grid reference and **map**
- Ownership-whom and what nature eg Leasehold/freehold
- Legal Status- Local Nature Reserve, Registered common, protected species, Wildlife site, etc
- Boundaries
- Local Authority
- Map Coverage-on what map does the site appear
- Photographic coverage-historic if available

### 2.2 Physical Factors

- Geology of site
- Soils- type
- Land form- hills/slope/direction of slope
- Hydrology- water courses/bogs/ponds etc

### 2.3 Biological Interest

- Plants- only outline of notable species present. Put full list in appendix
- Animals- mammals/invertebrates/birds/amphibians. Full list in appendix
- Habitats-grassland/woodland etc. Include BAP habitats and size

### 2.4 Past and present use

- Public interest
- Past management-gives indication as to what has been successful in the past. Fertiliser/grazing
- Present land management
- Historical/archaeological information

(Find information out from other groups such as Wildlife Trust/local natural history groups/Specialist recording groups/archaeological department in the council etc.) Work in partnerships rather than as an isolated group.

### 3 Evaluation of the site

a) What is important about the site and its usefulness? Is it for its nature conservation, archaeology, recreational resource, etc?

What are the requirements of all the users of the site?

b) What are the trends for the site, this comes in two forms.

The natural trend of the site, for example is an area of grassland scrubbing over, and the man-made influences such as number and type of users, anti-social behaviour, etc.

Decide which issues need to be addressed and what is important.

c) What resources are available to manage the site, this includes labour and funding.

At this point some management plans evaluate the site using Ratcliffe criteria; this compares the site to others in the area, its position within its ecological surroundings and its appeal for human use, under the titles of.

Size, Diversity, Naturalness, Rarity, Fragility, Typicalness, Recorded History, Position in Ecological Unit, Potential Value, Public Interest and Intrinsic Appeal.

This is just another way of evaluating the site and its features.

### 4 Objectives for the site

A list of objectives as to what you would like to achieve for the site, which have been identified from survey work and information gathering. These can be built on as more surveying work (an objective) and species are recorded, don't think that you have to record/survey everything before starting to write a plan.

This can start with a list of ideal objectives including those that at present seem unachievable because of funding/labour. It gives an indication as to your intentions for the site and may lead to funding becoming available in the future.

There then needs to be a list of prioritised achievable objectives that have been agreed with all interested parties (**Compromise**). These need to be fairly specific and with an expiation as to why they have been included.

**It is important to know the overall aim (vision) of the site and what you are trying to achieve before deciding on how you are going the practical applications.**

**It is important to know why you are trying to achieve a certain management objective and the justification behind your proposed actions.**

## **5 Management prescriptions**

These can be regarded as a list of work to be undertaken on site that relates to the objectives that have previously been listed and how they are going to be implemented.

It can be simple list of actions for a small site, or for larger sites, the site can be sub-divided into management compartments, such as a pond or grassland etc.

**It is useful to have a map and a description of each compartment accompanying the prescriptions, as a guide for people to undertake the work.**

## **6 Work Programme (can be combined with prescriptions)**

This needs to include:

- What work is to be undertaken- cutting of grass etc
- Who is going to do the work- volunteers/contractors
- The timing of the work- summer/ winter
- Costs for any work

Some work will be ongoing and regular, while other work will be incorporated in to future years work programs.

This part of the management plan is a summary of all the work that is intended to be undertaken on site, enabling the budgeting of time and funding.

Other work can still be done on site that has not been thought of or as a result of emergencies, but these should be incorporated into future management plans.

This part of the plan can be written as a table.

