

# Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:	
<b>Woodland or Property name</b>	<b>Mid-Somerset Woodlands</b>
<b>Woodland Management Plan case reference</b>	
<b>The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Plan author name</b>	<b>Matt Taylor</b>

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

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	<b>Plan Objectives:</b> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management plan objectives are stated.</li> <li>Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.</li> </ul>	Yes
2	<b>Forest context and important features in management strategy:</b> 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.	Management intentions communicated in <b>Sect. 6</b> of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) <b>Sect. 2</b> . Management intentions should take account of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (<b>Sect. 4</b>)</li> <li>Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (<b>Sect. 5</b>).</li> <li>Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in <b>Sect. 7</b>.</li> </ul>	Yes
3	<b>Identification of designations within and surrounding the site:</b> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey information (<b>Sect. 4</b>) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management.</li> <li>Management intentions (<b>Sect. 6</b>) have taken account of any designations.</li> </ul>	Yes
4	<b>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:</b> 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. 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency).</li> <li>Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (<b>Sect. 4</b>).</li> <li>Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees).</li> </ul>	Yes
5	<b>Consultation:</b> Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder engagement is in line with current FC guidance and recorded in <b>Sect. 7</b>. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission.</li> <li>Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland.</li> </ul>	Yes
6	<b>Plan Update and Review:</b> Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan.</li> <li><b>Sect. 8</b> is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective.</li> </ul>	Yes

## Section 1: Property Details

<a href="#">Woodland Property Name</a>		Mid-Somerset Woodlands	
Name	Stephen Smith	Owner	National Trust
Email		Contact Number	
Agent Name		Matt Taylor	
Email	forestandland@gmail.com	Contact Number	07814 571174
County	Somerset	<a href="#">Local Authority</a>	
Grid Reference	ST5148	Single Business Identifier	106327021
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		169.12	
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?		1. Compartments 2. Short Term Activity 3. Long Term Activity 4. AWI 5. Designations	
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
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

### 2.1 Vision

This Woodland Plan seeks to balance the primary aim of sustaining and enhancing the woodland resource in the Mendip Hills

The National Trust is committed to managing our woodland estate in conformance with the requirements of the UKWAS standard and we intend to protect and maintain the woodlands and their ecological integrity in the long term.

We aim to protect those things that make our land special, as well as making sure it is economically viable. As a minimum, our land should be classified as being in good condition (through our Land Condition Assessments). And then we want to nurture our land to be brilliant, using our six functions of land as our guide. Ideally, we will be making improvements across all functions, avoiding situations in which success in one land function compromises the minimum standards in another.

Our strategy for woodland management in Mid Somerset to better manage woodlands requires us to work bigger, better and more joined up in our approach across the landscape. Our vision for the future is to see a mosaic woodland, scrub, and grassland habitats of the Mendip Hills and Mid Somerset linking across the landscape where people and nature thrive together. Stretching from the coast at Brean Down across the southern Mendip scarp to England's smallest city of Wells and south to the Polden Hills there is a sweeping, cohesive network of nature rich habitats, buzzing with life and cherished by all. This will involve applying active and targeted woodland management over the area to join up vital corridors between the Mendip Woodland SACs, priority ancient woodland and improve existing woodland habitats.

The need for action is urgent and partners to enhance landscape connectivity we aim to create a robust and resilient Nature Recovery Network across priority areas of the Mendip Hills and Mid Somerset which includes land beyond the SSSIs and nature reserves. Whilst enhancing core sites for protected species such as greater horseshoe bats and hazel dormouse is key, it is also vital that we work to enhance and create new tangible heritage assets in the bits in between – in the wider countryside – to create more and better habitat for these species on farmland and to join up the core sites and areas known to host these species. We will provide greater connectivity between reserves and known hotspots by creating wood pasture, planting new native hedgerows, orchards and incorporating silviculture and agroforestry to our grassland management.

## **Mid Somerset Woodlands**



## **The six functions of land – Our Vision**

*Healthy*- Healthy and robust soils, water, carbon, ecological processes - with properly functioning fundamental processes. We work beyond our boundaries and with partners

*Rich in wildlife* – Our habitats are 'better, bigger, and more joined up' creating the right conditions for wildlife to flourish, ensuring their future survival

*Beautiful*- We understand what is unique, distinctive and cherished about our land (its 'Spirit of Place'), and protect and enhance these qualities

*Enjoyable* – Our land is accessible and welcoming. We encourage a whole range of visitors and local people to enjoy our land by creating facilities, interpretation, and events

*Rich in culture* – We recognise and protect our land's cultural significance where it reveals layers of the past, or where it is an important setting for contemporary life

*Productive* - Our land continues to provide for us because it's managed in a way that's sustainable

## 2.2 Management Objectives

No.	Objectives
1	Increase opportunities for our local wildlife (UKFS 6.1)
2	Slow the flow of water across our land, improve water quality and protect soils (UKFS 6.6 and 6.7)
3	Reduce our carbon footprint (UKFS 6.2)
4	Maintain the site's visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience (UKFS 6.4 and 6.5)
5	Protect and enhance the site's cultural heritage (UKFS 6.4 and 6.5)
6	Contribute to the local economy (UKFS 6.5)
7	Protect the health and safety of our visitors, staff and contractors (UKFS 6.5)

## Section 3: Plan Review – Achievements

Objectives	Achievement
1. Increase opportunities for our local wildlife.	
2. Slow the flow of water across our land and improve water quality and protect soils	
3. Reduce our carbon footprint	
4. Maintain the site's visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience.	
5. Protect and enhance the site's cultural heritage.	
6. Contribute to the local economy	
7. To protect health and safety of visitors, staff and contractors	

## Section 4: Woodland Survey

### 4.1 Description

#### 1. Location

This plan contextualises and describes the approach to woodland management at National Trust owned and managed property across the Mid-Somerset Woodlands.

**2. History** The National Trust was founded on 12 January 1895 by Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley. Over the last 125 years they've become one of the UK's largest charities, caring for historic places and areas of beautiful countryside including the properties covered by this plan. Under this ownership, the woodlands have been managed with heritage and aesthetics, biodiversity, and public access as primary objectives. This plan sees these management aims continued.

**3. Species and age class distribution** The majority of the woodlands covered by this plan are mature and native. The primary non-native species within the woodlands covered by this plan are sycamore, holm oak and Scots pine.

**4. Soils** The typical soils type of the northern parts of this area are freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils. In the Polden Hills the soils are classified as shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone.

**5. Rainfall** Average rainfall across the area is 765mm.

**6. Elevation** The woodlands in this plan range in elevation from 50-200m above sea level.

**7. Landscape and Topography** The woodlands here sit in the Mendip Hills and the North Somerset Hills National Character Areas.

**8. Access** The woodlands in this plan have a mixture of statutory and concessionary public access. The area has formal access facilities such as car parking and picnic areas. These are managed by dedicated property staff.

**9. Water** The properties covered by this plan contain little or no aquatic and riparian habitats. Where water related habitats could be impacted operations associated with this plan, delivery will ensure enhancement of the habitat value wherever the opportunity exists.

**10. Adjacent Land use** This area is rural with land directly adjacent to the woodlands being used for agriculture and calcareous grassland conservation.



## 4.2 Information

Feature	Within Woodland	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
<b><u>Biodiversity- Designations</u></b>				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Yes	All except T1	Yes	
Special Area of Conservation	No	All at Cheddar, Crook Peak, Kings Wood and Shute Shelve	No	
Tree Preservation Order	Yes – Need to check with LA during consultation about any others.	K1 TPO 21/0/1979 /W1	Yes	S2 Adjacent to TPO 21/0/1979/ W2
Conservation Area	No - Need to double check with LA during consultation		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No	Ebbor Gorge adjacent to NNR	Yes	Sites on the Mendips are likely to be included within the new Mendip NNR. Likely to be declared autumn 2023.
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other (please Specify):	No		No	
<b>Notes</b>  <p>E1 is owned and managed by the National Trust and sits in the Ebbor Gorge SSSI and adjacent to the Mendip woodlands SAC and Ebbor Gorge NNR (owned by the NT but managed by NE). Ebbor Gorge SSSI was designated for its ash woodlands, calcareous grassland and humid environment favouring ferns and mosses. These woodlands sit in unit 4 of this SSSI, last assessed by NE in 2010 and found to be in unfavourable recovering condition, improving as a result of the positive management of scrub.</p> <p>The Cheddar woodlands sit in the Cheddar Complex SSSI designated for the wide range of semi-natural habitats it supports, including unimproved grassland, calcareous dry dwarf-shrub heath, semi-natural broadleaved woodland and dense and scattered scrub. These woodlands sit in units 2, 19, and 4 of this SSSI. All these units were last assessed in 2010 by NE. Unit 2 was found to be in unfavourable recovering condition with scrub management being key to its improving status. Unit 4 and 19 were found to be in favourable status with ongoing management noted as critical to the maintenance of this condition. These woodlands also sit in the North Somerset and Mendip Bats SAC.</p>				

P1 and P2 at the Polden Hills sit in the Walton and Ivythorn Hills SSSI, designated for the complex mosaic of semi-natural habitats which it supports, including unimproved calcareous grassland, dense and scattered scrub and broadleaved woodland. Additional interest lies in the occurrence of a number of invertebrate species with a local distribution in Somerset. P1 sits in unit 1 of this SSSI, classified as unfavourable due to the lack of veteran trees, and P2 sits in unit 3 classified as favourable but at risk from eutrophication from dogs and erosion from horses and bikes. Unit 1 was last assessed by NE in 2020 and Unit 3 was last assessed in 2009. P3 sits in unit 1 of the East Polden Grasslands SSSI designated for its species-rich, unimproved, calcareous grassland with scrub. Last surveyed in 2011, this unit is classified as favourable, and no mention of the pine woodlands at P3 is made.

The Crook Peak and Kingswood woodlands sit in Unit 1 of the Crook Peak to Shute Shelve Hill SSSI designated for the wide range of habitats which includes ancient and secondary semi-natural broadleaved woodland, unimproved calcareous grassland and a complex mosaic of calcareous grassland and acidic dry dwarf-shrub heath. Four of the calcareous grassland communities, two of the woodland types and the calcareous grassland/acidic dry dwarf-shrub heath mosaic all have a restricted distribution in Britain. Last surveyed by NE in 2013, this unit is classified as unfavourable recovering with high scrub density scrub compromising its condition. The Shute Shelve woodlands sit in units 5 and 6 of the Axbridge Hill and Fry's Hill SSSI designated for its value to plants and bats. Last assessed in 2013, the site has been classified as unfavourable recovering, with no issues noted. The guidance suggests that dense scrub should be managed. All of these woods sit in the Mendip Limestone Grasslands SAC.

Feature		Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
<b>Biodiversity - <a href="#">European Protected Species</a></b>					
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes	All		Bats will be present across the plan area. All works will follow EPS operational requirements. This plan will see the retention and creation of deadwood and snags, as well as opening areas of the woodland and improving biodiversity increasing the habitat for bat roosting and foraging.
Dormouse		Yes			These are known to be present in some of the woodlands although sightings are rare. Management actions aim to optimise the conditions for this species.
Great Crested Newt		No			GCN are present on adjacent sites, although not known to be in woodlands
Otter		No			
Sand Lizard		No			
Smooth Snake		No			
Natterjack Toad		No			
<b>Biodiversity – <a href="#">Priority Species</a></b>					
<a href="#">Schedule 1 Birds</a>	Species:				Dartford warbler has been recorded to have nested in Crook Peak
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine		No			

Marten etc)				
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)	No			
Plants	Yes			Cheddar Gorge is internationally important for its limestone grassland and wooded slopes. It has a nationally important assemblage of plants, including almost all the British population of Cheddar Pink, an abundance of Slender Bedstraw, and a unique complex of whitebeams.
Fungi/Lichens	No			
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	No			<p>Lesne's Earwig has been found along the southern edge of Crook Peak. The other wood edge habitats here are of similar value; among the locally distributed species present are the weevil <i>Rhynchaenus alni</i> on elm and the leaf beetle <i>Hermeophaga mercurialis</i> on dog's mercury. The uncommon soldier beetle <i>Malthodes pumilus</i> occurs along the secondary woodland fringing King's Wood - this is the only modern record from Somerset</p> <p>At Polden Hills <i>Ischnomera cyanea</i>, <i>Volucella inflata</i>, <i>Thecla betulae</i>, and <i>Eriogaster lanestris</i> have all been found and are associated with the woodland and scrub habitats.</p>
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes			These will be found in the woodlands.
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No			
<b>Historic Environment</b>				
Scheduled Monuments	Yes		5	Scheduled monument 1015495 sits in the boundary of compartment S2. The monument includes a medieval boundary

				earthwork on the northern end of Shute Shelve Hill. The boundary consists of a shallow bank and ditch, the bank being on the north side. From earliest records the feature is also described as a road or trackway, and its line remains used as a trackway today, the track being immediately to the south, and is a parish boundary. This plan seeks to maintain and enhance this feature.
Unscheduled Monuments	Yes			Unscheduled historic features will be managed in accordance with consultation and advice from the local authority archaeology service and the internal National trust advisers.
Registered Parks and Gardens	No		5	Bishop's Palace sits adjacent to Tor Hill and any work here may affect its setting. Bishops Palace is an example of as early C19 pleasure ground created in and around the medieval precincts of the Palace of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, together with a deer park of C12 origin which was landscaped in the early C19.
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes			Many of the compartments have mature boundary trees. The process of mapping these veteran trees and veteran recruits in just beginning with a veteran tree management plan being developed for Kings Wood.
Listed Buildings	No		5	
Other (please Specify):	No			
<b>Landscape</b>				
<a href="#">National Character Area</a> (please Specify): The woodlands here sit in the Mendip Hills and the North Somerset Hills National Character Areas.				
National Park	No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Yes	Ebbor Gorge,		Mendip Hills

		Crook Peak, Kings Wood, Shute Shelve and Cheddar		
Other (please Specify):	No			
CROW Access	Yes	P1 and P2, Crook Peak, Kings Wood, Shute Shelve and Cheddar		
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes			Throughout woodlands
Other Access Provision	Yes			Carparks, picnic areas,
Public Involvement	Yes			Volunteers and community groups
Visitor Information	Yes			Interpretation panels, website
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes			Various
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes			Educational opportunities are facilitated by the local NT team
Anti-social Behaviour	No			
<b>Water</b>				
Watercourses	No		5	See section 5.6
Lakes	No			
Ponds	No			See section 5.6
Other (please Specify):	No			

## 4.3 Habitat Types

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
<b>Woodland Habitat Types</b>				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes	E1 K3 T1 P1	4	
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	Yes	P1	4	PAWS will be managed through pruning, thinning and felling to maintain and enhance their natural characteristics.
Semi-natural features in PAWS	Yes			Semi-natural grassland at P1 – other AW indicator features and species
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes			All compartments contain areas of woodland with characteristics of this habitat. Ash dieback is having catastrophic impact across the UK. In these woodlands ash will be managed to maintain health and safety and to provide maximum longevity of habitat for those species that depend upon it.
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes			Scrub transition to grassland is a key habitat in these woodlands
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	Yes			There are interactions with calcareous grassland at all of these woodlands sites. Much of the management described aims to maintain such areas and prevent scrub from encroaching and reducing the area or diminishing the quality of this habitat. Woodland/open habitat interface is highly important on these sites

				maintaining a complex grassland/scrub/woodland mosaic is key
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 and activity data

Area and Structure	
Total area (Hectares)	169.12
Of which is Open Ground	5.72
Conifer woodland	2.19
Woodland with mixed native and non-native Broadleaved trees	41.12
Woodland with mixed native and non-native Broadleaved and Coniferous trees	18.15
Native Woodland	101.94

Growth	
Annual Increment (tonnes)	407.76
Mean Weighted Yield Class	3.8

Harvesting (tonnes)	
10 Year harvest	4022
Phase 1 -2023-2028	1799
Phase 2 – 2029-2033	1360
Phases 1+2 2023-2033	863

Activity (ha)	
Coppicing/thinning	108.9
Selective Felling	24.8
Clear Fell	1.07
No activity /Minimum Intervention	34.35



## Section 5: Woodland Protection

### 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.

<b>Impact</b>	High	Plan for Action	Action	Action
	Medium	Monitor	Plan for Action	Action
	Low	Monitor	Monitor	Plan for Action
		Low	Medium	High
<b>Likelihood of Presence</b>				

### 5.2 [Plant Health](#)

Threat	Chalara dieback of ash ( <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> )
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High: There are confirmed cases of Ash dieback from this area every year for the past three years
Impact (high/medium/low)	High: Ash present across the site and a key component of natural regeneration in many woodlands.
Response (inc. protection measures)	<p>Remain vigilant for symptoms during tree safety surveys. Follow NT ADB guidance, carrying out annual summer ADB surveys where needed.</p> <p>Follow up-to-date best practice guidance from Forestry Commission on biosecurity in woodlands. Consider alternative species with a similar ecological niche and benefits when restocking.</p>

