

Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:	
Woodland or Property name	Birchanger Wood Trust 2018
Woodland Management Plan case reference	1261748
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland	Yes
Plan author name	Anita Stone

For FC Use only:				
Plan Period <i>(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)</i>	Approval Date:	14/12/2022	Approved until:	14/12/2032
Five Year Review Date	2027			

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/No
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/No
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/No
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.</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>	<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/No
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/No
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/No

Section 1: Property Details

Woodland Property Name		Birchanger Wood	
Name	Birchanger Wood Trust 2018	Owner	yes
Email	Patrickelaineforrest@icloud.com	Contact Number	01279 652095
Agent Name (if applicable)		Anita Stone	
Email	anitastonewoodlands@outlook.com	Contact Number	07860 291066
County	Essex/Hertfordshire	Local Authority	Uttlesford (northern section) East Herts (southern section)
Grid Reference	TL 503 223	Single Business Identifier	
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		27.26 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 and appendices: Appendix 1 - Plan of Operations Appendix 2 - Maps: Compartment Map TPO/CWS map Work proposal map Appendix 3 - Non Statutory Designations: Historic Environment record extracts from Heritage Gateway. Uttlesford and East Herts DC Tree Preservation Order (TPO)/CA and County Wildlife Site map extracts. Statutory Designations: n/a Appendix 4 - Consultation responses: Essex Wildlife Trust for CWS Appendix 5 - woodland survey photos	
Do you intend to use the information within		Felling Licence	Yes

this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?	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 Birchange Wood Trusts websites states their mission is 'To manage the woodland for public good.' This includes management to enhance and protect the environmental value of the woodland and community involvement through simple access to the woodland, volunteering to help with management and ecological surveys, such as the moth and bug counts and education through various forms including art.

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	To follow UK Forestry Standard guidance.
2	To maintain and enhance the environmental value of the woodlands by encouraging structural, species, age and habitat diversity, including decaying wood retention.
3	To ensure the local community are given the information required to understand management decisions and are supportive of the Birchanger Wood Trust where possible.
4	Ideally to manage deer and grey squirrel populations to ensure acceptable levels of activity and damage as evidenced by annual monitoring. However given the location and public access to the site it is recognised that this may not be possible. Educating the public of the damage that grey squirrel and deer

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
	(especially muntjac), cause to the woodland would be a valuable exercise. With increased understanding it may be possible to control these damaging species in the future.
5	To manage historic and archaeological features such as historic ponds, wood banks, Parish Boundaries and veteran trees in a sensitive and appropriate manner, seeking advice from Local Authority archaeologists where necessary.
6	To respond to the effects of ash die-back in the ash dominated areas appropriately.
7	To manage current stands to promote high quality timber trees where possible. In areas where there is little timber potential manage to provide a sustained yield of wood-fuel. Manage future regeneration for timber potential.
8	To manage with pests, diseases and climate change in mind.
9	To improve access and stacking areas where necessary, whilst having regard for other valuable features.
10	To conserve and enhance the landscape value of the woodland.
11	If at all possible to buffer the woodland from agricultural activities to the north and east using grass margins, wildflower strips or new woodland.

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

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:

Birchanger Wood has been subject to at least 2 previous management plans which contain further information to that provided below: 2002-2007 East Herts Countryside Management Service and 2013 Woodland Management Plan (WMP) written by Gordon Purdie. www.birchangerwoodtrust.org also provides further information.

The woodland is designated as an ancient woodland, meaning it has been present since at least the year 1600. Information in the 2013 WMP mentions historic evidence showing woodland here since the 12th Century known as 'Bircehangra' meaning 'wooded slope growing with birch trees'. The Domesday book of 1086 refers to woodland large enough to hold 100 pigs. The land was part of the Manor of St Valery at the time of William the Conqueror and then passed to New College Oxford until the end of the 19th Century. In 1976 a management committee was formed to buy 19 acres of woodland and by 1998 the remaining area of woodland was acquired from various private landowners/developers. The Charitable Trust was set up in 2002.

Since 1981 small (c.0.25ha) coupes have been coppiced and protected from browsing muntjac, rabbits and possibly hare by hand made fencing. These areas have created valuable structural diversity in a mostly even aged woodland, however the majority of the woodland remains even aged. Pollarding, deer enclosure plots and planting resistant elms from the 'Essex Elm' were also undertaken.

Between 2011 and 2013 major work on upgrading the path network was undertaken to create 5.3km of wheelchair/pushchair accessible path networks

throughout the woodland. This provides an invaluable asset to the community and reduces damage to the woodland habitat by reducing the erosion caused by widespread access and disturbance that was occurring throughout the woodland. This work and the coppicing/fencing was partly funded through the Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS).

In 2013 the 'compound' was built to house the tractor and trailer shed and now provides a valuable area to dry firewood which is sold to the local community.

The woodland is predominantly a hornbeam coppice and oak standards woodland with patches where hazel, sweet chestnut or ash is more dominant. Silver birch is scattered throughout. Field maple is relatively scarce. Coppice management is likely to have ceased after WW1, hence coppice stools are mature or 'overstood', many with only a few stems remaining and some that have split/collapsed. Shrub layer is absent in most of the woodland, reducing nesting/feeding/sheltering habitat for small woodland birds/mammals and insects. Many oak standards are likely to have been felled at this last intervention. Due to this lack of management some areas are moving towards a 'high forest' structure and decisions need to be made as to whether to accept this structure, or try to restore a coppice with standards structure by recoppicing remaining plants, securing natural colonisation through protection from browsing, and possibly replanting where some native species are under-represented. It is important to note from a local community perspective that where wider scale coppicing is undertaken, bramble and dense thicket stage shrub layer will obscure bluebell until canopy closure happens once more. Although the visual loss of bluebell for 20 to 30 years may be seen as negative, this thicket stage habitat is vital for small nesting birds, mammals and insects that feed on the flowers of bramble for example.

Soils are mainly freely draining, slightly acid but base rich with a loamy surface texture and high fertility. However there are several areas that are wet during the winter and any work with larger machinery needs to be carefully planned and monitored to avoid soil damage.

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
<u>Biodiversity- Designations</u>				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	No		No	
Special Area of Conservation	No		No	
Tree Preservation Order	yes	1h,2d	yes	Env. Features map
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): County Wildlife Site Ancient woodland	Yes Yes		Yes Yes	Env. Features map
Notes				

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes	
<u>Biodiversity - European Protected Species</u>					
Bat	Species (if known) Pipistrelle Other species highly likely	Yes	All	1	National Biodiversity Network (NBN) checked 12/7/22: no records but pipistrelle detected during moth survey and other species highly likely given suitable habitat.
Dormouse	No				NBN checked 12/7/22: no records within the woodland, no records from the Trust and little suitable thicket stage habitat

				present. However Dormice were recorded in TL5122 to the N.E. so could colonise if suitable habitat and landscape links such as hedgerows created.
Great Crested Newt	Possibly			NBN checked 12/7/22: no records within the woodland, no records from the Trust but could be present as this is a widespread species and the compound does have a small pond with aquatic vegetation present.
Otter	No			NBN checked 12/7/22: no records within the woodland, no records from the Trust, lack of suitable habitat and disturbance so unlikely to move through area.
Sand Lizard	No			NBN checked 12/7/22: no records within the woodland, no records from the Trust, lack of suitable habitat.
Smooth Snake	No			As above.
Natterjack Toad	No			As above.
Biodiversity – Priority Species				
Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	No		NBN checked 12/7/22: no records within the woodland, no records from the Trust, lack of suitable habitat. 65 non schedule 1 birds recorded on

				NBN.
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)	No			As above.
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)	Possibly			NBN checked 12/7/22: no records within the woodland, no records from the Trust, however grass snake recorded in TL5122 to NE of Birchanger and common lizard in Hatfield Forest.
Plants	Yes			Bluebell, wood anemone, golden saxifrage. 55 plant species recorded on NBN, checked 12/7/22.
Fungi/Lichens	Yes			NBN checked 12/7/22: no records shown however being ancient woodland with veteran trees many species of fungi/lichen present, the Trust has species lists.
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes			NBN checked 12/7/22: 13 records for arthropods, the Trust has more species lists: 100 insects including stagbeetle (30 moth species).
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes			NBN checked 12/7/22: no records within the woodland but this species will be present.
Other (please Specify): Hedgehog	Yes			Increasingly rare western European hedgehog is recorded on the NBN in the woodland.

Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments	No			
Unscheduled Monuments	No			Sites adjacent to east: SMR 46555: crop marks, SMR 14324: iron age pits and ditches, SMR: 14325 Roman cremation.
Registered Parks and Gardens	No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes	All	1	Parish & District Boundary, veteran trees, ancient ditch and banks.
Listed Buildings	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
Landscape				
National Character Area (please Specify):				
National Park	No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
People				
CROW Access	No			
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes	1	1	
Other Access Provision	Yes	all	1	Open access
Public Involvement	Yes	all	1	Community involvement and education encouraged.
Visitor Information	Yes	all	1	Website, on site interpretation, presentations/talks /surveys.
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes	all	1	All surface paths and benches.
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes	all	1	Learning through art and volunteering, see website.
Anti-social Behaviour	Occasionally	all	1	Litter
Other (please Specify):	No			
Water				
Watercourses	Yes	1a/b/c	1	Seasonal ditch
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	1h	1	
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.

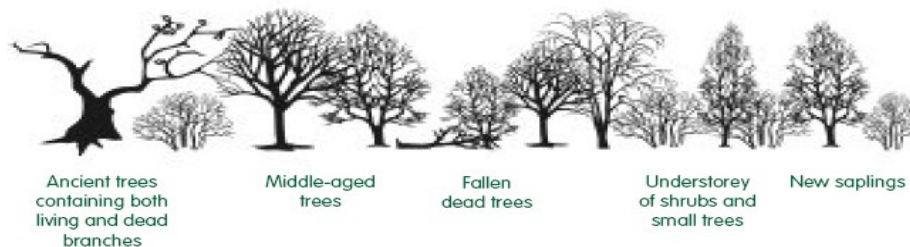
Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes	all	1	
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	No			
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
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)
broadleaved coppice with standards	100	even	90% overstood coppice, 10% coppiced since 1981.

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)	Ash dieback
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High – seen during site survey
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	The latest FC guidance (ops note 046) and NE guidance for SSSIs will be followed in all woods; thinning will focus on removing trees with >50% infected/dead crowns, trees with <50% infected crowns will be retained to provide seed for natural regeneration giving the best chance for tolerant strains to develop. Trees showing basal lesions resulting from honey fungus will be felled where these pose a safety risk to the public or would increase safety risks to forestry contractors during felling if retained. All interventions will aim to retain the widest tree/shrub species mix and age class range to develop resilience for the future.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback,	Acute Oak Decline (AOD) and bacterial bleeds
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<i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium – none seen during survey
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Signs of acute oak decline such as black bleeds and crown dieback will be recorded during surveys/management. Thinning will reduce overstocking which appears to increase the prevalence of AOD. FC guidance will be followed.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	<i>Agrilus biguttatus</i>
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium – not seen during site survey
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Anecdotal evidence suggests that once trees suffering from AOD are invaded by <i>A.biguttatus</i> they do not recover. Hence trees showing <i>A.biguttatus</i> exit holes will be felled as part of thinning interventions as long as this falls within the 30% thinning intensity. Some standing dead oak should be retained as these trees have a high habitat value.

5.3 [Deer](#)

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Deer browsing is inhibiting natural regeneration and a shrub layer from establishing. Due to the high public access across the site formal, regular, recorded deer control cannot be part of the ongoing management of the woodlands. However the general public should be informed of the damage the deer cause to the woodland via on site interpretation. A deer management plan was written in 2013, this should be updated and annual or biennial formal deer impact assessments would help inform woodland management planning. Under

	current impacts all coppicing should be protected with temporary fencing. Deer damage will become more important as ash dieback affects the canopy and natural regeneration is required to ensure the long term presence of the woodlands.
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5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Squirrel control should form part of ongoing woodland management however due to high public access on the site this is not realistic. Work by the Squirrel Accord on infertility treatments for grey squirrel should facilitate grey squirrel control in sensitive landscapes in the future, see: http://squirrelaccord.uk/</p> <p>Although signs of squirrel damage are low currently this is probably due to low levels of woodland management; thinning and coppice interventions will lead to increased squirrel activity and damage.</p>

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Rabbit and hare
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Both species can have a high impact on coppice regrowth, natural regeneration, planted saplings and woodland flora. This impact tends to go unnoticed because it has occurred for so long. Establishing small exclosures (2m x 2m) using rabbit netting would reveal impact levels. Rabbit control should form part of ongoing management, especially in areas where large populations have established, often in ditch banks on woodland edges but also in brash left on site</p>

