



Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:	
Woodland or Property name	Park Wood, Hellingly
Woodland Management Plan case reference	Unfunded
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland	Yes
Plan author name	Dr Petra Billings

For FC Use only:				
Plan Period <i>(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)</i>	Approval Date:	11/05/21	Approved until:	11/05/31
Five Year Review Date	2026			

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision

Template user support:

The functionality in this version of the management plan template has been downgraded to ensure compatibility with Word 2003. This document is not protected and as such rows can be added & deleted or copied and pasted from tables where needed.



UK Forestry Standard management planning criteria

Approval of this plan will be considered against the following UKFS criteria.
Prior to submission review your plan against the criteria using the check list below.

UKFS management plan criteria		Minimum approval requirements	Author check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	<p>Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, and environmental objectives will be achieved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan objectives are stated. Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes
2	<p>Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.</p>	<p>Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) Sect. 2.</p> <p>Management intentions should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (Sect. 4) Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (Sect. 5). Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in Sect. 7. 	Yes
3	<p>Identification of designations within and surrounding the site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes
4	<p>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS requirements.</p> <p>Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context. Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (Sect. 4). Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). 	Yes
5	<p>Consultation: Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement is in line with current FC guidance and recorded in Sect. 7. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. 	Yes
6	<p>Plan Update and Review: Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan. Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective. 	Yes



Section 1: Property Details

<u>Woodland Property Name</u>		Park Wood, Hellingly.	
Name	Environment Agency Contact: Olivia Morton	Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tenant
Email	Park.Wood@environment-agency.gov.uk	Contact Number	[REDACTED]
Agent Name (if applicable)		Petra Billings	
Email	petra@sussexwoodlands.co.uk	Contact Number	[REDACTED]
County	East Sussex	<u>Local Authority</u>	Wealden
Grid Reference	TQ 604 123	Single Business Identifier	N/A
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		60.14 ha	
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?		Yes	
You have listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan?		Yes	
Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?		Felling Licence	Yes
		Thinning Licence	Yes
		Woodland Regeneration Grant	No
You declare that there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?		Yes	
You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available?		Yes	

Section 2: Vision and Objectives

To develop your long term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland(s) and how you envisage it will be in the future. This covers the duration of the plan and beyond.

2.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s). (*Suggest 300 words max*)

The vision of the Environment Agency (EA) is to create a better place for people and wildlife. EA staff work towards this vision by creating new and enhancing existing wildlife habitats for multiple benefits.

Not only is Park Wood unique as the largest single woodland owned by the EA but it is important for a number of other reasons too. It is one of the largest areas of unfragmented woodland in the Hailsham area. The entire woodland is designated ancient, semi-natural woodland and it has a long history of coppice management. It is designated as a Local Wildlife Site, important for its species richness including a rich bat community, hazel dormouse, amphibians, reptiles, birds and bryophytes. Not least, it is highly valued by the local community both as wildlife habitat and as a place for a wide range of quiet informal recreation activities.

Park Wood has great capacity for carbon sequestration and the provision of ecosystem goods and services. However, in recent years, the lack of active management has resulted in a failure to meet this potential. Much of the coppice has become overstood and some is diseased. The woodland canopy has closed leading to a decline in the quality and extent of wildlife habitat. The vision is to restore the woodland through sympathetic management interventions that will not only lead to biodiversity net gain and improved climate change resilience but will also provide a sustainable supply of timber to use in-house. At the same time, community access will be improved and maintained with the aim of enhancing recreational opportunities for local people and providing training and educational opportunities both for the public and EA staff. Some areas will be left undisturbed with minimal intervention in order to benefit species that depend on old growth woodland.

2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management demonstrating how sustainable forest management is to be achieved. Objectives are a set of specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision.

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Improve the wood's capacity for climate change mitigation through measures to improve carbon sequestration
2	Deliver biodiversity net gain by improving the quality and extent of wildlife



No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
	habitat with particular regard to hazel dormouse, bats, amphibians and reptiles, birds, butterflies, invertebrates and fungi
3	Provide a sustainable source of timber products for EA activities such as natural flood management and fisheries improvements projects
4	Improve and maintain safe and sustainable access to the wood for provision of both informal and structured recreational, educational and training purposes
5	Restore the ancient woodland condition by controlling non-native invasive species, conserving veterans, and protecting features such as the ghyll network and woodland archaeology
6	Address tree health issues such as pests and disease

Section 3: Plan Review – Achievements

Use this section to identify achievements made against previous plan objectives. This section should be completed at the 5 year review and could be informed through monitoring activities undertaken.

Objectives	Achievement
Improve the wood's capacity for climate change mitigation through measures to improve carbon sequestration	
Deliver biodiversity net gain by improving the quality and extent of wildlife habitat with particular regard to hazel dormouse, bats, amphibians and reptiles, birds, butterflies, invertebrates and fungi	
Provide a sustainable source of timber products for EA activities such as natural flood management and fisheries improvements projects	
Improve and maintain safe and sustainable access to the wood for provision of both informal and structured recreational, educational and training purposes	
Restore the ancient woodland condition by controlling non-native invasive species, conserving veterans, and protecting features such as the ghyll network and woodland archaeology	
Address tree health issues such as pests and disease	



Section 4: Woodland Survey

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland and its location, including any statutory constraints i.e. designations.

4.1 Description

Brief description of the woodland property:

Location

Park Wood is located on the boundaries of the parishes of Hailsham and Hellingly, east of Hellingly village and north-east of Hailsham, East Sussex in the Sussex High Weald. This is an area of ancient countryside and one of the best surviving medieval landscapes in northern Europe. It consists of a mixture of fields, small woodlands and farmsteads connected by historic routeways, tracks and paths. Prominent medieval patterns of small pasture fields enclosed by thick hedgerows and shaws (narrow woodlands) remain fundamental to the character of the landscape.

Park Wood is an unusually large wood of approximately 60 hectares, connected to further woodland to the north by a wide shaw, Peartree Shaw. The EA ownership excludes small parcels of woodland along the south-western, south-eastern and north-eastern boundaries. The west boundary is marked with marker posts however the east boundary is unmarked.

Designations

Park Wood is ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW). It is part of Local Wildlife Site (LWS) CW97, Jarvis's Wood, Nobody's Wood and Park Wood Complex, which was designated for its bryophyte assemblage (mosses and liverworts). The wood is also designated as an Asset of Community Value, providing vital access and recreation opportunities for local people. Although it is within the High Weald Natural Character Area, Park Wood is outside the High Weald AONB.

Geology, Soils, Geomorphology and Hydrology

The underlying geology is predominantly Tunbridge Wells Sand which consists of "predominantly fine to medium grained sandstone, siltstone and silty sands with finely-bedded mudstones and thin limestones." Superficial geology along the water channels consists of "normally soft to firm consolidated, compressible silty clay, but can contain layers of silt, sand, peat and basal gravel."¹

¹ Information provided by the British Geological Survey's Geology of Britain Viewer: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> reported in the Ancient Woodland Survey Report (2018)



The soils associated with this formation are usually light and acidic but the geology of the Weald is complex. The Park Wood soils are described overall as 'slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage and moderate to high fertility'².

The wood slopes gently to the south-west. The deeply incised ghyll valley of a small tributary of the Hurst Haven Stream is a particular topographic feature. It is joined by two smaller ghyll streams towards the middle of the wood.³ Other hydrological features include two adjacent ponds at the eastern end of Park Wood, the most recent one having been dug in 2011 by Environment Agency Staff and probation workers from the 'Green Time for Crime' scheme. A third pond in the east was funded through the Million Ponds Project run by the Freshwater Habitats Trust.

History of Ownership and Management

Park Wood is an ancient deer park, the large, curved bank and ditch on the northern boundary surviving as a relic of this period. The 1595 Norden Map shows a large lake which may have had a hunting or fishing function within the deer park. In the later Middle Ages, there is evidence of industrial activity including two places where the stream was dammed, possibly to create hammer ponds for use in connection with iron smelting. The dams have since been breached. The deep hollow way and other old tracks leading out of the wood are also evidence of a charcoal burning or iron smelting past, typical of this part of Sussex. Park Wood is thought to have been managed as hornbeam coppice at this time, with or without oak standards. In the early 1800s, sweet chestnut was introduced for production of fencing and hop poles and is thought to have continued until World War II.

The earliest recorded period of military activity within Park Wood attributes to World War II, with many extant features in specific areas particularly from a tented camp able to accommodate up to 1,500 personnel. According to the Land Survey Report by Sussex Military Research (March 2021) 'this is currently the best (known) preserved example of a tented camp in East Sussex. The known documentary evidence makes Park Wood a significant site for further investigation'.

Park Wood was purchased by the East Sussex River Board in 1951 and was subsequently transferred to the National Rivers Authority Flood Defence Section. The wood was largely neglected through this period apart from some timber clearance following the 1987 storm. Then in 1996 the NRA became part of the Environment Agency and the freehold was transferred. From 1996 to 2012, Park Wood was used by the EA Area Operations Team as a source of sustainable wood for flood risk management schemes. Deemed surplus to operational requirements, with ongoing costs and liabilities, it was placed on the market for sale in 2018. In response to the proposed sale, the Friends of Park Wood was established in August 2017⁴ with a

² From Soilscales, an online resource developed by Cranfield University, sponsored by Defra, available free at <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>. Accessed 18 February 2021.

³ See Park Wood, Hellingly WMP Maps: Map 2 LiDAR

⁴ See <http://www.friendsofparkwoodhellingly.com/> Accessed 3 February 2021



mission statement on wildlife conservation and free community access. Park Wood was withdrawn from sale in 2019 because of the significant risks the sale would pose to its future environmental and social value.

Description

The 1840 tithe map describes the state of cultivation as 'copse' and the long history of coppice management is still evident as a mix of hornbeam, sweet chestnut and hazel coppice with oak standards. However, relatively few hornbeam stools remain from the earlier coppice history and the most frequent coppice species evident today is chestnut with the inclusion of birch, ash, hazel and sycamore in a number of compartments, mainly northwest of the stream. There are oak standards throughout.

The coppice rotation lapsed some years ago and, apart from some piecemeal coppicing to supply timber products for EA activities, some unauthorised taking of firewood and tree safety works, there has been limited active management in recent years. Much of the coppice is overstood and beginning to collapse. Furthermore, a number of chestnut stools in the east are diseased and dying. Dead chestnut in Cpt 2 was cleared approximately five years ago and has been restocked through a combination of natural regeneration of birch and some hazel planting.

In terms of National Vegetation Classification types (NVC), the main woodland type is W10 Oak/Bracken/Bramble and the more overstood coppice coupes north-west of the ghyll stream are naturally reverting to oak woodland. There are also parcels of W8 Ash/Field Maple/Dogs Mercury on the more basic soils in the north but the ash is severely infected with ash dieback. Along the stream valley, the woodland type is more typical of W7 Alder/ash/yellow pimpernel⁵.

In past woodland management plans of 2000, 2005 and 2012, Park Wood was compartmentalised according to the ride network. The compartments did not necessarily match the coppice coupes but as coppice rotations have lapsed and coupe boundaries have blurred, the original compartments have been retained for ease of reference. They have been divided or merged where appropriate.

Birch scrub is invasive in some open areas and sycamore is frequent in areas around the stream floodplain, some as coppice. Crab apple, poplar, yew, rowan and Norway maple also occur in small numbers and a few mature Scots pine are scattered through the wood, some as veterans. Other trees of particular interest include an enormous veteran beech and the second oldest wild cherry in the county (approximately 200 years old). As well as the hazel coppice, other shrubs include goat and grey willow, dense thickets of holly, particularly in the east of the wood and near the car park, and occasional spindle, guelder rose, common hawthorn, and blackthorn.

Non-native, invasive rhododendron is scattered through the wood, generally as

⁵ From 1991 Ecological survey by A.Whitbread, included in the 2000-2005 Woodland Management Plan

relatively small shrubs and at low densities though more frequent in the vicinity of the car park and near the south-east boundary. Cherry laurel also occurs in the latter area, spreading from neighbouring properties.

The rich ground flora includes frequent bluebell and wood anemone along with many other ancient woodland indicator species, for example, yellow archangel, moschatel, early purple orchid and hairy wood-rush. Other notable species include lesser skullcap, climbing corydalis and white helleborine. The ground flora in the areas around the ghylls and wet flushes includes primrose, wood sorrel and opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage⁶. The ghylls also support interesting communities of bryophytes and ferns. Bramble and bracken are both abundant as is typical of this woodland type.

European Protected Species include the hazel dormouse and eleven species of bat including the Annex 4 species, Bechstein's bat. Dormouse boxes are sited in the hazel coppice in the far north of the wood.

There is a rich archaeological record including ancient coppice stools and well-marked boundary banks, both internal and around the perimeter. The bank along the northern boundary which used to support the park pale is of particular note and still supports some ancient hornbeam. Other earthworks include sawpits, lynchets, quarries⁷ and an extensive record of the wood's military use in World War II.

In addition to biodiversity, Park Wood provides many other ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, timber, amenity/aesthetics, cultural heritage, education, physical health, recreation and volunteering. An emerging Natural Capital Assessment of the site demonstrates Park Wood's ability to contribute to the Environment Agency's wider sustainable development ambitions and goals within the new e:Mission 2030 Sustainability Strategy.

Access

There is vehicular access into the west of the wood from a car park off the road between Hellingly and Grove Hill. A 3m wide surfaced MOT Type 1 track suitable for extraction was built between the car park and the stream valley but has deteriorated. The wood is prone to flooding in the area immediately east of the car park and the ghyll streams and wet ground conditions are major constraints to vehicular access for forestry operations.

There is pedestrian access into the east of the wood off the minor road between Hellingly and Cowbeech Hill. Although there are no public rights of way through the wood, there is statutory (CROW) open public access. There used to be a number of waymarked circular trails of varying length and catering for varying physical abilities but due to the collapse of two of the three bridges over the main stream, the circular

⁶ From Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre Report (February 2021) and summarised in the Ancient Woodland Restoration Report (2018)

⁷ Mapped in Ancient Woodland Restoration Report (2018)



trails are no longer fully accessible and much of the way-marking has gone. The surfaced path from the car park which was originally built to enable disabled access does not meet current regulation for designation as such.

Visitors are asked to keep to the main paths to avoid wildlife disturbance but, as the circular trails have fallen into disrepair, it is no longer obvious which are the main paths and which are 'desire lines'. Some of the main paths are surfaced with crushed brick but much of the ride network is extremely wet and muddy in the winter months, especially in the north of the wood, where compaction from visitor pressure has exacerbated the issue.

Management Constraints

- A large water main crosses the track one metre below ground level at the eastern entrance with an underground reservoir at Carters Corner Place on the north-east boundary of the wood.
- Overhead power cables cross the wood at the western end, approximately 100m from the car park.
- A high pressure gas main runs south-west/north-east through the eastern part of the wood.
- There are two badger setts in [REDACTED] the wood and a number of European Protected Species have been recorded including hazel dormouse and eleven species of bat.

4.2 Information

Use this section to identify features that are both present in your woodland(s) and where required, on land adjacent to your woodland. It may be useful to identify known features on an accompanying map. Woodland information for your property can be found on the [Magic](#) website or the Forestry Commission [Land Information Search](#).

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
Biodiversity- Designations				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	No		No	
Special Area of Conservation	No		No	
Tree Preservation Order	No		No	
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other (please Specify): LWS	Yes		Yes	
Notes	CW97 Jarvis's Wood, Nobody's Wood and Park Wood Complex			

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity⁸ - European Protected Species				
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes		Bechsteins, Brandt's, Daubenton's, Whiskered, Natterer's, Common pipstrelle, Nathusius pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle, Serotine, Noctule, Brown long-eared
Dormouse	Yes			
Great Crested Newt	Yes			<1km of Park Wood
Otter	No			
Sand Lizard	No			

⁸ From Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre Report (February 2020)

Smooth Snake	No			
Natterjack Toad	No			
Biodiversity – Priority Species				
<u>Schedule 1 Birds</u>	Species:	Yes ⁹		Red kite, hobby, fieldfare, redwing, song thrush CS Woodland Assemblage species: lesser, spotted woodpecker, marsh tit, spotted flycatcher ¹⁰
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)	Yes			Hedgehog
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)	Yes			Slow worm, adder, grass snake, common lizard
Plants	Yes			Many ancient woodland indicator species such as bluebell, wood anemone, primrose, early purple orchid. Rarities include lesser skullcap, climbing corydalis, white helleborine.
Fungi/Lichens	Yes			40 species listed in 2002 survey
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes			Purple emperor, small heath, wall, white admiral, glow worm, stag beetle
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes			Palmate newt, smooth newt
Other (please Specify):	No			
Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments	No			
Unscheduled Monuments	No			
Registered Parks and Gardens	No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes			Woodbanks and ditches both around boundary

⁹ Surveyed in March 2021

¹⁰ For complete records of biodiversity, see Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre Report (2020)

				and within the woodland. Veterans including beech, wild cherry and Scots pine. Numerous potential veteran oaks.
Listed Buildings	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes		3	Several possible sawpits and house platforms. An area [REDACTED] is marked on the Historic Environment Record as 'earthworks and extensive WWII remains'.
Landscape				
National Character Area (please Specify): High Weald				
National Park	No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
People				
CROW Access	Yes			
Public Rights of Way (any)	No			
Other Access Provision	Yes			Waymarked trails
Public Involvement	Yes			Friends of Park Wood, Hellingly
Visitor Information	Yes	17a		Old interpretive board in the car park
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes			Widely used for local informal recreation by a range of user groups.
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes			Previously used by local schools. Used by the adjacent nursery school
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes			Some low level issues with fly-tipping, littering, vandalism and dog



				waste, particularly near the car park
Other (please Specify):	No			
Water				
Watercourses	Yes		2	Ghyll network
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	2, 17a	3	
Other (please Specify):	No			

4.3 Habitat Types

This section is to consider the habitat types within your woodland(s) that might impact/inform your management decisions. Larger non-wooded areas within your woodland should be classified according to broad habitat type where relevant this information should also help inform your management decisions. Woodlands should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context of the woodland.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes	All		
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	N/A			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes		2	Oak woodland (W10) with smaller areas of ash woodland (W8)
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	Yes			Areas by streams
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes			Mostly as chestnut, hornbeam, hazel coppice
Non Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	No			
Lowland meadows	No			
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			
Reed bed	No			
Wood pasture	No			
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			
Unimproved grassland	No			
Peat lands	No			
Wetland habitats	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			

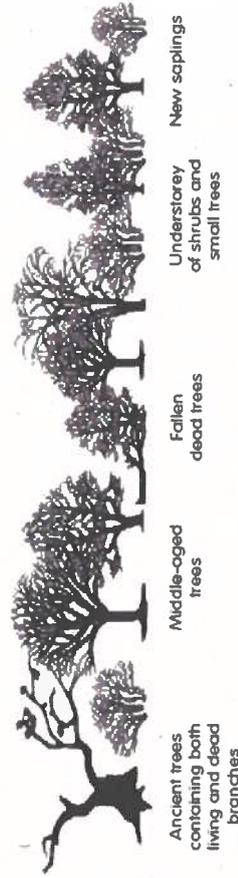


4.4 Structure

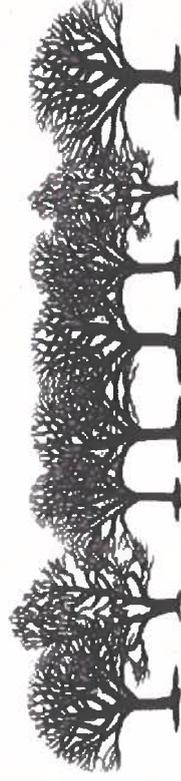
This section should provide a snapshot of the current structure of your woodland as a whole. A full inventory for your woodland(s) can be included in the separate Plan of Operations spreadsheet. Ensuring woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space will provide a range of benefits for the biodiversity of the woodland and its resilience. The diagrams below show an example of both uneven and even aged woodland.

Woodland Type (Broadleaf, Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
High forest	25%	Uneven	Closed canopy. Patchy understory. Limited natural regeneration.
Coppice	35%	Even	Birch scrub invasive in young coppice
Relic coppice in conversion to high forest	40%	Variable	Patchy understory. Limited natural regeneration

Uneven-aged woodland – many wildlife habitats because of high diversity



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity



Section 5: Woodland Protection

Woodlands in England face a range of threats; this section allows you to consider the potential threats that could be facing your woodland(s). Use the simple Risk Assessment process below to consider any potential threats to their woodland(s) and whether there is a need to take action to protect their woodlands.

Note: To add more tables, Copy the table and Paste below.

5.1 Risk Matrix

The matrix below provides a system for scoring risk. The matrix also indicates the advised level of action to take to help manage the threat.

Impact	High	Plan for Action	Action	Action
	Medium	Monitor	Plan for Action	Action
	Low	Monitor	Monitor	Plan for Action
		Low	Medium	High
Likelihood of Presence				

5.2 Plant Health

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Ink disease (sweet chestnut)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Although laboratory culturing of diseased chestnut in Cpt 2 in 2011 failed to produce any isolates of <i>Phytophthora</i>, the Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service concluded that the symptoms and distribution of the damage indicated that ink disease was the cause of the dieback. Cpt 2 has since been cleared and restocked through a combination of natural birch regeneration and planting with hazel.</p> <p>There are no practical remedial measures for ink disease. Dead stems should be safe to use after felling. Any produce from live shoots should be peeled, split or seasoned before use. As a precaution, it is recommended that the basal 30cm of each dead pole is removed and discarded. Strict biosecurity should be</p>

	<p>maintained including cleaning equipment between cutting each stool.</p> <p>In the 2011 Spurway WMP, small pockets of diseased chestnut were noted in Cpts 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8b. If the disease spreads, replanting will be necessary eg with oak, hornbeam or hazel. Birch and sycamore are likely to regenerate naturally.</p>
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Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Chestnut blight
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Monitor for symptoms eg sunken cankers and crown dieback. Uproot all affected chestnut trees and burn them on site. Report any sightings via the Tree Alert app or online via https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/tree-alert/</p>

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Ash dieback
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>The FC recommends an individual-tree approach for older stands with infected trees. Where more than 50% of the crown is infected and the trees are a safety risk to woodland users, felling should be considered. Where less than 50% of the crown is infected, trees should be regularly monitored. In all cases any apparently tolerant trees should be retained, as should a proportion of dying or dead trees where it is safe to do so.</p> <p>In due course, if there are no apparently tolerant mature ash trees left on a mixed-species site but there are enough trees of other species to form a closed stand within 10 years, it is likely that further regeneration is not required. Otherwise the stand should be</p>

	restocked by either natural regeneration or planting alternative species, until tolerant strains of ash become available.
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Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Oak Processionary Moth
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High (reported locally)
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor oaks around the car park and on marked trails and other well-used paths for signs of infestation, looking for distinctive white, silken webbing nests on oak trunks and branches in early summer or processions of hairy caterpillars. OPM can defoliate, or strip bare, large parts of oak trees, leaving them vulnerable to attack by other pests and diseases, and less able to withstand stresses such as drought and flood. The caterpillars are also a health hazard: their microscopic hairs can cause severe skin irritation and respiratory problems. Treat affected trees by nest removal or use approved insecticide in spring to kill the caterpillars soon after they emerge. Either method should be applied by trained operators following best practice guidance. Also consider alternative methods such as the use of pheromone traps. Report any sightings via the Tree Alert app or online via https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/tree-alert/

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Acute Oak Decline
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	This disease is poorly understood as yet. Current guidance from Forest Research is to record the number and location of symptomatic trees and the severity of their condition. Unless there is immediate concern about safety, infected trees should be left in place and monitored. If however only a limited



	<p>number of trees appear to be infected on a site and most are of the same oak species, it is advisable to fell and destroy the infected individuals to reduce the risk of infecting healthy trees and to keep inoculum levels low. Report sightings to FC via the Tree Alert app or online via https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/tree-alert/</p>
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5.3 Deer

Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Roe and fallow (small numbers)
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	There is limited evidence of deer damage as occasional low browse lines on holly trees, mainly in the south of the wood. Monitor deer activity and impacts by annual deer impact assessments. If impacts increase, develop a deer management plan. Stalking/culling would be constrained by high levels of public use as well as by public perception so control measures may be limited to protective measures such as tree shelters on any new planting and temporary deer fencing around new coppice coupes.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor impacts and control as required. Wartling Hill Grey Squirrel Club have undertaken control in the past. Immunocontraceptive control measures are in development and may be appropriate for use in Park Wood, once approved.



5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Rabbit
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor impacts and undertake control measures as required. Rabbits in Park Wood were historically controlled by ferreting but there are no plans to continue with this method of control.

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Point pollution from leaks from machinery and fuel/oil spills
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Minimise the risk of fuel/oil leaks or spills by following UKFS requirements to store oil and fuel in a way that minimises the risks of leakage and pollution, for example, using bunded fuel storage containers; refuelling in a drip tray and having a spill kit available. Any fuel and/or oil storage on-site should be in secure bunded containers located >20m away from any water bodies. Contingency plans should be in place in case of a spillage, for example, if spillage occurs, contaminated soil should be removed from the site.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Soil erosion/siltation of streams
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) (Water) recommends that protective buffers should be retained along stream banks within which management of the riparian zones should aim for 50% dappled shade from native mixed

	<p>broadleaves. Minimum buffer widths are 10m along permanent watercourses with a channel less than 2m wide (though narrower widths may be allowable along minor watercourses with a channel less than 1m wide, especially on steep ground). 20m buffers should be maintained along watercourses with a channel more than 2m wide. No machinery should be used in the buffer zones.</p>
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5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Invasive species: rhododendron, cherry laurel and parrots feather (in ponds)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Control rhododendron and cherry laurel by cutting and burning followed by immediate stump treatment with an approved herbicide such as glyphosate. Monitor regrowth and treat by spraying with herbicide. Alternatively dig out the rhododendron and cherry laurel. If using herbicides, they should be applied by a qualified operator, following UKFS recommendations for the safe storage, use and disposal of pesticides. The number of burn sites for disposal of waste material should be minimised. Burn sites should be selected with care to avoid the tree canopy or sensitive areas of ground flora.</p> <p>Eradicate parrots feather following best practice recommendations, ideally by physical removal with rakes or forks from March to October.</p>

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Fire
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	As broadleaved woodland on heavy water-retentive soils with a stream network through



	the wood, the fire risk is low. However maintain fire map and update the fire risk assessment regularly.
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Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Flood
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High (in area near car park)
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Flooding in the west of Park Wood (Cpt 17a) limits access and results in visitors parking elsewhere. Consider means of diverting/controlling floodwaters to enable year-round pedestrian access from the car park.