Threat	Oak Decline (Acute and Chronic)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low: The nearest know case of AOD is 80km south of this site and Forest Research describe is as being at moderate risk of an outbreak.
Impact (high/medium/low)	High: Oak form a significant part of our woodlands, and sit at the heart of the National Trust illustrated by its use in our logo. The impact of this disease would have a significant effect on the delivery of our objectives towards enhancement of biodiversity and the maintenance of the spirit of place.
Response (inc	Monitor for presence of disease via FC guidelines during

protection measures)	tree safety surveys. Follow up-to-date best practice guidance from Forestry Commission on biosecurity in woodlands where appropriate.
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Threat	Other tree pests and diseases
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium: There are many other tree and woodland pests and diseases in the UK that threaten the delivery of our objectives.
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Remain educated about current and new UK threats, be vigilant for symptoms during tree safety surveys. Follow up-to-date best practice guidance from Forestry Commission on biosecurity in woodlands.

### 5.3 [Deer](#)

Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High: Staff report deer browsing across the site
Impact (high/medium/low)	High: Natural regeneration and coppice regrowth would be restricted in part due to deer browsing.
Response (inc protection measures)	Protect young trees with shelters or tree guards. Follow local deer management programme where appropriate. Could seek further FC guidance and implement a Deer Management Plan if required. Funding to facilitate this could be sought in the future.

### 5.4 [Grey Squirrels](#)

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High: Grey squirrels are present.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium: Grey squirrels are having a negative impact on woodland ecosystems
Response (inc protection measures)	Manage grey squirrel population through most efficient and appropriate means where appropriate.

### 5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Livestock
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Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low: Adjacent fields are managed to optimise grassland and scrub habitat for biodiversity.
Impact (high/medium/low)	High: Natural regeneration and coppice regrowth could be restricted by trespass stock grazing.
Response (inc protection measures)	Encourage take-up of agri-environment schemes to help manage stock grazing in woodlands.

## 5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Sediment pollution of waterways during operations
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Undertake good brash management during operations, check brash is being used appropriately during operational monitoring. Stop work if adverse weather occurs. Install appropriate drainage and water management systems where deemed necessary. Monitor tracks and extraction routes for damage and rutting. Repair and halt use if necessary.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Operational chemical or oil spillages
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High: Fuel, pesticides, nutrient run-off from adjacent farmland.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low: Only small amounts of these pollutants are used.
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>All chemical use will follow best practice guidance. COSHH assessments are written and followed for the use of fuel and pesticides.</p> <p>All chainsaw work is carried out using biodegradable chain oil.</p> <p>The use of pesticides is avoided where possible.</p> <p>IPMS decision recording form and ESRA is in place, where chemical use is necessary.</p> <p>Ensure re-fuelling is undertaken on hard standing well away from any watercourses/ponds.</p> <p>Machinery and operatives must carry anti-pollution spill kits.</p>

## 5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Operational chemical or oil spillages
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High: Fuel, pesticides, nutrient run-off from adjacent farmland.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low: Only small amounts of these pollutants are used.
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>All chemical use will follow best practice guidance. COSHH assessments are written and followed for the use of fuel and pesticides.</p> <p>All chainsaw work is carried out using biodegradable chain oil.</p> <p>The use of pesticides is avoided where possible.</p> <p>IPMS decision recording form and ESRA is in place, where chemical use is necessary.</p> <p>Ensure re-fuelling is undertaken on hard standing well away from any watercourses/ponds.</p> <p>Machinery and operatives must carry anti-pollution spill kits.</p>

Threat	Invasive species
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low: No significant issues noted
Impact (high/medium/low)	High: Invasive species have the potential to become a vector for disease, can disrupts ecosystems, and can have a negative impact on soils and water.
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor and record any newly identified invasive species outbreaks and manage appropriately to prevent them from becoming established.

## 5.8 Social

Threat	Wild fire
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Ask offenders to leave and extinguish fire if safe to do so.</p> <p>Consider signage at high risk times of year</p>

Threat	Litter/ Fly tipping
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Remove litter if safe to do so and ask those found to be littering/fly tipping to stop and remove their waste if safe to do so.