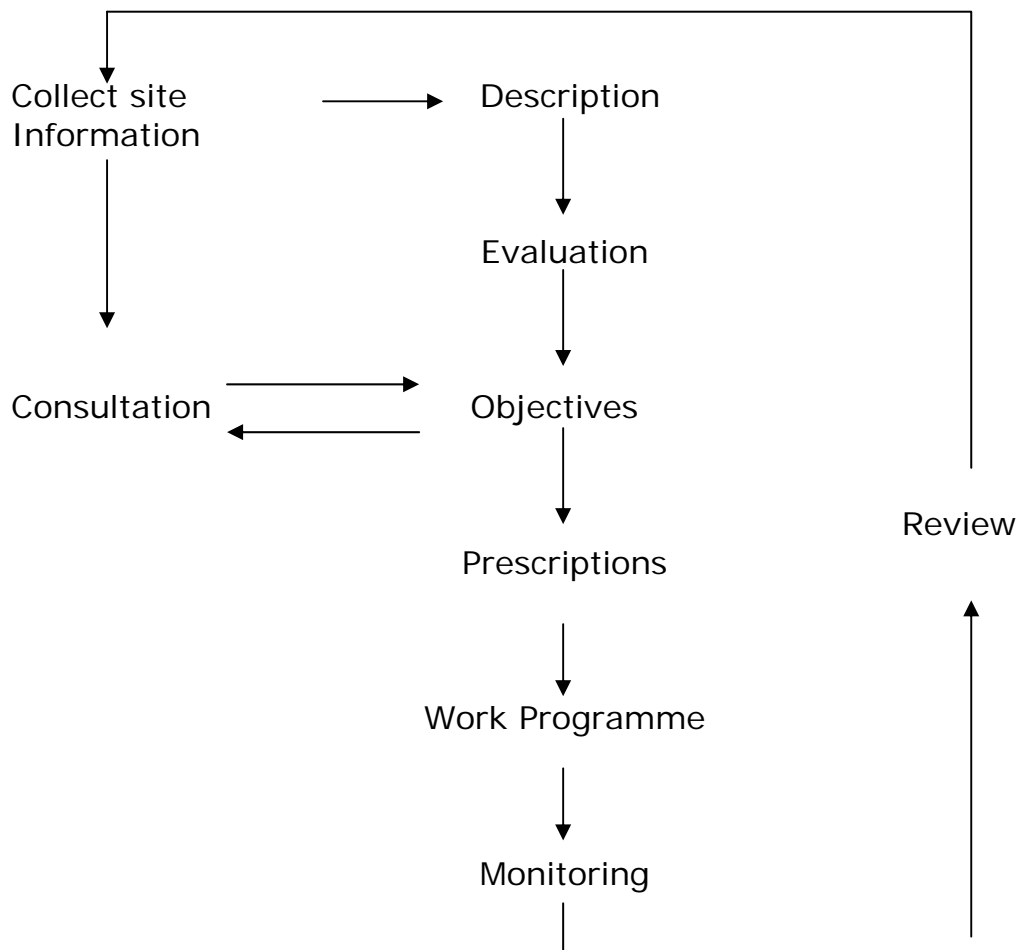
## **7 Monitoring**

It is important to have a review of the management plan and its outcomes, has it achieved the desired outcomes and if not what can be done to facilitate this. Do we need to rethink the objectives or change any of the prescriptions? This will help you with the future management and enable others to see if certain objectives are achievable by your prescriptions.

By keeping a record of the tasks achieved, number of volunteer days and use of the site by schools etc will be needed on future grant applications.

A plan relates to information found as a result of surveying, this process needs to continue via monitoring and build upon what is known about the site.

## Summary



It is important that all health and safety aspects included in to the management plan. Have you got third party insurance to cover? First aider?

Are the management proposals and prescriptions within legal constraints such as Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 etc

Keep management plans as simple as possible, but making sure that not only nature conservation is included, are there other issues such as access that need to be incorporated into a plan. Use appendices to list species list to keep the main body of the text simple and easy to read, mention species in the text that are important to the site, have some rarity value or are listed as BAP species.

Use maps, even simple hand-drawn examples to enable people to understand where you want to undertake work and to show habitats.

Seek information and guidance from your local Biodiversity officers and Wildlife Trusts

### **Useful references**

Alexander M. (2008) Management Planning for Nature Conservation, Springer,

English Nature (2005) NNR Management Plans: A Guide, English Nature, Peterborough.

Sutherland W (2000) The conservation handbook: Research, Management and Policy, Blackwell, Oxford.