

# **Chevin Forest Park Local Nature Reserve**

## **Management Plan 2016-2026 Volume 1**



**PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE**  
*managing the environment for recreation*



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*Front Cover photo – Chevin Local Nature Reserve Open Day 2006 Amazing  
Moths Activity*

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Aim and Structure of the Management Plan**

This Management Plan has been produced to co-ordinate all the existing activities that take place on the Chevin Forest Park (referred to hereafter as The Chevin) and provide a focus for future activities and funding opportunities.

Volume 1 is intended to be used by anyone seeking an understanding about what makes The Chevin special and to understand the reasons for the proposed management of the site. As recommended by the CABI Space guidelines to producing management plans, there are two Parts to this Volume “Where are we now?” and “Where do we want to get to?”

Volume 1 goes as far as setting the Vision, Aims and Objectives that should stay valid for the 10-year period of this management plan.

Volume 2 goes a stage further and identifies the Actions needed to achieve these Objectives. It is intended to be used by Leeds City Council (LCC) officers to guide their annual management activities. It also contains information on how the Actions will be monitored. Volume 2 outlines “How will we get there?” and “How will we know when we have got there?”

The Green Flag Award scheme is an initiative that encourages the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways. It is expected that The Chevin will be managed to meet the relevant criteria of this award scheme and be accredited with the Green Flag Award. This Management Plan has been written in a structure which fits in with the Green Flag Award judging process.

### **Background of the Management Plan**

Various drafts of a management plan have previously been produced for The Chevin and used for Green Flag applications but these have been more descriptive documents than “working” documents (and were done before the CABI Space guidelines to the production of management plans). Various internal consultations had taken place on these previous drafts but a final version had not been formally agreed.

A Forest Design Plan has also been produced between 1997 and 1998 by a forest design consultancy through liaison with LCC staff. This was intended to provide a long-term strategy for the management of the woodlands and a recreation strategy. The Plan was consulted upon both internally and externally and was designed to be implemented over approximately 40 years. A broad range of objectives were identified in the Plan and most of them are still valid today.

Both of the above documents provide some very good background information which was integrated into the 2007-2016 Management Plan where appropriate. In

particular the Forest Design Plan has strongly influenced the recent woodland management of the site.

From 2006 to 2010 the appointment of a new post (the Chevin Estate Officer) was made to improve co-ordination between different LCC officers who carry out different management activities on The Chevin (often under different management structures). The Chevin Estate Officer was given the task of co-ordinating all the management work that needs to be carried out on The Chevin, including the production and monitoring of the former 2007 - 2016 Management Plan.

The 2007 - 2016 Management Plan was written ensuring that all the objectives of previous documents (that are still valid) were fully integrated into this one document. This former Management Plan therefore replaced all previous documents.

The new 2016 - 2026 management plan builds on the 2007 - 2016 one by updating "Where we are now" and "Where we want to get to"

This Management Plan will cover a 10-year period and be reviewed at the end of this period.

## **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Dr Alistair Lawrence (author of a book about the changing landscapes of The Chevin – due for production in late 2006) for historical information about land transfers on The Chevin, and thanks to Mark Pearson (member of the Friends of Chevin Forest Park and professional photographer) for the photographs on pages 5, 12, 18 and 19.



# **PART 1**

## **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**



## **LOCATION, OWNERSHIP AND BRIEF HISTORY**

The Chevin is located 16 km north-west of Leeds city centre, and immediately south of the historic market town of Otley which is situated on the River Wharfe (See Map 1). National Grid Reference SE2044.

The Chevin is owned by LCC's Neighbourhoods and Environment (N&E) Department, and is managed by the Parks & Countryside service. The surrounding land is mainly agricultural consisting of privately-owned pasture, sub-divided into fields with dry-stone walls.

Historically The Chevin has been in various different ownerships. The area to the east of East Chevin Road was given to the people of Otley by Major Horton Fawkes in 1946, following large-scale felling and replanting after the Second World War. This eastern area of around 128 ha was known locally as the Danefield Estate and is subsequently referred to as the Danefield side. It was passed to LCC in 1973 from Otley Unitary Authority. The area to the west of East Chevin Road was purchased by LCC from the Sam Chippendale Trust during the 1970s and is subsequently referred to as the White House side (due to the presence of a group of buildings including one known locally as The White House which is used as office space for the Parks & Countryside service).

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The Chevin covers 170 ha and is on a north-facing, steeply sloping ridge rising from 100 m on the north-west fringe (on the outskirts of Otley) to a summit of 289 m (see Map 2).

The site is long and narrow (1 km at its widest point), stretching across a rocky escarpment for just under 4 km, in an east-west direction. The Chevin is a very dominant feature in the lower Wharfe Valley and is visible from just about every part of Otley and several miles north and east.

A fairly busy road (East Chevin Road) roughly bisects The Chevin north to south, and conveniently splits the site into the Danefield side (to the east) and the White House side (to the west).

The soils are mainly mineral soils overlaying Millstone Grit, tending to be acidic in nature with a shallow humus layer, particularly on the upper slopes (where there are also some areas of naturally impeded drainage). On lower slopes there are brown forest soils which are well-drained and friable. From an agricultural perspective all of The Chevin falls within a category of land called a Less Favourable Area (Disadvantaged level); this recognises the economic problems of farming such difficult land. Prevailing winds are from the west and the north-facing slope is also exposed to north-easterly winds.

The Chevin is an important site because it has features of considerable heritage value (Biodiversity, Geological, Archaeological and Historical Heritage), and because it is also very well used for recreation. It was declared as a Local Nature Reserve in 1989 in recognition of its importance for biodiversity (see Map 3).

The Heritage features are described on the following pages.

### **Biodiversity Features**

An ecological consultancy was commissioned by the Parks & Countryside service in 1994 to carry out a National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey and this provides a good base-line on which to identify the most important habitats and plant species present (a copy of the NVC map is kept in The White House). Some additional species information (birds, fungi, lichens and plants) is also available from volunteer recorders via the West Yorkshire Ecology Service, and information on some grassland areas is available from site visits from DEFRA conservation officers carried out as part of their internal botanical training programme (species lists kept at The White House).

The main habitats present are: Woodland; Heathland; Scrub; Grassland; Water Features; and Rocky Craggs.

#### Woodland

##### *Semi-natural Woodland*



There are extensive areas of semi-natural woodland mainly on the White House side, and also on the Danefield side away from the traditional woodland plantation blocks. The canopy layer comprises mainly of Sessile Oak, Beech and Sycamore, and there is a fairly well developed shrub layer and ground flora. Natural regeneration in the less-shaded and more open areas (such as along woodland rides and heathland areas) is good with Rowan, oak and birch trees becoming established.

Some of these areas of semi-natural woodland are dominated by Beech, with some over mature and veteran specimens which are excellent wildlife refuges. These Beech-dominated areas tend to create very shaded conditions leading to little natural regeneration, shrub layer or ground flora development (apart from below gaps in the canopy where trees have been intentionally removed or have naturally died).

The presence of large tree seeds (particularly beech mast, sweet chestnuts and acorns) encourages Grey Squirrels to thrive, and these are likely to have an adverse impact on nesting woodland birds and may also affect the use of crevices in trees by bats.

There are now numerous mature and over-mature trees which offer good standing deadwood habitats such as rot holes and crevices for bats, birds and invertebrates, this is being mimicked by the “veteranisation” (similar to pollarding) of some large trees on the White House side. This involves cutting off all limbs at a height of approx. 6 m to leave a standing trunk which will die and rot naturally. Research by English Nature (the Government’s nature conservation advisors) has revealed that in order to provide good bat roosting opportunities in woodland there is a need to provide areas with 10 standing deadwood trees per ha. There is also relatively little fallen decaying deadwood available within the woodland areas, and this is being addressed by leaving large cut material on the ground from the “veteranisation”.

<b>Main species present</b>
Canopy and Shrub layers - Sessile Oak, Beech, Sycamore, Silver Birch, Rowan, Scots Pine, Wych Elm, Holly and Sweet Chestnut
Ground flora - Bracken, Broad Buckler Fern, Creeping Soft Grass, Tufted Hair-grass, Bluebells, Brambles, Rough Meadow-grass, Common Bent and Wood Sorrel

*Plantation Woodland*

Blocks of plantation woodland also cover extensive areas (mainly on the Danefield side) and consist of even-aged mixed broadleaved and coniferous species. In line with traditional forestry practices these trees have been planted close together to encourage vertical growth for maximum timber yields. Most plantation blocks are now approx. 50 years old. This traditional forestry management has led to many of the plantation blocks having a well-established timber crop.

From a biodiversity perspective there is not a very well-defined shrub layer or ground flora vegetation due to the dense shade cast by the relatively young trees. However, selective thinning works have been carried out to remove some trees in order to

allow others to attain a larger size. This will also allow some more light to reach the ground and gradually encourage a shrub layer and natural regeneration.

The biodiversity value of these plantation blocks may not be as high as the semi-natural woodland due to the lack of age diversity and lack of associated native species, but the coniferous trees will offer opportunities for a range of different species. Despite being relatively even-aged, these plantations offer a large expanse of woodland with a diversity of tree species resulting in a mixture of seeds and fruits being produced at differing times of the year.

Some of the rides between the plantation blocks are wide enough for other habitats to become established (often referred to “woodland-edge” habitat). These wide rides are good for a mixture of grassland, heathland, and scrub to develop which in turn will benefit insects, birds and mammals such as bats. South-facing, scallop-shaped rides tend to be better for biodiversity. However, in many places the rides are narrow and therefore of limited biodiversity value.

Main species present
Canopy layer - Beech, Western Hemlock-spruce, Sycamore, Larch, Scots Pine, Corsican Pine, Wych Elm and Sweet Chestnut
Ground flora - Bracken, Brambles and Broad Buckler Fern



*Forestry management on The Chevin*

*Woodland Management – A Special Note*

A number of awards have been won by the Parks & Countryside service in recognition of expert forestry management techniques for a range of user benefits.

Woodlands and trees owned by LCC are now managed to the “gold standard” of the Forestry Stewardship Council’s certification scheme which in the UK is The United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard. The highly prized and internationally recognised FSC logo can only be used by woodland owners who manage their trees and woodlands to provide social, environmental and economic benefits in a sustainable way. This involves external auditing and a rigorous inspection regime. The FSC logo can now be applied to (all woodlands managed by Leeds CC and all its woodland products).

## Heathland

### *Dry Heathland*

There are significant areas of dry heathland scattered across The Chevin. Most Heather appears to be in a natural phase of development known as “mature” and some is “over-mature”, but there is a lack of earlier successional age ranges (which are often present on managed sites that are burned or grazed). Lack of recent management and encroachment from birch and oak tree regeneration into these areas is causing this habitat to decline.

Main species present
Tufted Hair-grass, Heather, Bilberry, Heath Bedstraw, Bracken, Common Sorrel, Crowberry and Rosebay Willowherb

### *Wet Heathland*

There are two small areas of wet heathland (also known as mire) to the south-east and east of the Danefield side. Peat may have formed underneath due to the naturally impeded drainage in these areas. Historically, there is likely to have been more wet heath/mire (on the higher more exposed parts of The Chevin) but this is likely to have been replaced by the new woodland plantations. Alder and birch tree encroachment is causing these remaining wet habitats to decline in area and may also be causing a decrease in available water. Historical “improvements” to the drainage across The Chevin will also reduce the amount of water retained on the gentle summit slopes for such wet habitats.

Main species present
Tufted Hair-grass, Heather, Purple Moor-grass, Bilberry, Heath Bedstraw, Cross-leaved Heath, Tormentil, and Deer-grass

## Scrub

Scrub communities cover some large patches of The Chevin. This is probably as a result of any grazing having ceased on The Chevin since LCC took over ownership and opened the site up to the public. This will benefit some bird species but will replace some more valuable open habitats such as heathland and grassland.

Bracken seems to be extensive in the open eastern areas of the Danefield side, but it does not appear to be rapidly invading the adjacent heathland areas.

Main species present
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European Gorse, Bracken, Brambles, Heather, Yorkshire Fog, Tufted Hair-grass and Rosebay Willowherb
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## Grassland

### *Acidic Grassland*

Most of the grassland that occurs across The Chevin is acidic grassland that has established on thin, nutrient-poor soils. Trampling from high visitor numbers has limited its value in some places. Without grazing the natural successor of this type of grassland is dry heathland, but there seems to be little rapid succession of these areas to heathland. One location on the Danefield side is more species-rich with Green-ribbed Sedge and Heath Rush also occurring.

Main species present
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Tufted Hair-grass, Heather, Bilberry, Common Bent, Heath Bedstraw, Mat-grass, Sheep's-fescue and Yorkshire Fog
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### *Rush Pasture*

There are small scattered patches of an acidic grassland vegetation community resembling rush pasture which is comprised of additional Soft Rush and Tormentil - and also a Sphagnum moss (Sphagnum sp.) at one location on the Danefield side.

### *Semi-improved Grassland*

Many fields on The Chevin were formerly agricultural land and often used as pasture, especially those on the more-sheltered lower slopes. It is likely these fields have had some fertilisers added over the years, leading to relatively nutrient-rich, neutral pH soils. These areas can be classed as semi-improved grassland but a lack of grazing or subsequent management has led to them becoming species-poor and often dominated by False Oat-grass, scrub and patches of young woodland. Some of the un-grazed fields have been managed as meadows through annual mowing regimes. Commercial meadow mixtures or wildflower plugs have been added to some fields and one area on the White House side has had species-rich turf translocated from a cemetery in Guiseley.

Main species present
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False Oat-grass, Ribwort Plantain, Tormentil, Creeping Buttercup, Yellow Rattle, Yorkshire Fog, Yellow Oat Grass, Perennial Rye Grass, Common Sorrel, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Cock's-foot grass, Common Bent, Crested Dog's-tail, Selfheal and Dandelion
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## Water Features

### *Standing Water*

The only feature of standing open water of significant size is towards the north-west end of the White House side (near to Yorkgate car park). Here, a pond exists with a good range of submerged, emergent and floating vegetation. There is also a significant amount of a non-native invasive species spreading throughout the pond (which will eventually adversely impact on the native species).

Main species present
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Common Reedmace, Branched Bur-reed, Jointed Rush, Water Plantain, Common Spike-rush, Water Mint, Plicate Sweet Grass, Australian Swamp Stonecrop and Canadian Waterweed
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### *Running Water*

Being steeply sloping there are a considerable number of natural and artificial water features across the site. On the Danefield side some natural springs form fast-flowing streams and create shaded, humid conditions supporting plants such as Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage and a range of liverworts and ferns.

Elsewhere, drainage ditches hold water at various times of the year and are likely to be valuable for a range of insects and some birds. These would have been created to move water away from the plantation areas as quickly as possible.

There is the need to understand the hydrology and drainage pattern across the site before there is significant ditch maintenance. The springs and drainage ditches are not currently mapped and this should be addressed through the production of a ditch improvement and maintenance plan as part of this management plan.

## Rocky Crags and Other Biodiversity Features

Across The Chevin there are large rocky crags of Millstone Grit and areas of exposed rock previously used for quarrying. These rocky outcrops offer good opportunities for nesting birds and the old quarried areas have interesting patterns of re-vegetation. Some limited small scale tree felling is being carried out in consultation with local rock climbing groups where this will facilitate their sport and help to restore long distance views from the estate and also enhance views of the crags from outside the estate

There are also a range of boundary features such as stone walls and hedgerows that offer good opportunities for biodiversity. The stone walls offer undisturbed surfaces for bryophytes and lichens to grow, and some hedgerows have been layered to extend their lifetime. A field survey in 1996 revealed that there are 15.5 km of boundary features present (walls, hedgerows and fences).

Buildings can also be valuable for biodiversity. Bird and bat boxes have been attached to some buildings, and modifications have been made to one building to

allow bats to enter the roof-space and cavity walls (a colony of bats is known to use another building as a summer roost).

A memorial orchard has been planted with a mixture of fruit trees on the White House side, and was used as part of the now defunct annual Tree Warden training programme for pruning techniques and orchard management. Orchards can be valuable nectar, pollen and fruit sources for a range of insects and birds.

## Species and Habitats of Special Conservation Value

### *Plants*

The most valuable plants recorded include (in order of decreasing importance):

Killarney Fern	Recorded in 2006 in its gametophyte form and only known from a few places in the whole of Yorkshire. It is nationally rare, legally protected and is a Red Data Book species
Hybrid Water x Field Horsetail	Recorded in 2006 immediately west of The White House along a wet spring-line
Lemon-scented Fern	Recorded in 2006
Scaly Male Fern	Recorded in 2006
Moonwort	Recorded in 2004 in a grassland area by staff from Defra and does not occur anywhere else in Leeds
Deer-grass	Occurs at only one other location in Leeds
Bog Asphodel	Occurs at only one other location in Leeds
Green-ribbed Sedge	Limited distribution in Leeds
Common Cow-wheat	Limited distribution in Leeds
Lady Fern	Limited distribution in Leeds
Cross-leaved Heath	Limited distribution in Leeds
Common Cotton-grass	Limited distribution in Leeds
Sphagnum sp.	Limited distribution in Leeds
Crowberry	Limited distribution in Leeds

Records of where some of these plants occur are kept at The White House.

### *Insects*

Both the Green Hair-streak and Small Heath butterflies occur on The Chevin and have a limited distribution in Leeds. These species rely on the dry heathland and acidic grassland habitats.





### *Birds*

There are records of some uncommon birds on The Chevin including Woodcock, Crossbill and Common Redstart (both the latter not confirmed but possible). Woodcock nest on the ground in un-disturbed woodland, the Crossbill relies on coniferous trees, and the Common Redstart may use the ledges among the rocky crags.

### *Reptiles*

The use of the site by reptiles is unknown but there are unconfirmed reports of Grass Snakes. Adders and Common Lizards have not been reported but may be present in the open heathland areas.

### *Mammals*

A Brown Long-eared Bat maternity roost has been recorded in 1998 in one of the buildings, and Pipistrelle bats recorded in 2006 using all three buildings at The White House. All bat species are legally protected due to their conservation value. The presence of other bat species is unknown on The Chevin but the Otley area (through communication in 2006 with the West Yorkshire Bat Group) has important populations of bat species. Due to its location in the Wharfe Valley and the extent of available semi-natural habitat, it is likely that there are significant habitat features on The Chevin for a number of different species of bats throughout the year.

