Woodland Management Plan

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| To be completed by the plan author: | | |
| Woodland or property name | VALLEY VIEW FARM WOODS | |
| Woodland Management Plan case reference | see below | |
| **CS WMP agreement reference** *(if applicable)* | 1968113 | |
| **The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland** | | **Yes** |
| Plan author name | Roland Stonex | |

*A group of trees and bushes

AI-generated content may be incorrect. A group of trees in a grassy area

AI-generated content may be incorrect.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| For FC Use only: | | | | |
| **Plan Period**  *(dd/mm/yyyy - 10 years)* | **Approval Date:** |  | **Approved until:** |  |
| **5-year review date** |  | | | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Revision No.** | **Date** | **Status (draft/final)** | **Reason for Revision** |
| 1 | 24/09/2025 | draft | n/a (first draft) |
| 2 | 08/10/2025 | draft | Incorporating feedback from owner |

Contents

[UK Forestry Standard management planning criteria 1](#_Toc181705391)

[Section 1: Property Details 3](#_Toc181705392)

[Section 2: Vision and Objectives 5](#_Toc181705393)

[2.1 Vision 5](#_Toc181705394)

[2.2 Management Objectives 5](#_Toc181705395)

[Section 3: Plan Review – Achievements 7](#_Toc181705396)

[Section 4: Woodland Survey 8](#_Toc181705397)

[4.1 Description 8](#_Toc181705398)

[4.2 Information 9](#_Toc181705399)

[4.3 Habitat Types 12](#_Toc181705400)

[4.4 Structure 15](#_Toc181705401)

[Section 5: Woodland Protection 16](#_Toc181705402)

[5.1 Risk Matrix 16](#_Toc181705403)

[5.2 Plant Health 16](#_Toc181705404)

[5.3 Deer 18](#_Toc181705405)

[5.4 Grey Squirrels 19](#_Toc181705406)

[5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals 20](#_Toc181705407)

[5.6 Water & Soil 21](#_Toc181705408)

[5.7 Environmental 22](#_Toc181705409)

[5.8 Social 23](#_Toc181705410)

[5.9 Economic 23](#_Toc181705411)

[5.10 Climate Change Resilience 24](#_Toc181705412)

[Section 6: Management Strategy 25](#_Toc181705413)

[Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement 31](#_Toc181705414)

[Section 8: Monitoring 32](#_Toc181705415)

[UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment 35](#_Toc181705416)

**Appendices**

Inventory and Plan of Operations:

1. Customer Details
2. Sub-Compartment Record
3. Felling & Restocking
4. Work Programme

Supporting Maps:

1. Location map

2. Compartment (and sub-cpts) map

3. Operations map

4. Constraints map



UK Forestry Standard management planning criteria

Approval of this plan will be considered against the following UKFS criteria.

Before submitting, review your plan against the criteria using the checklist below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UKFS management plan criteria** | | **Minimum approval requirements** | **Author check** |
| 1 | **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. | * Management plan objectives are stated. * Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. | Yes |
| 2 | **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. | Management intentions communicated in ***Sect. 6*** of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) ***Sect. 2***.  Management intentions should take account of:   * Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (***Sect. 4***) * Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (***Sect. 5***). * Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in ***Sect. 7***. | Yes |
| 3 | **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. | * Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. * Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations. | Yes |
| 4 | **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.  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. | * Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). * Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (***Sect. 4***). * Management intentions aim to improve/ maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). | Yes |
| 5 | **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. | * Stakeholder engagement is in line with current Forestry Commission 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 Forestry Commission Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. | Yes |
| 6 | **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. | * A 5-year review period is stated on the first page of the plan. * ***Sect. 8*** is completed with one indicator of success per management objective. | Yes |

Section 1: Property Details

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Woodland property name** | | | Valley View Farm woods | | |
| **Name** | Mandy Widdowson | | Owner Yes | Tenant No | |
| **Email** | mandy@exevalleyeggs.co.uk | | **Contact number** | 07729 406646 | |
| **Agent name** *(if applicable)* | | | Roland Stonex | | |
| **Email** | | [roland.stonex@gmail.com](mailto:roland.stonex@gmail.com) | **Contact number** | 07983 769905 | |
| **County** | | Devon | [Local Authority](https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council) | Mid Devon District Council | |
| **Grid ref** | | SS 938 202 | **Single Business Identifier** | 108914128 | |
| **What is the total area of this woodland management plan?** *(in hectares)* | | | 8.18ha | | |
| **Have you included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?**  *Please use the most up to date version (v4). Older versions may have to be returned.* | | | Yes | | |
| **Have you listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan? *Note****: Google Maps/ images of maps will not be accepted because they are copyright protected and should not be used commercially without the appropriate licencing from Google.* | | | Yes, see contents page | | |
| **Have you sent us your GIS shapefile data?**  ***Note****: this is not mandatory, but it can help speed up the processing time of your application. Instructions on how to submit your shapefile(s) are included on* [*create a management plan*](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/create-a-woodland-management-plan)*.* | | | Yes, submitted via email with electronic WMP submission | | |
| **Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?** | | | Felling licence | | Yes |
| Thinning licence | | Yes |
| Woodland regeneration grant | | tbc |
| **You declare 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 Valley View Farm woods will provide benefits for nature, people and climate.  The woodlands will form an important component of the farm landscape. They will integrate well within the wider landscape and will support local priority habitats and species. They will also contribute to the farm enterprise and rural economy, providing small quantities of usable timber, as well as shade, shelter and a safe environment for people and livestock.  Semi-natural deciduous woodland (including Moor Copse ASNW), will have a diverse structure, including a range of age classes from saplings to veteran trees, understorey shrubs, deadwood and canopy gaps. Light levels will be sufficient to enable development of understorey, regeneration and native woodland ground flora.  Plantation woodland will comprise accessible stands of high-quality trees of timber-producing species e.g. poplar, sweet chestnut, oak etc. Dominant trees will have good form, sufficient growing space and well-balanced crowns. A range of age classes will be starting to develop.  The trees will be healthy and damage from pests, diseases and climate change will be negligible. The woodlands will therefore be contributing to carbon net zero.  Woodland management will be supported by Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier woodland improvement and capital grant agreement(s). |

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 | Enhance **biodiversity** and **sustainability** across the woods by creating and managing access rides and dead wood, undertaking monitoring activities and controlling deer and grey squirrels |
| 2 | Manage **Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland** (Moor Copse ASNW) by improving access, thinning to enhance light penetration, regeneration felling, restoring coppice, protecting veteran trees and manage scrub in other **native** woodland |
| 3 | Manage **Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites** (Bryants Copse PAWS) by improving access, thinning to enhance light penetration, restoring coppice and protecting veteran trees |
| 4 | Improve **resilience** of poplar plantations by addressing threats, selective thinning, encouraging natural regeneration and under-planting to increase species and structural diversity |
| 5 | Enhance local landscape, and provide amenity value for the owners by selective thinning and felling to increase structural diversity |
| 6 | Improve timber quality and provide small quantities of usable wood to support farm business and local economy by selective thinning and felling |

