


# Woodland Management Plan

|   |  |                 |  |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| <b>Woodland Property Name</b>             | Northhaw Great Wood Local Nature Reserve |                 |  |
| <b>Case Reference</b>                     |  |                 |  |
| <b>Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (ten years)</b> | <b>Approval Date:</b>                    | <b>To:</b> 2025 |  |
| <b>Five Year Review Date</b>              | 2020                                     |                 |  |

| Revision No.   | Date        | Status (draft/final) | Reason for Revision                 |
|--|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2  | 2015 - 2020 | Draft                | End of previous plan period         |
|  |             |                      |                                     |
|  |             |                      |                                     |
|  |             |                      |                                     |
|  |             |                      |                                     |
| The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland |             |                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## User Support

### To maximise the functionality available:



- Connect to the internet;
- Enable macros as prompted;
- Where the text is blue and underlined additional information is available, hover over the text with your mouse and double click to open;
- Where you see the  symbol, left click on either the symbol or the adjacent cell and press the F1 key for a further explanation of the detail required;
- Throughout the document where you see '**Add Box**' double click on the text and additional boxes will appear.

## UKFS 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.

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

## 1. Property Details

|  |                            |  |                                 |
|--|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Woodland Property Name</a>   |                            |  |                                 |
| Name   | Northaw Great Wood         | Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | Tenant <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Email  | c.james@welhat.gov.uk      | Contact Number   | 01707 357418                    |
| Agent Name (if applicable)   |                            | Simon Levy   |                                 |
| Email  | simon@coombeforestry.co.uk | Contact Number   | 07740 71885                     |
| County   | Hertfordshire              | <a href="#">Local Authority</a>  | Welwyn Hatfield Council         |
| Grid Reference                              | TL 285343                  | Single Business Identifier    | 107142304                       |
| Management Plan Area (Hectares)  |                            | 121  |                                 |
| Have you included a Plan of Operations with this management plan?  |                            | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | No <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| List the maps associated with this management plan   |                            | Map 1 - Location<br>Map 2 - Infrastructure<br>Map 3 - Habitats / Features<br>Map 4 - Proposed Management   |                                 |
| Do you intend to use the information within the management plan and associated plan of operations to apply for the following |                            | Felling Licence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Thinning Licence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Woodland Regeneration Grant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                 |
| Tick to declare management control and agreement to public availability of the plan  |                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |                                 |

## 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).

Northaw Great Wood will comprise a dynamic mosaic of open and closed canopy woodland supporting a wide range of wildlife species. There will be large glades linked by broad rides, areas of coppice, beautiful trees, restored and new pollards. Appropriate management steered by its history as a wood pasture common will maintain it in favourable conservation condition as expected of its Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) status. The nature reserve will be well-known and loved by the local community including the Friends of Northaw Great Wood who will be important partners in its future management.

### 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   | Restore a more open wood pasture landscape on up to approximately 25-30% of the reserve, including restored and new pollards                                  |
| 2   | Ensure long-term continuous cover of mainly oak / birch / hornbeam woodland elsewhere comprising uneven aged woodland with areas of coppice                   |
| 3   | Retain and enhance habitats supporting a wide range of species including rarer woodland invertebrates, migrant birds and small mammals such as hazel dormouse |
| 4   | Provide a safe and attractive woodland and wood pasture experience for visitors   |
| 5   | Encourage community involvement in management   |

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| No. | Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)   |
|-----|--|
| 6   | Monitor vegetation change and species distribution following habitat restoration                                       |
| 7   | Contribute to the local economy by selling sawlogs, firewood and other products as outputs of conservation management. |
| 8   |  |
| 9   |  |
| 10  |  |

| No. | Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations) |
|-----|--|
| 11  |  |
| 12  |  |
| 13  |  |
| 14  |  |
| 15  |  |
| 16  |  |