### *Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats and Species*

In addition to the above species of special conservation value, in the UK the Government has agreed to identify what are considered to be the priority habitats and species upon which to focus conservation resources. This has resulted in the identification of a number of national Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats and Species which all have individual Action Plans written for them (each one states a number of national Objectives and Actions that are required - see [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk) for more information).

Through focussing resources to improve the conservation value of any of these Priority Habitats or Species at a local level, progress will also be made towards a number of written Objectives and Actions at a national level.

The following UK BAP Priority Habitats and Species are thought to exist on The Chevin:

<b>UK BAP Priority Habitats:</b>	<b>UK BAP Priority Species:</b>
Upland Heathland Lowland Acidic Grassland Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture Upland Oakwood (unconfirmed)	Killarney Fern Yellowhammer Skylark Linnet Song Thrush Bullfinch Pipistrelle Bat

A map of the UK BAP Priority Habitats is available at The White House office.

In addition to the UK BAP Priorities, LCC has produced a Leeds BAP and identified two locally important BAP Habitats and Species which occur on The Chevin: “Hedgerows & Field Margins” and “Pipistrelle Bat”.

## **Geological Features**

The Parks & Countryside service has worked closely with English Nature and the Leeds Geological Association to ensure sufficient information is known about the geological features on the site (this has led to a geological interpretation panel at Surprise View).

The Chevin contains a nationally important geological feature on the White House side called Great Dib Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), see Map 3. Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended) there is statutory duty on LCC to ensure the SSSI is managed in a way to be classified as “In Favourable Condition” by English Nature. Great Dib Wood SSSI is just less than 1ha. in size and is in an area not easily accessible to the public. Its main significance is as a scientific resource and therefore it is important to prevent too much vegetation growing on the features of interest (which would obscure them).

There is a significant geological importance across the rest of the site due to the topography of the land and the history of the underlying rocks, much of The Chevin is also designated as a Regionally Important Geological Site (a map showing the RIGS kept at The White House). The rock formations that underlie The Chevin are of the Carboniferous age, more specifically they belong to the Millstone Grit Group consisting of gritty sandstones interbedded with shale formations which were laid down as sediment around 315 million years ago (when The Chevin was part of a tropical river delta). The gritstone layers forming The Chevin were deposited by a river with strong and shifting currents. These have given rise to a distinctive cross-bedding which can be seen in many gritstone outcrops such as those at Caley Craggs on the Danefield side – on some of these rocks traces of burrowing activity from arthropods and molluscs can be seen.

About 310 million years ago continental collisions crumpled and stacked up layers of rocks in this area. Older, deeper layers of rock were arched upwards and younger overlying layers of Millstone Grit sloped away southwards, forming a long escarpment from Harewood (in the east) to Addingham (in the west).

During the last Ice Age (1-2 million years ago) there was a great thickness of ice covering most of Wharfe Valley. Later, as this ice retreated, there were some large landslips affecting the north face of the Millstone Grit escarpment, which exposed a section of fossil-rich mudstones and limestones known as the Otley Shell Bed – today known as Great Dib Wood SSSI. Virtually all marine groups of animal fossils are represented within the Otley Shell Bed including: brachiopods; bivalves; gastropods; ostracods; corals; polychaetes; and fish fragments. It is also of particular

importance because it is amongst the youngest series of rocks to contain a now-extinct group of animals known as trilobites.

## **Archaeological & Historical Features**

The Parks & Countryside service has worked closely with the West Yorkshire Archaeological Service (WYAS) to ensure any known archaeological features are identified and surveyed.

Map 4 shows a number of the interesting archaeological and historical features referred to below.

### Prehistoric to Roman Period

At the end of the last Ice Age (approx. 8 000 BC) The Chevin is likely to have been a mixture of woodland and natural pasture with a rich variety of animal life (wild horse, red deer, giant ox and wild pig) and it is likely that nomadic Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) hunter-gatherers would have passed through the area using spears, bows and arrows. Yorkgate Road (the road along the ridge of The Chevin) was built by the Romans to link Ilkley and Adel, but it runs close to the route of what is believed to be a prehistoric track which would have given rise to early settlements along it (a little to the south of Yorkgate Road).

The establishment of pastoralism and agriculture is likely to have taken place in the Late Neolithic (approx. 2 800 BC) whereby more advanced stone tools were designed and used, allowing woodland to be cleared more quickly. Many stone flints of various designs have been found on The Chevin and lower down the slopes along the River Wharfe. This may suggest that there were seasonal movements of occupation, where upland sites were used during the summer, and lowland sites used to provide shelter in the winter.

On the White House side there are two rocks (both nationally important Scheduled Monuments) that have either cup-and-ring markings or other carvings on them, see Map 3. These are of the Late Neolithic to Bronze Age periods (from 2 800 to c. 500 BC). Bronze Age settlers (probably coastal travellers arriving from the east of Britain) are suspected to be among the first peoples using metals and producing pottery.

There have been significant finds of artefacts (mainly of flint scrapers, knives and arrowheads) on the Danefield side consisting of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age material. The locations where these artefacts were found (together with more recent historical features) have been identified as sites of Potential Regional Importance by the WYAS (see Map 4).

Surveys on The Chevin in 1996 have found two earthworks (both nationally important Scheduled Ancient Monuments, see Map 3) on the Danefield side that are probably Iron Age settlements. The earthworks have a number of banks and enclosures together with evidence of hut circles that could have been used as a settlement in Iron Age and Roman periods. There is further evidence of Roman occupation on The Chevin from a Roman Road (½ mile south of Yorkgate Road) linking the Roman settlements of Adel and Ilkley.

Early documentary evidence refers to The Chevin as *on Scefinge* (which is possibly from the Celtic word *cefn* – which means *ridge*) and may translate as “place under the ridge”. It is not known whether the Iron Age settlement remains could have given rise to this name.

### Medieval Period

During medieval times, documentary sources indicate that much of The Chevin was common land, being used for grazing, and as a source of fuel (wood) and building materials (stone). Ancient drover’s or pack-horse routes also pass through The Chevin and can still be seen (such as Miller Lane) these were used for bringing stock to and from Otley market.

On the Danefield side there was a hunting lodge called Caley Hall which was owned by the Gascoigne family during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that this Gascoigne family is the same Gascoigne family that lived at Lotherton Hall (near Aberford, east of Leeds) – which is also owned by the Parks & Countryside service.

### Recent History

Change accelerated in the 1700s whereby roads were improved and regular coach services began (the Leeds to Settle route travelled along East Chevin Road until 1823 – and is still known locally as the Old Leeds Road). The Land Enclosures Act in the 1780s ceased the use of The Chevin from common land and subsequently led to large-scale quarrying and tree planting. The enclosing of land divided up The Chevin into a number of different parcels which were given to local people (larger landowners getting more land than the poor).

Quarrying was once an important local industry and The Chevin contains a number of quarry sites, some of which show evidence of different methods of stone extraction. Some also have carvings and signatures done by the Freemen of the Borough of Otley dating back to the 1600s. Stone has been used for Bridlington Pier (a pier stone remains at the entrance to the Danefield Estate from East Chevin Road), the Scarborough Marine Drive, Weymouth Bridge in Sunderland, and more recently for the first hardcore runway at the nearby airport.

### *Danefield Side*

Most of the Danefield side was given to the Fawkes family in the 1780s, and became known locally as the Danefield Estate. This included Caley Hall which became known as Caley Deer Park in the 1820s (with higher stone walls than can be seen today) and was stocked with exotic game. The foundations of a building have been found which is where the Fawkes’ deer-keeper lived (known locally as “Keepers Cottage”), and the remains of a deer-fodder store can also be found near Holbeck stream. Caley Hall was demolished in the early 1900s and the Keepers Cottage was demolished in 1925. Documentary evidence reveals that the Danefield estate was extensively used for timber production as well as for game, wild boar and deer.

An interesting sideline of the Danefield Estate was the production of millstones for various corn mills along the River Wharfe – one of which can be seen today below Caley Craggs on the Danefield side, and another at the top of Johnny Lane on the White House side.

Scenes of The Chevin (mainly based on features around Caley Craggs) were featured in paintings by JMW Turner. He made many visits to the area and stayed at Farnley Hall (to the east of Otley town on the north side of the River Wharfe) as a friend of the Fawkes family between 1803 and 1820. One of his most famous paintings “Hannibal crossing the Alps” was inspired by the sight of a storm crossing The Chevin, another painting features Woodcock being shot on The Chevin.

During World War II most of the mature trees from the Danefield Estate were felled to sell timber for the war effort. A contract dated June 1<sup>st</sup> 1942 indicates that 1019 trees were sold to a local timber merchant for £2000. The Danefield Estate was subsequently given to the people of Otley (on the condition it was re-afforested) in 1946 by Major Le G.G.W. Horton-Fawkes as a memorial to local people who lost their lives during World War II. It is clearly stated in the Land Deeds that the sole use of the land must be “for recreation”.

There are a number of World War II searchlight and gun emplacements on the Danefield side, near the Shawfield car parks. These strategic positions helped defend a nearby RAF base (which is now the Leeds-Bradford Airport) and are unusual because most similar features have been lost across the country because they were on agricultural land which was subsequently ploughed. These features are listed on the National Monuments Record (NMR) held by English Heritage.

Three memorial stones exist on the Danefield side: a war memorial at Holbeck Gate; another war memorial to the citizens of Otley located to the north of Memorial Plantation; and a plaque of recognition to the services of Reginald Rawling (Founder Forester and friend of Major Horton-Fawkes) near to the Danefield Gate picnic site.

In 1968, 170 trees were planted to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of local furniture designer Thomas Chippendale’s birth. These were planted along the north side of a track from Lower Shawfield car park (on the Danefield side) and the trees are representative of the species that he would have used to make furniture from. The Queen donated the first tree from her Sandringham Estate and others are donated from societies and individuals. Beech trees have been planted on the opposite side of the track but have suffered from squirrel damage and will need to be removed in the near future).

### *White House Side*

On the White House side the Land Enclosures Act split the land up into many different parcels and this has given rise to a more varied landscape and range of boundary features. Some of the names featured on maps of the park originate from the families that were given land – such as Ackroyds Wood, Ritchies Plantation, Sinclairs Field and Wilsons Plantation.

There is a line of stones called the “Vacca Wall” (*Vacca* means cow in Latin) above the White House side, this is a wall made up of 5’ by 3’ standing stones which may have formed a livestock boundary as part of a parcel of land which included The White House and was given to the Flesher family as part of the Land Enclosures Act.

There are foundations visible of a beacon keeper’s cottage near Surprise View (known locally as Jenny’s Cottage – due to the presence of Jenny Veal who lived there in the 1880s and served tea). This is next to a beacon site at the highest point on The Chevin (known locally as Frying Pan Rock) which was tended by someone (John Tillotson) in 1799 to warn of a French invasion. A map of 1803 shows a chain of up to 30 beacons then in use in the western Dales (starting at Ingleborough and working its way via The Chevin to Almscliff Crag and beyond). This site is part of a national chain of beacons for warning and celebration (and was last used during Millennium celebrations). The remains of the beacon keeper’s cottage now includes a range finder erected by Otley Rotarians. Another beacon site exists further east at Pelston Crag.

The arrival of the railway in Otley in 1865 allowed easier access to the countryside for the people of Leeds. This gave rise to The Chevin being popular as a beauty spot – and The White House and Jenny’s Cottage being used to supply teas and refreshments to the new tourists.

During the 1960s and 1970s the Sam Chippendale Trust purchased a number of these parcels of land and subsequently LCC purchased many of these (including The White House) from the Trust in 1977. There is no documentary evidence stating why these parcels of land were sold to LCC.

Such finds of artefacts, carved rocks and settlement remains, together with documentary sources for the Otley area, indicate continued human activity at this location from prehistoric times right through to medieval and recent times. This implies that The Chevin and its immediate environment is an area of high archaeological and historical significance. There is an interesting collection of fossils and flints (together with other historic memorabilia) stored at The White House.

## **RECREATIONAL USE OF THE SITE**

### **Walkers, Horse-riders, Cyclists and Other Users**

It is easy to understand the appeal of The Chevin to people seeking an outdoor countryside experience. On the White House side, Surprise View is recognised as one of the finest panoramic views in Yorkshire, with views of up to 60 km.

The Chevin is well served by path networks. Some of these paths are called Definitive Rights of Way (Public Bridleways and Public Footpaths) because they appear on a Definitive Map for Leeds, which is kept up-to-date by the Countryside & Access Team. LCC has a statutory duty to ensure these Definitive Public Bridleways and Public Footpaths remain in good condition. These Definitive Rights of Way are shown on Map 5a. In addition to the Definitive Public Bridleways and Public Footpaths there are many other bridleways and paths, and although there is no statutory duty to maintain these they are just as well used by visitors and therefore require significant extra resources to keep them safe and useable.

Some Definitive Rights of Way have become infrequently used over the years because easier routes have become established or more suitable routes provided. In particular, improvements to the bridleway network (for horse-riders and cyclists) have taken place in order to allow circular routes to be followed – which were not available through the Definitive Bridleway network. This has resulted in a much more extensive network of bridleways and footpaths than just the Definitive Rights of Way network. This is promoted through on-site interpretation such as maps and finger-posts. The finger-posts label these non-definitive bridleways as “Public Bridleways” because it is the intention to upgrade them to the standard whereby they will be adopted as Definitive Rights of Way by the Countryside & Access Team. The bridleway routes that are promoted and encouraged on the site are shown on Map 5c.

Together, these paths and tracks are well-used by a wide variety of people – especially walkers, runners, horse-riders, cyclists, dog-walkers, and naturalists.

#### Walkers

There are two national walking trails or links that pass through The Chevin. The Dales Way Link footpath links Leeds to Ilkley, where the Dales Way national walking trail begins (and proceeds for 88 km through the Yorkshire Dales to Bowness in the Lake District). The other national walking trail is the Ebor Way, which is a 112 km route from the North Yorkshire Moors (Helmsley) to Ilkley. These trails are shown on Map 5b.

In addition there is a circular trail local to Northwest Leeds which is the 43 mile long Northwest Leeds & Green Gateways Trail that runs from Woodhouse Moor near Leeds City centre out to Otley in the north and passes through the Chevin Forest Park. This trail is an integral part of the Northwest Leeds Country Park which is like a mini national park incorporating both urban and countryside elements in the northwest part of the Leeds Metropolitan Borough.





### Horse-riders

Horse-riders are not allowed on the White House side mainly because the paths are narrower and the terrain is more steeply-sloping. Such conditions are more likely to lead to conflicts with other users, and increase erosion problems.

The bridleways on the Danefield side are well-used by horse-riders either informally or as part of organised groups. There are a number of stables and riding schools in the area, including one immediately next to The Chevin on East Chevin Road. To allow horses to gallop a specific section of path is available only for horse-riders, known as The Gallops (see Map 5c).

### Cyclists

As with horse-riders, cyclists are not allowed on the White House side. The bridleways on the Danefield side offer a good network of paths for cyclists. Sometimes this does lead to conflicts with other path users, particularly when bike-riders cycle at high speeds along paths. There are some problems with mountain bike riders on the Danefield side who leave the bridleways and seek their own routes through the steeply-sloping woodland areas. In the past this has caused damage to Scheduled Monuments and safety problems to users when the cyclists cut across their paths.

In order to minimise conflicts with other path users (and reduce widespread unofficial use of the woodland areas) liaison with Chevin Cycles, local cycling clubs and impromptu cycle groups is taking place and consideration is being given to a new dedicated mountain bike trail on the Danefield side. As with any new projects or major works there will need to be careful consideration given to the impacts on the environment and other site users of such a new cycle route (including consultation of site users).



### Other Users

The Chevin is also popular for runners (both informal and regularly organised athletic events), rock climbers and orienteering groups. A local orienteering group called The Airienteers frequently use The Chevin for training and their own informal group events. A permanent orienteering course is set up on the Danefield side and a map is available for anyone to use.

There is also a local branch of the Stone-Walling Association that carries out training sessions and other events on The Chevin, which also helps keep some walls in good condition using traditional methods. There are a couple of sections of training wall that are used by the branch for practice and also in national examinations each year.

Every year there is a religious event organised by Churches Together in Otley, involving the erection of a large cross near Beacon Hill car park and an outdoor Easter Sunday service. Other requests to use The Chevin include a local Army Foundation College who carry out climbing training, and TV companies who take advantage of the location for its spectacular views (including a recent BBC series called The Chase – whose veterinary practice is called the Chevin Chase).

The formation of the Chevin Forest Park and Countryside Forum enables Parks & Countryside to engage with the various user groups on the Chevin. (see Local Community Involvement – page 35) providing opportunities to highlight issues and forthcoming projects. But in the longer term consideration will also be needed about how to identify and engage with groups that may experience social or cultural barriers to visiting The Chevin.





*Members from the Otley Dry Stone Walling Association getting some practice before their exams*

## **Disabled Access**

### Access to the Site

There is limited existing disabled access to The Chevin, although there are mobility scooters available for those with less severe physical disabilities. The steeply-sloping terrain of The Chevin probably causes barriers to many disabled people.

It is not considered to be feasible to create access for people of all levels of ability to all parts of the site. However a number of specific paths, access points and parking locations for wheelchair users have been created.

There is one self-drive electric mobility scooter available for use from the White House buildings, this can be booked in advance and used for a specific route on the White House side..

Improvements have been carried out (2006) to re-surface the road up to the White House buildings in order to allow organised groups (with mini-buses) to continue to gain access to the Education Building and courtyard area.

## Buildings

During 2006 significant works have been carried out through a partnership with the West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority and LCC's Social Services to improve one of the buildings and a courtyard area on the White House side for people with a range of disabilities. This will allow LCC's Social Services to bring groups of people with more severe disabilities from day care centres to a secure environment with adequate changing and toilet facilities – this facility can also be used by these groups when in the Otley area (not necessarily whilst on The Chevin).



*Otley Disability Advisory Group members test-driving a mobility scooter*

## **Visitor Facilities**

Estimates from the 2005 and 2006 LCC Parks & Open Spaces Residents Surveys (revealed approx. 480 000 and 518,00 visits respectively to The Chevin. In contrast the 2009 survey had fewer responses and fell below the threshold level for determining number of visits per year with any degree of accuracy. In spite of this the site is a popular place and has to meet expectations from a wide range of visitors.

## Café

There is a building by the White House that is utilised as a café. Called the White House Café, it is managed by Aspire Community Benefit Society (Aspire CBS) who supervise clients with learning difficulties to provide the service. Usually this involves one Aspire CBS staff member and two clients. The café provides refreshments and light meals from Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm excluding Tuesday. On Saturday and Sunday the café is open from 11am to 3pm.

## Car Parks

Five free car parks are provided across the site (see Map 6) in order to relieve pressure on any one location. Week-ends and holidays are observed to be the busiest times for visitor numbers, with most car parks becoming full.

## Dog Bins

Dog fouling is a problem at some locations. In 2005 an area of woodland which was previously allowed to be used as a designated “Dog Toilet” area was removed from this purpose because it did not prevent dogs fouling other areas and also gave the impression that it was acceptable to allow dogs to foul in the open countryside. Instead dog bins have been provided (since 2005) near car parks and are emptied twice per week.

## Litter Control

There are no litter bins provided on The Chevin. This is due to an informal policy encouraging people to take their litter home with them, and is promoted through public notices. It is considered that the sight of litter bins would detract from the informal countryside experience. The Chevin Forest Park Estate Workers carry out twice-weekly litter picks of the car park areas and any other problem areas on Monday morning and Friday morning. . Additional litter picks are carried out as required.

## Picnic Areas and Seating

There are picnic benches and seats provided across The Chevin, and stone slabs provided for disposable BBQs to be placed upon in order to avoid damage to the grassland, see Map 6.

## Toilets

There are toilets and one disabled toilet located at the White House buildings which can be used through prior arrangement by people carrying out organised activities, or when Parks & Countryside officers are available to allow access. There is a public house (opposite a car park near Surprise View) and the Ramblers Tea Rooms (opposite two car parks on East Chevin Road) which both provide refreshments and toilets and are frequently used by visitors to The Chevin.

## **Open Access Land**

The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000) legislation identified three separate parts of The Chevin as Open Access Land, see Map 3. This means that there is unrestricted access for walkers to all areas within Open Access Land. However, as all of The Chevin is already fully accessible to the public this does not have any additional implications other than letting the public know parts are also designated as Open Access Land.

## **Memorial Tree Areas**

There has been a history of planting memorial trees on The Chevin because it is a popular (and often favourite) place for people to visit. However, space is now limited in the area currently used on the White House side (see Map 6). A suitable new site needs to be identified from within The Chevin or any new land that may be handed over to LCC in the future.

## **New Land**

Occasionally there are new areas of land that are offered to LCC to be added to The Chevin. It is expected that any new areas of land that are accepted should contribute to the Aims and Objectives of this management plan.

## **Vehicle Access**

Controlled vehicle access (which includes emergency vehicle access) is possible from all car parks except Upper Shawfield, and also from: Johnny Lane up to the White House buildings; Miller Lane; Danefield Gate; Caley Gate; Holbeck Gate; Bramhope Gate; and Thompson's Field (see Map 7).

In order to preserve the informal countryside experience, wherever possible, vehicle tracks within The Chevin are not formally surfaced. But where regular vehicle access is essential some stone material is laid. The use of vehicle tracks is limited to Parks & Countryside staff to carry out essential management works (e.g. forestry operations including timber extraction). Permission to use the tracks by other groups has to be authorised in advance.

## **CONFLICTS ARISING FROM RECREATIONAL PRESSURE**

### **Conflicts From High Numbers Of Users**

#### Car Park and Path Erosion

Even though the site is relatively large and visitors are encouraged to spread across the site, the high numbers of visitors and steeply sloping topography (and the presence of natural springs flowing down the slopes across paths) contribute to erosion problems on main paths. Where paths are well-used this may create muddy, slippery conditions and the widening of paths as a new route is sought.

The car parks are very well-used and therefore they are in constant need of maintenance to keep them in an adequate condition.

#### Dog-fouling

High numbers of dog walkers lead to some areas suffering from dog-fouling. The dog-fouling problems provide unpleasant conditions for other users, particularly children when on education activities that involve handling vegetation such as grasses and flowers. This also creates localised pockets of nutrient-rich soils which lead to losses of plant diversity. The provision of dog bins can also detract from the informal countryside experience valued by visitors. Therefore it may be appropriate to keep the number of dog bins to a minimum.

LCC's City Services Department has a Dog Warden who visits The Chevin on a monthly basis in order to advise and educate dog walkers about being responsible dog owners. The Parks & Countryside service is also considering providing training to the Parks Watch team (who currently patrol parks and address site safety issues) so that they are able to issue fines to anyone allowing their dogs to foul without clearing it up. The option of dog control orders is another option that may be considered should the dog walkers fail to control their dogs adequately and clear up the waste they leave.

#### Litter and Vandalism

Litter and vandalism are other problems associated with high visitor numbers and the remote location of buildings. Areas adjacent to car parks and roads do suffer from litter and fly-tipping.

The White House does suffer from graffiti attacks and attempted break-ins, these seem to be mainly from youths camping and drinking on The Chevin during the summer. In 2006 security cameras have been erected on The White House to help deter vandalism and make visitors feel safer during summer evenings (and provide the police with more evidence if necessary).

### **Conflicts From The Diverse Range Of Users**

The range of people using the site may also lead to conflicts. Some horse-riders like to be able to trot or gallop and cyclists may like to pedal quickly, all on the same



sections of paths. As well as leading to erosion problems, both of these activities may present difficulties to less confident users of paths on foot or using wheelchairs or mobility scooters. The current extensive network of paths and bridleways helps to minimise such conflicts, together with no horse-riders or cyclists being allowed on the White House side. Parks & Countryside staff-vehicles also need to use some tracks and consideration needs to be given to the safety of other users.

## **Conflicts affecting the Management Of Heritage Features**

Being declared as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 1989 means that it is a priority to protect and enhance Biodiversity and other Heritage Features. A key ethos behind LNRs is to provide an environment that allows people to interact with biodiversity in a way that leads to an increased understanding about their place in the natural world.

An example of a conflict between people and biodiversity on The Chevin may be from disturbance of ground-nesting birds by walkers and dogs off their leads at certain times of year.

There are also potential conflicts between carrying out forestry operations or building works and impacting on legally protected species such as bats (which can use rot holes in trees and roof-spaces in buildings) There are bat survey protocols in place and surveys are undertaken prior to any tree or woodland work Forestry contractors are made aware of these protocols and of the presence of other known European Protected Species. Before trees and buildings are to be worked on they need to be assessed for the presence of bats and nesting birds. Management works (apart from safety works) is avoided on trees and shrubs from March to September to avoid disturbance to nesting birds. A project has started (2006) in partnership with the West Yorkshire Bat Group to identify any bat roosts and other features used by bats on The Chevin.

A number of valuable wet grassland and wet heathland habitats rely on long-term supplies of water, such as through naturally impeded drainage conditions. However, many years ago much of The Chevin has had drainage ditches created to help water flow away from the land to help tree establishment and reduce wet conditions on paths. A review of the drainage ditch network could help by directing some water towards any wet habitats which are drying out.

It would be desirable to use livestock as a management tool to graze some open areas such as grassland and heathland but this is often in conflict with unrestricted public access. Fencing and reliable water sources would be required to ensure livestock are kept safe and encourage adjacent landowners to allow their animals to graze on Parks & Countryside land, but this would mean excluding people from some areas at certain times of the year. If livestock are ever to be introduced successfully it would first be necessary to raise awareness about the valuable habitats that depend upon the livestock (grassland and heathland) in order to gain public support for such a project.

Repairing damaged stone walls (and fences) within the site and along boundaries with neighbouring landowners is a large and skilled task but is important in order to

show that the area is being well maintained. However, most walls on the boundaries of the site belong to adjacent landowners (e.g. along one side of the main car park near Surprise View) and it may not be in their interest to maintain them. Some landowners erect post-and-wire fences alongside them to ensure their livestock are secure but leave the damaged walls un-repaired.

## HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

### Site Hazards

The Chevin has a number of potential hazards that may affect its visitors, LCC staff and contractors. Firstly, unstable trees that may present a hazard to users of nearby paths and roads. Secondly, paths and sections of boardwalks can also become slippery or unstable to users. Both of these site hazards can be addressed through carrying out annual safety checks of trees along the main path network, and checks of path conditions. There may be other site hazards present (such as Fire) and these should be identified through a comprehensive Site Risk Assessment.

### Fire

Fire is a serious hazard during summer months and must be seen as a serious threat on a large upland site such as The Chevin, especially in light of the open moorland fires on nearby Ilkley Moor in 2006 (which took over a week to control and burned over 100 ha. of land). Climate change is leading to increasingly frequent long, dry summers, so there is an increased risk of accidental fires to the open grassland, heathland and woodland areas. As part of a Site Risk Assessment there should be special consideration given to producing a Fire Plan that will review existing site management practices and put in place any necessary precautions during periods of high fire risk. Liaison with the West Yorkshire Fire Service will be carried out to ensure the Fire Plan has identified and minimised all the known hazards.

When trying to reduce the severity and frequency of fires on The Chevin there are two main factors to consider. Firstly, there is the management of the features of the site that would provide the fuel for a fire (trees and grassland). Secondly, there is the management of the potential ignition sources (people).

The establishment of traditional conifer plantation blocks has given rise to tall thin pine trees growing in close proximity to each other with a layer of easily combustible pine needles on the woodland floor (mainly on the Danefield side). Such conditions would assist a woodland fire to spread. It has historically been an objective of woodland management to thin these coniferous areas to allow increased light to reach the woodland floor and therefore encourage natural regeneration of ground flora and shrubs. The lush green growth of ground flora and shrub regeneration is less combustible and helps to slow and reduce the spread of any woodland fires that may occur. There is also a regularly mown grassland fire-break on the Danefield side to help slow any spread of fire from one woodland block to another.

If a fire does occur it will be necessary to ensure the fire service can gain access to as many parts of the site as quickly as possible. Therefore, there should be maintenance of emergency vehicle access points and tracks (suitable for fire vehicles) across the site.

The source for fires on The Chevin appears to be mainly from people camping overnight and having camp fires or BBQs (including disposable BBQs) which although seem to have been put out the night before (or early in the morning) have

the potential to re-ignite at some point on the following day when weather conditions are suitable. The Chevin is a large site and people do frequently come up to camp and have evening fires during the summer. Camping and fires are not allowed anywhere on The Chevin (although some stone slabs and structures are provided near some picnic benches for people to place disposable BBQs upon instead of the grass) but it is not practical to patrol all parts of such a large site either late in the evening (when small groups of people may be camping) or every time the weather is dry and warm in the daytime.

The best way to minimise fire incidents is to: recognise when there is a high fire risk (weather reports); identify the most likely locations where a fire may start and spread quickly; and then encourage the users of the site to be vigilant and immediately report any fires to the fire service and report any unofficial camping to the Parks Watch team. Posters are used indicating that camping and fires are not allowed, and also posters indicating periods of high fire risk and encouraging people to be more vigilant (together with instructions what to do if a fire is seen).

## **Public Perceptions of Personal Safety**

Ensuring visitors feel safe whilst on-site is important. Maintaining a high profile by Parks & Countryside officers on the site helps people to feel safer. Weekly patrols are carried out by Parks & Countryside officers to identify any problems (such as graffiti or litter) and this also gives visitors a chance to talk about any problems or difficulties they may experience on the site.

Visitors have raised concerns that they do not feel safe using the main car parks when they have dense vegetation around their edges. This was the case at the East Chevin Road Quarry car park and works have been carried out in 2005 to thin trees around it.

Anti-social activities may also present threats to some visitors. The Parks & Countryside service has a team called LeedsWatch who liaise with the local police to deal with anti-social activities and also patrol sites on motorbike to help people feel safe. If there are problems with anti-social activities on The Chevin there is a LeedsWatch phone number available on notice boards for the public to ring so they can come out straight away.

## **Buildings and Equipment Maintenance**

Civic Enterprise Leeds team carry out any necessary maintenance of the buildings and their associated utility services. The Parks & Countryside service in Neighbourhoods and Environment Directorate maintains any other equipment and other related.

### Civic Enterprise Leeds Team

The three main buildings on the White House side receive drinking water from a well and therefore it is important to test it annually and ensure the relevant filters are working so that it is safe to use by staff and other visitors. Water comes direct from

the well to The White House and through a UV light and a filter (which need to be serviced annually), before going to another building (the Education Building). Water also goes direct to the remaining building from the well and through a UV light and charcoal filter.

In addition to annual water safety checks, there are monthly checks for Legionella (as well as a Legionella Risk Assessment carried out in 2006). Records for all the water safety checks are kept at The White House.

Annual safety checks are carried out for the gas central heating system in each building, and all electrical appliances are checked annually. Fire safety equipment is also checked annually.

Buildings may present a hazard if not properly maintained. Parks & Countryside liaises with the Property Services team to ensure a maintenance programme is in place.

### Parks & Countryside Service

Management works require the use of tools and petrol for chainsaws and a gas cylinder for weed control. Tools are kept locked away from the public in The White House. A safe storage area is provided in a steel container near to the White House buildings for the petrol and other tools, and a well-ventilated and secure barn for the gas cylinder.

Powered tools are only used by Parks & Countryside officers who have been given the necessary training.

Manual tools are used by Parks & Countryside officers and their volunteers. Practical conservation tasks led by the Senior Ranger include a tool talk before any manual hand tools are used by volunteers.

The use of the mobility scooters may present a risk to the drivers or other visitors. To help minimise this risk all scooters are designed so that they will stop automatically if the throttle is released. All mobility scooters have a map showing the routes they can follow and some health & safety guidance for safe use. An induction is given to all users of the scooters so that they are familiar with how to use them and where they can be taken (and a form is signed by the users to say they have been given adequate instructions).

### **Public Events and Contractors**

All activities led by the Parks & Countryside service on The Chevin need to be covered by adequate risk assessments to ensure both staff and the public are not put in danger. The Chevin Estate Officer and Senior Ranger are both First Aid at Work trained, and first aid kits are made available at all public events.

Organised activities that are led by external groups must all be registered with the Parks & Countryside Community Activities Officer and evidence of public liability insurance provided.

Any contractors carrying out works on behalf of LCC must inform Parks & Countryside staff that they are on site before any work commences - and they are only allowed to proceed once an adequate risk assessment and method statement has been agreed.



*Chevin Local Nature Reserve Open Day July 2006*

## **EQUIPMENT**

There is a range of equipment kept on The Chevin. Tools are kept in a secure store inside The White House. All equipment is registered on an inventory (kept at The White House) and records kept of required maintenance, together with records of which equipment can only be used by trained Parks & Countryside officers.

All tools and equipment are maintained “in-house” at the Parks & Countryside workshop, which also keeps comprehensive records of service histories. Vehicles and trailers are checked regularly by the Parks & Countryside Transport and Engineering team, and vehicles are serviced by an external contractor.

Other larger equipment and materials are kept in two storage barns near to the White House buildings.

The mobility scooters are kept in a store at the end of the Education Building and are serviced annually by an external contractor to ensure they are kept in good working condition.



## UTILITY SERVICES

Mains services run through parts of The Chevin as follows:

British Telecom – underground	From Johnny Lane to The White House and also along the eastern side of East Chevin Road
Transco Gas Pipelines – underground	From Johnny Lane to The White House and also along the western side of East Chevin Road
Yorkshire Water – underground	Along the western side of East Chevin Road
Yorkshire Electricity – underground	To The White House from the north and also along the eastern side of East Chevin Road
Yorkshire Electricity – over ground	Danefield side
Electricity Transformer Unit	On the White House side next to Yorkgate car park
Defunct cable possible belonging to British Relay – underground	On the White House side north of the Vacca Wall

Detailed location maps of these services are available in The White House. Information is routinely requested before any relevant management works are commenced, in line with LCC's Safe Operating Procedures.

## **BUILDINGS & STORAGE AREAS**

There is no uncontrolled public access to any of the existing buildings on The Chevin, see Map 7 for locations of buildings. They are used for office space, workshops, supervised education activities, storage, and one that has been leased to a local charity. All the buildings are maintained by Civic Enterprise Leeds .

### **White House Buildings**

The main buildings are on the White House side and consist of a group of three buildings with a cobbled courtyard area. The history of these buildings is not clear but they seem to originate from the Land Enclosures Act in the 1780s when they may have been used as a farm (the presence of the Vacca Wall would have been the livestock boundary for this parcel of land). Subsequently they may have been used by a quarrying family before becoming a ruin (as shown on an 1850 OS Map) and then being used as a farm again before becoming a ruin once more before LCC purchased the land and renovated the buildings.

A steep, narrow vehicle track (shared with a residential property) leads to these buildings and there is limited parking provision (used for pre-booked groups). Access to these buildings is unsuitable for activities requiring uncontrolled public access by car.

The first building is known as The White House and is used as office space and a meeting room for the Chevin Estate Officer, and also as a workshop, tool store, and mess room for two Forestry officers who often carry out work on The Chevin.

Opposite The White House is the Education Building which is used mainly by the Senior Ranger for education activities with schools and other groups. This building (and the courtyard area) has been renovated in 2006 to make it more accessible to groups of people with severe physical disabilities, in particular for clients of LCC's Social Services.

Next to these two buildings is a building which has been historically leased to organisations whose aims are compatible with the use of The Chevin. In the past this building has been used as a café and by a local charity called Space To Grow (which delivered free outdoor activity sessions to local children who would not normally be able to afford such experiences). At present the building has reverted again to being a café run by Aspire Community Benefit Society. There are toilets to the rear of this building which are opened: -

Monday to Friday 10am - 2pm  
Saturday & Sunday 10am - 3pm

It must be stressed the toilets are opened and closed on Saturdays and Sundays by the café. If the weather is inclement the café will not open and thus the toilets will remain closed.

The toilets in the buildings are not connected to mains sewerage and therefore a septic tank needs to be emptied on a regular basis.

## **Storage Barns**

There are two other buildings (barns) on the White House side and these are both used for storing equipment and materials.

## **Old Forestry Stores**

The former resident forestry team`s mess room and workshop was demolished some years ago and the footprint of the buildings is now used as a viewing area across the surrounding woodland and adjacent Holbeck Ghyll. An interpretive panel provides local and natural history.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Since 2002 LCC has been accredited with the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) standard for environmental management. EMAS provides the environmental policy for LCC. Rather than have a separate environmental policy for The Chevin this management plan has identified any relevant EMAS Objectives that relate to the activities taking place on the site. In this way the Parks & Countryside service can make its contribution to the wider environmental policy of LCC.

A number of LCC Performance Indicators exist for each EMAS Objective and although these have not been developed with the intention of being used for specific sites such as The Chevin some of these are appropriate to be adopted (and are shown next to the EMAS Objective). Further consideration is needed to decide which Performance Indicators are suitable to be adopted and monitored for The Chevin, and whether additional ones can be included.

Information is given below under a number of different EMAS headings, together with a description about how activities on The Chevin by the Parks and Countryside service can contribute to the EMAS Objectives.

For more information about the EMAS Objectives and Performance Indicators go to [www.leeds.gov.uk/emas](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/emas)

### Maintaining & Promoting Biodiversity

ID No.	EMAS Objective	Performance Indicator
EM38	We will enhance the biodiversity value of LCC's own land holdings	The % of sites that meet the Green Flag standard
EM36	We will enhance the biodiversity value of LCC's own land holdings	The % of designated sites (SSSIs) in Favourable or above status
Under Discussion	Increase access to Local Nature Reserves	Area of LNR per 1 000 population etc. as per English Nature guidelines

All of these Performance Indicators are directly relevant to The Chevin.

### Sustainable Energy Use and Energy Reduction

ID No.	EMAS Objective	Performance Indicator
EM22 & EM22a	We will replace inefficient LCC heating systems with energy efficient alternatives	Total energy use, and total building CO2 emissions per full-time member of staff

## Electricity and Gas

Annual energy use in the buildings (electric and gas) is not currently monitored but this may be possible through assessing annual bills and liaison with Civic Enterprise Leeds

## **Education & Environment**

<b>ID No.</b>	<b>EMAS Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>
EM52	We will work with our partners to promote sustainability in education	No. of schools participating in the Leeds Healthy Schools initiative

## School Education Sessions

The Senior Ranger works closely with schools to promote the value of biodiversity and wider environmental issues. It may be more appropriate to measure the number of school group visits and number of children involved through the Ranger Service.

## **Pollution**

<b>ID No.</b>	<b>EMAS Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>
EM41a	We will reduce the risk of water pollution caused by LCC activities and ensure all consented discharge to sewer is within prescribed limits. Our objective is for zero pollution incidents	Litres & type of herbicides and pesticides per area

## Herbicides and Pesticides

Chemical use (herbicides and pesticides) is kept to a minimum. No pesticides are used and the only herbicides used are specifically for treating re-growth of non-native invasive species (and other undesirable species) as part of the woodland and heathland management. Without treating the stumps of cut Rhododendron (and other scrub) resources would continually be needed for re-cutting the re-growth (detracting from other woodland management). All herbicide use can be monitored to assess how much is used each year.

As part of the heathland management, an area of Bracken is being discouraged in the hope that acidic grasses will return. Rather than using chemicals it has been decided to employ a local contractor who works a Heavy Horse (which drags a steel roller) to physically crush the Bracken. This is a traditional method often called Bracken Bruising (this is often done annually as part of a public event to raise awareness to the public about the importance of the heathland and traditional countryside skills).

Around the courtyard area of the White House buildings, undesirable plants growing between the cobbles (causing them to become raised and uneven) are removed

using a hand-held gas powered burner or by hand. Algae on any stone flag-stones in the courtyard area is removed with a hand-held power-jet water washer.

## **Sustainable Transport**

<b>ID No.</b>	<b>EMAS Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>
EM6	We will promote cycling and encourage facilities for cyclists	Number of secure cycle parking spaces at Learning & Leisure facilities
EM11	We will work to increase the proportion of journeys undertaken on foot	
EM7	We will seek to improve sustainability in the way that staff travel to and from work	
EM2	We will encourage our staff to use public transport and clean fleet vehicles in place of the car	Train and bus fares paid or use of clean fuel vehicles
EM13 & 15	We will reduce the impact of LCC business travel	Fleet and officers' cars CO2 emissions

## **Private Car Transport**

The use of private car transport to The Chevin is probably the single largest environmental impact. The steeply-sloping nature of The Chevin from Otley makes walking undesirable to many people. It may be difficult to encourage those people who travel to The Chevin by car to change their habits. The best way to restrict extra car journeys may be to resist increasing the size of car parks any further, and ensure that bus services continue to run to The Chevin. Any improved marketing of The Chevin and the possible new Eco-Centre building (with extra facilities) will both be likely to result in an increase in private car journeys.

## **Managing Waste More Sustainably**

<b>ID No.</b>	<b>EMAS Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>
EM28	We will reduce the overall volume of waste we produce as LCC and work towards a target of 30% recycling by 2010	Total weight per full-time member of staff produced
EM31	We will increase the total tonnage of household waste either recycled or composted	% of waste recycled or composted



## Green Waste

There is no green waste that has to be taken off-site. Rather than using vehicles and trailers to move cut hay (from annual meadow cutting) off-site, it is put in dedicated piles to rot down naturally in locations where they can create habitat features (for small mammals and providing potential egg-laying piles for Grass Snakes).

Woodland management frequently requires the thinning of trees and some of the timber is suitable for selling and may occasionally be removed off-site (which helps cover the costs of the woodland management works). However, many trees that are felled on health and safety grounds or thinned are intentionally left in-situ or created into piles to provide deadwood habitats. Wherever possible, standing dead-wood is retained in order to provide extra habitat features. Some brash from scrub removal is burnt in dedicated locations to avoid nutrient enrichment or unofficial fires occurring.

## **Reducing the Environmental Impacts of Goods & Materials Used**

<b>ID No.</b>	<b>EMAS Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>
EM46	We will reduce the environmental impacts associated with goods we buy	Volume of water used per member of staff per year
EM48	We will reduce the environmental impacts associated with goods we buy	% of new recycled road-stone products purchased
EM49	We will reduce the environmental impacts associated with goods we buy	% of energy purchased from "Green" (non-nuclear) renewable sources
EM43	We will reduce the environmental impacts associated with goods we buy	Volume of peat used
EM44	We will reduce the environmental impacts associated with goods we buy	Volume of paper used & the % of this that is recycled
EM45	We will reduce the environmental impacts associated with goods we buy	% and type of "bio diesel" used in fleet vehicle fuel

## Water

Water use in buildings is from a groundwater well so it is important to use it wisely. There is no monitoring system for water use or the potential impacts of waste water away from the buildings.

## Use of Stone

The surfacing of car parks is carried out using a contractor who has a technique that recycles existing stone material and re-lays it in-situ. A small amount of extra stone has to be imported but this significantly reduces the environmental impacts of stone extraction and transport. Track improvements for footpaths and vehicles require

stone chippings to be imported from off-site. Stone walls across the site are maintained largely from stone sourced within The Chevin.

### Peat use

A conscious decision is made to avoid the use of any peat on the site. The only potential for peat use is through the initial establishment of any trees or shrubs when purchasing plant material from external suppliers (which only occurs for trees purchased for the memorial area or the orchard). This will need to be monitored to ensure peat is not used in these early growing stages.

### Trees and Wildflowers

Little plant stock is purchased because The Chevin already has a good range of trees (natural regeneration is good across the site) and other plants that are valued. If trees are needed for the memorial area or orchard they are either provided from seeds that have been collected from The Chevin and grown in a nursery (as part of annual Seed Gathering Events), or trees of local provenance (or traditional fruit varieties) are sourced from a reputable local supplier.

### Furniture and signage

When purchasing new materials and products consideration is given to environmental impacts. Picnic benches and signage are either purchased from 100% recycled plastic or Forestry Stewardship Council accredited timber. Consideration is currently being given to the feasibility of using timber from The Chevin for future signage boards and picnic bench repairs.

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

### **Ranger Service**

#### Practical Conservation Tasks

The Senior Ranger leads a practical conservation group made up of volunteers (The Friends of Chevin Forest Park) which carries out one task per month (on weekends). Occasionally the Senior Service also leads a range of practical tasks and activities for groups with a range of backgrounds e.g. two adult day care centres (for adults with learning difficulties from Social Services), local colleges (Park Lane College), and local businesses (co-ordinated by an organisation called Business in the Community [www.bitc.org.uk](http://www.bitc.org.uk)).

#### Friends of Chevin Forest Park

A Friends of Chevin Forest Park group has been set up in 2006 with the support of the Senior Ranger to give local people opportunities to get involved in more activities than practical conservation on The Chevin. A website has been set up by the group ([www.chevinforest.co.uk](http://www.chevinforest.co.uk))

#### Public Events

The Ranger Servicer helps to co-ordinate and provide a varied programme of public events throughout the year which include guided walks. In addition the Friends of Chevin Forest Park Historical Section run a Heritage Open Day In September highlighting the history of the Chevin Forest Park area.

### **Consultative Groups**

In order to communicate what is happening on The Chevin with the local community and seek the views of local user groups a new consultative group has been set up called The Chevin Forest Park & Countryside Forum. This group has a wide membership base made up of individuals and organisations with an interest in The Chevin and meets twice per year.

## **SURVEYS, MARKETING & PUBLICITY**

### **Surveys**

#### Parks and Open Spaces Residents Survey

The Parks & Countryside service carries out an annual Residents Survey (through an ILAM consultant) asking people about parks and open spaces in Leeds. 30 000 randomly selected households are sent the survey every year (since 2004). This is a very comprehensive survey and has been repeated annually to allow comparisons to be made regarding customer satisfaction. It also allows better information to be collated as the cumulative sample size increases each year.

During 2004 and 2005 responses were received from 23% and 22% of the 30 000 questionnaires. This data is analysed to provide information about the visitors to parks in Leeds (age, gender, race, disabilities) and also information about: which parks they visit; how often; how they get there; how long they stay; and why they visit. There are also questions to determine: the level of satisfaction of visitors; how safe they feel; and what facilities they would like to see added (as well as any other comments they wish to make).

From these Residents Surveys it seems that most people visit parks in Leeds for: exercise; to relax; and to take children to play. The next most popular reasons are: to observe wildlife; to walk the dog; and for a family outing. By far, most visits last between 30 minutes and 2 hours.

In addition to the annual Residents Survey there is also an annual Young Persons Survey (sent to 2000 people aged 12-16) and an annual Children's Survey (sent to 2 500 children aged 5-11). These surveys have had response rates of 34% and 48% respectively.

Further analysis of this data is being carried out by Parks & Countryside officers and will help identify whether certain people are underrepresented in Leeds parks. Such information can then be used to inform how parks are managed and marketed.

Of particular use to individual parks are the site-specific comments made by visitors. Any comments made by visitors to The Chevin can be extracted and used to inform the management of the site. These comments are a very valuable form of feed-back from visitors of The Chevin. Comments relating to The Chevin will be extracted each year and used to inform the management of the site.

Analysis of some of these responses reveals that 60% of visitors to The Chevin come by car, 30% walk, 3% cycle, 1% run, and 1% by horse.

A copy of the survey (together with all comments that relate to The Chevin) is available in The White House.

The LCC website also has a section asking for comments about parks and gardens – [www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk) go to “Visiting”, then “Entertainments and things to do”, then “Parks and gardens”, and then “Tell us what you think about your local parks and

open spaces". The web-link takes the visitor to Green Space's (a national charity promoting better quality parks) GreenSTAT website, the questionnaire is a similar format to the Residents Surveys.

The following comments relate specifically to The Chevin and are typical of the responses from visitors taken from the 2004 and 2005 Residents Survey:

<b>Other facilities or services desired?</b>
Bicycle routes. More benches & picnic tables. Wildlife & geographical info. signs. Football pitch & goal area.
Better control of cycling/horse-riding to prevent accidents, litter is becoming a problem. Pleased to see installation of dog litter bins
Maintenance and woodland management
Would like to see café and toilets open on a regular basis, at least at weekends and a couple of hours in day with clear indication of opening hours
Happy with the natural hillside
White House reopened as café with toilets
Control over cyclists, dog control, area to be left wild, not interfered with
None since this would affect wildlife and the beauty of the area but dog owners allow their dog to foul wherever and do not clean it up
Adequate for me but not sure about disabled people
Dog mess laws enforced, car park surfaced
More paths/bridleways for horses
Toilets, car parking, better footpaths through woods
Visitor centre in café, more information on wildlife, dog litter major issue
None - these areas are well managed already - as long as footpaths are maintained, that is fine.
Some form of seating or picnic tables.

<b>Why not visit your closest Park (instead of The Chevin)?</b>
Danefield better for horses
More strenuous + varied walking in The Chevin
Golden Acre Park is not quite "wild" enough for regular dog walking. More variety on The chevin e.g. woods, moorland, open space
We prefer to get away from it all - the views from around The Chevin help us to do just that. It is peaceful and relaxing
Enjoy running in Chevin more
I like the trees and it is much larger and not as many people
No use for running or climbing
The closest open space is a field with nothing but a football/rugby pitch, and neither of us play. We like The Chevin Park as it is well maintained, and a forest, which is nice to escape everyday city life.
Cannot let the dogs off the lead safely, not enough room for them to run around.

Undulating/challenging running environment - not available on flat ground of sports field.
Do sometimes, but prefer this one as it is more of a natural environment, has good views of the Wharfe Valley, also interesting to see the latest woodland management.

<b>Any general comments?</b>
Bushes and trees left to grow over path and this can result in eye/facial damage, paths in poor condition for both people and horses
Have lovely choice of The Chevin, the moors, the Dales, all very accessible, only negative comment is amount of dog fouling, blame lies with irresponsible owners
Vandalism, graffiti and dog mess are problems
Am happy with The Chevin but not happy about break-ins of cars in the car park
Otley Chevin and all of the woodland trails leading from Pool are greatly appreciated. The wildlife that use these areas are varied and fantastic to see. Plants and trees and shrubs allowed to grow naturally create a beautiful, peaceful environment
Only thing that spoils Chevin is the dog walkers who can't control their dogs
Otley Chevin is a wonderful open space, unspoilt and managed very well (Not sure if it is in the Leeds area!).
Footpaths on the Chevin are becoming very poor due to mountain bikes, horse etc., ruining them. Also the rain has washed away sandy footpaths. The wood carvings are very good - can we have more please?!
My mother's cousin was responsible for the original planting when handed over to Otley Council by Major Horton Fawkes of Farnley Hall. I'd prefer it to remain "natural" rather than a heavily labelled "theme" park.
Dogs run out of control, frightening your children, and are a nuisance.

Further GreenStat results done in 2006 revealed: -

- Enjoy views.
- Path from white house has been widened and is now muddy, its wide enough to drive a car along
- Create riding tracks for bikes and horses separate from walkers.
- Some paths need maintaining as it can be very wet and muddy. Dog bins will be appreciated at Bramhope end of Chevin
- Dog mess
- Dog waste on paths and park area, people do not clean up after their dogs should be fined.
- Dog fouling at the beginning of the park very putting off.
- More dog bins
- Putting up sign posts showing different walks and tracks.
- Facilities not required in this environment
- None really needed, perhaps a ranger point for information.
- Chevin Park would benefit from toilets - may be composting style?

- More seats in open spaces and bins around the park. Currently all are concentrated around the car park.
- Not sure if trees are always pruned by experts
- Toilets/cafe
- Cycling and horse riding should be permitted
- Extra wear on woodland paths by mountain biking has been noticed especially in winter when it's wet.
- For orienteering, bikes and horses.
- This is a great open space on our doorstep. Only nuisance is the low flying light aircrafts and helicopters
- Otley Chevin should remain a wildlife/nature reserve.
- A puddle free car park.
- More car parking space
- More facilities and toilets
- Better maintenance of car parks and facilities. use of a toilet.
- Toilets at Chevin Forest Park
- Cafe, picnic tables, no dog fouling , dogs on leads at all times.
- Clean toilets
- Police the car parks better - they should not be used for sex/drugs
- Please leave Chevin as natural.
- More bins for dog fouling bags - one was vandalised months ago and lid still missing
- White house area used by teenage drinkers resulting in broken glass/litter
- Youths still camp during summer - again mess/litter
- Hardly used, allow cycling and riding
- Please provide dog bins and manage them regularly. Dog owners leave their dog poo scoop bags lying around - why? It could be a protest that there are no dog bins???
- Wardens to help stop litter/dog mess etc.
- Dog bins needed in middle of park not just at edges, then more people will use them.
- Waste bins and facilities for disposal of "doggie bags"
- Otley Chevin is an extension of my garden - bequeathed to the people of Otley by benefactors long ago. Please continue to take good care of it
- Needs more bins litter and dog.
- The car park by the quarry is locked between 6 pm and 9 am. As a fully employed couple this stops us from using this facility. The Disappointment is that we lose out because others are abusing the car park

### Student Surveys

There have also been a number of visitor surveys carried out by students on The Chevin between 1991 and 1998. These involved questionnaires with a range of questions and to differing levels of detail and methodologies. A common theme of



these surveys is that most people come to The Chevin for walking or dog-walking, and because it is a “pleasurable” place. Most visitors tend to stay between one and two hours, with most travelling from within 10 km by car. It is difficult to read too much into these surveys because only a small percentage of the overall site users were sampled and there is little information about how the surveys were carried out.

## **Marketing**

### The Need for a Formal Marketing Strategy

There is not a formal marketing strategy specifically for The Chevin. This is partly because it already has a high number of visitors (approx. 500 000 per year) and is well known due to its highly visible nature (overlooking the Wharfedale Valley) and existing promotional publicity.

However, little is known about the social backgrounds of visitors to parks and green-spaces in Leeds. It is likely that most visitors to The Chevin are relatively affluent (high levels of private car use in the Residents Surveys and student surveys indicates this).

A marketing strategy may be useful to ensure the site is attracting a diverse range of visitors from a range of social backgrounds and also to ensure awareness is being raised about the site’s important heritage features.

If a marketing strategy is produced, it may firstly be necessary to identify which features or visitor experiences make The Chevin so attractive to so many existing visitors. It is possible that the undeveloped, informal countryside experience is the main reason for visiting The Chevin. If this is the case it may be not be appropriate to promote The Chevin in a way that attracts more visitors without thought being given to whether this would detract from that informal countryside experience.

It is not considered to be a priority for the period of this Management Plan to produce a formal marketing strategy, instead there will be analysis of visitor profiles and ongoing comments from the Residents Survey to establish why people visit The Chevin and also to establish if there is a group of people that do not seem to be visiting. Consideration will then be given to whether a formal marketing strategy is needed.

## **City-wide Publicity**

### Publications

#### *Leaflets*

There are a number of city-wide leaflets (e.g. “Leeds Great Days Out” and “Doorstep Walks – North West”) which promote The Chevin alongside other places, and are available at tourism information centres and libraries.

An “out and about” booklet advertising all events run by the Parks & Countryside in all parks is produced and distributed twice per year.

To encourage use of the mobility scooters promotion is done through a Parks & Countryside “Gateways to the countryside of Leeds” publication and the “West Yorkshire Countryside Directory for people with disabilities”.

#### Websites and Other Wider Publicity

The Chevin is also promoted generally through the LCC website. The “Friends of Chevin Forest Park” have gone a stage further and set up a site-specific website with additional information on it ([www.chevinforest.co.uk](http://www.chevinforest.co.uk)).

There is information under the nature reserves section of the local Yellow Pages. Press releases are also carried out for events and other major activities on The Chevin.

#### Off-site Signage

The Chevin and its car parks are well signposted by road signs from the main roads into Otley.

## **INTERPRETATION**

There is a range of on-site publicity and interpretation that is used to raise awareness about the important features of The Chevin.

### Publications

#### *Interpretation Leaflets*

There is a range of site-specific leaflets available including: a general Chevin leaflet; a wildlife leaflet; a butterfly and moth leaflet; geology trail leaflet to be used in conjunction with the Geology Trail through the park. In addition there is also a Chevin Through Time leaflet that looks at the history of the site and the general Northwest Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways trail leaflet. The latter has the trail going through the Chevin Forest Park.

These publications are distributed to the Otley Tourist Information Centre (and other popular places in Otley)

### Signage

There are “Welcome” signs at all car parks that have corporate identity linking the site to LCC and the Parks & Countryside service. Notice boards are also provided near all car parks and some main entrances. The notice boards show a map of the site and provide basic information about The Chevin. There are a number of fingerposts across the site highlighting rights of way and other locations.

There is a geological interpretation panel on the top of the White House side near Beacon Hill car park (next to Surprise View).

The plantations across The Chevin have been given names that have been well used over the years and it is the intention to keep them alive through showing them on some maps.

### Open Day Events

Every year there is an annual Heritage Open Day (as part of the Civic Trust’s Heritage Open Day celebrations) to raise awareness about historic features of The Chevin.

### Walks and Talks

Throughout the year there are free guided walks and other events provided to the public and local community groups that raise awareness about The Chevin and its features of interest.

## **FINANCIAL ISSUES**

### **LCC Funding**

LCC funding is provided to the Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate and subsequently allocated to the Parks & Countryside service.

#### Parks & Countryside Service

Funding is available for general estate maintenance works on The Chevin from a Parks & Countryside revenue budget allocated to the Parks Area West team. Hazardous trees are dealt with as required by Parks and Countryside's Forestry Section and/or on site staff.

The Definitive Rights of Way on The Chevin are maintained by the Public Rights of Way team, with funding allocated from a separate Highways budget within the City Services Department.

Support for schools and local community work is also carried out by the Countryside Rangers team which has funding allocated from a Parks & Countryside revenue budget to support community involvement.

Parks Area West carry out maintenance works such as amenity grass and meadow-cutting, emptying dog-bins, and additional estate management tasks as necessary. This is also funded from a Parks & Countryside revenue budget.

Additional funding comes from the Parks & Countryside service to support the Transport and Engineering and also LeedsWatch teams - which deals with the maintenance and allocation of vehicles/tools and the safety patrols of The Chevin respectively.

#### Property Services

Civic Enterprise Leeds team are responsible for funding and carrying out the maintenance of buildings on The Chevin (see Buildings and Equipment Maintenance – page 27).

### **External Funding**

Since the late 1980's The Chevin has traditionally been included in the Forestry Commission's Woodland Grant Scheme. This grant scheme contributed £30 per ha per year towards the cost of basic woodland and non-woodland management costs and significant contributions to capital projects. The last grant scheme expired in 2005. Following a review of the European Rural Development Programme for England funding, DEFRA launched Countryside Stewardship in 2015 and officers are working on how best this scheme can be exploited across Parks and Countryside's woodland and countryside land holding as a whole. Funding for other additional improvements is usually sought from a variety of sources. The key funding sources include "Ward Based Initiatives" from Councillors, Landfill Tax grants (Green

Leeds Ltd.), Monde Green, Planning Section 106 monies, Area Committee Funds, New Opportunity Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

## CURRENT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

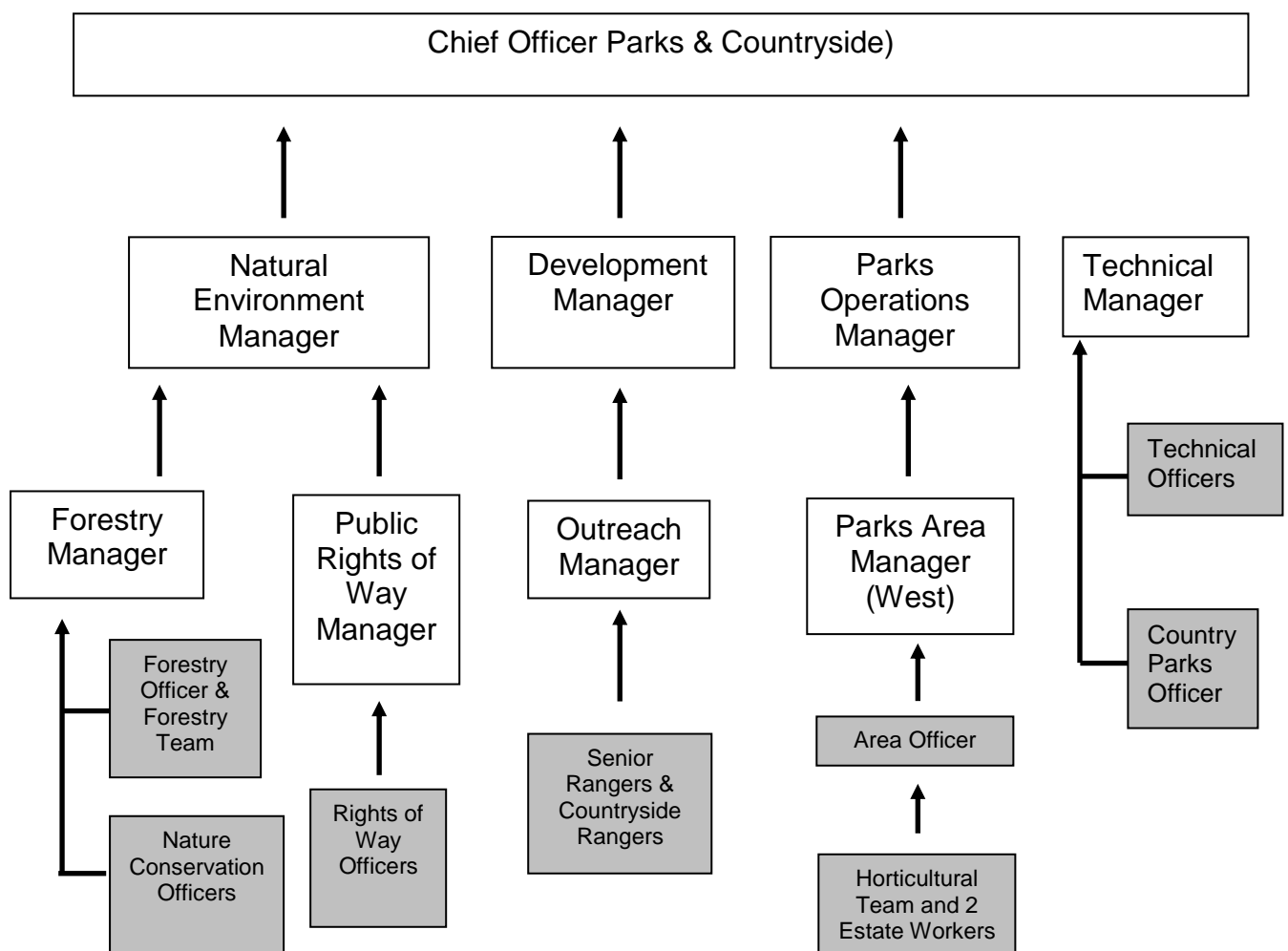
The Chevin is owned by LCC's Neighbourhoods and Environment Directorate and managed by the Parks & Countryside service. Within the Parks & Countryside service there are a number of specialist teams that employ officers who provide advice on particular issues when requested.

. A Forestry Officer provides advice on the woodland management that is required and two Estate Workers work for most of the year on The Chevin carrying out woodland and other estate management work.

The Countryside & Access team provides the Ranger Service (which is frequently present on The Chevin to lead schools and other local community group activities) and Rights of Way officers (who also carry out regular works across the site), as well as nature conservation officers.

In addition to these officers, the Area Manager and Horticultural Team are responsible for addressing general site maintenance issues such as grass cutting.

The diagram below shows the management structure (the arrows represent links to line managers). The teams and officers that have a significant direct input into management of The Chevin are shown shaded.



Because there are a number of Parks & Countryside officers in different teams who are responsible to different line managers, it is essential to maintain good communication.

## **The Main Roles of Key Parks & Countryside Officers**

### Area Officer West and Horticultural Team

To ensure the amenity grassland areas and fire breaks are regularly cut during the summer time, and carry out wildflower meadow cutting (with removal of cuttings) and heathland cutting. Maintain and empty dog bins regularly. Provide other assistance as necessary e.g. provide stone materials for path maintenance.

Produce annual work programmes from the Management Plan and progress actions to ensure they are completed. Be responsible for co-ordinating all activities that are carried out on The Chevin by LCC officers or contractors.

### Ranger Service

Encourage local community involvement on The Chevin. Achieved mainly through leading and promoting a programme of practical conservation tasks and activities for the Chevin Volunteers and other groups such as local businesses, colleges, and Social Services groups. Also, promoting and supporting the Friends of Chevin Forest Park group.

### Rights of Way Officers

Maintain and signpost the Definitive Rights of Way network. Assist with the signage and maintenance of other paths and bridleways across the site.

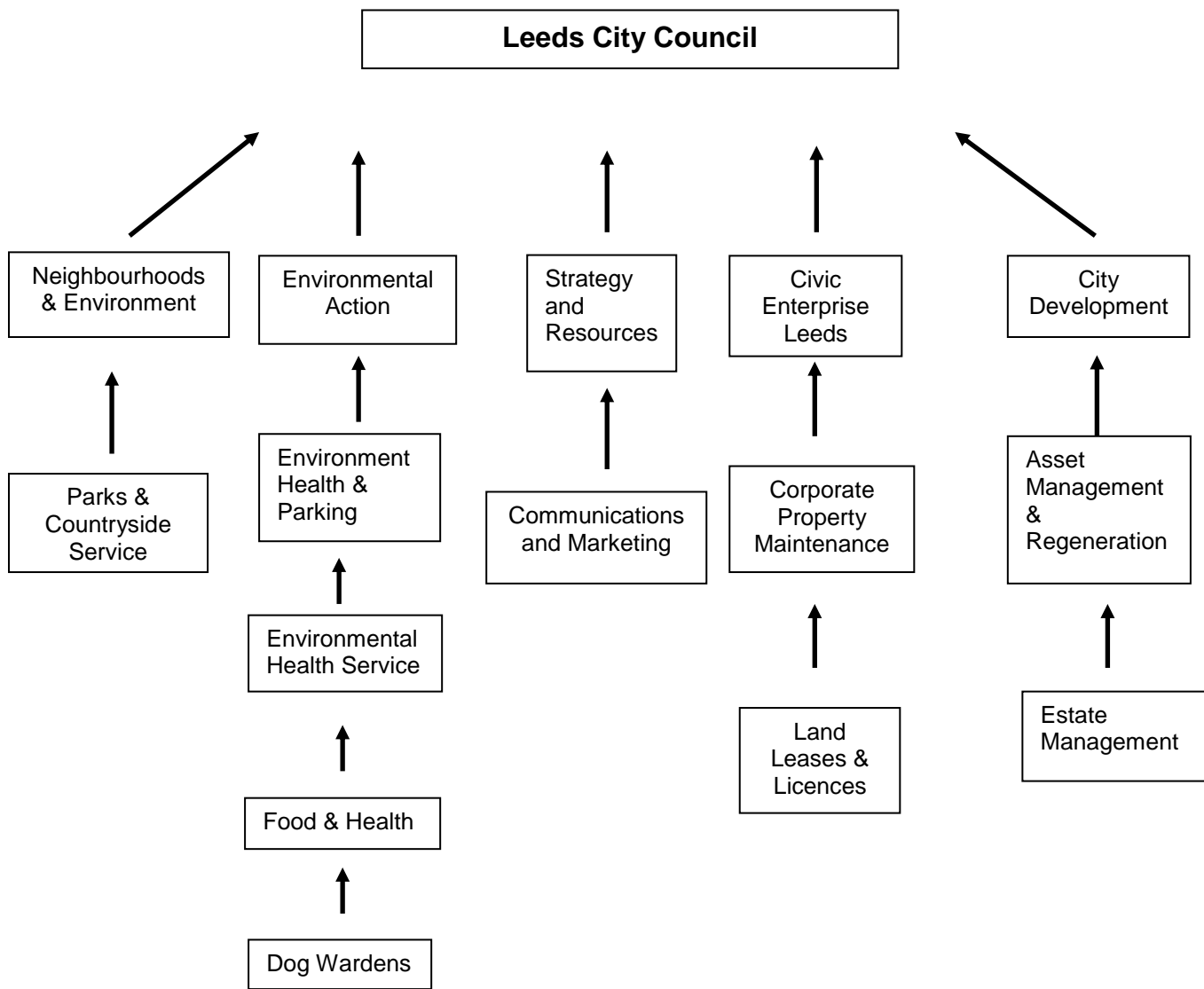
### Woodland Officer and Forestry Team

Apply for woodland grants, provide a programme of woodland work for each compartment, and carry out safety checks on trees near the main path network. Carry out woodland work and other general estate management such as: ditch and path maintenance; walling and fencing maintenance; litter-picking; summer vegetation strimming of main paths and tracks.

## **Other Key LCC Services and Departments**

In addition to the Parks & Countryside service there are also officers in different Service areas and Departments of LCC who have responsibility for carrying out work on The Chevin. The most significant of these are: the Civic Enterprise Leeds who are responsible for all the buildings and the testing of water, gas, electric and fire equipment; the Dog Warden (City Services Department); and officers from the Development Department who co-ordinate any leases of land or mowing/grazing licences.





## RELEVANT STRATEGIES & POLICIES, STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

### Strategies & Policies

#### Service

<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Aims</u>	<u>Objectives</u>
A Parks and Green Space Strategy for Leeds	Vision: Where quality, accessible parks and green spaces are at the heart of the community, designed to meet the needs of everyone who lives, works, visits or invests in Leeds, both now and in the future.	Places for people: To engage the community in promoting parks and green spaces as accessible places for everyone to experience and enjoy	We will consult with the community to ensure our parks and green spaces have appropriate information and facilities that make them good places to visit
			We will promote parks and green space as places for education and learning
			We will promote and support well managed events and activities
			We will promote City and Country parks as visitor attractions, attracting people to Leeds as a place to visit, live, work and do business
			We will guide and influence community groups to work within the parameters of the Parks and Green Space Strategy
			We will engage with communities and encourage and enable people to get involved in developing our parks and green space
		Quality places: to provide good quality parks and green spaces that are well managed and provide a range of attractive facilities	We will aim to improve all our parks and green spaces as measured against the Green Flag standard for field based assessment
		Sustaining the Green Realm: To plan for the development of new, and to protect existing parks and green spaces that will offer lasting social, cultural and environmental benefits for the people of Leeds	We will safeguard and improve parks, playing fields, natural green space and children's play areas
			We will use our parks and green spaces in adapting to climate change based on an understanding of which specific proposals will have the greatest impact
			We will encourage conservation

			<u>and biodiversity to flourish within the green realm</u>
			<u>We will promote and develop green corridors for recreation, conservation and transport</u>
		<u>Creating a Healthier City: To promote parks and green spaces as places to improve health and well-being and prevent disease through physical activity, play, relaxation, and contemplation</u>	<u>We will promote and publicise the health and well-being benefits of parks and green spaces</u>
			<u>We will promote the health messages of walking and seek to develop health walk routes in our parks and green spaces</u>
			<u>We will provide opportunities for active recreation within parks and green spaces</u>
		<u>An Enabler for Regeneration: To promote liveability and the economic benefits of quality parks and green space provision as an integral part of major regeneration projects</u>	<u>We will consult with the community and seek ways to increase access to quality parks and green space in areas of deprivation</u>
			<u>We will promote access to parks and green space by seeking to expand the West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways initiative to other areas of the city</u>
			<u>We will promote the economic value of good quality parks and green space</u>
			<u>We will develop the concept of parks as community hubs</u>
		<u>Delivering the Strategy: To engage partners in supporting and delivering the Parks and Green Space Strategy</u>	<u>We will establish a parks and green space forum that will meet annually to consider progress on the strategy.</u>

## Corporate

<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Aim</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Action Point</u>
<u>City Priority Plan 2011-2015</u>	<u>Best City for health and well-being</u>	<u>4-year priority – Make sure people who are the poorest improve their health the fastest</u>	<u>Headline indicator -Reduce the difference in life expectancy between communities</u>
			<u>Headline indicator - Reduce the difference in healthy life expectancy between communities</u>
	<u>Best City to live</u>	<u>4-year priority – Enable growth of the city whilst protecting the distinctive green character of the city</u>	<u>Improve the percentage of people satisfied with the quality of the environment</u>
	<u>Best City for business</u>	<u>Improve skills</u>	<u>Increase the number of employers offering apprenticeships</u>
	<u>Best City for children and young people</u>	<u>Increase the levels of young people in employment, education or training.</u>	<u>Reduce the number of 16 to 18-year-olds that are not in education, employment or training</u>

