


A VISION OF THE FUTURE FOR
Sherwood forest


PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE ECOLOGY
AND LANDSCAPE OF THIS HISTORIC AREA

*Prepared by a Working Group of the
Sherwood Habitats Steering Group*



Key Sherwood Habitats: Acid grass heath, ancient wood pasture, oak woodland & wetlands

 Prime areas for maintaining and restoring key Sherwood habitats

 High value areas for maintaining and restoring key Sherwood habitats

 Potential for extending and re-creating key Sherwood habitats

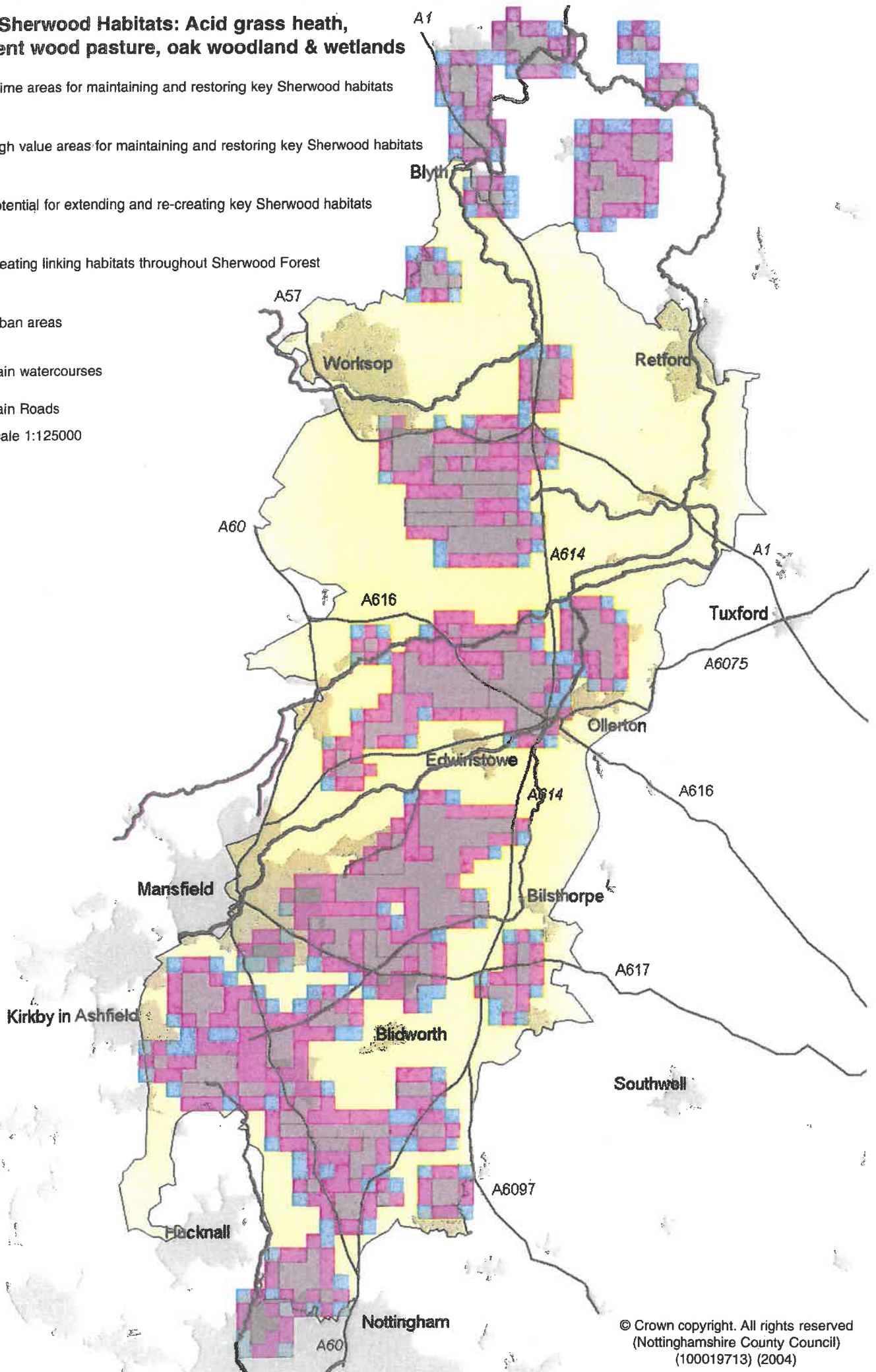
 Creating linking habitats throughout Sherwood Forest

 Urban areas

 Main watercourses

 Main Roads

Scale 1:125000



i INTRODUCTION

The Sherwood Habitats Steering Group (previously the Nottinghamshire Heathland Steering Group) was formed more than ten years ago and leads and provides advice to the Habitats Forum.

The membership comprises many of the main land- owning and land management organisations in the Sherwood Natural Area including the Forestry Commission, National Trust, English Nature, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Nottinghamshire County Council, Defence Estates and Sherwood Forest Trust. It has inspired the re-creation and restoration of many of the habitats of Sherwood, particularly heathland during this period.