Threat	Damage to historic environment
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Follow internal guidance around planning, consultation, pre-operational checks, and operational delivery as well as following any site specific advice from Historic England or Local Authority and internal archaeologists.

## 5.9 Economic

Threat	Negative disruption to timber value, budget availability, or agri-environment funding.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Seek alternative funding mechanisms

## 5.10 [Climate Change](#) Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Uniform structure
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium: Causes of uniform structure include deer and stock impacts combined with closed canopy woodland. One or more of these factors have prevented tree regeneration in recent decades so the woodland age structure is relatively uniform in many compartments.
Impact (high/medium/low)	High: A uniform woodland structure leaves a wood vulnerable to disease or catastrophic storm events resulting

	in wholesale loss of habitat. Uniform structure also results in a reduction in diversity of woodland flora, invertebrates and fewer feeding areas for birds and bats.
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Woodland mosaic, age and vertical structure are important in future planning. See comments on deer and stock at sections 5.3 and 5.5.</p> <p>Thinning will allow light to the forest floor encouraging regeneration of native tree species.</p> <p>Future regeneration plans will incorporate open glades, scalloped woodland edges and rides to provide better mosaic and vertical structure.</p> <p>Standing and fallen deadwood will be encouraged where possible and veteran trees given space to thrive and seed.</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.

<b>Management Objective / Feature</b>	<b>Management Intention</b>
1. Increase opportunities for our local wildlife (UKFS 6.1)	<p>a) Diversify woodland structure increasing light levels to the forest floor through thinning and selective felling. This is essential if we are to see the regeneration of new native trees and native wild flowers.</p> <p>b) Plant trees where regeneration does not occur naturally.</p> <p>c) Create deadwood, both standing and fallen. Deadwood is a key component of our woodland ecosystems, providing habitat for a host of species, from fungi, to beetles, to birds.</p> <p>d) Monitor and prevent the establishment of invasive species.</p> <p>e) Identify and protect current and future veteran trees.</p>
2. Slow the flow of water across our	f) Increase the roughness and porosity of the soil through promoting natural regeneration of trees and ground flora

land, improve water quality and protect soils (UKFS 6.6 and 6.7)	<p>(see 1 and 2 above).</p> <p>g) Remove invasive species that suppress native vegetation leaving winter soils exposed and unsupported by perennial root systems. Removing these species will reduce soil erosion and landslips.</p> <p>h) Opportunities to install additional site specific NFM measures should be taken wherever they will be effective and appropriate.</p>
3. Reduce our carbon footprint (UKFS 6.2)	<p>i) Produce heat and electricity through sustainable sources on and off NT properties. These include hydroelectric and solar power, as well as heating generated from firewood sourced on site.</p> <p>j) Undertake woodland management that promotes the growth of new trees and protects soils from erosion by maintaining woodland light levels at a point at which new trees and plants can grow.</p>
4. Maintain the site's visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience (UKFS 6.4 and 6.5)	<p>k) Plan work to ensure spirit of place is maintained or enhanced in the long term. Thinning and felling will allow new trees to grow, ensuring continuity of afforestation in to the future.</p> <p>l) Ensure people are able to use public rights of way and access land uninterrupted wherever it is safe to do so. We will consider requests to provide additional access where it does not represent a conflict with our other activities and interests.</p>
5. Protect and enhance the site's cultural heritage (UKFS 6.4 and 6.5)	m) Work with local partners to identify areas of cultural and historical significance. Significant features will be identified on the ground and protected from disturbance during operations.
6. Contribute to the local economy (UKFS 6.5)	<p>n) Employing staff and contractors from the local area where possible.</p> <p>o) Where timber or other forest products cannot be used within the estate, priority will be given to local markets where they exist.</p>
7. Protect the health and safety of our visitors, staff and contractors (UKFS 6.5)	p) Follow National Trust Health and Safety procedures

## 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
Felling, thinning, and coppicing	Historic England				
	AONB				
	Natural England				
	Local Authority Archaeologist, Ecologist, Tree offcier				
	Internal Staff and Volunteers				
	Visitors and Local people				