### 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   |
|--|---|
| Restoration of wood pasture landscape                    | During previous 10 years, five glades ranging between 2-6ha have been created by selectively felling trees and maintaining by annual flail-cutting. Almost 1km interlinking rides have been substantially widened. At least 10 mature hornbeams have been re-pollarded and a group of young pollards created. Ride management has restored open woodland vistas through the centre and eastern parts of the wood. |
| Long-term continuity of oak, birch and hornbeam woodland | 4 hectares of trees have been thinned & 4 smaller regeneration glades have been created. 2ha of hornbeam has been coppiced. 6ha rhododendron have been removed. Two good mast years have ensured excellent regeneration of oak, birch and hornbeam. Control of muntjac deer is having positive impact   |
| Habitat management for species of local importance       | Rotational coppicing of birch and hornbeam along rides to encourage shrubby margins and light/shade contrast for woodland butterflies. Retention of standing and fallen dead wood for hole-nesters, bats and invertebrates. Mowing glades/rides to maintain open heathy vegetation for rarer plants.  |
| Provide safe and enjoyable visitor experience            | Within last 10 years, provision of bench seats, picnic tables including 1 with extensions for wheelchairs, new interpretative signage. Maintenance of coloured trail way-marking. On-going tree   |


|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | safety survey and action where necessary.<br>Support of local woodland open days.  |
| Encourage community involvement        | Friends of Northaw Great Wood hold weekly work parties to undertake management including coppicing, tree safety work, species and habitat monitoring. Volunteers have received training in first aid, task leadership, chainsaw use, winch operation.  |
| Habitat and species monitoring         | Installation of 50 dormouse nest boxes in areas where signs of animals last seen. Volunteers trained to inspect boxes. Butterflies surveyed weekly (until 2013). Other surveys on ad-hoc basis by local natural history societies. Vegetation transect monitoring across new rides and glades to assess recovery of heathland species. |
| Contributing to local woodfuel economy | Bulk firewood arising from contracted work sold to brickworks for wood-fired kilns. Sales 2010-2015: 320 tonnes firewood. Smaller quantities roundwood disposed of locally in return for donations to Friends of Northaw Great Wood.   |
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## 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 

Northaw Great Wood is one of the three largest remaining semi-natural deciduous woodlands in Hertfordshire. It forms part of a complex of woodland in SE Hertfordshire representing some of the most important oak/hornbeam woodlands in Europe and is also one of only two large woods in the county with habitats derived from its origin as wood pasture common.

Geology: The wood lies between 73 and 125m on a north facing slope. Lower areas

lie on the acidic sands and gravels of the Reading beds, overlain in the north-east towards the Cuffley Brook by gravels, with a small area of chalk exposure in the north east corner. As the land rises, the mid slopes are on acidic London Clay. The highest areas to the south and west are on pebble gravel.

**Soils:** The soils in the wood are of three main types: poorly drained gley soils typically on impervious clay, podsollic soils which are located on freely-draining, acidic substrates such as the Reading Beds and the Pebble gravel and brown earths, moderately well drained soils which occur to the north east of the wood.

**Hydrology:** Springs rising from the clay in the western and southern sides of the wood flow as streams northwards and downhill to the Cuffley Brook. Towards the north east of the wood, the Cuffley Brook has cut a series of swallow holes. There are two ponds on the higher ground in the southern part of the wood.

**Boundaries:** The Cuffley Brook forms the northern boundary of the wood but north of this there is further woodland and arable farmland. There is more woodland to the west. A busy road forms the southern boundary but private estate woodland and meadows lie south of this. Large private houses and gardens form the eastern boundary.

**Vegetation:** The principle vegetation stand-type is oak with hornbeam but there are also areas of oak with birch only. Birch also occurs in stands on its own as regeneration from former open glades, the most significant of which have been restored. Groves of planted sweet chestnut occur in several places. Ash, beech, rowan, aspen, sycamore, cherry and elm and occasional yew are also found.

The shrub layer, absent in some areas where the canopy of hornbeam is dense, comprises holly, hawthorn, some hazel (especially on the damper ground) and crab apple. Rhododendron originating from Victorian planting still remains around the car park and in identified isolated clumps throughout the wood but 7 hectares has been cleared. There are also important areas of sallow and blackthorn scrub, usually located at the margins of restored glades. These patches are important for insect and bird communities and were the former habitat of nightingales. Honeysuckle is widely distributed.

Bracken is a dominant component of the ground layer in many places on the more acid soils, especially in glades and rides where light levels are higher and where the bracken derives from former wood pasture habitat. Several species of bramble occur including one that is yet to be described. In the more established glades where cutting and rolling has taken place during the last 5-6 years and along the Middle Way ride, there are encouraging signs of regeneration of acid grassland including heath bedstraw, heath speedwell, slender St John's Wort, heather, gorse and broom. Where rhododendron has been removed, heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) is now regenerating from seed over wide areas.