This document sets out the steering group's holistic approach to the management of habitats within the Sherwood area over a 50-year period. It is intended to assist in delivering the Vision and Principles for the area, endorsed by the Sherwood Study Advisory Group.

O OVERALL VISION

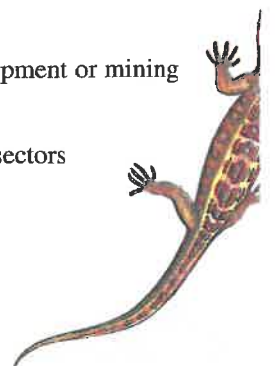


Extensive characteristic Sherwood habitats will cover at least 95% of their 1835 AD range as illustrated by G. Sanderson's maps and will be sensitively managed through sustainable regimes that result in wildlife-rich, high quality landscapes that are valued by local people. These habitats can be classified as dry and wet heathland, acid grassland, native broadleaved woodland, pasture woodland and wetlands.

a AFTER 5 YEARS (2010)

There will be:

- No more destruction of, or damage to existing characteristic Sherwood habitats through built development or mining
- No more loss of existing Sherwood habitats to conventional agriculture
- A broad commitment to implementing positive habitat management at a landscape scale across all sectors
- The establishment of Regional Park Status for the Sherwood area





- The establishment of a developer contribution scheme for the Sherwood area to generate funds for habitat creation, restoration and management
- Mechanisms in place across all sectors to co-ordinate management and restoration of characteristic Sherwood habitats whilst optimising use of available resources (including novel partnerships)



- All major opportunities for restoration identified, including reversion from forestry and mineral site rehabilitation, already under way where possible, using best practice techniques
- Strong planning policies in place to protect Sherwood habitats and to encourage their expansion through the developer contribution scheme
- Strategic planning of major potential linkages between heaths started
- A national programme with suitable resources to enable the eradication of invasive alien species launched in the Sherwood area
- Policies and legislation in place to reduce nutrient enrichment to air and water
- Education initiatives in progress to interpret and engage people with their local Sherwood Habitats
- Local provenance projects well established and producing a range of characteristic species
- A strong recognition of the importance of the Sherwood area for tourism and the local economy
- Improved access to the natural and historic resources of the area

*a*FTER 20 YEARS (2025)

There will be:

- A 60% increase over the 2005 level in the area of characteristic Sherwood habitats through restoration and re-creation
- Previous re-creation sites now established as diverse habitats with rich invertebrate, bird and plant assemblages
- Large areas of characteristic Sherwood habitats generated by linking existing core areas and creating suitable habitat in the surrounding areas
- Sherwood habitat areas large enough to accommodate viable populations of critical species, despite climate change and the associated movement of species
- Co-ordinated management of characteristic Sherwood habitats



- Wide-spread cost effective grazing including the use of free roaming stock
- Increased cultural recognition of Sherwood habitats with greater value placed on those habitats by local communities
- Restoration of a range of key indicator species (nightjar, woodlark, green tiger beetle, adder, etc) which will have dramatically increased their range and population densities throughout Sherwood, as detailed in *The Victoria History of the County of Nottinghamshire* (Page, W. Ed. 1906).
- All invasive alien plants eradicated

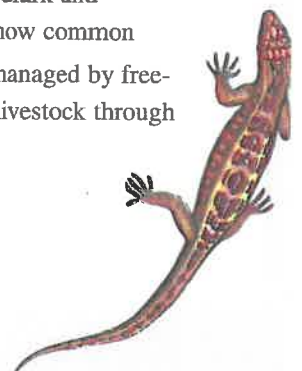
- Conservation of characteristic Sherwood habitats fully integrated into local, regional and national policies with farming, recreation, planning, and development
- Infrastructure changes, such as gated roads, in place to facilitate landscape-scale habitat management
- There will be general acceptance that not every hectare of land has to provide an income but can be valued for its other benefits
- Characteristic Sherwood habitats recognised for their substantial value to the local economy through tourism and as a major contributor to improved quality of life for local people

AFTER 50 YEARS (2055)

- Large tracts of Sherwood habitats will encompass diverse landscapes including heathland, scrub, mire, woodland and acid grassland
- Characteristic Sherwood habitats will be valued as an integral part of the rural and urban fringe landscape
- Sherwood habitats adjacent to urban areas will be valued widely by the community and so no longer subject to arson and vandalism
- Areas of Sherwood habitats will be so extensive that they can function as dynamic ecosystems. They will be robust



- to localised changes and able to accommodate elements of disturbance, such as recreational pressures, without degradation of the overall resource
- Robust linkages between large areas of Sherwood habitats will ensure that the overall ecosystem is resilient to the effects of climate change
- Increases in the populations of key species which were previously scarce, such as nightjar, woodlark and Leisler's bats, will mean that these are now common
- Substantial areas of Sherwood will be managed by free-roaming and feral herds of appropriate livestock through extensive grazing and browsing



e N D O R S E M E N T

The following organisations have endorsed this vision for the habitats of Sherwood Forest:

Defence Estates

English Nature

Forestry Commission

National Trust

Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Sherwood Forest Trust

Other organisations are invited to endorse the shared vision for this historic landscape area.




Images courtesy of D. Wright (front), A. Goodall, E. Wooddisse & RSPB.

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 Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund