

Dear Friend of Bestwood Country Park

Please find attached a draft concept plan for the tree planting proposal at Bestwood. There is still a certain amount of detail to be worked through including things like paths, access, tree protection and fencing but we feel these things might be best informed by the public consultation. This draft is a first stab prior to consultation so we wanted to sound out comments and observations prior to discussing with the community. From year 1 planting, we know there's work to do on presenting sufficient detail for stakeholders without trying to be too prescriptive and delivering a fait accompli.

In interpreting the plan, which we'll do more fully for the consultation to be held on 2 September at the Dynamo House between 16.00 and 20.00, you should envisage that the area to the north east leading along the valley and up the steep slope, we picture an open parkland style planting of individual trees, intended to develop into a gently wooded landscape, enabling the protection of views back down to the Winding House. Heading back towards the park itself and round to the south, we've tried to break up hard edges by the introduction of clumps of trees, reminiscent of small copses or groups of trees that evaded mammal browsing. This should soften the transition between parkland and forest.

The main woodland blocks will have irregular edges and planting is expected to avoid straight regimented lines. Ride edges will be a transition from short herbage in the centre through longer soft vegetation, woody shrubs to an eventual high forest. These will provide a feeling of space and allow good habitat and connecting corridors for wildlife.

Viewpoints of key features (Clock Tower, Winding House etc.) will be maintained and access paths will allow for greater public access than there has been. This will be a mixed native broadleaved woodland, providing benefits for people, wildlife and the landscape.

Trees for Climate will fund the establishment and maintenance of the area for the first 12-15 years and it will become an NCC Green Spaces site on planting.

Regards Nick Tucker  
Woodland Creation Project Manager