## 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
1. Increase opportunities for our local wildlife	Having a management plan which identifies the special features of the site informed by a baseline biological survey. The survey output is translated into management plan actions which aim to maintain or enhance the special features.	Management Plan review	5 yearly	Site Manager	
	Delivery of management plan actions.  Special features surveys undertaken at plan review find that their condition has been maintained or enhanced.	Ecological surveys	10 Yearly	Site Manager	
2. Slow the flow of water across our land, improve water quality and protect	Management plans consider natural flood management (NFM) and raw water quality protection.	Management Plan review	5 Yearly	Site Manager	
	Increased number and scale of NFM features across our	Stakeholder consultation	10 Yearly		

soils	<p>properties.</p> <p>Successful partnership working with external organisations towards delivery of NFM and raw water quality improvements.</p> <p>Following best practice guidance in the use of chemicals, the management of roads and drainage and the delivery of operations within our woodlands.</p> <p>Increased knowledge of soil carbon stores and soil health across the Trust.</p> <p>Soil condition is maintained or enhanced.</p>	Operational monitoring records	Ongoing		
3. Reduce our carbon footprint	<p>Woodland management plans which include work that meets this objective.</p> <p>Delivery of work items within the management plan.</p> <p>Woodland structure surveys and timber volume assessments at plan renewal show maintenance or enhancement.</p> <p>Increased knowledge of soil carbon stores and soil health</p>	Management Plan review	10 Yearly		

	across the Trust				
	Soil condition is maintained or enhanced.				
4. Maintain the site's visual amenity and give our visitors a great experience	<p>Management plan operations support this objective.</p> <p>Effective stakeholder consultation at plan renewal stage.</p>	<p>Management Plan review</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>10 Yearly</p> <p>10 Yearly</p>	Site Manager	
5. Protect and enhance the site's cultural heritage	<p>Management plan identifies appropriate prescriptions for features of cultural significance.</p> <p>Operational monitoring includes measures to protect, and where appropriate, enhance cultural features.</p> <p>No negative feedback from stakeholder consultation at plan renewal</p>	<p>Management Plan review</p> <p>Operational monitoring records</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>10 Yearly</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>10 Yearly</p>	Site Manager	
6. Contribute to the local economy	Harvesting records and contractor use records show engagement with, and contribution to the local economy.	<p>Harvesting records</p> <p>Contractor use records</p>	<p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p>	Site Manager	
7. Protect the health and safety of our visitors, staff and	Health and safety surveys are undertaken and any remedial works identified are actioned in a timely manner.	<p>Tree safety surveys</p> <p>Operational monitoring</p>	<p>Annual</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Site Manager	

contractors	<p>Appropriate operational monitoring records are collected and retained</p> <p>Operational management ensures appropriate training, competence certification, and insurance records are in place.</p>	records			
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# UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Achieved	Review notes
<b>Plan Objectives:</b> Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, environmental objectives will be achieved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management plan objectives are stated.</li> <li>• Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.</li> </ul>	Yes/No	
<b>Forest context and important features in management strategy:</b> 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.	Management intentions communicated in <b>Sect. 6</b> of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in <b>Sect. 2</b> . Management intentions should take account of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant features and issues identified in the woodland survey (<b>Sect. 4</b>).</li> <li>• Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (<b>Sect. 5</b>).</li> <li>• Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement are documented in <b>Sect. 7</b>.</li> </ul>	Yes/No	
<b>Identification of designations within and surrounding the woodland site:</b> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey information (<b>Sect. 4</b>) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management.</li> <li>• Management intentions (<b>Sect. 6</b>) have taken account of any designations.</li> </ul>	Yes/No	
<b>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:</b> When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency).</li> <li>• Current diversity (structure, species, age</li> </ul>	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 (<b>Sect. 4</b>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees).</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Consultation:</b></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"> <li>• Stakeholder consultation is in line with current FC guidance, and recorded in <b>Sect. 7</b>. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission.</li> <li>• Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland.</li> </ul>	Yes/No	
<p><b>Plan update and review:</b></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"> <li>• A 5 year review period is stated on the 1<sup>st</sup> page of the plan</li> <li>• <b>Sect. 8</b> is completed with 1 indicator of success identified per management objective</li> </ul>	Yes/No	

<p><b>Approved in Principle</b></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>b) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.</b></p>	Name (WO or FM):	Date:
<p><b>Approved</b></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>	Name (AO, WO or FM):	Date: