

*Franklins Spring
Green Space Action Plan.*



Produced by:
Countryside Management Service
On behalf of
Three Rivers District Council
2008



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Franklins Spring Green Space Action Plan.

1.0 Introduction

Franklins Spring is small fairly isolated woodland site in Maple Cross, Hertfordshire. It is currently an Ecosite 88/012. A remnant ancient semi – natural woodland, 1.11 ha in size, the woodland is owned and managed by Three Rivers District Council.

2.0 Site Description

The wood is comprised mainly of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) with occasional Oak (*Quercus robur*), these are mostly found on the Hornhill road side of the wood but scattered throughout. The under story layer is comprised of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and some Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Ground layer has several ancient woodland indicators including wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). It is also a protected species site.

A chalk pit is evident in the south – east corner; however there is a large amount of rubbish that has been tipped into it.

There are no official rights of way in the wood; however there are a number of desire lines running throughout the site.

3.0 Aim

- To produce a Green Space Action plan to maintain the biodiversity value of the site whilst still allowing public access.

4.0 Objectives

- To advise on the management of the site to maintain the biodiversity value of the woodland.

5.0 Current management

Current management includes health and safety work on larger trees and the removal of fly tipping as and when necessary. Due to the small size of the woodland a non – intervention approach as is currently employed should be the main management tool.

6.0 Suggested roles for implementation

6.1 Countryside Management Service (CMS)

- Specialist advice
- Support with grant applications
- Specifications for management works
- Press and PR with Three Rivers District Council

6.2 Three Rivers District Council

- Responsible for implementation of plan
- Day to day management of Franklins Spring
- Admin and budget management
- Signature and responsibility for grant applications/claims
- Member involvement and reporting

6.3 Community

- Eyes and ears reporting to Three Rivers District Council
- Open days, guided walks, family events

7.0 Contacts

Three Rivers District Council
Darren Monk/Julie Hughes
01923 727124

Countryside Management Service
West and Southern Area
CMS Building
The Nursery Site
Hixberry Lane
St Albans
Herts
AL4 0TZ
(Telephone 01727 848168)

8.0 Suggested management

Due to the small size and nature of the site the following is suggested as management:

- Manage the wood as non - intervention
- Health and safety work which is necessary
- Removal of fly tipping
- Monitor the Holly to ensure that it doesn't become invasive.

9.0 Actions

Draft Franklin Spring GAP actions (2010 – 2014)

Year	Activity	Partner	Cost estimate	Potential sources of funding
Annually as per contract specification	Site risk assessment & tree safety survey	TRDC	N/A	TRDC Tree contract
Annually as per contract specification	Litter pick/ remove flytipping	TRDC	N/A	TRDC Grounds maintenance contract
Annually as per contract specification	Monitor and maintain signage and bins and other infrastructure	TRDC	N/A	TRDC Grounds maintenance contract
Annually as per contract specification	Maintain definitive and permissive access for horses (where permitted) and pedestrians	TRDC/ HCC (along RoW)	N/A	TRDC Grounds maintenance contract / HCC
Yr1 (2010)	Monitor Holly	TRDC		TRDC
Yr2 (2011)	Monitor Holly	TRDC		TRDC
Yr3 (2012)	Monitor Holly	TRDC		TRDC
Yr4 (2013)	Monitor Holly	TRDC		TRDC
Yr5 (2014)	Monitor Holly	TRDC		TRDC

10.0 Maps

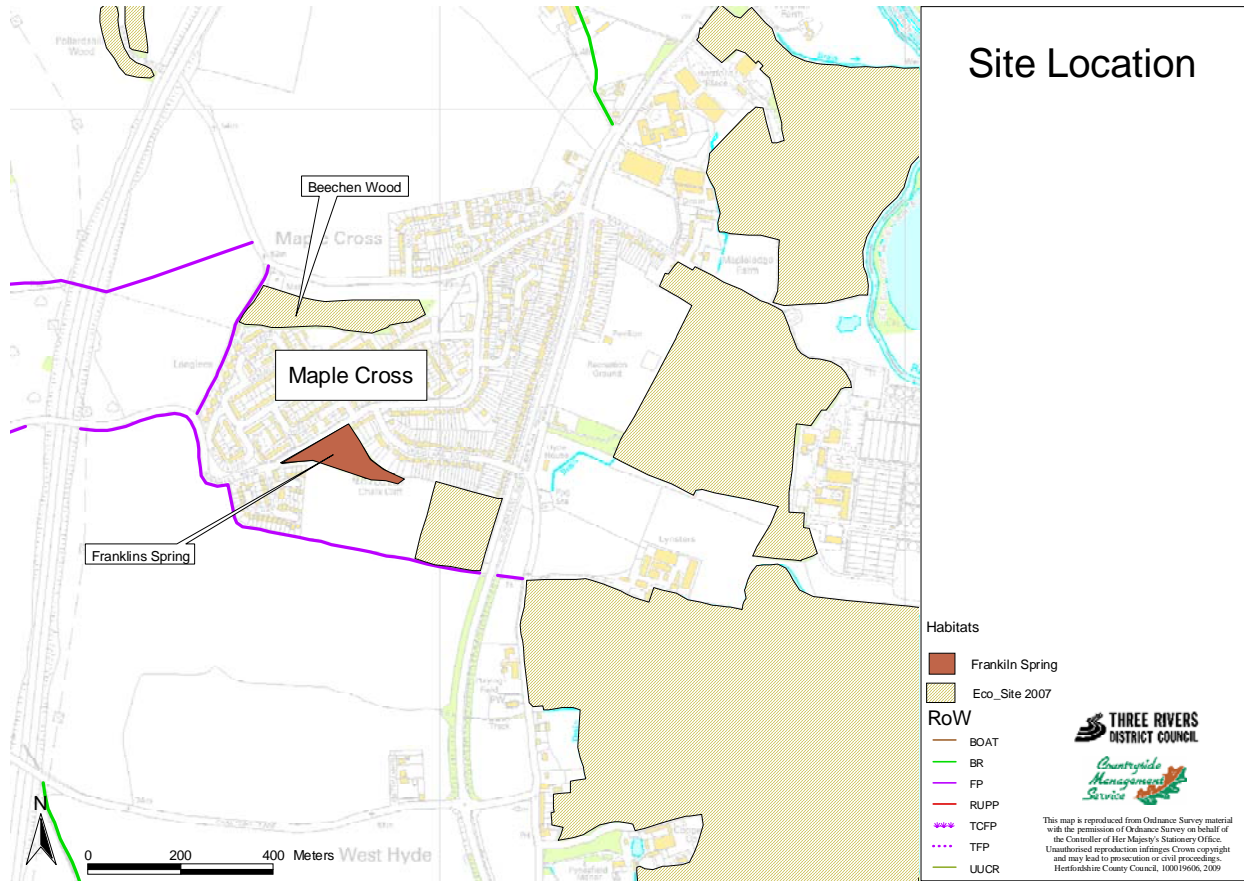


Figure 1: Location of Franklins Spring, note the closeness to Beechen Wood.

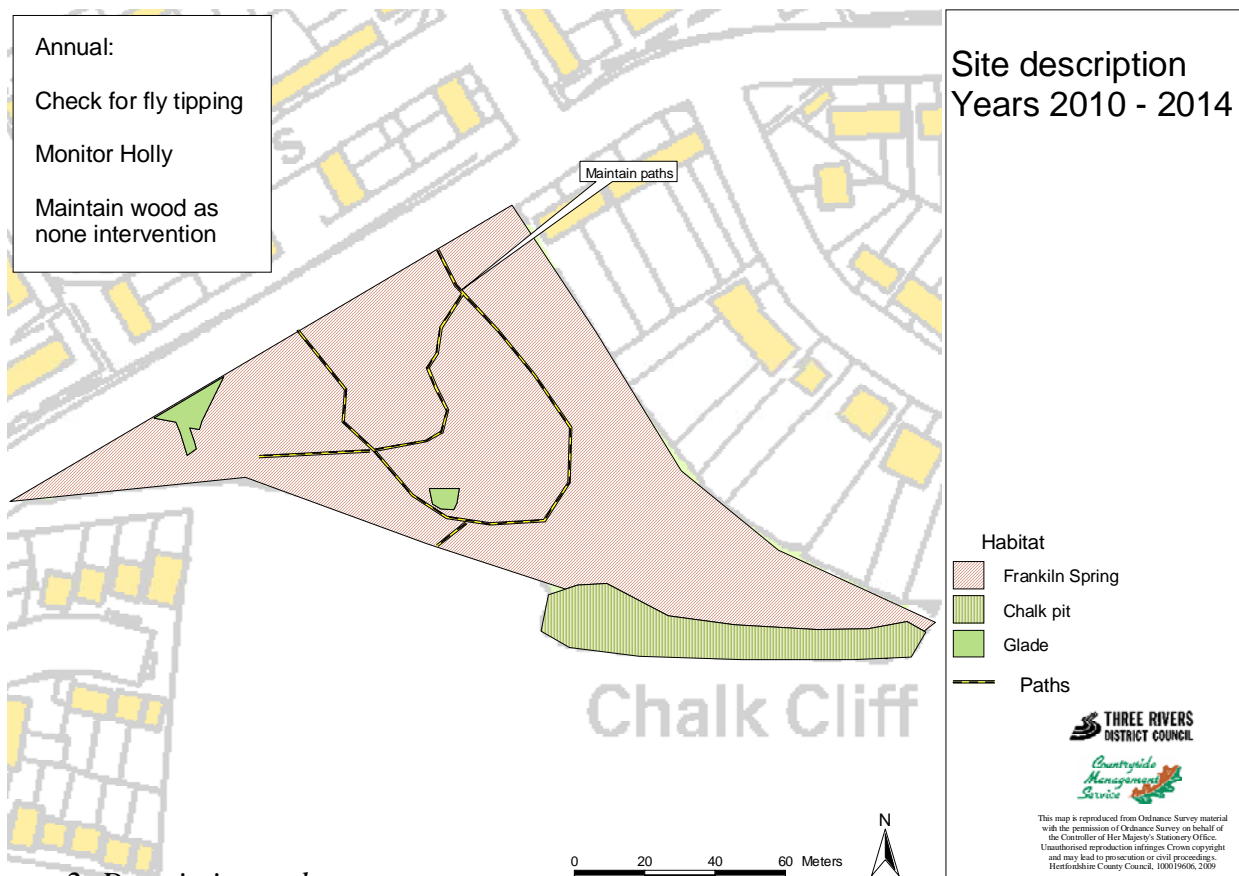


Figure 2: Description and management.