	<p>following woodland management, however due to high access levels this is not realistic.</p> <p>There were no obvious signs of damage during the survey, this may be due to a reduction in population due to rabbit haemorrhagic disease.</p> <p>Temporary fencing of coppice coupes using rabbit netting at the base of the fences will remove rabbit and hare impacts from these areas.</p>
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5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Pollution, Acidification of Water etc)	Damage to water courses (including water carrying ditches)/ water bodies
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Ensure forestry machinery does not travel through the seasonal watercourse, establish buffer zones (approx. 10m) around these features which are mapped or marked on the ground if necessary. These areas must also be left clear of brash. Fuel tanks (bunded to 110%) and pesticide/fertiliser storage and refuelling/refilling away from water bodies and ideally stored out of woodland site.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Pollution, Acidification of Water etc)	Heavy Clay Soil: compaction/rutting/waterlogging(puddling)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Heavy clay soils should be worked in dryer months outside bird nesting season where possible (August – November). If work continues into wetter periods careful planning of extraction routes to avoid wet/sensitive areas (flora, veteran tree rooting area below canopy), use of brash mats and where available machinery that limits soil impacts

	such as smaller machinery or those with reduced ground pressure (i.e. more tyres/reduced tyre pressure). If impacts are too high postpone work until dryer period.
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5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Wind
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Consider impact of high winds when planning interventions and maintain wind firm edge where possible.

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Invasive Species
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Due to proximity of gardens invasive species are a threat to the woodland. Monitor and remove where possible or inhibit spread further into woodlands where eradication impossible.

5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights etc)	Rights of Way
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Maintain Public Rights of Way as required by law see https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-rights-of-way-landowner-responsibilities Overriding responsibility is to 'keep the route visible and not obstruct or endanger users.'

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5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Operational Costs
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Operational costs are high due to relatively small areas being worked and overstood coppice structure requiring cutting by chainsaw operators. Lack of extraction routes that larger machinery can use to access stacking areas requires smaller machinery that is more time consuming to move timber.

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Products/markets
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	high
Response (inc protection measures)	Relatively low value firewood products with little/no high value timber. Temporary fencing to ensure regrowth increases costs further.

5.10 [Climate Change](#) Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Lack of Diversity
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	high
Response (inc protection measures)	Encouraging the full range of tree/shrub species naturally occurring in these woodlands will ensure a wide species mix. This will in turn support a wider range of fauna and flora. Deer population management is normally vital to ensure that natural regeneration of all species present is secured. As deer control is not an option fencing will be required to allow woodlands to respond to a changing climate

	and new pests and diseases.
Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Uniform Structure
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Diversify structure through coppicing/thinning to encourage natural regeneration and a shrub layer. Retain over mature specimens within stands to increase age range. Vary management within the wood to reinstate coppice with standards structure in some areas, but manage as high forest in others. Enhance non-woodland habitats within woods such as ponds, rides and glades and the interface between these and core woodland areas in the form of shrubby edges. Consider coupe size to ensure a range of age and structure is created across the woodland in the long term.
Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Provenance
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	n/a
Impact (high/medium/low)	n/a
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Future planting should use high quality provenances with timber potential. Information is available from the Future Trees Trust: http://www.futuretrees.org/</p> <p>Using provenance from 2 degrees south should also be considered as per the FR guidance on climate change: https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/climate-change-impacts/climate-change-impacts-and-adaptation-in-englands-woodlands/species-and-provenance-choice-for-adapting-englands-woodlands/</p>

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
To follow UK Forestry Standard Guidance.	This wide ranging guidance sets to base line for woodland management standards.
To maintain and enhance the environmental value of the woodlands by encouraging structural, species, age and habitat diversity within the woodland, whilst protecting them from adjacent agricultural activities with semi-natural habitats and linking them to other habitats within the wider landscape.	<p>Diversify the physical and age structure of the woodland by creating uneven-aged stands which include saplings through to over-mature veterans and a shrub layer. This will be achieved through regular thinning and coppicing where appropriate. Thinning will retain the greatest species mix possible. Where coppice coupes include a high proportion of ash stools that fail to regrow, restocking with native species which are under-represented in the woodlands will be necessary.</p> <p>Grassy rides and glades should be managed using 2- or 3-zone management for access and biodiversity, as per the Forestry Commission's 'Operations Note 11: Managing woodland open space for wildlife'.</p> <p>Other non-woodland habitats such as ponds will be managed to enhance their wildlife value by opening up at least 1 side of shaded ponds and managing adjacent areas for the benefit of wildlife.</p> <p>Existing large deadwood will be recorded on operational site assessments for protection and retention during operations. Contractors will be asked to leave a proportion of felled material of at least 100mm diameter and including material larger than 200mm. This will start the process of gradually working towards UKFS requirements for 20m³ of deadwood per ha over the lifetime of the rotation. This can be focused in certain areas and does not have to be evenly distributed across worked coupes.</p> <p>Existing and future veteran trees will be</p>

