



Woodland Management Plan

HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL WOODLANDS

2016-2026

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UKFS Management Planning Criteria

For submission to the Forestry Commission. Approval of this plan will be considered against the following UKFS criteria, this plan has been reviewed against the criteria using the check list below:

No.	UKFS Management Plan Criteria	Approval Criteria	Applicant Check
1	Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how the appropriate balance between economic, environmental and social objectives will be achieved.	Have objectives of management been stated? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2)	x
2	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.	Does the management strategy (section 6) take into account the forest context and any special features identified within the woodland survey (section 4)	x
3	In designated areas, for example national parks, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	Have appropriate designations been identified (section 4.2) if so are these reflected through the work proposals in the management strategy (Section 6)	x
4	At the time of felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS Requirements.	Felling and restocking are consistent with UKFS forest design principles (Section 5 of the UKFS)	x
5	Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.	Has consultation happened in line with current FC guidance and recorded as appropriate in section 7	x
6	Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve structural diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	x
7	Forests characterised by a lack of diversity due to extensive areas of even-aged trees should be progressively restructured to achieve a range of age classes.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve age class diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	x
8	Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	Has a 5 year review period been stated (1st page) and where relevant achievements recorded in section 3	x
9	New forests and woodlands should be located and designed to maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the landscape.	When new planting is being proposed under this plan is it consistent with UKFS and FC guidance on woodland creation	N/A



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 - a. Sub Compartment Record
 - b. Felling and Restocking
 - c. Work Program
7. Soils Site Report (National Soil Resources Institute)



1. Property Details

<u>Woodland Property Name</u>		Horndean Parish Council Woodlands	
Name	Horndean Parish Council	Owner	Tenant
Email	Carla.baverstock-jones@horndean-hants.gov.uk	Contact Number	02392 597766
Agent Name (if applicable)		Nina Williams	
Email	nina@englishwoodlandsforestry.co.uk	Contact Number	01730 816941
County	Hampshire	<u>Local Authority</u>	East Hampshire DC
Grid Reference	To centre of Yoell's Copse the largest compartment SU689129	Single Business Identifier	110623632
Management Plan Area (Hectares)		18.51ha	
Have you included a Plan of Operations with this management plan?		Yes	
List the maps associated with this management plan		See Contents Page	
Do you intend to use the information within the management plan and associated plan of operations to apply for the following		Felling Licence	Yes
		Thinning Licence	Yes
		Woodland Regeneration Grant	No
Declaration of management control and agreement to public availability of the plan		Yes	



2. Vision and Objectives

The following vision states the overall direction of management for the woodland and how we envisage it will be in the future, for both the life of this plan and beyond.

2.1 Vision

The vision is to maintain the Parish woodlands in a healthy state in perpetuity. Working towards a careful balance of providing a rich range of wildlife habitats and also enabling continued public access for amenity.

2.2 Management Objectives

The following objectives state how sustainable forest management will be achieved. Management objectives are specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision, they encompass environmental, economic and social considerations within the scope of the plan.

No.	Objectives
1	Diversify the age and species range within the woodlands in order to increase resilience to the threats of disease and climate change
2	Improve the hazel coppice shrub layer where appropriate in order to improve the habitat potential for dormice
3	Improve access for amenity use through path creation and maintenance, enabling public access but also controlling movement in key habitat improvement areas

3. Plan Review – Achievements

The following table lists achievements made against objectives in previous management plans. It will also be used at the 5 year review of this plan and is informed by monitoring undertaken against the current objectives.

Objectives	Achievement
No previous management plan	
Chalara ash dieback	27 th November 2018 – Met with Forestry Commission and East Hants District Council Tree Officer to discuss ways of managing the ash dieback issue on Catherington Lith. It was agreed we would remove ash trees that are posing a risk to public/staff safety. This may be ongoing throughout the life of



	<p>this woodland management plan (There is also reference to the management of chalara ash within this plan in Section 5.2).</p> <p>Felling of ash will involve selective felling along Lith Lane and a small clear fell of ash in compartment 2 due to the risk of exposed trees becoming wind-blown.</p> <p>Once felled we will look to see what naturally regenerates over a 2-year period, ideally looking for Yew, Beech, Oak etc and if nothing suitable grows, we will restock with native broadleaves suitable to the site. We do not want to encourage the spread of sycamore if we can avoid it.</p>
Chalara ash dieback update December 2019	<p>Ash dieback appears to have spread rapidly across the site Catherington Lith with large areas affected.</p> <p>It has been agreed after an onsite meeting (8th October 2019) with Forestry Commission and discussing potential ways to manage the situation that a felling operation of infected ash is undertaken.</p> <p>A felling map covering all ash across the site has been provided and witnessed by EHDC and the FC and there were no objections.</p> <p>The aim is to keep healthy mature ash and fell any ash that could pose a risk to public safety.</p> <p>We will look to restock with species such as Field Maple, Whitebeam, Cherry, Yew, Hornbeam and Hazel.</p> <p>(There is reference to the management of chalara ash within this plan in Section 5.2)</p>
5 year review point to this plan is 2021	

4. Woodland Survey



The following section encompasses the detailed woodland survey information including any statutory constraints and woodland resource characteristics.

4.1 Description of the woodland in the landscape

Horndean Parish Council have several woodland holdings distributed throughout the Parish. They are mostly Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands and all native broadleaf but cover a range of different positions and aspects within the landscape. Catherington Lith and Catherington Down are downland woodlands in the North of the Parish. Hazelton Common is both woodland, Heathland and Wetland in the East of the Parish and Yoells Copse is a mature coppice and standard woodland in the West of the Parish.

Soils: Soils vary across the holdings, Catherington Down and Catherington Lith are on thin silty loams over chalk, typical of downland woodlands in this region. These woodlands also feature pockets of clay and small areas of deeper soil usually apparent through the presence of species such as Oak (*Quercus Robur*). Hazleton Common features a sandy loam with clay that tends to be wet. Yoells Copse is more complex. This woodland has a complex geology and is sited on a point where 3 different soil types converge, ranging from the thin silty loams over chalk, wetter clay and flint soils and brown subsoils with heavy wet clay. Appendix 8 is the Soils Site Report from the National Soil Resources Institute, and gives further detail on soil types across the Parish.

4.2 History of management

The woodlands are managed and maintained by the Parish Ranger Service and volunteer groups. They have taken great care to ensure the woodlands provide both wildlife habitat and also valuable green space and amenity access for the public.

All of the woodlands with the exception of Yoell's Copse have been managed with minimal intervention and any felling has been below the threshold for a felling licence. Yoell's Copse has had more significant forestry works in the past including a selective thin under felling licence 019/286/11-12, and a historic Woodland Grant Scheme Application which closed in 2006 (WGS 29/10/2006).

In addition due to the threat of illegal felling and pruning works from adjacent properties the Parish Council applied for a Woodland Tree Preservation Order on Catherington Lith and Yoell's Copse.

4.3 Woodland resource characteristics

The following details the woodland resource characteristics including species composition, age structure, stocking density and potential timber quality and yield.



Wood/compartment or forest type: Catherington Lith, Mature mixed broadleaf canopy with a coppice shrub layer
Species Composition: Oak, Ash and Beech with occasional Yew, Holly and Sycamore. Hazel Coppice in the understory
Age Structure: The canopy is even aged and mature. There is Ash natural regeneration where light allows but the canopy is mostly closed. The understory of hazel coppice is overstood throughout with only small areas showing evidence of coppice works.
Stocking: Stocking levels are adequate to meet the woodland objectives. Some areas between housing plots are slightly understocked and consist of only secondary Ash regeneration.
Timber Quality and Yield: The timber quality is low, as is to be expected in a non-commercial woodland. There is the potential of a small return in firewood from thinning works and coppice restoration works. Large mature Oak and Beech should be retained as veteran trees, therefore timber potential is limited.

Wood/compartment or forest type: Catherington Down
Species Composition: Oak, Ash, Beech, Holly, Hazel
Age Structure: Even aged mature trees with a high percentage of veteran trees. Some hazel coppice in the understory
Stocking: Stocking levels are good with mature canopy and a developing understory in areas that have been stock fenced.
Timber Quality and Yield: Timber yield and quality are low in line with the management objectives

Wood/compartment or forest type: Hazleton Common
Species Composition: Ash, Oak (pedunculate and turkey), Birch and Hazel with wetland areas of Alder, Birch and Willow.
Age Structure: The main copse is mature and even aged with sections of coppice regeneration under the powerlines. The smaller permanent woodland compartment is also mixed broadleaf dominated by a veteran Yew.
Stocking: The main copse is mature and well stocked by natural regeneration. Areas under the powerlines are mainly birch and coppice hazel and sycamore. Both woodland compartments are stock fenced. Secondary woodland/scrub developing in the wider common and wetland areas has not been included as permanent woodland compartments.