5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Public safety
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>The EA has identified high risk zones including road frontages/car parking areas, around the electricity pylons, and where the wood borders property, see Appendix_High risk Zone map.</p> <p>The operational instruction requires high risk sites to be surveyed every 18 months and medium risk every 42 months. Low risk sites are surveyed on an ad hoc basis. The waymarked paths are walked after named storms.</p>

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights etc)	Anti-social behaviour including dog waste, litter, occasional vandalism, unauthorised metal-detecting, theft of timber
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low



Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Height barrier to car park prevents entry by large vehicles and reduces risk of fly-tipping. Use signage and patrol frequently to deter anti-social behaviour, deter unauthorised metal detecting and educate the public to dispose of their dog waste and litter responsibly. Report illegal activities to the police.

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Operational costs
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Operational costs mitigated by use of EA in-house teams for timber cutting and woodland improvement works. Forest road infrastructure would require improvement to facilitate extraction by large-scale forestry machinery.

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Lack of age structure
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Restore coppice rotation where appropriate; halo-release veterans; replant cleared areas with species suitable for local soil and climatic conditions and with future climate change resilience eg hornbeam, wild service tree ¹¹

¹¹ See Forest Research online tool ESC (Ecological Site Classification) at <http://www.forestdss.org.uk/geoforestdss/>



Section 6: Management Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features identified within the previous sections of the plan. A detailed work programme by sub-compartment can be added to the Plan of Operations.

Management Objective / Feature	Management Intention
<p>Improve the wood's capacity for climate change mitigation through measures to improve carbon sequestration</p>	<p>Increasing the wood's capacity for carbon uptake depends on increasing its productivity ie new growth of trees and shrubs. This will be achieved through a programme of coppicing and thinning measures to increase light levels within the woods and stimulate natural regeneration and coppice regrowth.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Viable coppice coupes should be restored by reinstating a rotational harvesting plan. There are approximately 14.5 ha of viable coppice as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cpts 4b (<1.5 ha) and 6 (2.9 ha) recently cut chestnut. b. Cpt 4a (4 ha), 5 (2ha) and 7a (0.5 ha): overstood chestnut. c. Cpts 11 (1.3 ha) and 13 (2.3 ha): mixed coppice. <p>A suitable rotation would be a 15 year rotation, cutting ~ 1 ha each year. In addition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> d. Cpts 8a and 14b provide ~1.5 ha of hazel coppice . A suitable rotation for which would be 10 years, cutting ~0.4 ha every 2 or 3 years. e. Cpt 2 provides 2-3 ha of birch scrub which could be cut in a short rotation of 5 years, cutting ~0.5 ha each year for brushwood. This could be supplemented by birch scrub cleared from around the chestnut coppice regrowth in newly cut parcels such as Cpt 4b and 6. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Large areas of coppice across Park Wood are overstood. Some stools, particularly chestnut stools, have collapsed. In some areas, particularly north-west of the ghyll stream, the coppice is reverting naturally to oak woodland. These areas have a mix of chestnut, hornbeam, birch, ash, sycamore and hazel coppice at varying densities amongst oak standards of different ages. They also include self-sown birch and, in some areas, self-sown ash. The intention is to single the remnant coppice stools, retaining only the best stems to grown on as part of the emerging high



	<p>forest and to thin the overcrowded ash, birch and, where appropriate, oak. Tree removal should be prioritised as follows: diseased ash then non-native species such as hybrid poplar, Turkey oak and Norway maple then suppressed, poorly formed and overcrowded trees of all species. Singling and thinning <30% of the trees will open up the closed canopy, increase light levels to the woodland floor and stimulate natural regeneration, woodland productivity and increased carbon sequestration.</p> <p>Extraction should be limited to the drier months ie July to September.</p>
<p>Deliver biodiversity net gain by improving the quality and extent of wildlife habitat with particular regard to hazel dormouse, bats, amphibians and reptiles, woodland birds, butterflies, invertebrates and fungi</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat diversity including a good age structure and a mixed understorey are key components of a strategy for biodiversity net gain. This can be achieved by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Coppicing hazel in Cpts 8a and 14a (see above) to diversify the habitat structure. For dormouse conservation, coupes should be cut in a sequence that encourages new coppice adjacent to old, permitting access to hazel crops and easy recolonisation by dormice. The ideal cycle length for dormice is 10 years. b. Thinning <30% of mixed broadleaf areas to open up the canopy and encourage natural regeneration of the understorey and ground flora (prioritise tree removal as above). This will provide food resources such as nectar, pollen, fruits and seeds for a wide range of taxa including bird and butterfly communities. c. Two-tier ride management involving annual cutting of the central path for access purposes and rotational cutting of ride margins every two or three years to encourage the development of taller herbaceous vegetation and shrubs. The total width of the rides should average between 8 and 10 m but can include pinch points and ride-side glades. The aim is to develop graded ride margins from short herbaceous species to taller herbaceous species, to dense, woody shrubs then trees. Such ride improvement, particularly of east/west rides which retain the sun for extended periods, will effectively provide a network of woodland edges within the woodland. These will act as wildlife corridors and flight lines for butterflies and bats. They will also provide nesting habitat for low-nesting birds such as wrens and robins and basking and hibernation sites for amphibians and reptiles. d. Open up glades at ride intersections, ride-side glades

	<p>(scallops) and other glades where this can be achieved without felling mature trees unless they are dangerous or potentially dangerous. The glade edges should be kept open and the margins should be managed with graded edges like the ride margins.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Maintain some areas of closed canopy, old growth, non (or minimal) intervention woodland as habitat for species such as Bechsteins bat which require undisturbed woodland. 3. Maintain the dead wood resource, both standing and fallen, as a habitat for hole-nesting bird and bat species, saproxylic invertebrates and saprophytic fungi. The dead wood should ideally be left in situ where it falls except where it is a safety or access issue to woodland users. There should be a network of dead wood across the woodland and this can be increased, where appropriate, by ring-barking mature trees. Dead and dying ash will contribute to the resource. Brash, logs and stumps are particularly important as foraging and hibernating sites for reptiles and are most valuable when situated in sunny spots. 4. Follow UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) best practice guidelines for management woods with European Protected Species such as dormouse and bats, timing forestry operations for least disturbance to wildlife. A bat survey should be undertaken prior to thinning or felling operations to identify trees with roost potential. March/April and September/October are generally the least vulnerable times for bats and the optimum coppicing season for dormice is November to March, which allows dormice to exploit the nut crop before they hibernate. If any EPS are disturbed during forestry operations, work should cease immediately and advice sought from Natural England. Forestry works should not be undertaken in the bird breeding season.
<p>Provide a sustainable source of timber products for EA activities such as natural flood management</p>	<p>Park Wood management activities can potentially contribute the following products for EA activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pole wharfing materials i.e. 5m long poles, 75mm diameter at chest height and 1.7m stakes (usually chestnut); • Rails for post and rail fencing (3m long blanks) nominally 200 – 300mm diameter at chest height (usually chestnut); • Brushwood faggots for green engineering bank repairs approximately 4m long and up to 450mm diameter. (Any tree/shrub species).



<p>and fisheries improvements projects</p>	<p>The condition of the chestnut coppice at Park Wood is variable and only a proportion is still commercially viable as coppice. However, there remain small parcels of viable coppice even within the more derelict areas. Identifying and coppicing these areas can generate products for EA use in parallel with the main coppice rotation and in addition to the singling and thinning works outlined above. All areas can act as suitable training sites and will benefit in terms of age structure and diversity from forestry operations.</p> <p>Undertake an annual review of the in-house timber requirements by relevant personnel and incorporate harvesting of those products into the annual Park Wood action plan where appropriate.</p>
<p>Improve and maintain safe and sustainable access to the wood for provision of both informal and structured recreational, educational and training purposes</p>	<p>The EA has identified high risk zones including road frontages/car parking areas, around the electricity pylons, and where the wood borders property, see Appendix_High risk Zone map.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In line with the operational instruction, survey high risk sites every 18 months and medium risk every 42 months. Check the waymarked paths after named storms. Low risk sites can be surveyed on an ad hoc basis. Full records of all checks with descriptions/ photos of any obvious defects should be maintained including records of the cause of any tree safety issues eg if honey fungus is present, the tree should be a priority for felling. Take prompt remedial action to reports of dangerous trees. 2. Review the path network and identify paths for improvement. Improvement works may include filling holes, mending surfaces, widening, re-routing to avoid unsafe/wet/steep areas or features such as veteran trees. Renew waymarkers as required. Close unwanted paths such as those which are being re-routed either for safety reasons or for protection of woodland features using piles of brash or by encouraging growth of bramble to deter their use. Provide interpretive materials including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Temporary signage at work sites to warn woodland users of impending works and explain their purpose b. Develop an interpretation plan for the woodland, including delivery of interpretation materials and community engagement events. 3. Carry out annual asset inspection and maintenance of trail markers, signage and all path and car park furniture in line with



	<p>PSRA. Repair or replace structures as necessary.</p> <p>4. Consider developing on-line information and a downloadable leaflet on Park Wood for visitors. Develop a programme of guided walks around Park Wood. Consider developing a volunteer conservation group to undertake regular selected woodland improvement activities within EA organisational safety regulation.</p>
<p>Restore the ancient woodland condition by controlling non-native invasive species; conserving veterans, and protecting features such as the ghyll network and woodland archaeology</p>	<p>1. Remove the non-native, invasive rhododendron and cherry laurel either by digging it out or by cutting and burning the waste and treating the stumps with an approved herbicide. If the latter, monitor regrowth the following spring and treat with herbicide as necessary. Pesticides should be applied by a trained operator, following UKFS guidance for their safe storage, application and disposal.</p> <p>2. Continue control measures to eradicate the parrot's feather from the pond nearest the car park. Regular cutting (at least every 6 weeks during the growing season) will help to weaken the plant. Cut material must be removed from the water with forks and rakes as soon as possible. All fragments need to be removed to prevent regrowth. Chemical control with an approved herbicide will probably be required as well.</p> <p>3. Identify, tag and map veteran and potential veteran trees. Halo-thin them to release them from competition by removing competing woody vegetation as far as the drip-line. Where any trees are particularly hemmed in, the release should be carried out in stages to prevent stress from sudden wind exposure.</p> <p>4. Leave woody debris where it falls in the ghyll streams to provide leaky woody dams which naturally diversify the flow and hence the range of freshwater habitats. Except where it creates access problems on the path network, natural flood management should be encouraged to hold back water and reduce downstream flood risk.</p> <p>5. Protect streams by felling away from them and avoiding extraction across them. Where this is unavoidable, use brush mats to protect them. Follow UKFS guidance for protection of water by using buffer zones. The UKFS recommends minimum buffer widths of 10m along permanent watercourses with a channel less than 2m wide (though narrower buffers may be allowable along minor watercourses with a channel less than 1m wide, especially on</p>