<u>Vision for Leeds 2011-2030</u>	<u>Best City for Children</u>	<u>Child-friendly city where their needs, voices and priorities are heard and inform the way we make decisions and take action</u>	<u>Choose healthy lifestyles</u> <u>Do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life</u>
	<u>Best City for health and wellbeing</u>	<u>Clean green spaces where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life</u>	<u>People enjoy quality culture, sport, leisure and entertainment</u>
<u>Best Council Plan 2015-20, Detailed objectives: 2015-16</u>	<u>Objective 1: Supporting communities and tackling poverty</u>	<u>Outcome: Live longer and have healthier, active lives</u>	<u>Priority: Encouraging healthy lifestyles and reducing health inequalities</u>
	<u>Objective 2: Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth</u>	<u>Outcomes: A thriving economy, with more and better jobs</u>	<u>Priority: Creating jobs through strong leadership and co-ordinated investment</u>
	<u>Objective 3: Building a child-friendly city</u>	<u>Outcomes: Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life</u>	<u>Priority: Enhancing the skills, knowledge and economic resilience of the workforce</u>
			<u>Priority: Supporting children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning</u>
		<u>Outcome: Enjoy healthy lifestyles</u>	<u>Increasing numbers participating and engaged in learning</u>
	<u>Objective 6: Becoming a more efficient and enterprising council</u>	<u>Outcome: A culture that values, engages and supports people and makes the best use of their talents</u>	<u>Priority: Encouraging physical activity and healthy eating</u>
			<u>Priority: Providing play, leisure, cultural and sporting opportunities</u>
<u>Leeds Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 -2015</u>	<u>Vision: Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for all ages, where people who are the poorest will improve their health the fastest</u>	<u>People will live longer and have healthier lives</u>	<u>Support more people to choose healthy lifestyles</u>
		<u>Outcome: People's quality of life will be improved by access to quality services</u>	<u>Improve people's mental health and well-being</u>
<u>Leeds Strategy for Sport and active lifestyles 2013 -2018</u>	<u>Vision: Leeds to be the most active big city in England</u>	<u>Outcome: Improving health and wellbeing through more active lifestyle</u>	<u>Aim: Supporting the inactive to become active</u>
			<u>Aim: Retaining and increasing participation in Sport and Active Lifestyles</u>

## *The Core Strategy 2012 - 2028*

The Core Strategy plans for the longer term regeneration and growth of Leeds Metropolitan Borough over a 15 year period, as part of an overall and integrated framework. Central to this approach is the need to give priority to sustainable development in planning for economic prosperity, seeking to remove social inequality, securing opportunities for regeneration, and planning for infrastructure, whilst maintaining and protecting and enhancing environmental quality for the people of Leeds.

When considering the green infrastructure resource for the Core Strategy there are 5 key objectives to safeguard the environment of the district: -

1.	Protect natural habitats and take opportunities to enhance biodiversity through the creation of new habitats and by improving and extending wildlife corridors.
2.	Secure development which has regard to its impact on the local environment and is resilient to the consequences of climate change, including flood risk.
3.	Promote opportunities for low carbon and energy efficient heat and power, for both new and existing development.
4.	Make efficient use of natural resources, including the implementation of sustainable design and construction techniques, the use of minerals, and the effective minimisation and management of waste.
5.	Protect and enhance Green Infrastructure, strategic green corridors, greenspace, and areas of important landscape character, taking the opportunity to improve their quality, connectivity and accessibility through the development process.

### **Green Infrastructure**

*Green Infrastructure is a combination of environmental assets and man-made features that have a semi-natural component. Useful and usable green infrastructure exists as much in our densely built up towns and cities as it does in rural areas, and includes high quality, designated or intensely managed assets as well as area that are neglected or degraded as a result of current or past use.....It is the functionality of these wide-ranging assets that shapes the places we live, work and enjoy recreational activities, and they will play an increasing role in securing future prosperity and quality of life*

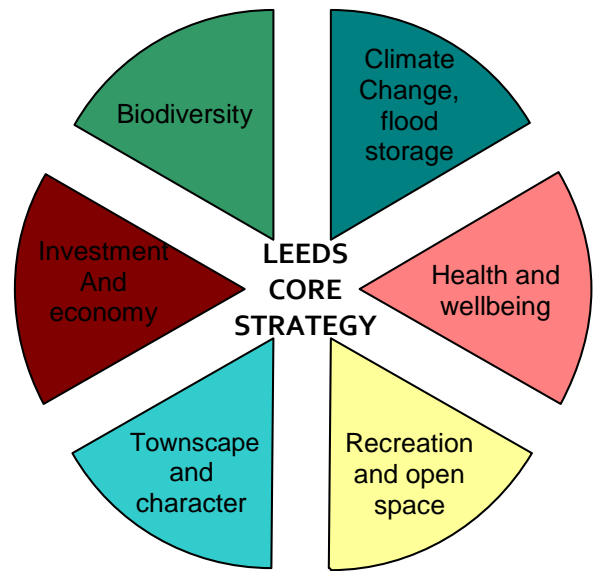
Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy (August 2010)

Spatial Policy 13 of the Core Strategy (Leeds Local Development Framework Published Draft, Feb. 2012)<sup>®</sup> recognises the important functions that Green Infrastructure Corridors provide and commits Leeds City Council to improving the quality, quantity and accessibility of green spaces in the District (see Diagram 1 below). The key functions of green infrastructure corridors as detailed in the document are to:

- improve the quantity, quality and accessibility of green spaces
- ensure that where appropriate, the opportunity is taken to extend Green Infrastructure by linking green spaces or by filling in gaps in Green Infrastructure corridors
- maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of local communities and the wider setting of places

Green Infrastructure means much more than enhancing natural habitats and the biodiversity that they support. Its essence is about creating “liveable cities” and is rooted in developing healthy and sustainable environments where people and wildlife can thrive in harmony. Well planned GI helps to contribute to the strategies and objectives set out in the Leeds City Region GI Strategy (2010) as set out below.

- Promote Sustainable Growth and Economic Development.
- Adapt and Mitigate to Climate Change.
- Encourage health and wellbeing living.
- Improve Biodiversity



*Diagram 1 Functions of Green Infrastructure in the Leeds Core Strategy.*

#### *Leeds Unitary Development Plan*

The Leeds UDP (being updated to the Local Development Framework) has policies relating to the protection of the following features that occur on The Chevin: Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Scheduled Ancient Monuments; Local Nature Reserves; Regionally Important Geological Sites; and Leeds Nature Areas.

#### *Performance Indicators*

Work is currently being progressed by the Parks & Countryside service to develop an EMAS Performance Indicator focussing on the size and proximity of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in relation to where people live. This is based on English Nature’s guidelines that there should be 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 population. Leeds has a population of approx. 780,000 and therefore needs 780 ha to meet this target (there are 8 LNRs covering approx. 660 ha). These guidelines also state that everyone should have at least one LNR of over 100 ha within 5 km of their home. The two largest LNRs are The Chevin (to the north-west of Leeds) and Fairburn Ings (to the south-east of Leeds) both over 170 ha and therefore providing a large proportion of this target.

#### *Leeds Biodiversity Action Plan*

LCC has also produced the Leeds Biodiversity Action Plan which focuses on some relevant locally important habitats and species that occur on The Chevin.

## National

### *UK Biodiversity Action Plan*

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan identifies Priority Habitats and Species, and a number of these occur on The Chevin.

### *English Nature's Natural Areas*

The Chevin is within English Nature's "South Pennines" Natural Area, in which encouragement is given to: maintaining the quality of semi-natural habitats; and the restoration of degraded habitats such as heathland.

### *UK Woodland Assurance Standard*

The Parks & Countryside Natural Habitats team has ensured that all woodlands in Leeds under their management have been accredited through the Forestry Commission's UK Woodland Assurance Standard and can therefore carry the Forestry Stewardship Council logo.

## **Statutory Obligations**

### *Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000*

Under the CRoW Act (2000) and Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981 as amended) there is a duty on LCC to further the conservation and enhancement of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that they own. This applies to the geological SSSI on the White House side. Under the same legislation protection is given to wild birds (particularly from disturbance whilst nesting), all species of bats, and some protection to reptiles (Common Lizards, Grass Snake, Slow-worm and Adder). Any works that would adversely impact on the SSSI or protected species should be avoided, and formal consent from English Nature would be needed if potentially damaging works have to proceed.

Areas of Open Access Land were also identified by the CRoW Act, and The Chevin has three such areas. The CRoW Act also places a statutory duty on LCC to ensure that any Definitive Rights of Way on The Chevin remain open and in a good state of repair.

### *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended)*

There are four Scheduled Monuments (SAMs) on The Chevin that relate to Roman earthworks on the Danefield side and prehistoric carved stones on the White House side. These are scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) by English Heritage. Any works that would adversely impact on these SAMs should be avoided, and formal consent from English Heritage would be needed if potentially damaging works have to proceed.

### *Forestry Act 1967 (as amended)*

Tree felling in the UK is controlled by the Forestry Act 1967 which means that woodland and tree owners must apply for a felling license from the Forestry Commission before carrying out any tree felling over a certain volume of timber. The Woodland Officer ensures this limit is not exceeded (across all of LCC's land holding) and applies for felling licenses where required. "One off" felling licenses

usually last for 5 years but under Countryside Stewardship where there is an approved woodland management plan in place, the felling license will last for 10 years.

#### *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*

Most of The Chevin is covered by group Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). Consent to carry out works to trees covered by a TPO is needed from LCC's Development Department (unless works are needed on health and safety grounds or have an approved woodland management plan agreement).

#### *Health & Safety at Work etc. Act (1974)*

The Health & Safety at Work etc. Act (1974), and related legislation, places a duty on LCC to ensure the safety of its staff, contractors and the public. The Learning & Leisure Department has its own: Health & Safety Policy; Health, Safety and Welfare Procedures; Codes of Practice; and Safe Operating Procedures. These cover all the activities that take place on The Chevin (i.e. procedures for reporting accidents and controlling substances hazardous to health, and codes of practice for building maintenance and lone working).

#### *Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended)*

This Act puts a responsibility on LCC to provide reasonable access for people with disabilities.

#### *National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act (1949)*

The Chevin was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 1989 by LCC. This is a statutory designation carried out under the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act (1949). Any works that would result in the physical loss of an area of LNR would need to be carried out through liaison with English Nature.

#### *Forestry Act 1967 (as amended)*

Felling Licences are required from the Forestry Commission in order to fell more than 5m<sup>3</sup> of timber. However, if a Woodland Grant Scheme agreement is in place this allows for works to proceed.

#### *Dogs (Fouling of land) Act 1996*

The Dogs (Fouling of land) Act 1996 covers land where it is an offence to allow dogs to foul, this includes much of The Chevin. LCC also has a number of Byelaws that cover Parks & Countryside land but these are likely to be replaced by Dog Control Orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2006.

### **Other Agreements or Leases etc.**

#### Building Leases and Mowing Licences

One of the buildings next to The White House has a history of being leased to external organisations. Leases are drawn up and managed by Learning & Leisure's Property Services team.

A mowing licence previously existed for grassland areas on the White House side, these licences are drawn up by the Development Department.



### Organised Activities

The Chevin is a popular place for local interest groups to carry out organised activities on a regular basis. These need to be agreed in advance with the Parks & Countryside service. Recent changes to Licensing laws has meant that the Parks & Countryside service has to apply for an annual licence or a Temporary Event Licence for all events that involve activities that are classed as licensable.

An Army Foundation College uses parts of the site each year for training exercises, local athletics and orienteering events take place several times per year, and the site is sometimes used for TV filming.

### Boundary Features

There is a responsibility on the Parks & Countryside service to maintain boundary fences or walls on the White House side at:

Manby Field	East and south boundary
Thompson's Field	East boundary
Sinclair's Field	North boundary
Great Dib Wood	North boundary

Locations of these boundaries are available on a map in the White House. As a good neighbour repairs on all other boundary features are carried out wherever possible through liaison with adjacent landowners.

# **PART 2**

## **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO?**



*Chevin Wildlife WATCH Group*

# VISION

## **A Safe Countryside Environment Providing a Range of Formal and Informal Recreational & Educational Opportunities Accessible by All**

### **SWOT Analysis**

The following list is a summary of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats based on Part 1 of the Management Plan and the comments from the annual Parks & Countryside service Residents Surveys. The SWOT Analysis is used to inform the Aims and Objectives of this Management Plan and to achieve the above Vision.

#### Strengths

- Large site with varied landscapes
- Natural environment
- Many heritage features (history, geology, wildlife)
- Undeveloped (few buildings to spoil feeling of “escape from the city”)
- Good place for recreation (challenging for runners and a good range of bridleways for horses and cyclists)
- Good access for visitors by car and bus
- Good woodland management
- Good path links from surrounding areas
- Highly visible in the surrounding landscape
- The White House is an iconic building within the Otley area
- There is a strong link between the origins of the site and the people of Otley
- There is a public house opposite a main car park and a Tea Room opposite 2 other car parks
- The Education Building and Courtyard area is fully disabled-accessible
- There are picnic benches and seats across the site
- Appointment of Chevin Estate Officer to co-ordinate delivery of the management plan
- Good external/internal consultation arrangements with the Chevin Forum/Internal Working Group
- Café and toilet facilities in building adjacent to the White House
- Corporate signage in place so visitors know the site belongs to Leeds City Council
- Information boards by the various car parks to inform people about activities and a map of the site showing key features.

#### Weaknesses

- Dog fouling is problematic in places (mainly near car parks)

- Car parks and path network is under constantly high pressure from a range of users
- Large number and types of boundary features that are constantly in need of repair
- The steeply-sloping nature of the site leads to drainage problems across paths in wet weather
- The steeply-sloping nature of the site provides difficult conditions to disabled users
- White House buildings are not near main car parks to provide additional visitor facilities to most visitors
- Little information available to visitors about the heritage features of the site
- Growing problem of mountain bikers creating new desire lines through the site
- Unauthorised mountain bike trails cutting across bridleways and footpaths leading to conflict and possible collisions
- Safe access for horse riders from Otley accessing Danefield's bridleways. Only route is riding up the busy and fast East Chevin Road.
- Maintenance of the orchard
- Lack of woodland management because of staff shortages and uncertainty over woodland grants

### Opportunities

- Grants for raising awareness about heritage features (and giving people access to flints, arrowheads and fossils stored at The White House)
- Grants for path/car park surfacing improvements, disabled access and interpretation
- Better visitor facilities (toilets and interpretation) through a new building or improvements to an existing building
- Better partnerships with disabled groups to identify parts of the site to improve
- Better promotion of visitor facilities on adjacent land (Tea Room and public house)
- Create income from tree thinning works to pay for path improvements and enable better tree regeneration
- Create partnership with mountain bikers and local cycle retail outlets to develop authorised mountain bike trails to cater for a wide range of abilities
- Develop a permissive bridleway on the White House side of the Chevin so horse riders from Otley do need to ride up the busy East Chevin Road
- Acquiring new land that meets the Objectives of the Management Plan

### Threats

- Increased visitor pressure
- Any new buildings reducing the informal countryside experience
- Climate change leading to increased fire risk and heavier downpours of rain (eroding paths and drainage ditches)
- Increasing conflict between walkers and cyclists

## **Opportunities for Grants – a special note**

### Heritage

The Chevin has a wealth of heritage (biodiversity, geology, archaeology and history) that could be much more strongly promoted to the visitors. There are a range of flints, arrowheads, fossils and other interesting items that are currently in storage at The White House. The use of the Education Building to create an interpretative display could bring alive the story of The Chevin through the years, and be a key way to raise awareness to visitors. This may be eligible for a grant..

There is also the potential for a heritage time trail around the site which could be based on interesting features through the years. This could be done through a range of imaginative sculptures at key locations and an accompanying leaflet to explain the relevance of the different sculptures (i.e. sculptures based on: fossils; Paleolithic hunters; the Roman settlement; Packhorse route; Major Fawkes; Thomas Chippendale; wildlife etc.). A local community group such as The Friends of Chevin Forest Park may be eligible for a grant for such a project.

### General Management

From 2015 onwards over a 10 year period extensive woodland management is being planned to either replant or thin existing plantations on the Danefield side of Chevin Forest Park. Private Forestry contractors will tender for the works and income generated will be used to fund path improvements throughout the site. . Appendix 1 highlights the works envisaged.

Through the Development Department there may also be the opportunity for financial contributions from planning gain (Section 106 Agreements) if there is a development nearby that may have an adverse impact on The Chevin.

### **New Activities or Projects**

It is likely that new activities or projects will be proposed to take place on The Chevin during the 10-year period of this Management Plan. There has been requests by mountain bike groups for trails to be developed and the horse riders are interested in developing a safer route from Otley into the Chevin Forest Park that avoids East Chevin Road. . It is important that the potential impacts of these new proposals are carefully considered against the important heritage features of the site and the needs of other visitors.

Any new proposal that may have a significant impact should be carefully considered to assess whether it fits in with the Aims & Objectives set out in this Management Plan, and appropriate consultation carried out before it proceeds (such as through the Chevin Forest Park and Countryside Forum).

- Explore the possibility of developing mountain bike trails to cater for people with different abilities

- Examine the feasibility of creating a permissive bridleway on the White House side to cater for Horse riders coming from Otley and avoids the busy East Chevin Road.
- There is a need to have an on-going woodland management programme in many of the plantations to allow for regeneration, improvement in woodland structure through proliferation of ground, field and shrubbery layers.

## **Aims & Objectives**

Many of the Aims and Objectives on the following pages have been chosen because of the feedback from visitors from the Parks & Countryside Residents Surveys and previous comments from visits by Green Flag judges (as part of previous national Green Flag Assessments in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2009). Others have been chosen because they are guided by policies or a range of statutory obligations or agreements. However, some are more subjective and are based on professional judgement of Parks & Countryside officers, and also the discussion and SWOT analysis in this Management Plan.

Some Aims and Objectives may be liable to change during the period of this Management Plan as additional information from surveys (such as the Residents' Surveys) or other sources becomes available.