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** |
| As per section 2.2 | To be completed at 5 year review |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Section 4: Woodland Survey

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

4.1 Description

|  |
| --- |
| **Brief description of the woodland property:** |
| LOCATION AND ELEVATION   * Valley View Farm is approximately 1¾ miles south-west of Bampton, and 4 miles north of Tiverton in Mid Devon. * The holding is situated in the upper Exe Valley between 180-210m above sea level. * The climate is considered warm and moist, but in future is likely to become very warm (source: FC Ecological Site Classification). * Average annual rainfall is currently approx. 897mm (source: MetOffice, nearest station Minehead). * Exposure varies from sheltered to moderately exposed, prevailing wind is from west. There is a risk of windthrow on the edges of the higher plantations near the road forming the southern boundary of the farm. The woods lower down the valley towards the north and east are more sheltered.     LANDSCAPE CONTEXT   * The property is within the ‘Exe Valley’ Devon Character Area and the ‘Upper farmed and wooded valley slopes’ Landscape Character Type. * This area is typified by pastoral farmland comprised of small to medium size fields with irregular boundaries and species-rich hedges. * Deciduous woods and copses are found on upper slopes and valley sides. There are large areas of adjacent woodland along the River Exe and Iron Mill stream to the north (Bryant’s Copse and Greathill Copse) and south (South Plantation).   DESIGNATIONS   * No statutory designations.   SOIL TYPES   * Parent material: Crackington Formation. Mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock from Carboniferous period. * Soil type: Slowly permeable, seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils. * FC soil classification: Surface water gley, very moist moisture status and medium nutrient status (from ESC). Impeded drainage.   WOODLAND CHARACTERISTICS   * Moor Copse is Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland - neglected hazel coppice with oak standards. Edge of Bryant’s Copse is Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site. * Other semi-natural broadleaved woodland is secondary woodland comprised of above species plus mixed broadleaves. * The farm includes a number of blocks of recent plantation, mainly hybrid poplar, but some sweet chestnut, oak and walnut.   NOTABLE FEATURES   * Moor Copse includes characteristic AW ground flora and is bordered by old earth banks and veteran trees.   PROTECTED OR RARE SPECIES   * Dormice and bats are likely to be present in the semi-natural woodlands, along with more generalist woodland species e.g. birds.   MANAGEMENT HISTORY   * The current owner’s father used Moor Copse for pheasant rearing and established some plantations near Valley View Farm. * Since then there has been very little silvicultural management, although deer and squirrel control is ongoing. * The blocks of poplar were planted in 2001 for chicken ranging, as part of a free-range egg enterprise (now ceased). * Poplars have been thinned from their original 2m spacings (apart from cpt 2225). * Poplars in cpt 6933 were felled prematurely (c2006) due to rust and restocked with mixed broadleaves and conifer.   PUBLIC ACCESS   * n/a   RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY   * n/a, the woods provide roosting habitat for pheasants from shoots operating on neighbouring holdings, there is a disused pen in Moor Copse.   Further details are given in the following section (4.2). |

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](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx) and the [Forestry Commission Land Information Search](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/use-the-land-information-search).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feature** | **Within woodland(s)** | **Cpts** | **Adjacent to woodland(s)** | **Map no** |
| [**Biodiversity - Designations**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-benefit-species-and-habitats-biodiversity-in-your-woodland) | | | | |
| [Site of Special Scientific Interest](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#SSSIs) | No |  | No |  |
| [Special Area of Conservation](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#special-areas) | No |  | No |  |
| [Tree Preservation Order](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#tree-preservation-orders) | No |  | No |  |
| [Conservation Area](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#conservation-areas) | No |  | No |  |
| [Special Protection Area](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#special-protection) | No |  | No |  |
| [Ramsar Site](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#ramsar-sites) | No |  | No |  |
| [National Nature Reserve](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#national-nature-reserves) | No |  | No |  |
| [Local Nature Reserve](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#local-nature-reserves) | No |  | No |  |
| [Areas of peat over 50cm deep](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#peaty-soils) | | No |  | No |  |
| [RSPB Important Bird Area](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#rspb-important-bird-areas) | | No |  | No |  |
| [Higher Level Stewardship grant-funded land](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#higher-level-stewardship) | | No |  | Yes | - |
| [Priority Habitats](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#priority-habitats) | | Yes | 2840, 1730,538ac | Yes | 4 |
| Other (please specify):  County Wildlife Site | No |  | Yes | - |
| **Notes** | * Bryant’s Copse, forming northern boundary of farm is under Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier agreement. * Moor Copse is mapped as deciduous woodland Priority Habitat. Adjacent Bryant’s Copse also. * Bryant’s Copse is also a CWS (Black Copse to Holmingham Wood). | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feature** | | | **Within Woodland(s)** | **Cpts** | **Map No** | **Notes** |  |
| **Biodiversity -** [**European Protected Species**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-and-protect-woodland-wildlife) | | | | | | |  | |
| Bat | Species (if known) | | Likely |  | - | No confirmed records, but assumed present. |  | |
| Dormouse | | | Likely | 2840 | - | As above, likely to be present in Moor Copse old hazel coppice |  |
| Great Crested Newt | | | No |  |  | Close to DCC GC Newt Consultation Zone but no suitable habitat in woods |  |
| Otter | | | Possible |  |  | No confirmed records, but known to be on River Exe |  |
| Sand Lizard | | | No |  |  | Not found in area |  |
| Smooth Snake | | | No |  |  | Not found in area |  |
| Natterjack Toad | | | No |  |  | Not found in area |  |
| Beaver | | | No |  |  | Not yet in area |  |
| **Biodiversity –** [**Priority Species**](http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4958719460769792) | | | | | | |  | |
| [Schedule 1 Birds](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/wildlife-and-the-law/wildlife-and-countryside-act/schedules/) | | Species: | Unlikely |  |  | Barn owls have bred on the farm in the past, but there are no confirmed records of woodland species |  | |
| Mammals (red squirrel, water vole, pine marten etc) | | | Likely |  |  | Badgers (UK protected species), setts are present in the woods |  |
| Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc) | | | Unlikely |  |  | No confirmed records |  |
| Plants | | | Unlikely |  |  | No confirmed records |  |
| Fungi/Lichens | | | Possible |  |  | No confirmed records but may be on old trees |  |
| Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc) | | | Possible |  | - | No confirmed records but on edge of Brown Hairstreak CS target area |  |
| Amphibians (pool frog, common toad) | | | Unlikely |  | - | No confirmed records or suitable habitat |  |
| Other (please specify):  Pied flycatcher | | | Possible |  | - | Recorded within 1km, favours mature broadleaf woods dominated by oak |  | |
| **Historic Environment** | | | | | | |  | |
| [Scheduled Monuments](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#scheduled-monuments) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| [Unscheduled Monuments](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-all-projects#contact-your-local-historic-environment-or-archaeology-service) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| [Registered Parks and Gardens](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#registered-park) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| [Registered Battlefields](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#registered-battlefields) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| [World Heritage Sites (UNESCO)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#world-heritage-sites-unesco-sites) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| [Boundaries and Veteran Trees](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-all-projects#conduct-a-walk-over-survey-of-your-site) | | | Yes | 2840, 538ac | 4 | Earthbanks bordering Moor Copse ASNW and Bryants Copse PAWS, topped with old trees |  | |
| [Listed Buildings](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-all-projects#contact-your-local-historic-environment-or-archaeology-service) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| [Burial Grounds](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#burial-grounds) | | | No |  |  |  |
| Other (please specify): | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| **Landscape** | | | | | | |  | |
| [National Character Area](http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/587130) (please specify): Devon Redlands | | | | | | |  | |
| [National Park](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#national-parks) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| [National Landscapes (formerly AONBs)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#national-landscapes-formerly-areas-of-outstanding-natural-beauty) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Other (please specify):  Devon Landscape Character Area/ Type | | | No |  |  | Described in section 4.1. |  | |
| **People** | | | | | | |  | |
| [CROW Access](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#crow-land) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| [Public Rights of Way (any)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#public-rights-of-way) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| [Common Land](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#common-land) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Other access provision | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Public involvement | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Visitor information | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Public recreation facilities | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Provision of learning opportunities | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Anti-social behaviour | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Other (please specify): | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| **Water** | | | | | | |  | |
| [Acid Vulnerable Catchments](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#acid-vulnerable-catchments-avcs) | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Watercourses | | | Yes | 4553  538a | 4 | Spring rising at north end of Moor Copse and Bryants Copse PAWS |  | |
| Lakes | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Ponds | | | No |  |  |  |  | |
| Other (please specify):  Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (Surface Water)  Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface Water)  Borehole  Springs | | | Yes  Yes  Adjacent  Yes | All  4932,6933,8230,9325,2225  4932  538a | -  4  4  4 | Entire property is within River Exe DWSZ  Eastern end is within Barle to Culm DWPA  Water supply for Valley View Farm bungalow, Linney Mead, Meadowland and Moor Copse Barn |  | |

