Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:		
Woodland or Property name	**Taddington Valley woodlands**	
Woodland Management Plan case reference		
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland		**Yes / ~~No~~**
Plan authors name	**Chris Fox and James Fay**	

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

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

Template user support:

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

UK Forestry Standard management planning criteria

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

	UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Author check ☑
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/~~No~~
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/~~No~~
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/~~No~~
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/~~No~~
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 FC guidance and recorded in ***Sect. 7***. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. • Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland.	Yes/No
6	**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 per management objective.	Yes/No

Section 1: Property Details

Woodland Property Name		Taddington Valley woodlands	
Name		Owner Yes	Tenant N/A
Email		Contact Number	
Agent Name (if applicable)		N/A	
Email	N/A	Contact Number	N/A
County	Kent	Local Authority	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Grid Reference (e.g. ST 625 785)	TQ7510263131	Single Business Identifier	
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		14	
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?		Yes/~~No~~	
You have listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan? (PLEASE 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/~~No~~	
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/~~No~~
		Thinning Licence	Yes/~~No~~
		Woodland Regeneration Grant	Yes/~~No~~
You declare that there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?		Yes/~~No~~	
You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available?		Yes/~~No~~	

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 Council aims to manage this ancient woodland for public access, biodiversity, and landscape value. Its ambition is to bring the previously managed coppiced trees back into a rotation of coppicing, with some blocks of woodland cut each year. We are looking to manage the site including the mature and immature standard trees, hedges and the grassland to achieve a healthy, vibrant and well balanced woodland, that is in keeping with the nature conservation value and Ancient Woodland status, whilst recognising the constraints on the sites management (below).

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	Engage with the local community positively about the management of the site.
2	Create a formalised programme of work to maintain and enhance nature rich habitats within the woodland and meadows.
3	Maintain and enhance habitats for protected species of plants, and animals either known or occur, or considered likely to occur within the woodland, especially Ancient Woodland Indicator species.
4	Restore the conservation features of the woodland boundary.
5	To maintain a mixed mosaic of habitats: woodland, hedgerows, scrub, and meadows.
6	To investigate and implement interpretation of the site.
7	To investigate and implement regular monitoring of plants and animals.
8	To work with internal and external partners to address anti-social behaviour issues.

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic, and social considerations)
9	To manage the site by using existing staff and working in partnership with external partners and contractors.
10	To address any access issues when funding permits and carry out path repairs when required.
11	To provide a public open space for amenity and social uses, that are compatible with the site's nature conservation features and the Councils Corporate objectives.
12	Control invasive and non-native plant and pest species.
13	Manage expenditure in line with the agreed budget and seek external funding should opportunities arise.
14	Carry out regular tree inspections and prioritise recommended works as set out in the Councils Tree Safety Policy and health and safety tree works as priorities and funding allows.
15	Improve the accessibility of the site when funding allows.

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
Create and adopt a new woodland management plan.	

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:
The public open spaces forming this site are managed by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, but are in part within the adjacent Medway Council district. In the Councils Local Plan (2010) the site is designated as, "a remnant of ancient woodland, a wooded valley left as a greenspace between areas of 20th century housing estates, which now surround the site". Much of the site looks to have been planted with trees such as Sweet Chestnut and Hornbeam but many years ago, and is therefore more accurately classified as a Planted Ancient Woodland Site. The governments 'Magic' mapping website states that the soils here are, "slightly acid loams, clayed with impeded drainage and some shallow lime over chalk, all with flint (evident on the surface)". Woodland is common on this type of soil, and on hillsides which were of little use for agriculture. A Habitat Survey was caried out by the Kent Wildlife Trust in 1991, and a Woodland Grant application was made for the site in 1995 (now expired). The site consists of one small area (near Saddlers Close) and a larger main site. According to old maps, both of these areas appear to be remnants of the much larger ancient broadleaf woodland called 'Taddington Wood'. There were 24 Ancient Woodland Indicator species recorded on the main site in 1991 (Kent Wildlife Trust). In the past, the woodland has been managed in part as mixed coppice with standards but in recent years only limited work has been undertaken mainly for tree safety, resulting in a decline of mature coppice stools. The ground layers of plants within the woodland are limited by

factors such as shading out, amenity uses, and intensive trampling by humans and dogs. There are remnants of a historic trackway (maybe a 'woodbank') on the main site, which runs down the centre of the site which features a number of old Hornbeam pollards growing on either side.