Timber Quality and Yield: Both compartments are very small therefore beyond some small scale coppice material there is unlikely to be any significant yield from the site. Veteran trees should be retained and the remaining secondary birch and coppice areas maintained to maturity or kept in rotation so as not to interfere with the powerlines.

Wood/compartment or forest type: Yoells Copse

Species Composition: Diverse mixed broadleaf woodland. The canopy is mainly Oak with areas of Beech and Ash. The understorey is mixed with veteran Hazel coppice stools, Holly, Wild Service and some Birch and Field Maple. Of particular note is the Wye-Whitebeam rare hybrid which is likely unique to this woodland.

Age Structure: The canopy is mature and even aged throughout. Where light allows there is some younger natural regeneration. The understorey is mainly hazel coppice, some areas show signs of recent coppice works but the remainder is out of active rotation.

Stocking: Good throughout. The canopy is mature and there is some potential to selectively thin to encourage an improved age structure.

Timber Quality and Yield: There is some potentially good quality Oak in the copse however yield is likely to be very low and timber production is not a priority for management.

4.4 Statutory Information

The following section identifies features present within the woodland or adjacent to the woodland where its presence will inform management. Key features are also shown on the maps associated with this report.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
<u>Biodiversity- Designations</u>				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Yes	10,11	No	2
Special Area of Conservation	No		No	
Tree Preservation Order	Yes		No	
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	Yes	All less 10,11	No	2
Other (please Specify): SINC	Yes	1-9	No	2
Notes	SINC is all of Catherington Lith			



Feature		Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species					
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes	All		Chiroptera, Pipistrelle, Brown Long Eared Bat
Dormouse		Yes	1-9 TBC		Yoells Copse, Catherington Lith
Great Crested Newt		Yes			Hazelton Common, unlikely in woodland cpts
Otter		No			
Sand Lizard		No			
Smooth Snake		No			
Natterjack Toad		No			
Biodiversity – Priority Species					
Schedule 1 Birds	Species: BOCC red list: Lesser Redpoll Common Linnet Lesser spotted woodpecker Woodlark Spotted fly catcher	Yes			
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		No			
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		Yes			Hazelton Common, adder, grass snake, common lizard, slow worm
Plants	Yes	All			
Fungi/Lichens	Yes	All			
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes various	All			See HBIC report
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes	17			Common toad
Other (please Specify):	No				
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments	No				
Unscheduled Monuments	No				
Registered Parks and Gardens	No				
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes	All			
Listed Buildings	No				
Other (please Specify):	Yes	10-11			Strip Lynchets on Catherington Down



Landscape				
<u>National Character Area (please Specify):</u> 125 South Downs				
National Park	Yes			Cathrington Down only
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
People				
CROW Access	Yes	12a/b	2	Catherington Down and Hazelton Common
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes	All	4	All
Other Access Provision	Yes	All	4	All woodland sites are open to the public
Public Involvement	Yes	All		Volunteer ranger work parties
Visitor Information	Yes	All		Info signs at woodland access points
Public Recreation Facilities	No			
Provision of Learning Opportunities	No			
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes			Occasional fly tipping and campfires
Other (please Specify):	No			
Water				
Watercourses	No			
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	17	4	Yoells Copse, Hazelton Common (outside of woodland)
Other (please Specify):	No			

4.5 Habitat Types

The following table lists the habitat types within the woodland that will inform future management decisions. Larger non-wooded areas within the woodland are classified according to broad habitat type and their management is considered within the scope of this report. This information is a record of habitat as a baseline to future management where we will hope to achieve and maintain a diverse structure of habitat, species and age of trees, appropriate to the context of the woodland.



Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes	1,5,6 ,7,8, 9,13- 20	3	Most of Catherington Lith and all of Yoells Copse
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes	All		
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	Yes			Catherington Down
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	Yes			Hazelton Common
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	Yes			Hazelton Common
Other (please Specify):	No			

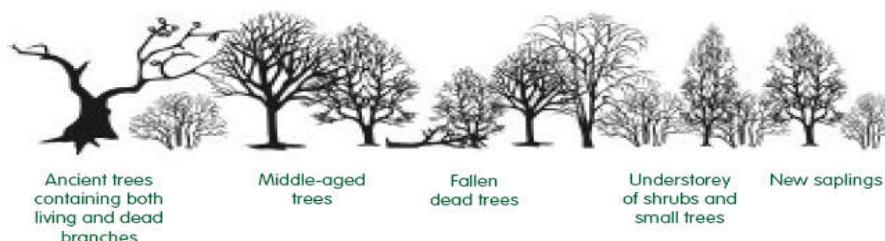


4.6 Structure

This section provides a snapshot of the current woodland structure across the entire holding. A full inventory of the woodland is included within the Plan of Operations spreadsheet. Ensuring woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space provides a range of benefits for both the biodiversity of the woodland and its resilience. As an example the diagrams below show 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)
Oak Standards with Hazel Coppice	30	Even	Mostly mature coppice with some small cops in active rotation
Mature mixed broadleaf	60	Even	Mixed understory, limited regeneration mainly Ash
Open Space	10%	N/A	

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



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity



5. Woodland Protection

Woodlands in England face a range of threats; this section considers the potential threats and constraints facing the woodland. It uses a standard risk assessment process as shown below in order to consider any potential threat and whether there is a need to take action to protect the woodland.

5.1 Risk matrix

The matrix below was used to score any perceived risks associated with the woodland. The matrix also indicates the Forestry Commission recommended 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 (<i>Chalara fraxinea</i>)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium to High. No evidence from woodland survey but woodlands in the surrounding area have signs of the disease and regenerating Ash scrub in Hazleton Common outside of the woodland compartments.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium – Ash has not been planted and is not a major canopy species. All Ash is secondary natural regeneration.
Response (inc protection measures)	Ash will not feature in future restock sites. Mature Ash managed according to the severity of the disease and harvested when appropriate to do so. Veteran Ash left as a potential source of disease resistance. Encourage species diversification and thin in favour of other broadleaf species wherever possible.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Acute Oak Decline
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low



Impact (high/medium/low)	High – Yoells Copse in particular is dominated by Oak
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor for signs of the disease. Active silviculture and species diversification where appropriate.

5.3 Deer

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium. Mainly Roe Deer but numbers are likely to be low due to high presence of people and dogs.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium. Particularly in area of coppice regeneration
Response (inc protection measures)	No culling due to high levels of public access at all times. Regeneration and coppice will be protected with brash or temporary deer fence when necessary.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Protect vulnerable crops if necessary.

5.5 Livestock and other mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Rabbit
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Protect restock areas if necessary

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Cattle
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High – Grazing regularly occurs in Hazleton Common and Catherington Down.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low – Woodland areas are stock fenced
Response (inc protection measures)	Ensure stock fences are maintained and the cattle remain excluded from the woodland areas.

5.6 Water and soil



Threat (Soil Erosion, Pollution, Acidification of Water etc)	Soil Erosion
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Soil stability maintained by the coppice understory in most compartments. No major felling works are proposed in this management plan.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Pollution, Acidification of Water etc)	Acidification of water
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	There are no streams or water features in the woodland compartments. Works near any wetland features or ponds will follow standard forestry procedures and operational site assessments prior to works to ensure these features are identified, avoided and protected.

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Fire
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low/medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Fire is unlikely but may occur due to the high presence of people. However, all compartments are small and fire is unlikely to spread. Threat is minimised by maintaining open ground and paths as small scale firebreaks in keeping with the scale of the woodlands

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Wind
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium. Woodlands on high or steep ground in Catherington Liths and Down are more likely to suffer from wind throw



Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	All woodland is mature. Risk will be mitigated by ensuring natural regeneration is encouraged in small pockets and protected by mature trees.

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Invasive species
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low – mainly encroachment from neighbouring gardens
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Continue regular maintenance works with the ranger service and volunteer works parties.

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Anti-social Behaviour
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium to High. Occasional bonfires. Occasional fly tipping and littering
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low – some damage to ground flora from bonfires or littering/encroachment from gardens.
Response (inc protection measures)	Sites are regularly patrolled by the Ranger Service and cleaned up when damage occurs

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Overuse of unofficial footpaths that are expanding in wet conditions and damaging ground flora
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High – Yoells Copse is worse affected but this also occurs in Catherington Lith
Impact (high/medium/low)	High – there is significant damage to ground flora and key wildlife habitats
Response (inc protection measures)	Attempt to control public movement through path creation, and information signs.

5.8 Climate change resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Uniform Structure
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium



Response (inc protection measures)	Canopy is generally even aged throughout all compartments. Work to diversify age range through small scale thinning works and encouraging natural regeneration.
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Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Limited Species Diversity
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Work to diversify native broadleaf species in particular thinning ash in favour of other native broadleaves. Where natural regeneration does not occur small areas of restocking with trees from suitable provenance will be included.

5.9 Additional hazards and constraints

The following section lists any additional hazards or constraints that will impact future woodland management:

Management Access: Management access for small 4x4 vehicles is good. Access for larger forestry vehicles is limited as are stacking areas. However any thinning/forestry works will be small scale and limited to felling by hand and extraction by winch and 4x4. No major infrastructure improvements are required.
Wayleaves or Easements: There are main powerlines in both Catherington Lith and Hazleton Common. There is also a shared easement of access in Catherington Lith to residential properties.
Public rights of way: Numerous throughout all woodlands and Open Access areas. See access hazards and constraints maps for further details.
Ground conditions: Tend to be wet in clay areas. This will limit any extraction works to dry/summer periods. No heavy forestry equipment will be used in order to limit ground compaction.
Slope: There are areas of steep ground in Catherington Lith and Down but not sufficient to inhibit forestry activity.
Undergrowth: Mainly coppice with areas of bramble where light allows. Coppice understory will be cut prior to any felling of canopy trees in order to protect the stools.
SSSI Designations: Catherington Down is designated a SSSI for chalk grassland. The areas of woodland are encompassed within the designation.



Natural England will be consulted and approval sought for this management plan and prior to any forestry works.

Shooting Interest: Nil

6. Management Strategy

This section is a statement of intent, setting out how we intend to achieve the management objectives listed in Section 2. It also considers how any important features identified in previous sections will be managed. A detailed programme of works by sub-compartment is included within the Plan of Operations spreadsheet:

Management Obj/Feature	Management Intention
Diversify the age and species range within the woodlands in order to increase resilience to the threats of disease and climate change	<p>Instigate a programme of small scale thinning and selective felling. This will open the canopy in selected areas, increasing light to the forest floor and encouraging natural regeneration.</p> <p>Restock with an increased range of species and improved provenance. Where natural regeneration fails or is dominated by unsuitable species such as Ash, supplementary planting will be used to diversify species and improve provenance. All planting will be from a pallet of native broadleaves suitable to the site conditions.</p>
Improve the hazel coppice shrub layer where appropriate in order to improve the habitat potential for dormice	<p>Bring areas of coppice into active rotation in Catherington Lith and Yoells Copse. Start a programme of 6-8yrs coppice rotation in small coups across sections of both woodlands. Creating a patchwork of transitional open space and a mixed age of coppice regeneration.</p> <p>Retain sections of mature seed bearing hazel. Ensure areas of mature sub-canopy are retained as buffer zones and food sources for dormice.</p> <p>Ensure aerial pathways/crossing points are retained over paths and between compartments. Enabling crossing areas for dormice to encourage expansion of the resident population.</p>
Improve access for amenity use through path creation and maintenance, enabling public access	<p>Path creation. In Yoells Copse create a permanent circular footpath to minimise the spread of unofficial paths and their widening to</p>



but also controlling movement in key habitat improvement areas	<p>avoid wet areas. The path will follow the route of existing paths to avoid additional damage and encourage the public to use it instead of further damaging ground flora. Construction methods will be light to avoid damage to trees or root structures.</p> <p>Path and ride maintenance. Existing paths will be maintained to enable continued public access. Path edges and rides will be maintained in 2 zones through rotational cutting to encourage a shrub layer. This will both benefit biodiversity by improving habitat for small mammals and invertebrates, it will also discourage public movement off of the paths.</p> <p>Signage and interpretation. Continue to educate and inform the public about the biodiversity and management of the woodlands through information boards at main access points.</p>
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6.1 Silvicultural Systems