	<p>steep ground). 20m buffers should be maintained along watercourses such as the main ghyll stream with a channel more than 2m wide. Management of the buffer zones should aim for 50% dappled shade from native mixed broadleaves. No machinery should be used in the buffer zones.</p> <p>6. An archaeological survey has been undertaken by Sussex Military Research (March 2021). In addition to the protective measures in (5) above, they have recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A full archaeological survey to record all aspects, namely foundations, earthworks and water pipelines. b. Excess vegetation should be removed from earthworks to better define their layout. c. Unidentified pits near the camp area should be excavated to determine their purpose. d. All concrete foundations should be cleared of vegetation and left exposed. e. Investigate areas of concrete/hardcore below ground level. f. A metal detecting sweep needs to be carried out as a matter of urgency.
<p>Address tree health issues such as pests and disease</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess extent and severity of ash dieback and of ink disease on chestnut. Follow recommendations in Section 5.2 and above for best practice response, including regeneration felling and restocking where appropriate. Monitor for new pests and diseases such as chestnut blight and oak processionary moth. 2. Monitor levels of squirrel activity and impacts and explore options for squirrel control if required. 3. Carry out annual deer impact assessments of deer activity levels and impacts. If deer impacts increase, develop deer management plan. High levels of community use and public perception of stalking will be constraints on management by culling therefore control measures will need to focus on protection of natural regeneration and coppice regeneration by tree shelters and temporary deer fencing as appropriate.



Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to [Operations Note 35](#) for further information. Use this section to identify people or organisations with an interest in your woodland and also to record any engagement that you have undertaken, relative to activities identified within the plan.

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
All	Jim Smith-Wright (Woodland Trust)				
All	Friends of Park Wood	Friends of PW draft WMP reviewed and consulted during preparation of WMP			Friends of PW management objectives and strategy incorporated in WMP where appropriate
All	Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Group (SARG)		9 February	Best practice woodland management recommendations for amphibians and reptiles	Recommendations incorporated into Management Strategy

Section 8: Monitoring

Indicators of progress/success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Other management activities could also be considered within this monitoring section. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Improve the wood's capacity for climate change mitigation by measures to improve carbon sequestration	Year on year increase in productivity as coppice regrowth and natural regeneration	Visual survey	Annual	EA	If coppice regrowth/natural regeneration fail, review deer control measures. Develop deer management plan. Consider temporary fencing around new coppice areas.
Deliver biodiversity net gain by improving the quality and extent of wildlife habitat	Year on year increase in wildlife diversity and abundance	Wildlife surveys, in particular of dormouse, bats, amphibians and reptiles	Annual, as opportunities for surveys by trained personnel arise	EA	
Provide a sustainable source of timber products for EA activities	Regular supply of timber products to meet planned requirements	Records of supply	Annual	EA	
Improve and maintain safe access	No preventable injuries to woodland users from Park	Tree safety survey	High risk sites every 18 months.	EA	Prompt remedial action to any and all reports of dangerous trees

	Wood trees		Medium risk sites every 42 months. Waymarked paths checked after named storms.		
Improve and maintain sustainable access	Network of clearly way-marked accessible trails restored within life of plan	Asset inspection	Annual	EA	Path improvements undertaken as required
Restore the ancient woodland condition by controlling non-native invasive species	Eradication of rhododendron, cherry laurel and parrots feather within life of plan	Visual survey	Annual	EA	Treatment of regrowth as required
Restore the ancient woodland condition by conserving veterans	All veterans and potential veterans tagged and halo-tagged within 2 years of plan approval	Visual survey	Annual	EA	Maintain health of veterans. Fallen dead wood should be left in situ except where it obstructs access or is unsafe. Competing woody growth should be controlled as required.
Restore the ancient woodland condition by protecting features such as the ghyll network and woodland	No damage or deterioration in condition of features from forestry operations	Visual survey	Ongoing	EA	

archaeology					
Address tree health issues such as pests and disease	Any new tree pests or diseases are recorded promptly and notified to FC if required	Visual survey	Ongoing	EA	Best practice control measures implemented according to FC guidance

UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Achieved	Review notes
<p>Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, environmental objectives will be achieved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes	
<p>Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.</p>	<p>Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in Sect. 2. Management intentions should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant features and issues identified in the woodland survey (Sect. 4). • Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (Sect. 5). • Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement are documented in Sect. 7. 	Yes	
<p>Identification of designations within and surrounding the woodland site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account is taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes	
<p>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). • Current diversity (structure, species, age 	Yes	

<p>assessed and any necessary changes made to meet UKFS requirements.</p> <p>Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.</p> <p>Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.</p>	<p>structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (Sect. 4).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). 	
<p>Consultation:</p> <p>Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder consultation is in line with current FC guidance, and recorded in Sect. 7. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. 	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Plan update and review:</p> <p>Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success identified per management objective 	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Approved in Principle</p> <p><i>This means the FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements.</i></p> <p>a) You can use it to support a CS-HT or other grant application.</p> <p>b) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.</p>	<p>Name (WO or FM): KRF</p>	<p>Date: 11/05/21</p>
<p>Approved</p> <p><i>This means FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements, and we have also approved a felling licence for any tree felling in the plan (where required).</i></p>	<p>Name (AO, WO or FM): KRF</p>	<p>Date: 11/05/21</p>