Early maps from 1869 show a regular shaped open area (not wooded) along the valley bottom which is surrounded by the extensive Taddington Wood. This open area of grassland is still present. It seems likely that this area would historically have been used as wood pasture for grazing and the area may have been called a 'wood meadow'. The grassland is still being managed as grassland some cut annually, but other larger areas are mown more frequently for amenity use. The longer grass areas appear to have limited floristic diversity and are dominated by amenity grasses, common hogweed Heracleum sphondylium and hedge bindweed Calystegia sepium and grasses. Some butterfly species are present, including Brimstone Gonepteryx rhamni, Clouded yellow Collas croceus, Red Admiral Vanessa atalanta, and Maiola jurtina Meadow Brown. A bumble bee survey and flora survey was carried out by the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust in 2019, and a limited number of bee species were found. Habitat connectivity was felt to be the main issue and improvement works were carried out with volunteers in 2020.

It is evident that the site is well used for a variety of amenity uses including dog walking, walking, cycling and exercising. There are 17 public entrances into the site which create well used links with the surrounding housing areas.

There are many houses surrounding the site with back gardens that situated along the site boundary. The size and location of the site in relation to a number of urban areas presents several challenges including social, economic, environmental and ecological resilience. Some of these challenges are also interrelated and cumulative.

There is a group of volunteers that undertakes regular litter picking on the site.

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 and the Forestry Commission Land Information Search.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
Biodiversity - Designations				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	~~Yes~~/No		~~Yes~~ /No	
Special Area of Conservation	~~Yes~~ /No		~~Yes~~ /No	
Tree Preservation Order	Yes/~~No~~		Yes/~~No~~	3
Conservation Area	~~Yes~~ /No		~~Yes~~ /No	
Special Protection Area	~~Yes~~ /No		~~Yes~~ /No	
Ramsar Site	~~Yes~~ /No		~~Yes~~ /No	
National Nature Reserve	~~Yes~~ /No		~~Yes~~ /No	
Local Nature Reserve	~~Yes~~ /No		~~Yes~~ /No	
Other (please Specify):	Yes/~~No~~		~~Yes~~ /No	
Notes				

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species				
Bat ~~Yes~~/No	Yes/no			No records
Dormouse	~~Yes~~ /No			Survey none present
Great Crested Newt	~~Yes~~ /No			No ponds so unlikely
Otter	~~Yes~~ /No			Unlikely
Sand Lizard	~~Yes~~ /No			Unlikely
Smooth Snake	~~Yes~~ /No			Unlikely
Natterjack Toad	~~Yes~~ /No			Unlikely
Biodiversity – Priority Species				
Schedule 1 Birds ~~Yes~~/No				Limited surveys but little nesting opportunities and high disturbance level
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)	~~Yes~~ /No			No records
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)	~~Yes~~ /No			No records
Plants	Yes /~~No~~	4, 5, 6	4	Unlikely
Fungi/Lichens	~~Yes~~ /No			No records

Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	~~Yes~~ /No			No records
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes/No			No records
Other (please Specify):	~~Yes~~/No			
Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments	~~Yes~~ /No			
Unscheduled Monuments	~~Yes~~ /No			
Registered Parks and Gardens	~~Yes~~ /No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes/~~No~~	3,5, 6	4	Hornbeam pollards with possible Woodbank feature.
Listed Buildings	~~Yes~~ /No			
Burial Grounds	~~Yes~~/No			
Other (please Specify):	~~Yes~~/No			Wood meadow?
Landscape				
National Character Area (please Specify):				
National Park	~~Yes~~/No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	~~Yes~~/No			
Other (please Specify):	~~Yes~~/No			
People				
CROW Access	~~Yes~~ /No			
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes/~~No~~	5,6, 7	5	MR201 & MR439
Other Access Provision	Yes /~~No~~			Limited surfaced paths, muddy and only one easy access point, few seats. Steps at some entrances.
Public Involvement	Yes /~~No~~			Limited
Visitor Information	Yes/~~No~~			Basic maps at entrances only
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes /~~No~~			Main use
Provision of Learning Opportunities	~~Yes~~ /No			
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes/~~No~~	All		Dogs, motorbikes, littering
Other (please Specify):	Yes/~~No~~			Residential properties surround the site and a walking routes present
Water				
Watercourses	~~Yes~~ /No			
Lakes	~~Yes~~ /No			

Ponds	~~Yes~~ /No			
Other (please Specify):	~~Yes~~ /No			

4.3 Habitat Types

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

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes/~~No~~	All		See below
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	Yes /~~No~~	3, 4, 5, 6, 8		
Semi-natural features in PAWS	~~Yes~~ /No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	Yes/~~No~~			A limited number of mature beech trees are present
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes/~~No~~			
Upland mixed ash woods	~~Yes~~ /No			
Upland Oakwood	~~Yes~~ /No			
Wet woodland	~~Yes~~ /No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	~~Yes~~ /No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes /~~No~~	Various		Chestnut coppice
Non Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	~~Yes~~ /No			
Fenland	~~Yes~~ /No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	~~Yes~~ /No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	~~Yes~~ /No			
Lowland heath land	~~Yes~~ /No			
Lowland meadows	Yes /~~No~~	6, 7	4	Likely to have been 'improved'. Many amenity grasses present. Some work with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in 2020.
Lowland raised bog	~~Yes~~ /No			
Rush pasture	~~Yes~~ /No			
Reed bed	~~Yes~~ /No			
Wood pasture	~~Yes~~ /No			
Upland hay meadows	~~Yes~~ /No			
Upland heath land	~~Yes~~ /No			

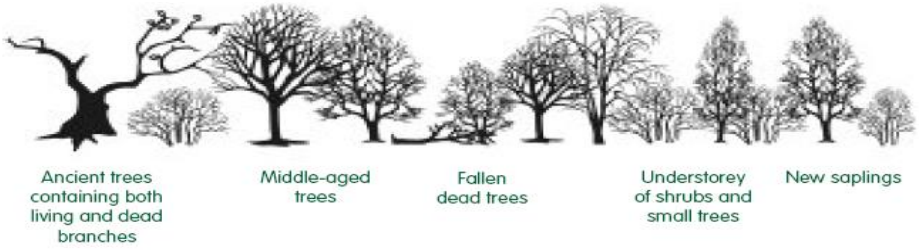
Unimproved grassland	~~Yes~~/No			
Peat lands	~~Yes~~ /No			
Wetland habitats	~~Yes~~ /No			
Other (please Specify):	~~Yes~~ /No			

4.4 Structure

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

Woodland Type (Broadleaf, Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
Coppice	67%	Even aged	Bluebell, dense shade conditions when trees are in full leaf, so little ground layer plants present for most of the year
Mixed broadleaf woodland	30%	Uneven	Limited range of species present. Shrub and ground storey layer is limited in diversity of species mainly: bramble, cornus, rose, ivy but little cover overall due to dense shade conditions
Natural regeneration	3%	Uneven	Little natural regeneration occurring at present which may be due to: dense shade, limited seed bank or lack of soil suitability.

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



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity

Section 5: Woodland Protection

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

5.1 Risk Matrix

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

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

5.2 Plant Health

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora*, Needle Blight etc)	Ash dieback
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low (Low numbers of Ash trees present)
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor via regular mature and immature tree inspections and carry out Health and safety works when required.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora*, Needle Blight etc)	Sweet Chestnut blight
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor could be a significant issue if this occurred

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora*, Needle Blight etc)	Asian Longhorn beetle (Hornbeam and Hazel)

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor

5.3 Deer

Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor via regular mature and immature tree inspections and carry out Health and safety works when required.

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Rabbit
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Use tree guards when planting young trees if necesary. Monitor regularly via immature tree inspections.

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Rats
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High

Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Bait stations in place to monitor activity. Use rodenticide as necessary for control.

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Soil erosion
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Establish ground storey plants and monitor regrowth after any coppicing work.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Poor soil depth in some areas stoney ground
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Convert land to other uses such as grassland were unsuitable for forestry

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Compaction, damage to tree roots
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Establish ground storey plants, exclude public from vulnerable areas.

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Pollution
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor for visible signs and respond accordingly.

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Invasive and non-native plants.

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor during site walks to ID, pesticide application as necessary to control.

5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Anti-social behaviour.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Keep our boundary access gates and fencing in good order. Install signage, work with external partners and other internal departments to reduce littering, encroachment, fly tipping and issues around dog control. There are Public Space Protection Orders for the site.

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights etc)	Disturbance high usage impacts from humans and dog walking pressures, trampling and compaction of soil, disturbance of wildlife and plants.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Consider measures to protect vulnerable areas including planting and improving paths.

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights etc)	Trees overhanging boundaries of residential properties
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Rotational woodland management by coppicing, use of interpretation to engage and inform members of the public about management methods around the site.

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	High operational costs for a small urban woodland with limited access for machinery and high public use making woodland management expensive.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Consider extraction methods, consider shortening coppice rotational periods.

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Cost of woodland management with little or no financial return.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Investigate alternative methods of management or external grants.

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Fairly uniform species mix – lack of structural complexity and diversity.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Replant where needed and enhance with additional planting.

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Small scale of the woodland isolation (Fragmentation of the woodland leading to a lack of connectivity), for plants and wildlife. Nature rich habitats are poor.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Replant where needed, manage site to create more suitable habitats.

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Silvicultural System – coppice with standards.

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Restoring the coppice rotations to restore the woodland to a healthy and vibrant condition.

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 Obj/Feature	Management Intention
1. Engage with the local community positively about the management of the site	Consultation on this management plan. Work with volunteers on suitable projects within this plan. Encourage volunteers to carry out monitoring of plants and animals, see 7. Continue to support the community litter picking and Bumble Bee Walk survey. Engage with local residents, ward councillors and the Parish Councils about the work programme and any other planned community engagement activities.
2. Create a formalise programme of work to maintain and enhance nature rich habitats within the woodland and meadows.	As a general principle, it is recommended that a cycle of coppicing should be reinstated in woodlands where coppicing has been carried out within the last sixty years. This is the case at Taddington Valley, and a rotational coppice cycle would create open glades in which would increase light and encourage plants and wildlife to thrive. This will change the composition of the woodland by introducing areas of light and shade, from tall trees to coppiced trees that re-grow. It will also encourage more young healthy growth from the base of trees, extending the life of the trees and other plants. Standing deadwood will be left in place for woodland habitat unless it presents a hazard to the public. Piles of deadwood logs and trees on the ground will also be left in situ for animals and plants where practical and safe to do so. It is the Councils intention to reinstate coppice management to whole blocks of woodland (where trees are in suitable condition for re-coppicing) over a short fifteen-year rotational

	cycle within Compartments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. It is hoped that this will bring the maximum benefits by allowing plenty of daylight to the woodland floor, allowing plants and animals to establish and move around different areas of the woodland. Coppicing should also encourage the natural regeneration of trees, shrub and herb layers of the wood, and more structural complexity and so nature rich habitats. Where trees, shrubs and herb layers do not recover from the seed bank, additional planting may be required. When this is the case suitable native tree, shrub and herb layer species typically found in lowland southeast England woodland will be used to enhance and maintain a suitable density and restore the woodland structural complexity as funding permits. Species selection will also consider the local vegetation structure and the need for more glades (open areas to be left unplanted) and open edges alongside paths which are called 'rides'. Thin out young trees where numbers surviving from previous plantings are at a higher density than required to achieve the desired density of tree cover. Any veteran and mature standard trees present in the compartments will be retained (coppice with standards) along with oversized coppice stools that are unsuitable for coppicing due to the maturity of the trees. Retain meadows as open 'glades' and investigate options for meadow maintenance to control dominant grasses, hogweed and bindweed and allow less competitive meadow wildflower species to thrive. Add more glades and leave open areas (rides) along path edges (without the shade of trees) to add diversity to the woodland, as woodland work progresses.

3. Maintain and enhance habitats for protected species of plants, and animals either known or occur, or considered likely to occur within the woodland, especially Ancient Woodland Indicator species.	Restore a mixed age rotational coppice cycle to maintain a more diverse structure of broadleaved woodland where funding permits. Maintain the connectivity and variety of habitats and important features such as veteran trees, deadwood, hedges/ scrub, standard trees and Hornbeam pollards. Consider the presence of bats and nesting birds prior to felling of any mature trees. Monitor the abundance of plants – Ancient Woodland Indicator Species and typical meadow species.
4. Restore the conservation features of the woodland boundary.	Keep hedges in our ownership good order and make them more useful for animals. Restore the ancient Hornbeam pollards by rotational cutting of the pollards along the length of the trackway down the centre of the site.
5. To maintain a mixed mosaic of habitats: woodland, hedgerows, scrub, and meadows.	Keep existing habitats in good condition, by removing scrub encroachment in rotation along edge habitats and the margins to the meadows, control dominant species in woodland (brambles) in rotation where these may affect rarer plants like the Ancient Woodland Indicator plants.
6. To investigate and implement interpretation of the site.	Provide a notice board to display information and to engage with users when funding allows. Also use temporary posters to engage with users.
7. To investigate and implement regular monitoring of plants and animals.	Monitoring is essential to establish how management is affecting the site. An active monitoring programme should be developed to include vascular plants, bees, butterflies/ moths, bats and breeding birds.
8. To work with internal and external partners to address anti-social behaviour issues.	Unwanted vehicular access has been a problem in the past, fencing and barriers have been installed at entrances to limit access and need to be kept secure. Littering, fly tipping and dog control are also issues at the site and will be addressed via community engagement and enforcement.
9. To manage the site by using existing staff and working in	Investigate opportunities to undertake woodland coppice work and other work with external partners, forming partnerships of

partnership with external partners and contractors.	mutual benefit to achieve the objectives within this management plan. Use staff to carry out work on site if resources allow.
10. To address any access issues when funding permits and carry out path repairs when required.	Improve paths subject to funding in partnership with Kent County Council and Medway Council where these are Public Rights of Way. This may help to reduce the human impacts on the site.
11. To provide a public open space for amenity and social uses, that are compatible with the site's nature conservation features and the Coun-cils Corporate objectives.	Allow public access for amenity use but ensure that this is not to the detriment of the nature conservation interest and plants. Use felled wood to define path edges and brash to form dead hedges to discourage trampling in sensitive areas by people and dogs.
12. Control invasive and non-native plant and pest species.	Monitor the site for invasive and non-native plant and pest species and control these as necessary subject to funding and national guidelines or with expert advice. After felling, control dominant species like bramble that would smother less competitive species in particular Ancient Woodland Indicator Species.
13. Manage expenditure in line with the agreed budget and seek external funding should opportunities arise.	Prioritise work on site and keep expenditure within the agreed budget. Monitor, investigate and apply for external funding opportunities if suitable opportunities arise. (Note this site has some Target Scoring on the Forestry Commission Land information mapping which might aid funding bids.)
14. Carry out regular tree inspections and prioritise recommended works as set out in the Councils Tree Safety Policy and health and safety tree works as priorities and funding allows.	In line with the programme in the Tree Safety Policy, continue to carry out regular tree safety inspections and prioritise and complete tree work as necessary.
15. Improve the accessibility of the site when funding allows.	Undertake an independent Access Audit of the site, reviewing the 'chain of access', entrances and paths etc. in line with established principles and to comply with our duties under the Disability Discrimination Act etc. Promote the sponsored seat scheme and provide more suitable seats as resting places.

Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement

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

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Consultation draft plan circulated for comments	Internal departments tree and climate change officers	August 2023			
Draft plan sent out to key Councillors	TMBC Cabinet Member for Communities and Ward Councillors for Aylesford North & Walderslade for 'community engagement'	October 2023			
Briefing note to the Cabinet member and decision notice made for the public consultation	TMBC	October 2023			
Posters on site and draft plan on website for 'consultation' stage, Key stakeholders written to	Potential other key stakeholders (engage with	November 2023			

and advised of the consultation. Copies of the plan on deposit at Kings Hill council offices and Walderslade Library, flyers delivered to local residents.	the Police, Medway Council, KCC, ASDA, Kent Wildlife Trust, Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, Bridgewood Manor Hotel)				
Amendments agreed and made to the plan. Feedback published on the Councils website for the public.	TMBC	January 2024			
Copy sent to Forestry Commission for approval	Forestry Commission	February 2024			
Public engagement via posters on site on the implementation stages	TMBC	Summer 2024			

Section 8: Monitoring

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

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
1. Engage with the local community positively about the management of the site.	Collation of data shows an increase in community engagement.	Number of volunteer hours Number of people taking part in events.	Annual	TMBC	
2. Create a formalised programme of work to maintain and enhance nature rich habitats within the woodland and meadows.	Meet the targets as outlined in the work plan.	Management plan annual review, site walk over.	Annual	TMBC	
3. Maintain and enhance habitats for protected species of plants, and animals either known or occur, or considered likely to occur within the woodland, especially Ancient Woodland Indicator species.	An increase in abundance of protected species, Ancient Woodland Indicator plants.	Site walk over and flora survey	Annual in summer	TMBC	

4. Restore the conservation features of the woodland boundary.	Restore the Hornbeam pollards into healthy condition by pollarding	Site walk over.	Annual	TMBC	
5. To maintain a mixed mosaic of habitats: woodland, hedgerows, scrub, and meadows.	Meeting the targets as outlined in the management plan.	Site walk over.	Annual	TMBC	
6. To investigate and implement interpretation of the site.	Posters and noticeboard in use	Posters put up on site. New noticed board installed and used	Annual	TMBC	
7. To investigate and implement regular monitoring of plants and animals.	Collation of data enables trends in distribution and abundance of species to be determined.	As resources allow carry out field surveys for key species groups for plants compare the list with Ancient Woodland Indicators.	Annual	TMBC	
8. To work with internal and external partners to address anti-social behaviour issues.	Collation of data shows a reduction in the amount anti-social behaviour. A reduction in the	Site walk over.	Annual	TMBC	

	amount of infrastructure damaged.				
9. To manage the site by using existing staff and working in partnership with external partners and contractors.	Investigate agreement/s with external partner/s.	Site walk over	Annual	TMBC	
10. To address any access issues when funding permits and carry out path repairs when required.	Paths in good order, number of complaints received.	Annual review	Annual	TMBC	
11. To provide a public open space for amenity and social uses, that are compatible with the site's nature conservation features and the Councils Corporate objectives.	Monitoring of species present, visual indicators like reduced trampling.	Site walk over	Annual	TMBC	
12. Control invasive and non-native plant and pest species.	Reduced number of complaints from the public, reduced number of invasive / non-native plant and pest species on site.	Site walk over	Annual	TMBC	
13. Manage expenditure in line with the agreed budget and seek external funding should opportunities arise.	Budgets within profiles and not overspent.	Budget monitoring	Annual	TMBC	

	Amount of additional funding awarded.				
14. Carry out regular tree inspections and prioritise recommended works as set out in the Councils Tree Safety Policy and health and safety tree works as priorities and funding allows.	Meeting the targets set out in the Tree Safety Strategy.	Expert inspections every 3 years and ad-hoc inspections as needed	Annual review	TMBC via contractors	
15. Improve the accessibility of the site when funding allows.	More seats present on the site, Access audit undertaken along with mapping	Site walk over count of seats, Access Audit undertaken targets in the audit progressed	Annual review	TMBC with the assistance of consultant if required	

Forestry Commission England

UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC 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:	• Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency).	**Yes/No**	

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.	• 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).		
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 FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements.* *a) You can use it to support a CS-HT or other grant application.* ***b) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.***	**Name (WO or FM):**	**Date:**
Approved	**Name (AO, WO or FM):**	**Date:**

This means FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements, and we have also approved a felling licence for any tree felling in the plan (where required).		