The following lists the silvicultural systems that will be employed within this management plan:

Harvesting

Due to the relatively small size of the woodlands and fact that timber return is not a management objective, selective felling is proposed in cpts 4a/b which are too small to thin effectively. In general a program of selective thinning and coppicing will be used to diversify the canopy and regenerate the understory whilst maintaining overall woodland cover.

Establishment, restocking and regeneration

Restocking will be primarily from natural regeneration supplemented by planting where necessary to ensure a wide range of native broadleaf species is maintained. Coppice regeneration will be encouraged under any areas of thinning and where biodiversity potential is greatest.

6.2 New Planting

New Planting and establishment

Nil

6.3 Other operations



Access Improvement/ footpath creation. Public access improvement through the creation of footpaths in Yoells Copse and Catherington Lith. This is intended to limit further damage to the habitats wide unofficial routes. Paths will be designed to be sympathetic to the woodlands, using a geomembrane base to limit the amount of aggregate required and to minimize ground compaction.

Ride and open space maintenance. Path and ride edges will be improved through rotational cutting in 2 zones to create a rich shrub layer. The path edges will include scalloped edges to create mixed habitat for invertebrates.



7. Stakeholder engagement

There is a requirement on both the Forestry Commission and the woodland owner/agent to undertake consultation/engagement. In line with Forestry Commission [Operations Note 35](#), this section identifies the people or organisations with an interest in the woodland and is a record of engagement undertaken relative to the activities within this plan.

8. Monitoring

This section identifies indicators of progress/success for each management objective and key management activities proposed within the plan. The data collected helps to evaluate progress against objectives and are checked at regular intervals across the lifetime of the plan.

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Diversify the age and species range within the woodlands in order to increase resilience to the threats of disease and climate change	Woodlands show an improved age and species structure with areas of natural regeneration and release of sub-canopy younger trees	Visual Assessment	Every 2 years assess natural regeneration/planting	Forest Manager/Ranger	
Improve the hazel coppice shrub layer where appropriate in order to improve the habitat potential for dormice	Coppice rotation reintroduced where appropriate and a range of mixed age coppice regeneration is maintained. Dormouse population increases	Visual Assessment of the coppice and biodiversity survey of the dormice population	Every 5 years	Ranger Service/Forest Manager for the coppice programme. Qualified dormouse surveyor	
Improve access for amenity use through path creation and maintenance, enabling public access but also controlling movement in key habitat improvement areas	New paths are built and public movement off of the paths and activity damaging ground flora is reduced	Visual assessment	Seasonally	Forest manager/Ranger service	



FC Approval – FC Office Use Only

UKFS Management Plan Criteria	Approval Criteria	Achieved	Notes
Forest management plans should state the objectives of management, and set out how the appropriate balance between economic, environmental and social objectives will be achieved.	Have objectives of management been stated? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2)	Yes/No	
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.	Does the management strategy (section 6) take into account the forest context and any special features identified within the woodland survey (section 4)	Yes/No	
In designated areas, for example national parks, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	Have appropriate designations been identified (section 4.2) if so are these reflected through the work proposals in the management strategy (Section 6)	Yes/No	
At the time of felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS Requirements.	Felling and restocking are consistent with UKFS forest design principles (Section 5 of the UKFS)	Yes/No	
Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.	Has consultation happened in line with current FC guidance and recorded as appropriate in section 7	Yes/No	
Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve structural diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	Yes/No	
Forests characterised by a lack of diversity due to extensive areas of even-aged trees should be progressively restructured to achieve a range of age classes.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve age class diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	Yes/No	
Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	Has a 5 year review period been stated (1st page) and where relevant achievements recorded in section 3	Yes/No	
New forests and woodlands should be located and designed to maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the landscape.	When new planting is being proposed under this plan is consistent with UKFS and FC guidance on woodland creation	Yes/No	
Approving Officer Name	A.Glover	Plan approved 06/01/2017	Yes