	<p>mapped for retention. When areas around veterans are worked there will be a gradual opening up of the canopy around them over successive thinnings. Potential future veteran trees will be identified, mapped and retained in thinning operations.</p> <p>FC best practice guides: https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-9enc24 will be followed to ensure management protects EPS and enhances their habitats.</p>
<p>Ideally to manage deer and grey squirrel populations to ensure acceptable levels of activity and damage as evidenced by annual monitoring. However given the location and public access to the site it is recognised that this may not be possible. Educating the public of the damage that grey squirrel and deer (especially muntjac), cause to the woodland would be a valuable exercise. With increased understanding it may be possible to control these damaging species in the future.</p>	<p>Ideally regular, formal, recorded deer control should continue in the long term. Deer control aims to create a sustainable population that does not negatively impact upon the woodland habitat, allowing natural regeneration, coppice regrowth and ground flora to establish and grow with limited browsing damage. Ideally, work will be carried out in collaboration with neighbours in order to achieve this aim. A 'Deer Impact Assessment' should be carried out each year to assess impact and activity and inform cull targets.</p> <p>Ideally squirrel control should be ongoing every year as per the Forest Research guidance at: https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/management-of-grey-squirrels/</p>
<p>To manage historic and archaeological features such as, Parish Boundaries, ancient wood-banks, ancient trees and unscheduled historic sites in a sensitive and appropriate manner, seeking advice from Local Authority archaeologists where necessary.</p>	<p>Archaeological features have been described in the Plan of Operations, section 4.2 and the HER details included at Appendix 4. This information should be used to inform contractors working in these woods. Ideally, operational site assessments should be carried out to map specific features of interest immediately prior to work so that this detail can be discussed with contractors. Local Authority archaeologist advice should be followed on relevant sites.</p>
<p>To respond to the effects of ash die-back in the ash dominated areas appropriately.</p>	<p>Where ash is dominant, ensure that thinning favours a wide range of species; retain poorer stems/remnant coppice stools of species such as field maple, hornbeam, & silver birch to allow them to seed in to thinned/coppiced areas and diversify the species mix. In coppice coupes with ash stools that succumb to ash dieback restocking with under-represented</p>

	<p>native species will be necessary.</p> <p>Use felling coupes of appropriate size for ancient woodland, restocking with mixed native species, tending restocking to protect it from deer. Ensure that thinning is implemented at the correct time so that slower growing species are not out completed. Consider the safety of forestry contractors working with brittle ash stems, with increased risk of falling branch-wood from the canopy and less control over felling direction.</p>
<p>To manage current stands to promote high quality timber trees through timely thinning interventions and pruning of selected high quality stems. In areas where there is little timber potential manage to provide a sustained yield of wood-fuel. Manage recent planting and future regeneration to produce timber quality trees.</p>	<p>Timber-quality trees will be favoured during thinning/coppicing, whilst maintaining species diversity. Pruning in younger stands would be beneficial. Any replanting should be with high quality planting stock as per section 5.10. Deer and squirrel management is usually essential to ensure timber and wood-fuel productivity is maximised.</p>
<p>To manage with pests, diseases and climate change in mind.</p>	<p>To ensure that the wood is resilient to future pests, diseases and climate change, the full suite of native trees and shrubs must be allowed to regenerate. This will reduce the impact upon any single species in the event of disease. It may also be necessary to restock with under-represented native species if they do not naturally regenerate.</p>
<p>To improve access and stacking areas where necessary, whilst having regard for other valuable features.</p>	<p>Surfaced paths replace rides in Birchanger hence access for woodland management machinery may need to be by alternative routes through the woodland to avoid damaging surfaced paths. Access, including presence and/or requirement of suitable culverts, will be assessed for woodland management operations including timber extraction. Valuable ride-side flora will be considered prior to any access track work.</p>
<p>To conserve and enhance the landscape value of the woodlands.</p>	<p>Diversifying age and species structure through regular thinning and carrying out deer</p>

	management across the wood will increase its longevity within the landscape.
To identify appropriate areas for future woodland creation, away from sensitive landscapes/habitats/species, but ideally linking/increasing the size of existing woodlands and linking them to other semi-natural habitats such as hedges.	Discuss this objective and potential areas to start the thought process towards this aim.