# AIMS & OBJECTIVES

## BIODIVERSITY FEATURES

AIM	To Protect and Enhance all Biodiversity Features
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retain long-term woodland cover</li><li>• Diversify the woodland age structure</li><li>• Improve the woodland edge habitat</li><li>• Achieve recognised woodland NVC associations</li><li>• Increase the amount of standing and fallen deadwood</li><li>• Retain long-term heathland cover</li><li>• Improve the quality of heathland habitats</li><li>• Retain long-term grassland cover</li><li>• Improve the quality of grassland habitats</li><li>• Improve the links between grassland and heathland habitats</li><li>• Improve the water features</li><li>• Improve the orchard area</li><li>• Improve walls, hedgerows and other boundary features</li><li>• Remove non-native invasive species</li><li>• Monitor how important habitats and species are responding to ongoing management</li></ul>

## **GEOLOGICAL FEATURES**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Protect and Enhance all Geological Features</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure SSSI is in Favourable Condition</li> <li>• Ensure important features on rocky crags are not damaged</li> </ul>

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL FEATURES**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Protect and Enhance all Archaeological &amp; Historical Features</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure SAMs are in Favourable Condition</li> <li>• Ensure any artefacts are safely stored</li> <li>• Ensure any works carried out in areas of Potential Regional Importance are done sensitively</li> <li>• Ensure Memorial Stones and Range Finder are maintained</li> <li>• Ensure remains of Keepers Cottage and adjacent Deer Store are maintained</li> <li>• Ensure remains of Jenny's Cottage are maintained</li> <li>• Ensure stone carvings by Freeman of Otley in quarries are retained</li> <li>• Ensure Vacca Wall is maintained</li> </ul>



## **WALKERS, HORSE-RIDERS, CYCLISTS AND OTHER USERS**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Provide Suitable Opportunities for a Range of User Groups</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure paths are suitable for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists all year</li> <li>• Ensure orienteering route is maintained and maps are available to the public</li> <li>• Encourage continued use of the site by a range of external groups for organised activities</li> </ul>

## **DISABLED ACCESS**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Provide Access Opportunities for People with Disabilities</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and enhance parts of the site that are suitable for a range of different disabled users</li> <li>• Ensure the mobility scooters are advertised for appropriate use</li> <li>• Ensure the mobility scooter routes are safe to use and clearly way-marked for users</li> <li>• Ensure the disabled-friendly Education building is publicised for appropriate use</li> </ul>

## **VISITOR FACILITIES**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Provide Facilities that Meet the Expectations of Visitors</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify the expectations of visitors</li><li>• Consider the need for a visitor centre and the range of facilities it could provide</li><li>• Ensure car parks are suitable for visitors</li><li>• Ensure dog fouling and litter does not detract from visitors' enjoyment</li><li>• Ensure seating facilities are provided across the site at suitable locations</li><li>• Ensure formal grassland areas are provided at picnic areas and other suitable locations</li></ul>

## **OPEN ACCESS LAND**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Ensure Visitors Have an Understanding About Open Access Land and Where it is</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Produce information about Open Access Land</li></ul>

## MEMORIAL TREE AREAS

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Continue Providing Areas for Memorial Trees</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue planting trees in the existing Memorial Tree Area</li><li>• Identify a new area for memorial trees</li></ul>

## VEHICLE ACCESS

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Ensure Safe Vehicle Access That is Compatible With Other Users</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure vehicle access tracks are maintained in a good condition</li><li>• Ensure emergency vehicle access is provided for</li><li>• Prevent access by non-authorised vehicles</li><li>• Restrict the use of vehicles on tracks to avoid erosion</li><li>• Ensure all vehicles are used safely on tracks</li></ul>

## HEALTH & SAFETY

AIM	To Ensure the Safety of Staff, Visitors and Contractors
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure trees along paths and roads do not present a hazard to users</li> <li>• Ensure the path network is safe to use</li> <li>• Ensure visitors feel safe whilst on The Chevin</li> <li>• Identify the major risks on the site</li> <li>• Restrict the potential for accidental and deliberate fires</li> <li>• Ensure water used in buildings is safe to drink</li> <li>• Ensure the buildings do not present a danger to site users</li> <li>• Ensure hazardous substances are securely stored and used</li> <li>• Ensure all LCC-led activities are carried out in a safe manner</li> <li>• Ensure all contractors activities carried out on behalf of LCC are done in a safe manner</li> <li>• Ensure activities by external organisations are carried out without putting the public at risk</li> <li>• Ensure the mobility scooters are used safely</li> </ul>

## **EQUIPMENT**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Ensure all Equipment is Kept in a Good Condition and is Safe to Use</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure all tools are kept in a good condition</li><li>• Ensure mobility scooters are kept in a good condition</li><li>• Ensure LCC vehicles are kept in a good condition</li></ul>

## **BUILDINGS & STORAGE AREAS**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Ensure all Buildings &amp; Storage Areas are Kept in a Good Condition and Used to Their Full Potential</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure all buildings and adjacent areas are kept in a good condition</li><li>• Identify an appropriate use for all buildings</li><li>• Ensure appropriate storage areas for materials are available</li></ul>

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>Ensure Practices are Carried Out in a Manner Which Minimises Adverse Environmental Impacts</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Contribute to the Objectives of EMAS</b></li><li>• <b>Herbicide use kept to a minimum</b></li><li>• <b>Increase the energy efficiency of buildings</b></li><li>• <b>Reduce energy use in buildings</b></li><li>• <b>Ensure that public transport to the Chevin is promoted</b></li><li>• <b>Purchase materials and services that are environmentally-friendly</b></li></ul>

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Involve a Wide Range of Local Community Groups in Activities</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Provide opportunities for individuals and groups to get involved in practical conservation tasks</b></li><li>• <b>Provide opportunities for involvement in education sessions</b></li><li>• <b>Provide a forum for involving relevant local groups in the management of the site</b></li><li>• <b>Provide a programme of public events</b></li></ul>

## **MARKETING**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Promote The Chevin Whilst Ensuring the Informal Countryside Experience is not Compromised</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure The Chevin is promoted appropriately (i.e. as a Country Park)</li> <li>• Ensure visitors are kept up-to-date with upcoming activities</li> </ul>

## **INTERPRETATION**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>Ensure Visitors Feel Welcome &amp; Raise Awareness about the Heritage Features</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Maintain welcome signage and appropriate information at main entrances</b></li><li>• <b>Consider interesting ways to raise awareness about the heritage features</b></li><li>• <b>Provide internal way-marked directional signage</b></li></ul>

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRANTS**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>To Ensure Funding Opportunities for the Aims of this Management Plan are Maximised</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Secure funding for ongoing annual management works</b></li><li>• <b>Seek funding for appropriate projects</b></li></ul>

## **MONITORING**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>Ensure that the Actions in the Annual Work Programmes are Being Achieved</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Put in place a system to monitor the Actions</b></li></ul>



# **Chevin Forest Park Local Nature Reserve**

## **Management Plan 2016-2026 Volume 2**



**PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE**  
*managing the environment for recreation*



# **HOW WILL WE GET THERE? & HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE HAVE GOT THERE?**



*Above – Chevin Wildlife WATCH Group July 2006*

*Front Cover – Business in the Community event with Yorkshire Water staff Aug 2005*

## Explanation

Volume 1 explained what the important features of The Chevin are and then set a Vision for the next 10 years. Volume 1 also identified a number of Aims and Objectives in order to achieve the Vision.

Volume 2 takes the Objectives a stage further and identifies the Actions that are required on the ground in order to achieve each Objective. The required Actions are listed next to their relevant Objectives.

Many of these Actions may be required every year and are therefore shown as “Annually”. However, some Actions are specific to a particular year and are shown as such. It is not the intention to list all the Actions for the next 10 years because they will no doubt change due to a range of circumstances.

## **Monitoring Actions**

The Area Officer is responsible for monitoring the Action Plan. Every so often the Area Officer will meet with other officers in order to update which Actions have been completed as the year progresses.

## Biodiversity Features

Objectives	Actions	Year
Retain long-term woodland cover	Identify approx. total % of woodland area to be maintained long-term	2016
	Identify and map areas where woodland will be expanded or reduced	2016
	Carry out woodland selective thinning and removal (through Countryside Stewardship (CS) agreement – Opportunities for grants, page 22). See Appendix 1 for planned works in the various compartments.	Annually on grant success
Diversify the woodland age structure	Create clearings in woodland areas for young tree establishment (through CS agreement – Opportunities for grants, page 22) ). See Appendix 1 for planned works in the various compartments.	Annually on grant success
Improve the woodland edge habitat	Widen rides between woodland compartments through CS agreement). See Appendix 1 for planned works in the various compartments.	Annually
	Produce a woodland ride-cutting schedule	2016
Achieve recognised woodland NVC associations	Undertake selective thinning to promote tree growth and natural regeneration of desired tree and shrub species). See Appendix 1 for planned works in the various compartments.	Annually
	Encourage natural regeneration or re-plant using native local provenance stock (through CS agreement – Opportunities for grants, Page 22)	Annually on grant success
Increase the amount of standing and fallen deadwood	Carry out veteranisation of mature trees as appropriate	Annually
	Create log piles along woodland rides in various-shaded conditions	Annually
Retain long-term heathland cover	Identify approx. total % of heathland area to be maintained long-term	2016
	Identify and map areas where heathland will be expanded or reduced	2016
	Within heathland areas identify scrub/Bracken to be controlled/removed	Annually

	Remove trees between the heathland area and the Vacca wall	Annually – winter work until complete
Improve the quality of heathland habitats	Produce heathland-cutting schedule Carry out heathland cutting Remove undesirable scrub/Bracken from heathland areas and treat with herbicide if necessary	2016 Annually Annually
Retain long-term grassland cover	Identify approx. total % of meadow area to be maintained long-term	Complete
Improve the quality of grassland habitats	Produce a meadow-cutting schedule Carry out meadow cutting	Complete Annually
Improve the links between grassland and heathland habitats	Identify and produce a map showing how meadows and heathland can be linked together across the site	2016
Improve the water features	Produce a plan showing all drainage ditches Produce ditch management schedule Carry out ditch management Produce a plan showing the locations of potential woody debris dams to slow the flow of water courses during heavy rainfall and carry out consultation with FC/EN/LCC drainage and Env. Agency if required Consider the need for a new pond/wet scrape and possible locations Create new pond/wet scrape if appropriate	Complete 2016 Annually Complete Complete
Improve the orchard area	Carry out orchard pruning as necessary Cut grass and remove risings in orchard Require better system of protecting the trees from deer and sheep	Annually Annually 2016

Improve walls, hedgerows and other boundary features	Identify walls and hedgerows to be improved for biodiversity and carry out management as necessary	Annually
Remove non-native invasive species	Identify and map where undesirable species occur (i.e. Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed) and remove as necessary  Remove Australian Swamp Stonecrop from Yorkgate pond (physically removing some each year)	Annually  Annually
Ensure legally protected species are not adversely affected	Carry out bat inspections prior to building and tree works	Annually
Monitor how important habitats and species are responding to ongoing management	Identify the important habitats and species present  Carry out habitat and species monitoring	On-going  Annually

## Geological Features

Objectives	Actions	Year
Ensure SSSI is in Favourable Condition	Liaise with English Nature in relation to SSSI and follow advice as appropriate  Carry out checks to ensure vegetation is not obscuring important features of SSSI	Annually  Annually
Ensure important features on rocky crags are not damaged	Identify important geological features on rocky crags  Carry out checks of rocky crags to ensure damage is not happening to important geological features	2016  Annually

## Archaeological & Historical Features

Objectives	Actions	Year
Ensure SAMs are in Favourable Condition	Liaise with English Heritage in relation to SAMs and follow advice as appropriate  Carry out checks to ensure damage is not happening to SAMs	Annually  Annually

Ensure any artefacts are safely stored	Report any archaeological finds to English Heritage and store as necessary	Annually
Ensure any works carried out in areas of Potential Regional Importance are done sensitively	Liaise with English Heritage when disturbing soils in areas of Potential Regional Importance	Annually
Ensure Memorial Stones and Range Finder are maintained	Carry out checks to Memorial Stones and Range Finder and maintain as necessary	Annually
Ensure remains of Keepers Cottage and adjacent Deer Store are maintained	Carry out checks of Keepers Cottage and Deer Store to ensure the remains are visible and maintain as necessary	Annually
Ensure remains of Jenny's Cottage are maintained	Carry out checks of Jenny's Cottage to ensure the foundations are visible and maintain as necessary	Annually
Ensure stone carvings by Freeman of Otley in quarries are retained	Identify locations of stone carvings in quarries  Carry out checks to ensure the stone carvings in quarries are visible and not damaged	2016  Annually
Ensure Vacca Wall is maintained	Carry out checks of Vacca Wall and maintain as necessary	Annually

## Walkers, Horse Riders, Cyclists and Other Users

Objectives	Actions	Year
Ensure paths are suitable for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists all year	Carry out a Path Audit to identify conditions of existing paths for main user groups and carry out maintenance as necessary	Annually
Ensure orienteering route is maintained and maps are	Liaise with Airienteers orienteering group to re-print maps and make available as appropriate	Complete



available to the public		
Encourage continued use of the site by a range of external groups for organised activities	Liaise with external groups when approached and keep records of organised activities that take place	Annually
Ensure access features are maintained in a good condition	Carry out an audit of access features (fences, stiles, gates etc.)  Carry out an audit of boundary walls and other boundary features and maintain as necessary	Annually  Annually
Look at developing a mountain bike trail on the Danefield Side	Liaise with Chevin Cycles and other cycling groups in surveying and developing potential routes	2016 onwards
Assess the feasibility of developing a permissive horse trail using existing paths on the Whitehouse side of the Park	Liaise with local horse riders, survey the route and cost the infrastructure required	2016 onwards

## Disabled Access

Objectives	Actions	Year
Identify and enhance parts of the site that are suitable for a range of different disabled users	Carry out an Accessibility Audit of the site to identify barriers to access through liaison with disability groups and officers  Improve identified disabled access sections and access points as necessary	2016  Ongoing
Ensure the mobility scooters are advertised for appropriate use	Liaise with the Otley Shopmobility Scheme for inclusion in a publicity leaflet  Promote the mobility scooters to the public through press releases, leaflets and the LCC website	2016  Annually
Ensure the mobility scooter routes are safe to use and clearly way-marked for users	Carry out annual inspection of mobility scooter route  Way-mark mobility scooter routes and provide maps with scooters showing the routes	Annually  Complete
Ensure the disabled-friendly Education Building is publicised for appropriate use	Advertise the Education Building through LCC's Social Services	Ongoing

## Visitor Facilities

Objectives	Actions	Year
Identify the expectations of visitors	Analyse the results of visitor surveys and the Residents Surveys to identify the expectations of visitors	Annually
Ensure car parks are suitable for visitors	Refurbishment of the Surprise View Car Park  Carry out annual car park checks and carry out maintenance as necessary	Completed  Annually
Ensure dog fouling and litter does not detract from visitors' enjoyment	Liaise with the LCC Dog Warden  Empty dog bins regularly  Erect signs at problem dog-fouling places	Regularly  Annually  Complete

	Highlight dog-fouling problems through publicity (press, articles in newsletters etc.)	Annually
	Carry out weekly litter picks	Annually
Ensure seating facilities are provided across the site at suitable locations	Carry out a seating audit (benches and picnic benches)  Maintain benches and provide new ones as appropriate	2016  Annually
Ensure formal grassland areas are provided at picnic areas and other suitable locations	Identify areas to be maintained as amenity grassland  Regularly cut grassland in picnic areas and other amenity areas	Complete  Annually
Maintain views to and from The White House building to Otley town	Identify works required to keep an open aspect to the front of The White House	Ongoing

## Memorial Tree Areas

Objectives	Actions	Year
Continue planting trees in the existing Memorial Tree Area	Identify species of tree to be used in the Memorial Tree Area  Keep records of plots in the Memorial Tree Area  Carry out annual inspections of trees in the Memorial Tree Area and maintain as necessary	Complete  Annually  Annually
Identify a new area for memorial trees	Assess any new land for suitability as a memorial tree area  Liaise with other P&C service memorial tree schemes to compare planting and maintenance procedures	Complete  Complete

## Vehicle Access

Objectives	Actions	Year
Ensure vehicle access tracks are maintained in a good condition	Produce a map showing tracks where vehicles are allowed	2016
	Carry out works to vehicle access tracks as necessary	Annually
Ensure emergency vehicle access is provided for	Produce map clearly showing emergency vehicle access points and tracks, and pass to emergency services	Complete
Prevent access by non-authorised vehicles	Carry out inspections and maintain vehicle access barriers as necessary	Annually
Ensure all vehicles are used safely on tracks	Produce guidance for staff using vehicles safely on tracks (stating max. speed and the need to be aware of other users)	Complete

## Health & Safety

Objectives	Actions	Year
Ensure trees along paths and roads do not present a hazard to users	Produce a map showing routes for tree-safety inspections	2016
	Carry out tree-safety inspections along routes and keep records	Annually
Ensure the path network is safe to use	Inspect all paths for safety as part of the annual Path Audit	Annually
Ensure visitors feel safe whilst on The Chevin	Carryout weekly patrols by highly visible staff on foot	Annually
	Inspect car parks annually and maintain them to ensure they have an “open feel”	Annually
	Liaise with Parks Watch service to ensure they carry out site visits as appropriate	Annually
Identify the major risks on the site	Produce a Site Risk Assessment	Complete

Restrict the potential for accidental and deliberate fires	Create and maintain firebreaks within woodland blocks through regular mowing in summer	Annually
	Produce a Fire Procedure to provide guidance about what to do in case of a major fire incident as part of the Site Risk Assessment	Complete
	Erect fire-safety warning signs during drought conditions	Annually
	Inform the local Fire Control office when controlled fires are used for management	Annually
Ensure water used in buildings is safe to drink	Carry out a water risk assessment for buildings	Annually
	Carry out monthly (Legionella) and annual (coliforms) water-testing safety checks for buildings	Annually
	Check filters and UV lights in The White House and the Old Café Building annually	Annually
	Carry out a full service of filters in The White House and the Old Cafe Building every 2 years	2008 2010 2012 2014 2016

