

How Our Shared Forest relates to the Forest Plan process

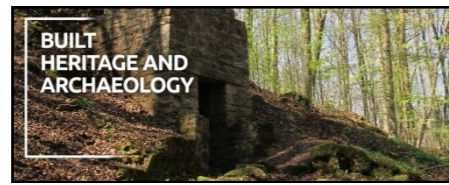
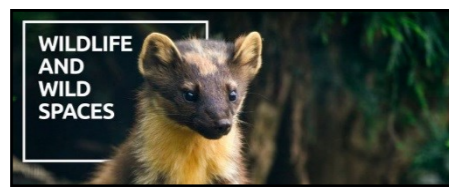
OUR SHARED FOREST

“To Nurture a shared Forest unlike any other”

The Speech House Walk and Ruardean Walk Forest Plan is the fourth of six Forest Plans that cover the main block of the Forest of Dean. These six Forest Plans tailor the management for the Forest of Dean through the lens of eight “principles of management”, outlined in the Our Shared Forest (OSF) land management plan. Published in 2019, these principles closely align with the UK Forest Standard (UKFS).

The Our Shared Forest looks to a future where the Forest of Dean main block :

“Has a scale, diversity and a continuity of management over time that supports a depth and breadth of habitats and species that is on a par with, or better than, many celebrated national nature reserves and protected landscapes.”



A Forest Plan’s core purpose is to ensure Forestry England is able to functionally implement the management of its woodlands and forests in line with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). This is achieved through the prescriptions identified within the Forest Plan, and having the Forest Plan approved by The Forestry Commission (previously referred to as Forest Services). It is this approval that attains the Plans operational status.

So how does the Forest Plan link and relate to reflect OSF ?

The Forest Plan integrates the OSF during the Analysis and Concept stage of the Forest Plan process. Structuring and focusing these stages around the eight “principles of management” within OSF allows recognition of topics in need of further investigation and development. Resolution is achieved through thorough field work, data-set analysis and consultation, covering the salient points documented in the Forest Plan Analysis. It is this process of identification and consideration that then helps inform the Concept and decisions made within the core of the Forest Plan.

This approach ensures that the local distinctiveness and uniqueness of the Forest is captured and maintained. At the same time it will ensure due process and regulatory context required by Forest Services for Forest Plan approval is met by Forest Planning process.



Photo Above: Planted in the 1970s between Mireystock Cross Roads and Speculation, on western edge of the plan area; this Beech tree shows features suitable for bats, probably having been damaged by lightning in the past.