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
Coppicing/thinning	Essex Wildlife Trust	1/8/2022	Awaiting response		

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
To follow UK Forestry Standard guidance.	All management carried out in line with UKFS guidance	Visual assessment within the woodland and woodland records	Annual	Trust/volunteer/forestry consultant	
<p>To maintain and enhance the environmental value of the woodlands by encouraging structural, species, age and habitat diversity.</p> <p>This includes: Managing open spaces such as rides and glades and other non-woodland habitats to maintain and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Retaining a proportion of felled and naturally fallen / standing deadwood,</p>	<p>Increased structural and species diversity in all woods, including natural regeneration and a shrub layer.</p> <p>Rides and glades cut as per guidance.</p> <p>Presence of large deadwood</p>	Visual assessment and records	Annual	As above	

<p>including large-sized material, to increase levels of deadwood habitat in line with UKFS.</p> <p>Protecting the valuable existing and future veteran trees to ensure the presence of over-mature specimens now and in the future.</p>	<p>(>200mm).</p> <p>Veteran trees present and in good condition.</p>				
<p>Ideally manage deer and grey squirrel populations to ensure acceptable levels of activity and damage as evidenced by annual monitoring.</p>	<p>Reduced damage across all woodland areas. Natural regeneration present. Less than 30% of natural regeneration and flora browsed across thinned areas. Any unprotected coppice able to regrow, but most to be protected.</p>	<p>Deer impact and activity scores and cull records.</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>As above</p>	
<p>To manage historic and archaeological features such as Parish Boundaries, ancient wood-banks, ancient trees and unscheduled sites in a sensitive and appropriate manner, seeking advice from Local Authority archaeologists where necessary.</p>	<p>Archaeological features identified and mapped</p> <p>Operational site assessments to inform contractors</p> <p>Features in good condition without</p>	<p>Updated WMP</p> <p>Operational Site Assessments</p> <p>Visual assessment</p>	<p>Prior to operations taking place</p> <p>Annual</p>	<p>As above</p>	

	rutting or damage				
To respond to ash-dieback	<p>Clear management intentions in ash dominated areas agreed with owner</p> <p>Identify ash dominated areas worst affected by disease for early interventions</p> <p>Interventions in ash dominated areas started within 2 years of plan approval with careful attention to H&S</p> <p>Restocking in felled areas present, maintained and establishing</p> <p>Natural regeneration establishing due to effective deer control within 3 years of felling</p> <p>Natural</p>	Visual assessments and records	Annually	As above	

	regeneration marked and protected for maintenance alongside restocking				
To manage the current stands in order to promote high-quality timber trees where possible. In areas where there is little timber potential, manage to provide a sustained yield of wood-fuel. Manage recent planting and future regeneration for timber potential from establishment.	Thinning/coppicing programme producing sustainable volumes Pruning of better timber quality trees Presence of good quality timber trees	Harvesting records Visual assessment	Annual	As above	
To manage with pests, diseases, and climate change in mind.	Monitoring for pests and diseases Diverse woodland which is 'resilient'	Visual assessment	As regularly as possible at least annually	As above	
To improve access and stacking areas where necessary, whilst having regard for other valuable features.	No damage to surfaced paths. Alternative suitable access routes. Stacking areas present. Lorry access for timber collection.	Visual assessment	Annually	As above	
To conserve and enhance the	Woodland retained	Fixed point	Every five	As above	

landscape value of the woodlands.	within the landscape	photography and Google Earth	years		
To identify appropriate areas for future woodland creation, away from sensitive landscapes/habitats/species, but ideally linking/increasing the size of existing woodlands and linking to other semi-natural habitats such as hedges.	Discussion with Trust and neighbours. Creation of new semi-natural habitat	Visual assessment	Annually	As above	

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/No	
<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/No	
<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/No	
<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/No	

<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/No</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/No</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) <i>You can use it to support a CS-HT or other grant application.</i></p> <p>b) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.</p>	<p>Name (WO or FM):</p> <p>Emma Brearley</p>	<p>Date:</p> <p>02/11/2022</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):</p> <p>James Sharp</p>	<p>Date:</p> <p>14/12/2022</p>