Ensure the buildings do not present a danger to site users	Carry out fire safety inspections to buildings	Annually
	Carry out fire extinguisher tests and keep records	Annually
	Carry out electrical appliance testing and keep records	Annually
Ensure hazardous substances are securely stored and used	Store hazardous substances in a secure location	Annually
	Carry out a hazardous substances safety check	Annually
	Only trained operators allowed to use hazardous substances	Annually
Ensure all LCC-led activities are carried out in a safe manner	Risk Assessments to be carried out by relevant officers for LCC-led activities	Annually
Ensure all contractors' activities carried out on behalf of LCC are	Risk Assessments or equivalent required before works commence by contractors	Annually

done in a safe manner		
Ensure activities by external organisations are carried out without putting the public at risk	Evidence of public liability insurance required before permission is given for activities by external organisations	Annually
Ensure the mobility scooters are used safely	Health & Safety forms to be signed by all mobility scooter users  Health & Safety information attached to mobility scooters	Annually  Complete

## Equipment

Objectives	Actions	Year
Ensure all tools are kept in a good condition	Tools stored in a designated area and maintained as necessary  Tool inventory kept updated	Annually  Annually
Ensure mobility scooters are kept in a good condition	Mobility scooters to be serviced  Mobility scooters to be stored in dry conditions and batteries to be kept fully charged	Annually  Annually
Ensure LCC vehicles are kept in a good condition	Weekly and monthly vehicle checks to be carried out to P&C vehicles	Annually

## Buildings & Storage Areas

Objectives	Actions	Year
Ensure all buildings and adjacent areas are kept in a good condition	Identify building maintenance works that need to be done  Liaise with L&L's Property Services to ensure building maintenance is carried out  Empty septic tank from toilets at White House	Annually  Annually  Twice a year

	buildings at least every 5 years	
Identify an appropriate use for all buildings	<p>Carry out an audit of all buildings to identify what they are currently used for and consider the need for improvements, and carry out as necessary</p> <p>Consider the appropriate future use of vacant buildings such as the stone building on the Danefield side</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Ensure appropriate storage areas for materials are available	Identify existing storage areas for materials and consider the need for improvements, and carry out as necessary	2016

## Environmental Sustainability

Objectives	Actions	Year
Contribute to the Objectives of EMAS	Identify Environmental Performance Indicators for all relevant EMAS Objectives	2016
	Monitor Environmental Performance Indicators	On set-up
Herbicide use kept to a minimum	Trained officers to use herbicides for undesirable scrub re-growth and non-native invasive plants only	Annually
	Bracken control carried out using horse-drawn roller	Annually
	Himalayan Balsam control carried out by hand-pulling	Annually
Increase the energy efficiency of buildings	Carry out an energy efficiency audit of buildings (insulation, low-energy lighting, heating system, size of windows etc.)	2016
Reduce energy use in buildings	Liaise with L&L's Property Services to consider annual monitoring of electricity and gas through bills and then put in place measures to reduce energy use (i.e. switch off lights when not in use)	2016
Ensure that public transport to The Chevin is promoted	Provide details about bus transport on interpretation	Complete
Purchase materials and services that are environmentally-friendly	Use recycled materials or sustainably sourced timber for benches and signage	Annually
	Any new trees or plants used to be sourced from on-site or to be locally sourced of local provenance	Annually
	Any new stone materials for paths to be locally sourced	Annually
	Use organic/fairtrade drinks for P&C meetings and events	Annually



## Local Community Involvement

Objectives	Actions	Year
Provide opportunities for individuals and groups to get involved in practical conservation tasks	Lead a programme of week-day and week-end practical conservation tasks	Annually
Provide opportunities for involvement in education sessions	Lead a programme of week-day education sessions for local schools	Annually
	Produce an educational teachers resource pack/CD-rom	Complete
	Lead a programme of week-end kids and family education sessions (Wildlife WATCH)	Annually
Provide a forum for involving relevant local groups in the management of the site	Continue to liaise with and support the Chevin Forum and meet twice per year	Annually
	Form a "Friends of Chevin" group	Complete
	Continue to liaise with and support "Friends of" group	Annually
Provide a programme of public events	Provide guided walks and similar events	Annually
	Run LNR Open Days and Heritage Days	Annually
Monitor attendance at all events	Keep records of numbers attending different public activities	Annually

## Marketing

Objectives	Actions	Year
Ensure The Chevin is promoted appropriately (i.e. as a Country Park)	Ensure The Chevin features in general LCC promotional publications, the LCC website and other appropriate places	Annually
	Ensure a suite of site-based leaflets are available in local TICs and other public places	Annually

Ensure visitors are kept up-to-date with upcoming activities	Produce press releases as appropriate	Annually
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## Interpretation

Objectives	Actions	Year
Provide welcome signage and appropriate information at main entrances	Provide and maintain welcome signage at main car parks and some main pedestrian entrances	Complete
	Provide and maintain notice boards with a general map and information about heritage features near main car parks and some other main entrances	Complete
Provide additional appropriate interpretation boards	Maintain the geological interpretation board on the White House side	Complete
	Provide and maintain wildlife interpretation boards at key locations of wildlife interest	Complete
Consider interesting ways to raise awareness about the heritage features	Develop ideas to raise awareness about the heritage features (such as setting up a heritage sculpture time trail)	Complete
Provide internal way-marked directional signage	Provide and maintain fingerposts to show rights of way and other appropriate directions	Annually
Provide a suite of leaflets to highlight the heritage features	Update site leaflets to give them a uniform identity	Annually

## Opportunities for Grants

Objectives	Actions	Year

## Monitoring the Actions

Objectives	Actions	Year
Put in place a system to monitor the Actions	Once per year use the Internal Working Group to monitor previous the years Actions and agree the upcoming Annual Work Programme	Annually
	Keep records of Actions completed	Annually

### Appendix 1

#### 10 YEAR WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN BY COMPARTMENT (cpt)

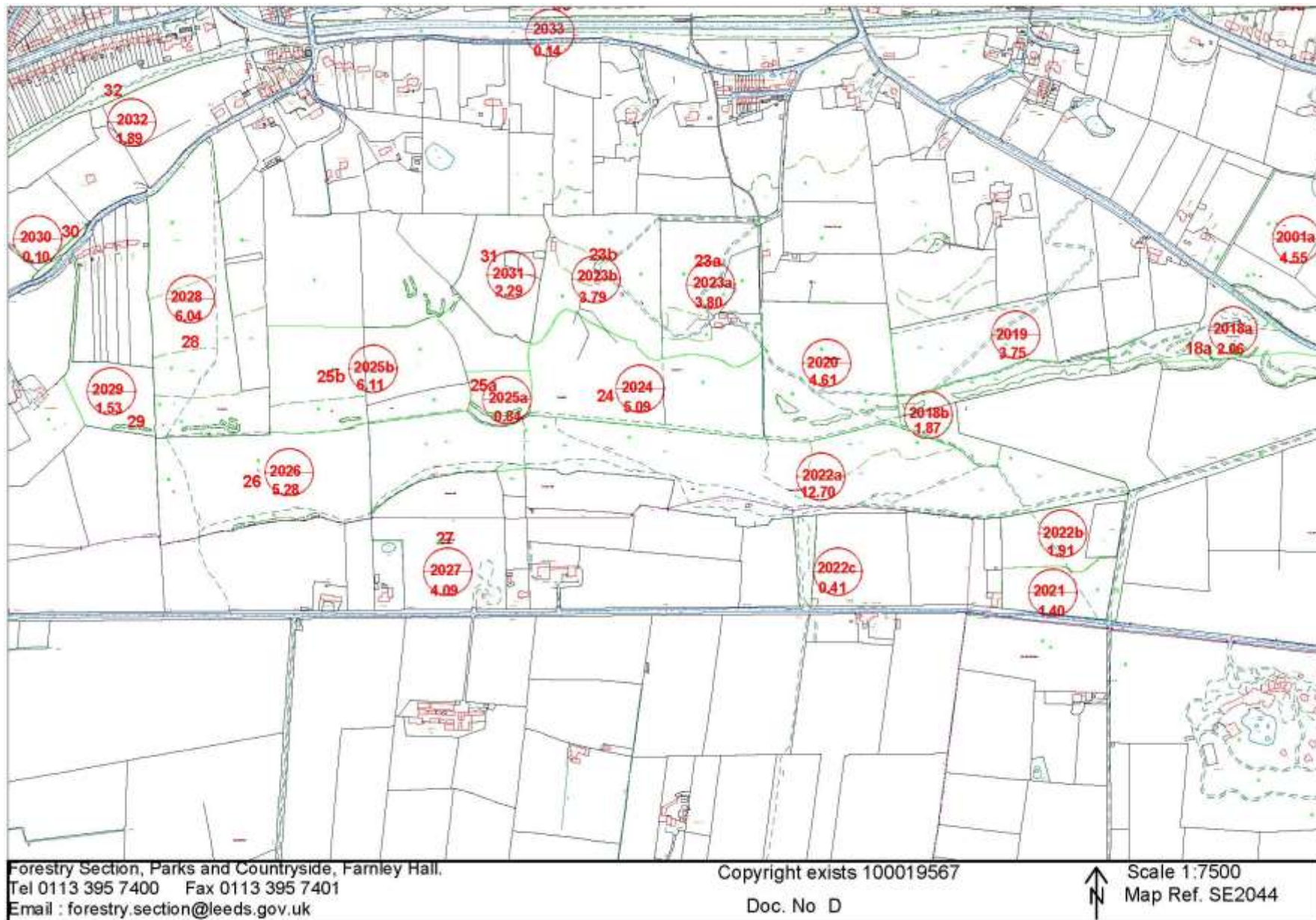
Cpt	Action
1a	Selective felling of 2 x 0.2ha (hectare) plots and replant 0.4ha with sessile oak and hybrid larch. Thin 1ha scots pine.
1b	Selective thin (ST) mixed broadleaves and conifers by up to 20% (i.e. 1:5 trees.)
1c	As above.
1d	As above.
2	Selective thin 4ha by up to 20% (i.e. 1:5 trees).
3a	Light selective thin of mature sycamore and underplant (in amongst existing trees) with native trees and shrub species.
3b	Thin by <20% (1:5 trees) to create more light for existing (advanced) natural regeneration of all tree and shrub species. Fell a row of damaged and diseased beech trees to encourage development of a “natural” woodland edge.
3c	Thin by up to 25% (1:4 trees).
3d	Maintain OG/parkland character.SF diseased and damaged trees as required over 5 years Maintain open ground habitat/parkland character by selectively felling naturally regenerated trees. Recreate original long distance views across Shawfield by reducing density of trees.
4a	Selective thin by <20% (1:5 trees).
4b	As above.
5a	As above.
5b	As above.

- 5c Fell 0.67ha and replant with mixed broadleaves and confers and blend the planting to augment existing semi-natural woodland adjacent to Holbeck Ghyll.
- 6a Identify vigorous and dominant trees and weed out invasive species e.g. birch.
- 6b Selective thin by <20% (1:5 trees).
- 7a As above.
- 7b As above.
- 7c Selectively thin all species by <25% (1:4 trees) Clear fell European larch adjacent to power lines and replant with scattered shrub species to extend area of scrub habitat.
- 7d Maintain as open ground habitat.
- 8 Selective thin by <20% (1:5 trees) to favour best of species.
- 9a Selective thin by <25% (1:4 trees) favouring areas of remnant heathland. Selective fell on and around the old quarry to create a predominately open ground habitat.
- 9b Light selective thin by <20% (1:5 trees) and “scallop” ride edges ie create small open areas on the edge of the plantations to create more woodland edge habitat.
- 9c Non-intervention ie no felling or regeneration work planned.
- 10 Selective thin by <25% (1:4 trees) to favour best of species.
- 11 Selective thin by <25% (1:4 trees) to favour best of species.
- 12 Clear fell or very heavy thin <80% (4:5 trees) 1.5ha and replant with mixed broadleaves and conifers. Retain feature trees for interest and habitat eg Southern beech and mixed conifers. Refurbish adjacent forest track from Caley Gate to Holbeck Gate.
- 13 Non-intervention but carry out periodic checks on roadside trees for safety.
- 14 Non-intervention but maintain water course and bridges.
- 15a Selective felling to maintain open aspect and views.
- 15b Selective thin by <20% (1:5 trees).
- 15c Selective thin by <20% (1:5 trees).
- 15d Selective fell <0.25ha of invasive species e.g. birch and goat willow.
- 16 Remove invasive trees and shrubs as required to facilitate rock climbing and to maintain views to and from the crags.
- 17a Light selective thin and clean/prune and drawback from trackside and the Gallops.
- 17b Manage as coppice/scrub habitat under overhead lines.

- 18a Selective felling <0.5ha to open views of crags and maintain as coppice.
- 18b Selective felling <0.5ha to open views of crags and maintain as coppice.
- 18c Station Top – maintain as pasture.
- 19 Maintain as open ground habitat removing invasive trees and shrubs.
- 20 Non-intervention but consider opportunities for veteran tree style management.
- 21 Selective thin by <25% (1:4 trees) stems to favour best of species. Prune and brash as required (remove lower branches on conifers to create a clean stem and to help improve form of broadleaves).
- 22a Maintain as open moorland habitat removing invasive trees and shrubs.
- 22b Maintain as pasture.
- 22c Maintain car park.
- 23a Selective thin by <25% (1:4 trees) to maintain views to and from Whitehouse Visitor Centre. Cut back roadside trees.
- 23b Maintain orchard and individual trees. Maintain primarily as open ground/pasture.
- 24 Light selective thin by <20% (1:5 trees) favouring areas of natural regeneration.
- 25a Non-intervention – SSSI. Annual checks for tree stability.
- 25b Selective thinning by <20% (1:5 trees).
- 26 Selective fell <0.5ha retaining veteran sweet chestnut. RP 0.5ha with sessile oak, sweet chestnut, Scots pine and Douglas fir.
- 27 Selective thin by <25% and maintain as open ground and wetland habitat.
- 28 Coppice <0.5ha and cut back path side trees and shrubs.
- 29 Non-intervention.
- 30 Monitor condition of roadside trees.
- 31 Maintain as pasture.

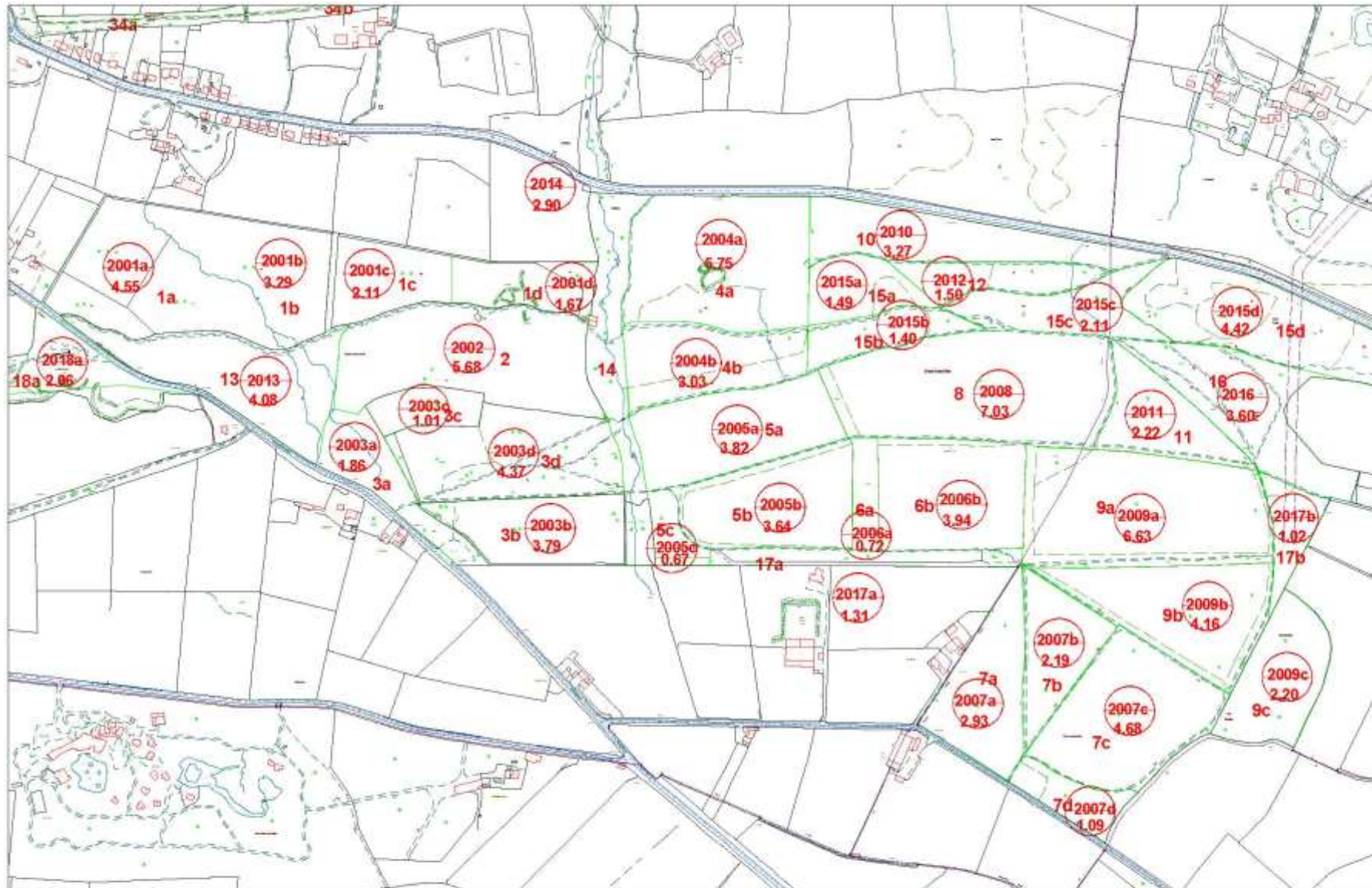
\*Chippendale Ride, Danefield Treat as a management unit separately. Carry out selective thinning of birch and rowan and cut back non-woody vegetation. Aim to create a more open and sunlit ride while maintaining feature trees as an avenue.

The Woodland Compartments (size and reference number) on the White House side of Chevin Forest Park





The Woodland Compartments (size and reference number) on the White House side of Chevin Forest Park



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