4.3 Habitat Types

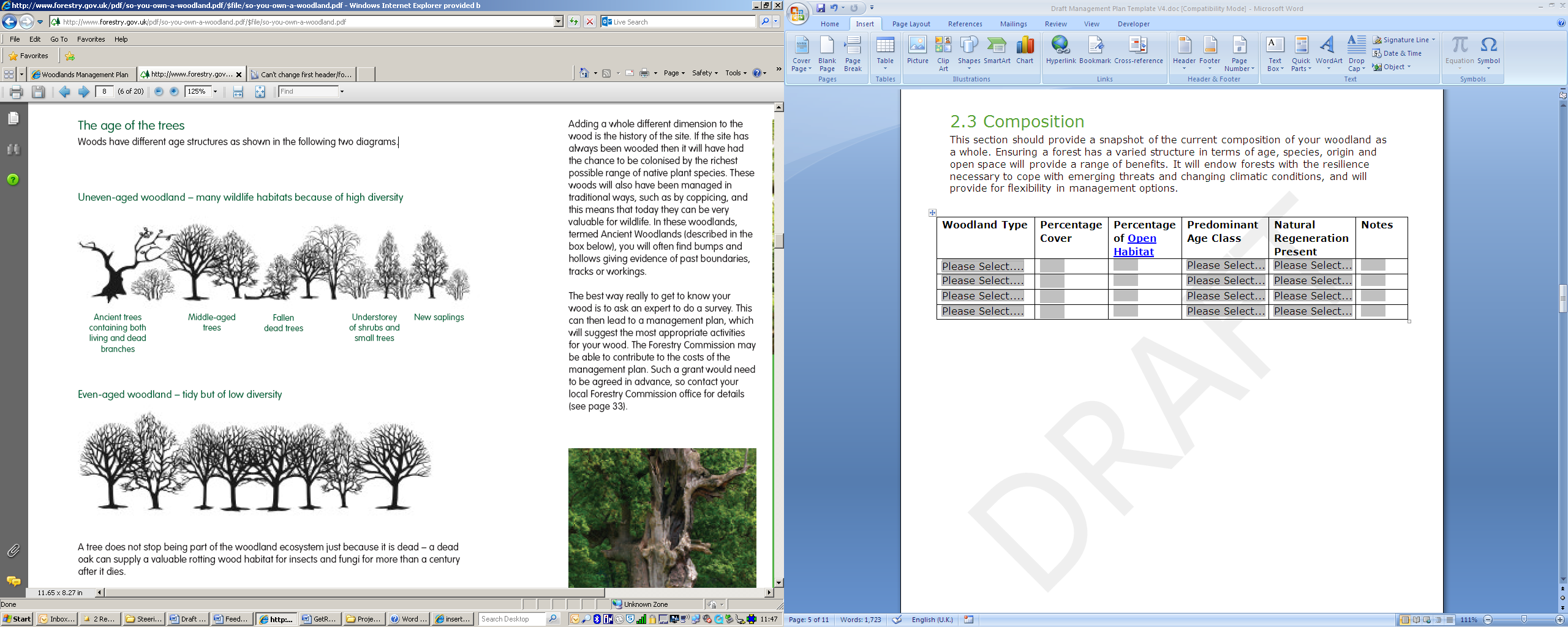
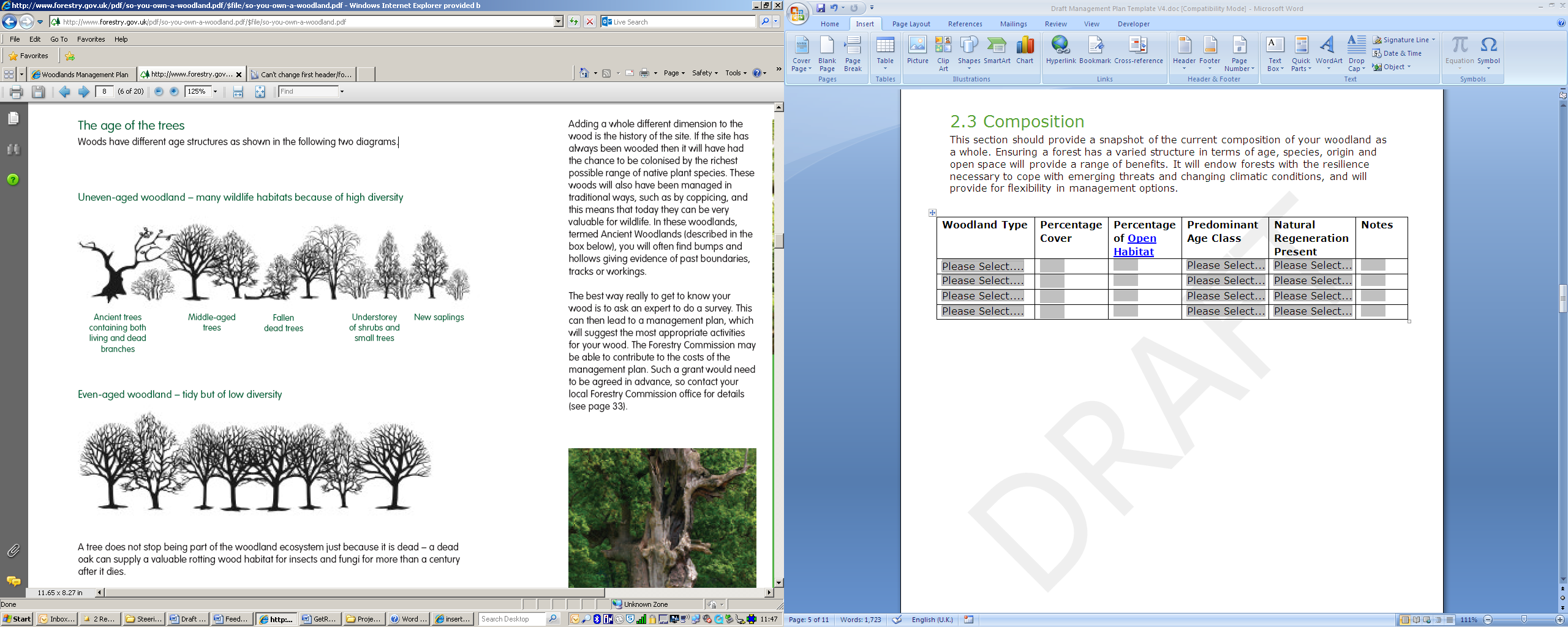
This section is to consider the habitat types within your woodland(s) that might impact/inform your management decisions. Larger non-wooded areas within your woodland should be classified according to broad habitat type where relevant this information should also help inform your management decisions. 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 | 2840 | 4 | Moor Copse recorded as ASNW on revised AW Inventory. Neglected hazel coppice with oak standards. Birch and ash come up through. Characteristic AW ground flora including bluebell, greater stitchwort, yellow archangel, herb Robert, primrose, wood sorrel and dog’s mercury. Dogs mercury becoming dominant due to lack of light. |
| Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) | Yes | 538ac | 4 | Edge of Bryant’s Copse, forming northern boundary of farm |
| Semi-natural features in PAWS | Yes | 538ac |  | Neglected hazel coppice similar to Moor Copse ASNW. Largely comprised of native broadleaves, has been planted with oak and sweet chestnut. |
| Lowland beech and yew woodland | No |  |  |  |
| Lowland mixed deciduous woodland | Yes | 1730,2840,4553,7142,538 | 2 | Main canopy species are oak, ash and birch with understorey of hazel. Sycamore and goat willow also common. |
| Upland mixed ash woods | No |  |  |  |
| Upland oakwood | No |  |  |  |
| Wet woodland | Yes | 1946 | 2 | Clump dominated by common alder. |
| Wood-pasture and parkland | No |  |  | A couple of the plantations are sheep grazed so they do have this character. |
| Other (please specify):  Other woodland- broadleaved  Other woodland- mixed | Yes  Yes | 4932, 9325, 2225, 8230  6933 | 2  2 | Poplar plantations  Oak/ chestnut  Felled block restocked with mixed broadleaves and conifer |
| **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):  Dense scrub  Hedgerow | Yes  Yes | 1730b  All | 2  4 | Successional area  Perimeter of woodland blocks |

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)** |
| Broadleaf - plantation | 32% | even | Poplar plantations. Also one block of oak, chestnut and walnut planting. Some sycamore regen in ungrazed areas. |
| Broadleaf – semi-natural | 20% | uneven | Secondary woodland comprised of oak, birch, ash, hazel and goat willow. Regeneration where light getting in. Includes area on edge of Bryant’s Copse PAWS. |
| Coppice/ with standards | 24% | even | Moor Copse ASNW and Bryants Copse PAWS. Neglected hazel with oak standards, now being suppressed by ash and birch which have grown up through. Very dense and dark, little opportunity for regen. |
| Mixed (mainly broadleaf) | 17% | even | Block east of Moor Copse Barn, replanted with mixed broadleaves and conifer. |
| Open space | 7% | n/a | Managed woodland glades and rides surrounding plantations. |



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 woodland(s) and whether there is a need to take action to protect woodland(s).

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

5.1 Risk Matrix

The matrix below provides a system for scoring risk. It 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 | Poplar insects and diseases (e.g. rust, cankers) |
| Likelihood of presence | Medium   * All species of poplar can be affected but there are no specific alerts for the UK or SW region. * Plantations at Valley View have been affected in past by rust, necessitating premature felling of some areas. * Abundant moss and lichen observed on trunks. |
| Impact | Medium   * The poplar plantations are significant and visible features and their loss would have an impact on the local landscape. * There would also a be loss of potential timber revenue and costs of restocking. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Poplar plantations will be selectively thinned (subject to windthrow risk) to improve airflow and reduce conditions for pest and disease attack. * Different varieties of poplar were planted and thinning will favour those that show least sign of disease. * Diversification of age structure and natural regeneration will be encouraged. * Vigilance for any suspicious symptoms and will be reported via TreeAlert pest recording tool. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | [Ash Dieback](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-ash-dieback-in-england) |
| Likelihood of presence | High   * Prevalent in the SW region and clear evidence of declining trees on the holding. |
| Impact | Low   * There are a few declining trees along roadside hedgerows which pose a potential risk to public safety but these are few in number and relatively small. * Ash in woodland is a secondary species (although there is a block at the east end of Moor Copse) and low risk for safety. * Declining trees in woods create standing and fallen dead wood which benefits ecology and nutrient cycling. * They also provide opportunities for canopy restructuring and natural regeneration/ restocking with alternative species. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Individual ash along roadsides and near properties will be monitored using [The Tree Council](https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Tree-Council-Ash-dieback-tree-owners-guide-FINAL.pdf) canopy percentage method to indicate vitality class. * In these areas, any trees showing advanced signs of dieback (>50% crown loss), will be felled ASAP. * It is anticipated that any felling can be undertaken without need for Felling Licence (under quarterly 5 cubic metre volume allowance), however if necessary, a stand-alone licence will be applied for. * Block of ash at eastern end of Moor Copse will be proactively felled to encourage regeneration of native species, particularly hazel for coppicing. Regeneration will be protected from deer as per section 5.3. * Scattered ash will be removed during thinning operations. * Usable timber may be extracted, but a proportion will be left in situ, along with brash, to provide deadwood habitat. * Elsewhere in the woods, ash will be left to develop naturally. Senescing trees will open up the canopy and provide deadwood habitat. It will also give an opportunity to see if any resistance develops. * The progress of dieback and success of natural regeneration will be monitored, and if necessary, adjustments made to deer control strategy (section 5.3) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Sweet chestnut diseases e.g. [*Phytophthora*](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forestry-project-checks-constraints#tree-health--phytophthora-ramorum) *ramorum* and [Sweet chestnut blight](https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/sweet-chestnut-blight-cryphonectria-parasitica/) |
| Likelihood of presence | Low   * The SW region is within FC Risk Zone 1 (highest risk) for ramorum, however it is only known to have affected chestnut where close to infected larch. * Blight-infected trees have been found at a few sites in the region. |
| Impact | Low   * Chestnut is only a small component of the woods, and timber production from this species is not a major objective. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Small local contractors will be favoured to minimise risk of importation of disease from infected areas. * Vigilance for any suspicious symptoms and will be reported to FC Area Plant Health team ASAP. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Emerging oak diseases i.e. Acute oak decline, Chronic oak dieback |
| Likelihood of presence | Low   * Present in UK, but neither recorded so far in the SW region |
| Impact | Medium   * Oak is a key species in the semi-natural woods and any disease would have an impact on landscape. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Work will mostly be carried out by owners to minimise risk of importation of disease from infected areas. * Vigilance for any suspicious symptoms and will be reported via TreeAlert pest recording tool. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Emerging conifer diseases e.g. Ips typographus |
| Likelihood of presence | Medium   * Not found so far in the SW region but present in SE so could arrive before end of plan period. |
| Impact | Low   * Very small amounts of non-native conifer on the holding and timber production not a major objective. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Vigilance to be maintained for any issues affecting conifer. * If disease is suspected, FC Plant Health Team will be notified. |

5.3 [Deer](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-threats-to-woodland-destructive-animals-invasive-species#deer-and-feral-wild-boar)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Species - Likelihood of presence | Red and Roe - High   * Both species regularly seen on the holding. * Well-used deer runs evident in woodlands e.g. Moor Copse. |
| Impact | Medium-High   * Population is currently controlled by stalker, with deer high seats in place. * Conservation crops in the fields act as ‘sacrifice’ areas. * Impact on woodland habitats currently appears limited (due to culling and lack of young trees), but if culling ceased, then natural regeneration and any new trees planted would be difficult to establish. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Continuation of current stalking/ culling arrangement. * This will be formalised into a deer management plan, to be produced ASAP in collaboration with the stalker, supported by funding from CS PA7: Species management plan capital grant. This will follow guidance from FC and [The Deer Initiative](https://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/best_practice) * The plan will be agreed with local FC Woodland Officer in consultation with the FC SW Deer Officer. * Neighbouring landowners will be approached to gauge interest in wider collaboration. * Deer population will be managed to allow the establishment of appropriate ground flora and understorey, by means of lethal control but if this is not deemed effective through fencing deer out of the woodland as agreed with FC. * Population management will follow FC best practice guidance. * Any additional high seats identified will be installed, possibly extending lethal control to woodlands (subject to safe shooting within rides and glades). * Deer impact monitoring exclosures will be installed in key woodland areas e.g. Moor Copse ASNW. A map of location, including GPS location will be produced for each identifiable exclosure. * CS Higher Tier application will include [CWS1: Deer control and management](https://www.gov.uk/find-funding-for-land-or-farms/cws1-deer-control-and-management) action to support ongoing population management and monitoring. * CS HT application will also include capital items for additional infrastructure necessary for population management i.e. deer exclosure plots and any additional high seats. These will be erected in year 1 of the CS agreement. * Monitoring of habitat and exclosures will be carried out as required by the CS agreement and cull levels recorded and adapted accordingly – see section 8. * If culling is not effective in any areas, any restocking or coppice regrowth will be protected through individual 1.8m tree shelters or deer fencing as appropriate. Where fencing is the option to be used, this will meet the standards set out in Forestry Commission Practice Note 9 and will be in place before the first growing season after felling is over. * Deer fencing and individual tree protection will be installed as per FC guidance [Forest fencing](https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/publications/forest-fencing/) and [Tree shelters guide](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ef9b9ded3bf7f76970eed47/Tree_shelters_guide.pdf). |

5.4 [Grey squirrels](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-threats-to-woodland-destructive-animals-invasive-species#grey-squirrels)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Likelihood of presence | High   * Seen regularly on the holding. |
| Impact | Medium   * Population is currently controlled by owners using lethal traps. This mainly occurs in the vulnerable nut groves planted near the residential property. * Impact on woodland habitats currently appears limited (due to culling), but if culling ceased, then bark-stripping on developing broadleaves would be expected. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Continuation of current trapping regime. * Consideration will be given to extending culling to additional woodland areas. Possibly to include a combination of measures i.e. drey poking etc. * Current and future regime will be formalised into a squirrel management plan, to be produced ASAP supported by funding from CS PA7: Species management plan capital grant. * The plan will follow guidance from FC, and approval will be obtained from local FC Woodland Officer. * Neighbouring landowners will be approached to gauge interest in wider collaboration. * Culling will be undertaken throughout the plan period to reduce grey squirrel numbers to a level where damage is negligible. Control will be carried out in late winter/ early spring (when availability of natural foods is lowest) and during the period when damage normally occurs (May-September). * Population management will follow FC best practice guidance. * Subsequent CS Higher Tier application will include *CWS3: Squirrel control and management* action to support ongoing population management. * CS HT application will also include capital items for training and additional traps necessary for population management. * Additional traps will be installed in year 1 of the CS HT agreement. * Monitoring of damage will be carried out as required by the CS HT agreement and cull levels recorded and adapted accordingly – see section 8. * Less favoured species such as wild cherry and common alder will be included in restocking/ planting mixes. |

5.5 Livestock and other mammals

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Sheep |
| Likelihood of presence | High   * Some of the plantations are grazed by sheep, and livestock are present in the field surrounding the other woods. |
| Impact | Medium   * Livestock grazing in plantations is preventing development of tree regeneration, understorey and woodland ground flora. * It is noticeable that there is greater diversity in ungrazed plantations e.g. 8230b. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Consideration will be given to restricting grazing (and mowing) in some parts of the plantations to allow development of natural regeneration, understorey and ground flora. * CS capital grant for sheep netting may be applied for to facilitate this. * In the other woodlands perimeter fences will be checked periodically and repaired/ replaced when they are no longer stock proof. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Rabbits (and hares) |
| Likelihood of presence | Medium   * Seen on holding and in the woods. |
| Impact | Low   * Similar to deer above (section 5.3), but at lower level and more localised. * Potential to impact recent broadleaved restocking (and new planting) if present in high enough numbers. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Their presence and impacts will noted within the deer management plan, and tackled in a similar way. * Monitoring of population and damage on young trees will be carried out. * If required, broadleaved restocking (and new planting) will be fitted with individual tree shelters (main canopy trees) or 0.75m spirals (minor trees and shrubs). |

5.6 Water and soil

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Pollution incidents (point source) |
| Likelihood of presence | Low   * The woods at Valley View have minimal contact with watercourses but pollution from fuel/oil or pesticide spillage during any forest operations is a potential risk. |
| Impact | High   * Potentially serious consequences to aquatic life, human health and vegetation, even from small quantities. * Holding is within DWSZ and DWPA (see section 4.2, Water) which seeks to reduce chemical inputs. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Operators will observe label requirements for use and storage of fuels, oils, and containers; and to carry/ maintain adequate spill kits. * Fuel will not be stored near to watercourses. * Refuelling to be carried out on hard surfaces or drip trays, well away from watercourses or other sensitive areas. * Use of biodegradable lubricants will be encouraged where possible. * Herbicide/ pesticide usage will be kept to a minimum and only employed if no other alternative is feasible. * See section 5.7 below re disposal of waste. |

5.7 Environmental

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Wind |
| Likelihood of presence | Medium-High   * Exposure varies from sheltered to moderately exposed, soils are very moist. * There is a risk of windthrow on the uppermost plantations near the road forming the southern boundary of the farm, but the woods in the valley towards the north and east are more sheltered. * Incidence of storms is likely to increase in future under climate change (see section 5.9). * Introduction of management to previously unthinned stands in vulnerable areas is likely to lead to windthrow. * Poplars are vulnerable due to their shallow rooting characteristic. |
| Impact | Medium   * Reduced value of timber, blocking of access, increased costs of harvesting. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Windfirm edges to be retained on SW side of plantations at higher elevation. * Reduction of poplar and use of alternative site-adapted species when restocking or supplementary planting. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Non-native invasive species (INNS) e.g. rhododendron, snowberry |
| Likelihood of presence | Low   * None present currently, but could spread in from neighbouring land or residential properties. |
| Impact | Medium   * Where present these can have a localised detrimental effect on woodland ground flora, which would be negative if in ASNW or PAWS. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Vigilance will be maintained for new instances of INNS when people are out in the woods. * Any plants noticed will be dealt with ASAP either by pulling or spraying. |
| Threat | Drought |
| Likelihood of presence | Medium   * Already experiencing increasing frequency of spring droughts and likelihood of further in future under climate change. |
| Impact | Low   * Potential mortality of newly planted trees, high cost of replacement. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Matching species chosen for restocking with site characteristics. * Weed control to be carried out for first 2-3 seasons around any newly planted trees. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Pollution/ Waste disposal |
| Likelihood of presence | Low   * Plastics left over from bottles, bags, tree shelters etc |
| Impact | Low   * Localised impact |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Any waste will be removed from site and recycled or disposed of appropriately (recycling favoured if possible). * Also see point pollution section 5.6 above. |

5.8 Social

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | No issues experienced or foreseen |
| Likelihood of presence |  |
| Impact |  |
| Response  (inc protection measures) |  |

5.9 Economic

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Low timber prices (poplar/ plantations) |
| Likelihood of presence | High   * The owners have investigated felling the poplars following winding up of the chicken enterprise, however the economics made this unviable. * Poplars have been thinned from their original 2m spacings (apart from cpt 2225), but diameters/ tree sizes are relatively small, therefore the stands are going to have a higher proportion of biomass vs sawlog. |
| Impact | Low   * Limited returns from timber harvesting, lack of inducement for undertaking works. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * In future poplar plantations to be managed as much for landscape and habitat diversity value than timber production/ biomass supply. * Works to be kept small scale - light thinning, which will improve quality of remaining crop and increase diameters for sawlogs. * Works to be undertaken using owner labour as much as possible. Where needed, small local contractors will continue to be favoured, to minimise travel costs. * Where possible timber will be used on the property. Niche/ local markets will be explored on an ongoing basis. Any usable timber will be stockpiled to sell at a later date. * 10 year CS Higher Tier agreement will be applied for to support maintenance and diversity of plantations. * Restocking and supplementary planting to include commercial hardwoods such as sweet chestnut to provide future source of durable fencing material. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Poor timber quality/ Low quantity/ High operational costs (other woods) |
| Likelihood of presence | High   * Most timber is firewood grade only largely due to awkward terrain, poor access for machinery and lack of previous interventions meaning trees have poor form. * Woodland blocks are small and fragmented. |
| Impact | Low   * Limited returns from timber harvesting, lack of inducement for undertaking works. * However timber production is not a major objective for the semi-natural woodlands. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * As above, plus: * Where extraction is awkward, some timber/ produce may be better being left within the woodlands. Arisings stacked into habitat piles. |

5.10 [Climate change resilience](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/climate-change-and-resilient-woodlands)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threat | Uniform species and age structure |
| Likelihood of presence | High   * Poplars are monocultures which were all planted at same time, although they are different varieties/ sub-species. |
| Impact | Medium   * Trees are likely to experience more seasonal weather stress e.g. storms, spring drought etc, and a high proportion in one age and species class increases vulnerability. |
| Response  (inc protection measures) | * Thinning poplar (in more sheltered blocks) to open up the canopy and encourage natural regeneration to develop. * Effective pest management will be carried out as per sections 5.3 and 5.4 to enable desired species to be recruited into the canopy. * Enrichment planting will be carried out in places to support the development of an understorey and diversify the species present. |

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** |
| Objective 1:  Enhance biodiversity and sustainability across the woods by creating and managing access rides and dead wood, undertaking monitoring activities and controlling deer and grey squirrels | PERMANENT OPEN SPACE:   * A central glade will be established in cpt 6933 (indicative location marked yellow on the appended Operations map 3). * This will be maintained by mechanical cutting and, if appropriate, removing residue off site on a 2-3 year cycle. * A mix of habitats will be managed from low cut sward through to mixed scrub woodland.   ACCESS RIDES (1-zone):   * Access rides in poplar cpt 4932 marked green on the appended Operations map (map 3)\* will be maintained by cutting the vegetation to a width of 1.5 metres and kept free of obstructions to enable management of the woodland that they service.   *\* additional rides/ 2-zone management to be confirmed by owner, and included in CS HT application*  MANAGEMENT OF STANDING AND FALLEN DEAD WOOD FOR HABITAT:   * Deadwood will be retained in situ throughout the woodlands to achieve the levels required within the UK Forest Standard. * Deadwood will be provided by trees succumbing to ash dieback, but also squirrel damage and felling to waste. * Windblown trees will be retained where possible but where valuable timber can be recovered this will be removed leaving the tops rather than the whole tree. * In the poplar plantations the amount of dead wood will be increased during the period of this plan by leaving stems of felled trees (in large sections) after thinning and felling operations and retaining a percentage of any dying, or standing dead trees wherever safe to do so. * In addition, a small number of trees in the plantations will be intentionally ring-barked, to provide standing dead wood. * [FC technical guidance](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b361002e5274a0bb8fac29d/ewgs-on015-deadwood.pdf) will be followed unless otherwise stated/ recommended.   MONITORING ACTIVITIES:   * These will be undertaken in line with CS Higher Tier requirements as described in section 8.   DEER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT:   * Deer management plan to be drafted, approved by FC and implemented as per section 5.3.   GREY SQUIRREL CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT:   * Grey squirrel control plan to be drafted, approved by FC and implemented as per section 5.4.   COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP HIGHER TIER:   * Application for CS HT action [CWD2: Woodland improvement](https://www.gov.uk/find-funding-for-land-or-farms/cwd2-woodland-improvement) (base action) for all woods * Plus species control actions and capital payments as per section 5. |
| Objective 2:  Manage **Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland** (Moor Copse ASNW) by improving access, thinning to enhance light penetration, regeneration felling, restoring coppice, protecting veteran trees and manage scrub in other **native** woodland | Management will follow FC Practice Guide [Managing ancient and native woodland in England](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b35fa57ed915d0b53021ae1/FCPG201.pdf) unless otherwise stated.  ACCESS CREATION:   * Felling will be carried out from gate on southern side of Moor Copse to create a 5m width linear ride/ natural surface track into the wood to enable it to be accessed with machinery. * Thinning (see below) will also help to open up access to the wood.   THINNING:   * Moor Copse will be thinned to promote the existing range of tree and shrub species and to maintain a mix of ages within the wood. * The main species to be favoured will be oak and hazel. Standard trees in hazel coppice coupes will be reduced to allow light in to develop the understorey. Ash will be retained to provide dead wood habitat as per section 5.1. * Old trees will be given additional space by removing competing trees from under canopies to provide sufficient room to promote a healthy crown. * Overall no more than 20% of trees will be removed during the plan/ CS HT agreement period, but to promote understorey development and younger trees this may be done at varying densities across the area being worked.   REGENERATION FELLING:   * Approx 0.3ha felling will be carried out at the eastern end of the wood to reduce the area covered by ash and creating gaps in the canopy to provide areas for natural regeneration of native species such as hazel. * Natural regeneration will be kept free from competing vegetation for 5 years by using approved manual methods e.g., mulch, or a clearing saw, hook or scythe. * Protection from deer as per section 5.3. * Gapping up by planting will be required if natural seeding fails to take place in sufficient quantity by year 5.   COPPICE:   * Approx 0.3ha of neglected hazel in Moor Copse will be restored during the period of the plan/ CS agreement. * This will be in a number of small coupes (to retain aerial walkways and habitat for dormice), with the aim of (re-) cutting each coupe on a 7-10 year rotation. * The stems on each stool will be cut where they were last cut, or as near to this as is practical to do so. * All cut stools will be protected by piling brash on cut stools to achieve at least 1.5 metres of height re-growth within three years of cutting. * Failed areas will be replanted or naturally regenerated with use of deer fencing to supplement the existing stools and to maintain a full stocking of coppice. * If fencing is the option to be used, this must meet the standards set out in Forestry Commission Practice Note 9 and will be in place before the first growing season after cutting is over.   VETERAN TREES:   * During the first year of the plan/ CS agreement all veteran trees within/ surrounding Moor Copse will be identified, tagged and their locations mapped. * A copy of this map will be available to anyone working near these trees to avoid damage and a copy of the map added to the approved management plan. * Between 5-20 legacy trees per hectare will be selected (including existing and recruitment/future veteran trees), representing the diversity of all native tree and shrub species within the wood. * Actions necessary to protect, enhance and maintain the trees will be identified, recorded and any actions needed to secure the survival/health of the trees will be carried out during the plan/ CS agreement period. * Action most likely to take the form of ‘halo thinning’ i.e. significantly reducing competition from surrounding trees to support crown development, lateral growth, and maintain/ accelerate their development into larger trees * Halo thinning will be carried out in accordance with this [ancient tree forum guidance](https://www.ancienttreeforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Veteran-Trees-A-Guide-to-Good-Management-COMPLETE.pdf) (section 5.3.2) on the rate at which this work will be done. (Where carried out too quickly, halo thinning can lead to the death of the veteran tree.)   SCRUB MANAGEMENT:   * Scrub areas 538b and 1730b marked pink on the appended Operations map (map 3) will be maintained throughout the period of this plan/ CS agreement by cyclical cutting every 5 years. * The aim will be to provide a mix of habitats including open space, scrub and open grown trees.   COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP HIGHER TIER   * Application for CS HT supplement [CWS8: Managing native woodland including ASNW](https://www.gov.uk/find-funding-for-land-or-farms/cws8-manage-native-woodland-including-ancient-semi-natural-woodlands-asnw-supplement) * Plus capital items as appropriate e.g. [Restore coppicing](https://www.gov.uk/capital-grant-finder/fy6-restore-coppicing-in-woodland) |
| Objective 3:  Manage Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (Bryants Copse PAWS) by improving access, thinning to enhance light penetration, restoring coppice and protecting veteran trees | Management will follow FC Practice Guide [Restoration of Native Woodland Ancient Woodland Sites](https://cdn.forestresearch.gov.uk/2022/02/fcpg014-1.pdf) and Woodland Trust [How we restore Ancient Woodland](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/ancient-woodland-restoration/how-we-restore-ancient-woodland/) guidance.  ACCESS CREATION:   * Access creation to Bryants Copse PAWS as per Moor Copse ASNW prescription above.   THINNING:   * Bryants Copse PAWS will be thinned as per Moor Copse ASNW prescription above.   COPPICE:   * Bryants Copse PAWS will be coppiced as per Moor Copse ASNW prescription above.   *VETERAN TREES:*   * Veteran trees protected as per Moor Copse ASNW prescription above.   IDENTIFICATION OF ANCIENT WOODLAND FEATURES:   * The site/ owner will be put forward for Ancient Woodland Assessment via the Woodland Trust.   COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP HIGHER TIER  Above activities to be supported by CS HT supplement:   * Application for CS HT supplement [CWS2: Manage and restore PAWS](https://www.gov.uk/find-funding-for-land-or-farms/cws2-manage-and-restore-plantations-on-ancient-woodland-sites-paws-supplement) * Plus capital items as needed e.g. [Restore coppicing](Restore%20coppicing) |
| Objective 4:  Improve resilience of poplar plantations by addressing threats, selective thinning, encouraging natural regeneration and under-planting to increase species and structural diversity | THREATS   * Areas of woodland under threat from deer, squirrels and windthrow have been identified and these will be responded to as per section 5.   THINNING:   * The more sheltered poplar plantations will be thinned to provide sufficient room to promote a healthy crown and to promote airflow. * Crown thinning will be carried out to favour best stems, which will give more diversity than line thinning. * Overall no more than 30% of trees will be removed during the agreement period, but to promote understorey development and younger trees this may be done at varying densities across the area being worked.   NATURAL REGENERATION:   * This will enable development of understorey and widen the species diversity. * This will primarily be achieved by heavy thinning as above and deer management as per section 5.2. * Also by restricting sheep grazing (and mowing) as per section 5.5 to encourage natural regeneration. * Weed control/ respacing will be carried out to prevent competing vegetation overtopping by using approved manual methods e.g., mulch, or a clearing saw, hook or scythe. * A review of areas will be carried out in year 5 to establish success/ failure and inform future actions.   SUPPLEMENTARY PLANTING:   * Enrichment/ under-planting will be carried out in selected areas to supplement natural regeneration. * Shade-tolerant native broadleaves will be used i.e. hornbeam, birch, alder, hazel, holly and hawthorn. These will be planted to achieve a stocking of 1100 trees per ha. * Trees will be protected from mammal damage and weed competition as above.   COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP HIGHER TIER   * Above activities to be supported by CS HT supplement:   [CWS5: Improve woodland resilience](https://www.gov.uk/find-funding-for-land-or-farms/cws5-improve-woodland-resilience-supplement)   * plus capital items as appropriate (tbc). |
| Objective 5:  Enhance local landscape, and provide amenity value for the owners by selective thinning and felling to increase structural diversity | * Thinning, coppicing and supplementary planting as per above. |
| Objective 6:  Improve timber quality and provide small quantities of usable wood to support farm business and local economy by selective thinning and felling | * Thinning, coppicing and diversifying species as per above. * Addressing economics as per section 5.9. |
| Feature:  EPS and other protected species | * Known hotspot or active areas will be identified and noted. If contractors are used they will be made aware of locations. * FC good practice guidance will be followed. Where possible, works will be undertaken in autumn/ winter outside breeding/ active seasons. * Operational Site Assessment will be completed prior to any works taking place to check for presence of protected species (dormice and bats most likely). Any tree felling will be carried out away from likely areas. * If a bat roost, dormouse nest or badger sett is encountered, operational buffer strips will be implemented. * If work inside buffer zone is unavoidable, works will stop in that area until advice is sought from experienced/ qualified ecologist and any necessary licences are obtained. |

Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the Forestry Commission and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Refer to [Operations Note 35](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stakeholder-engagement-for-woodland-management-plans-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** |
| Entire plan | Stoodleigh Parish Council | 08/10/2025 |  |  |  |
| Entire plan | Neighbours adjoining | Ongoing dialogue |  |  | Maintain |

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** |
| Objective 1:  Enhance **biodiversity** and **sustainability** across the woods by creating and managing access rides and dead wood, undertaking monitoring activities and controlling deer and grey squirrels | Structural and species diversity | Woodland Condition Assessment | Years 1 and 9 of CS HT agreement | Owner | Results submitted to RPA  Inform next plan |
| Management plan/ CS activities | CS monitoring report | Years 5 and 9 of CS HT agreement | Owner | As above |
| Deer browsing and fraying | Deer habitat impact survey (walkover visual assessment)  Deer cull outings and cull numbers by species/ sex/ age  Exclosure plot survey | Annual (spring) | Owner | Habitat impact and cull reports, survey route map and photos from exclosure plots using FC template submitted to RPA biannually starting year 1  Evidence of damage to directly inform the cull level for the wood(s) where damage is taking place. |
| Squirrel bark stripping on young broadleaves | Squirrel damage survey  Control effort and cull numbers by species/ sex | Annual (summer) | Owner | Tree damage survey and cull reports, survey route map and photos using FC template submitted to RPA biannually starting year 1 |
| Objective 2:  Manage **Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland** (Moor Copse ASNW) by improving access, thinning to enhance light penetration, regeneration felling, restoring coppice, protecting veteran trees and manage scrub in other **native** woodland | Structural and habitat diversity | Woodland Condition Assessment | Years 1 and 9 of CS HT agreement | Owner | Submitted to RPA |
| Management plan/ CS activities | CS monitoring report | Years 5 and 9 of CS HT agreement | Owner | As above |
| Extent of AW indicators e.g. no of veterans, ha of ground flora | Optional -Woodland Trust AW assessment | By year 5 | Agent to arrange | Submitted to RPA  Inform plan review year 5 |
| Objective 3:  **Manage Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites** (Bryants Copse PAWS) by improving access, thinning to enhance light penetration, restoring coppice and protecting veteran trees | Structural and habitat diversity | Woodland Condition Assessment | Years 1 and 9 of CS HT agreement | Owner | Submitted to RPA |
| Completion of works within plan/ CS agreement | CS activity monitoring | Annual | Owner | Submitted to RPA on request |
| Extent of AW indicators e.g. no of veterans, ha of ground flora | Optional -Woodland Trust AW assessment | By year 5 | Agent to arrange | Submitted to RPA  Inform plan review year 5 |
| Objective 4:  Improve **resilience** of poplar plantations by addressing threats, selective thinning, encouraging natural regeneration and under-planting to increase species and structural diversity | Management plan/ CS activities | CS monitoring report | Years 5 and 9 of CS HT agreement | Owner | As above |
| Trees with disease symptoms | Visual | All times, but at least annual | Owner | Suspected instances to be reported to FC/ FR as appropriate (via TreeAlert) |
| Age diversity  Establishment of young trees and recruitment to canopy | Inventory | Year 10 | Owner | Inform new plan  Deer and squirrel control adjusted accordingly |
| Objective 5:  Enhance local landscape, and provide amenity value for the owners by selective thinning and felling to increase structural diversity | As above | As above | As above | Owner | As above |
| Objective 6:  Improve timber quality and provide small quantities of usable wood to support farm business and local economy by selective thinning and felling | Wood harvested and sold | Timber sales/ accounts | At year 5 | Owner | Inform thinning and harvesting programme |

**UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment**

For Forestry Commission office use and approval only:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UKFS management plan criteria** | **Minimum approval requirements** | **Achieved** | **Review notes** |
| **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. | * Management plan objectives are stated. * Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. | **Yes/No** |  |
| **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. | 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:   * 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** |  |
| **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. | * Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. * Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations. | **Yes/No** |  |
| **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 to meet UKFS requirements.  Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range 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. | * 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** |  |
| **Consultation:**  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. | * 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. | **Yes/No** |  |
| **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. | * 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 | **Yes/No** |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Approved in principle**  This means the Forestry Commission is happy with your plan and it meets UKFS requirements.   1. **You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.** 2. **WMPs must be fully approved before you can apply for CS HT.** | **Name (WO or FM):** | **Date:** |
| **Approved**  This means Forestry Commission 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). | **Name (AO, WO or FM):** | **Date:** |