The varied habitats in the wood encourage the growth of a wide range of fungi and the site has been well-known to mycologists for many years.

**Fauna:** The Great Wood supports a rich population of woodland vertebrates. However, some of the rarer bird species such as nightingale, wood warbler and redstart are now

extinct, as in the rest of the county. Significant mammals include badger, yellow-necked mouse, pigmy shrew and dormouse. The white admiral, purple emperor, purple hairstreak and silver-washed fritillary are rarer woodland butterfly species now returning to the wood as a result of opening up of rides and glades. The wood is important for coleoptera and a number are 'nationally notable'.

The restoration of glades and wide rides has improved the wood's structural diversity and regeneration of heather (*Calluna*), broom and gorse and other plants of acid heathland is now contributing significantly to species diversity in several areas.

#### History of Management:

The "wood of Northaw" is first referenced in early Norman times when the hunting of deer and wild boar are recorded. The first brief description of its use as common land occurs in the mid-eighteenth century when Northaw Common is described as being a large open area of 'waste' with scattered hornbeam pollards used for fuel. The common was enclosed in 1806 and most of the wood sold in about 1811. The new owner changed the use from wood pasture to forestry with many of the old pollards felled and large scale planting carried out in blocks divided by a grid pattern of rides. There are subsequent records of timber sales in the 1870s. The Great Wood was sold again to a local farmer in 1923 and he felled most of the remaining mature trees, especially the oaks, leaving large areas of open ground with scattered birch and worthless trees.

Following an unsuccessful attempt to convert the woodland into a housing estate and the bankruptcy of the builder, the Great Wood was purchased jointly in 1937 by London and Hertfordshire County Councils as a public open space. Since then, the pattern has largely been one of steady re-growth in the gaps left by the 1930s felling and the shading out of former rides and glades. Corporate management was aimed at conservation and public access with little large scale work taking place.

The wood was designated as Country Park in 1971 and the first management plan dated 1973 had management for high forest as its principal objective with selected areas being left as non-intervention. In addition coppice-with-standards was implemented in the south-east corner of the wood. A new system of way-marked rides was implemented and two glades mown. In the 1980s a major part of the east-west ride was significantly widened and an overgrown hornbeam hedge boundary pollarded. The plan intended that non-native rhododendron and sycamore were to be controlled but, due to vociferous local objections, little further management other than coppicing was actually carried out with consequent further canopy closure and loss of former wood pasture habitats. There remained a severe rhododendron infestation especially in the centre of the wood and around the car park.

A subsequent management plan dated 1997 – 2002 highlighted the failure of the previous management to recognise the wood pasture origins of the woodland but although small-scale work took place, the removal of exotics was never addressed with the vigour the problem required.


The most recent phase of management commenced in 2005 and has included the systematic removal of rhododendron in hectare blocks, the widening of several major rides, the restoration of glades, thinning of oak and hornbeam to create regeneration



gaps, the rotational cutting of rides and glades to control bracken, hornbeam coppicing, monitoring of butterfly populations and deer control.

## 4.2 Information

Use this section to identify features that are both present in your woodland(s) and where required, on land adjacent to your woodland. It may be useful to identify known features on an accompanying map. Woodland information for your property can be found on the '[Magic](#)' website or the Forestry Commission [Land Information Search](#).

| Feature   | Within Woodland(s)   |                             | Cpts | Adjacent to Woodland(s)                 |                             | Map No |
|---|--|-----------------------------|------|---|-----------------------------|--------|
| <b>Biodiversity - Designations</b>  |  |                             |      |   |                             |        |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest   | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | No <input type="checkbox"/> | all  | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Special Area of Conservation  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>   | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Tree Preservation Order   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>   | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Conservation Area   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>   | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Special Protection Area   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>   | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Ramsar Site  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>   | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| National Nature Reserve   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>   | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Local Nature Reserve  | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | No <input type="checkbox"/> | all  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| Other (please Specify):   | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>Notes</b>  | Details:<br>SSSI – first designated in the 1960s and re-notified in 1985<br>Country Park – designated in 1971<br>County Wildlife Site – listed in 1997<br>LNR - designated in 2001<br>Included within the Broxbourne Woods Area proposed SAC |                             |      |   |                             |        |

| Feature  | Within Woodland(s) | Cpts                                    | Map No                      | Notes |   |
|--|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|-------|---|
| <b>Biodiversity - European Protected Species</b> |                    |   |                             |       |   |
| Bat  | Species (if known) | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | all   | Noctule, Common Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared recorded 1996.<br>Common Pipistrelle |

|   |         |   |                             |     |  |  |
|---|---------|---|-----------------------------|-----|--|--|
|   |         |   |                             |     |  | in 2005. No routine surveys undertaken.  |
| Dormouse  |         | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | 1   |  | Summer nests observed 2012   |
| Great Crested Newt                                  |         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |     |  |  |
| Otter   |         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |     |  |  |
| Sand Lizard   |         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |     |  |  |
| Smooth Snake  |         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |     |  |  |
| Natterjack Toad                                     |         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |     |  |  |
| <b>Biodiversity – Priority Species</b>              |         |   |                             |     |  |  |
| <a href="#">Schedule 1 Birds</a>                    | Species | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |     |  | Red Kite seen regularly  |
| Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc) |         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |     |  | Yellow-necked Mouse recorded 1990s   |
| Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)    |         | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |     |  | Grass snake & slow-worm still present in 2015.   |
| Plants  |         | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |     |  | Lesser Skullcap, White Sedge, Star Sedge, Ling & Heath Rush are all rare in Herts. Marsh Pennywort also rare in Herts, & 'near threatened' in England.     |
| Fungi/Lichens                                       |         | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | All |  | Northaw Great Wood is of known importance for fungi in a county context. Regular forays undertaken.  |
| Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)     |         | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |     |  | White Admiral, Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, Silver-washed Fritillary all present. Moth records held by Dr Colin Plant. Willow leaf beetle Gonioctena |

|                                     |   |  |  |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
|                                     |   |  |  |   | viminalis: only site in Herts recorded 2012. Weevil on oak Polydrusus pilosus: one of two sites in SE England recorded 2012. Other Coleoptera records held by T. James   |
| Amphibians (pool frog, common toad) | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |  |   | Common Frog, Common Toad, Common Newt  |
| Other (please Specify):             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |  |   |  |
| <b>Historic Environment</b>         |   |  |  |   |  |
| Scheduled Monuments                 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |   |  |
| Unscheduled Monuments               | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |   |  |
| Registered Parks and Gardens        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |   |  |
| Boundaries and Veteran Trees        | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |  | 1 | A small number of large beech trees remain in the Great Wood but veteran oaks are rare as a result of 19th century felling. Coppice stools springing from ground level derived from felled pollards are a characteristic feature in some areas of the wood. E boundary Comp 9 comprises a line of hornbeam 'stubs' pruned as high pollards in 1980s. |
| Listed Buildings                    | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |   |  |
| Other (please Specify):             | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |  |   | Ride boundary banks throughout wood are relics of Victorian  |

|  |   |  |     |   |  |
|--|---|--|-----|---|--|
|  |   |  |     |   | compartments.<br>S boundary along<br>The Ridgeway laid<br>out at Enclosure.                                |
| <b>Landscape</b>   |   |  |     |   |  |
| <u>National Character Area</u> (please Specify): Northern Thames Basin |   |  |     |   |  |
| National Park  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |     |   |  |
| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty                                     | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |     |   |  |
| Other (please Specify):  | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |     |   | Area 52: Northaw Great Wood, Welwyn Hatfield Landscape Character Assessment                                |
| <b>People</b>  |   |  |     |   |  |
| CROW Access  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |     |   |  |
| Public Rights of Way (any)   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |     |   |  |
| Other Access Provision   | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | All | 2 | Three colour-marked trails of varying length. Several other rides & paths accessible for pedestrians.      |
| Public Involvement   | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |     |   | Friends group has weekly work parties  |
| Visitor Information  | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | 4   |   | Large map board at entrance. Information boards at toilet block. Additional information on council website |
| Public Recreation Facilities   | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | All | 2 | Car park, picnic tables and benches. lavatories  |
| Provision of Learning Opportunities                                    | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |     |   |  |
| Anti-social Behaviour  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |     |   | Generally not a problem  |
| Other (please Specify):  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |     |   |  |
| <b>Water</b>   |   |  |     |   |  |
| Watercourses   | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | All | 3 | Seasonal streams   |

|                         |   |  |   |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
|                         |   |  |   |   | flow through almost all compartments. Cuffley Brook & Grimes Brook are important natural watercourses. |
| Lakes                   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |   |  |
| Ponds                   | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | 4 | 3 | Two small ponds adjacent road  |
| Other (please Specify): | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | 9 | 3 | Swallow holes  |

## 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   |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------|--------|---|
| <b>Woodland Habitat Types</b>        |   |                             |      |        |   |
| Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland        | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | All  |        |   |
| Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      |        |   |
| Semi-natural features in PAWS        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      |        |   |
| Lowland beech and yew woodland       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      |        |   |
| Lowland mixed deciduous woodland     | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | All  |        |   |
| Upland mixed ash woods               | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      |        |   |
| Upland Oakwood                       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      |        |   |
| Wet woodland                         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      |        |   |
| Wood-pasture and parkland            | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      |        | Whole wood indicated as common on 18th century maps |
| Other (please Specify):              | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |      |        |   |

| <b>Non Woodland Habitat Types</b> |   |                             |                 |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Blanket bog                       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Fenland                           | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Lowland calcareous grassland      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Lowland dry acid grassland        | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | All             | 3 | Along 19th century ride system. Restoration has focussed on the most botanically diverse of these, creating links between them. |
| Lowland heath land                | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | 4               | 3 | In large glade created following removal of rhododendron  |
| Lowland meadows                   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Lowland raised bog                | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Rush pasture                      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Reed bed                          | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Wood pasture                      | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | potentially all |   | The Great Wood is historically a wood pasture common, not an oak woodland   |
| Upland hay meadows                | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Upland heath land                 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Unimproved grassland              | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Peat lands                        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |   |   |
| Wetland habitats                  | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | 4,<br>All<br>4  |   | patches of sphagnum seasonal streams ponds  |
| Other (please Specify):           | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |                 | 3 | Relics of laid hedge along southern boundary with The   |

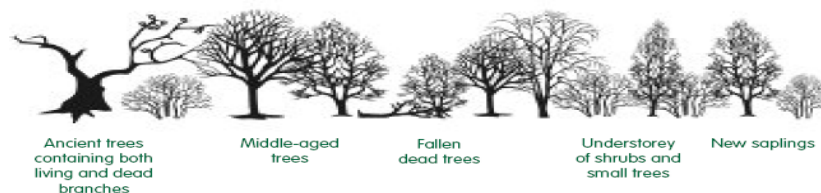
|  |  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  | Ridgeway.<br>Hornbeam pollard<br>hedge along School<br>Camp boundary. |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|

## 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      | Percentage of Mgt Plan Area | Age Structure    | Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| Native Broadleaves | 90%                         | Uneven Aged      | Includes restored glades and rides, understorey of mixed species, good recent regeneration of oak, birch, hornbeam, rowan etc in many areas |
| Coppice            | 10%                         | Uneven Aged      | Largest area of coppice at east end of wood and more recently cut area on west boundary   |
| Please Select....  |                             | Please Select... |   |
| Please Select....  |                             | Please Select... |   |
| Please Select....  |                             | Please Select... |   |

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



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity





## 5. Woodland Protection





Woodlands in England face a range of threats; this section allows you to consider the potential threats that could be facing your woodland(s). Using the simple Risk Assessment process below woodland owners and managers can consider any potential threats to their woodland(s) and whether there is a need to take action to protect their woodlands.

### 5.1 Risk Matrix

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

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

### 5.2 [Plant Health](#)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Threat                              | Acute Oak Decline   |
| (Other Please Specify)   | Ash dieback   |
| Likelihood of presence              | High  |
| Impact                              | Medium  |
| Response (inc protection measures)  | Affected oak trees removed only where they are a safety risk. Ash dieback not yet positively identified. In a non-commercial area identified as historic wood pasture, the loss of some trees is not considered to be a major issue |

**Add Box**

**Add Box**

**Add Box**

### 5.3 [Deer](#)

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Likelihood of presence             | High  |
| Impact                             | Medium  |
| Response (inc protection measures) | Muntjac deer have been controlled by shooting for the last 7 years. Temporary deer fencing has been erected around all areas where rhododendron has been removed or thinning coppicing undertaken. Where regeneration of lowland heath rather than trees is a priority, |

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
|  | deer fencing is not always used. |
|--|----------------------------------|

## 5.4 [Grey Squirrels](#)

|                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Likelihood of presence             | High |
| Impact                             | Low  |
| Response (inc protection measures) | None |

## 5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Threat                             | Rabbit |
| (Other Please Specify)             | Hare   |
| Likelihood of presence             | Medium |
| Impact                             | Low    |
| Response (inc protection measures) | None   |

**Add Box**

## 5.6 Water & Soil

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Threat                             | Acidification of Water  |
| (Other Please Specify)             |   |
| Likelihood of presence             | Low   |
| Impact                             | Low   |
| Response (inc protection measures) | No obvious indication of increasing acidification - water is naturally acidic anyway. |

**Add Box**

**Add Box**

## 5.7 Environmental

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Threat                             | Invasive Species   |
| (Other Please Specify)             | Fire   |
| Likelihood of presence             | Low  |
| Impact                             | Low  |
| Response (inc protection measures) | R ponticum is being controlled. Fire, although technically a risk in dry weather, has not been an issue at the Great Wood. |

**Add Box**

**Add Box**

## 5.8 [Climate Change](#) Resilience

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Threat                 | Lack of Tree Species Diversity |
| (Other Please Specify) |                                |
| Likelihood of presence | Low                            |
| Impact                 | Low                            |

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Response (inc protection measures) | No special action being taken currently |
|------------------------------------|---|

**Add Box**

**Add Box**

## 6. Management Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features identified within the previous sections of the plan. A detailed work programme by sub-compartment can be added to the Plan of Operations.

| <b>Management Obj/Feature</b>                              | <b>Management Intention</b>  |
|--|--|
| Maintenance of wood pasture habitats / features            | Restored rides and glades will continue to be cut on a rotational basis where desirable/possible using tractor & flail. Suitable hornbeams and oaks will be identified for re-pollarding and for creation of new pollards. Standing and fallen dead wood will be retained.   |
| Ensure long-term continuity of oak/hornbeam/birch woodland | Identify suitable areas for canopy thinning to encourage natural regeneration of key tree species. Monitor spread / impact of acute oak decline if confirmed, follow guidance on control if necessary. Consider further planting / transplanting of oak where natural regeneration is poor. Continue to control muntjac.   |
| Enhance habitats for locally important species             | Identify further areas for coppicing to create temporary glades and scrub habitats. Retain existing thorn and willow scrub but coppice to regenerate where needed.   |
| Provide safe and attractive visitor experience             | Continue to maintain coloured trails with good waymarking and vegetation management, including tree safety. Maintain seats/ tables in good condition. Where funding is available, consider surface upgrades on worst sections to control erosion of restored ride habitat. Maintain up-to-date information on council website.   |
| Encourage community involvement in management              | Continue to work in partnership with Friends of Northaw Great Wood, agreeing work activities, providing training when necessary. Encourage FONGW to lead guided walks for visitors.  |
| Habitat & Species Monitoring                               | Continue to monitor vegetation recovery after ride & glade restoration. Survey fixed transects every two years and establish new transects. Continue to monitor dormouse nest boxes in each of three locations following guidelines from National Dormouse Monitoring Project. Re-establish weekly butterfly monitoring if possible. Encourage other species survey by Herts Natural History Society recorders / groups. |
| Support local woodfuel economy                             | Continue to support local markets for firewood currently brickworks using wood-fired kilns and local private   |

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
|  | households. |
|  |             |
|  |             |

**Add Box**

## 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.

| <b>Work Proposal</b>                     | <b>Individual/<br/>Organisation</b>  | <b>Date<br/>Contacted</b>              | <b>Date feedback<br/>received</b> | <b>Response</b> | <b>Action</b> |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Consultation on management plan revision | Natural England<br><br>WHBC Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee<br><br>Herts County Council<br><br>Northaw & Cuffley Parish Council<br><br>Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust<br><br>Friends of Northaw Great Wood | 15 Sept to agree external consultation |                                   |                 |               |



## 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.

| <b>Management Objective/Activities</b>   | <b>Indicator of Progress/Success</b>  | <b>Method of Assessment</b>   | <b>Frequency of Assessment</b> | <b>Responsibility</b>                                   | <b>Assessment Results</b> |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Restore a more open wood pasture landscape on up to approximately 25-30% of the reserve, including restored and new pollards | Continuing increase in plant species diversity and abundance in restored glades / rides | Species survey & monitoring   | Annually if possible           | Landscape Officer in partnership with Herts Flora Group |                           |
|  | Continuing good condition of pollarded trees and their recovery following surgery       | Condition survey. Photography | Every 2-3 years                | Landscape Officer                                       |                           |
|  | Restoration of 1-2 more small glades and rides within plan period                       | Visual                        | End of plan period             | Landscape Officer with agent, contractor or FONGW       |                           |
|  | Maintenance of 'good conservation condition' status                                     | Condition survey              | Not known                      | Natural England Local Officer                           |                           |

| <b>Management Objective/Activities</b>  | <b>Indicator of Progress/Success</b>   | <b>Method of Assessment</b>   | <b>Frequency of Assessment</b>                          | <b>Responsibility</b>   | <b>Assessment Results</b> |
|---|--|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| Ensure long-term continuous cover of mainly oak / birch / hornbeam woodland elsewhere comprising uneven aged woodland with areas of coppice                   | Healthy regeneration of oak seedlings. Limited impact of AOD. Reduction of deer impact to a sustainable level.<br><br>Maintenance of 'good conservation condition' status  | Visual survey of regen glades.<br><br>Impact Monitoring<br><br>Condition survey | Every 2-3 years<br><br>Every 2-3 years<br><br>Not known | Landscape Officer with agent, FC woodland officer<br>Eastern Deer Initiative<br><br>Natural England Local Officer |                           |
| Retain and enhance habitats supporting a wide range of species including rarer woodland invertebrates, migrant birds and small mammals such as hazel dormouse | A range of habitats, including high forest, open wood pasture with pollards, lowland heath, coppice, willow/thorn scrub, seasonal streams continues to be present in healthy condition.<br>Maintenance of 'good conservation condition' status | Visual, photographic monitoring,<br><br>condition surveys                       | On-going<br><br>Not known                               | Landscape Officer, Agent, FC woodland officer<br><br>Natural England local officer                                |                           |
| Provide a safe and attractive woodland and wood pasture experience for visitors   | Low level of complaints and hopefully some positive feedback.  | Tree hazard & path / infrastructure condition surveys.<br>Maintenance           | On-going  | Landscape Officer. Friends of NGW, Council reception staff.<br>WHBC Premises                                      |                           |



| <b>Management Objective/Activities</b>        | <b>Indicator of Progress/Success</b>  | <b>Method of Assessment</b>  | <b>Frequency of Assessment</b>  | <b>Responsibility</b>   | <b>Assessment Results</b> |
|---|---|--|---|---|---------------------------|
|   |   | of visitor facilities  |   | Management  |                           |
| Encourage community involvement in management | <p>Friends of NGW attracts new members.</p> <p>Regular liaison with FONGW</p> <p>Increase in skills and competencies</p> <p>Visitors show interest and understanding in management.</p>                             | <p>Membership data.</p> <p>Training certification</p> <p>Attendance at guided walks</p>                                | <p>Annual reports.</p> <p>Weekly emails agreeing work party activities.</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>Whenever guided walks are held</p> | <p>Landscape Officer</p> <p>Landscape Officer &amp; Friends of NGW</p>  |                           |
| Habitat & Species Monitoring                  | <p>Rarer woodland butterflies expanding into new areas of the wood</p> <p>Increase in breeding pairs of migrant birds.</p> <p>Finding a dormouse nest in a box!</p> <p>Increase in quantity and quality of wood</p> | <p>Butterfly transect monitoring.</p> <p>Breeding season surveys</p> <p>Nest box surveys</p> <p>Vegetation surveys</p> | <p>Weekly from April to September</p> <p>Annually if possible</p> <p>Three inspections annually</p> <p>Every 2-3 years</p>        | <p>Landscape Officer working with FONGW, and Herts NHS species recorders</p> <p>Volunteers with NE license</p> <p>Landscape Officer &amp;</p> |                           |

| <b>Management Objective/Activities</b> | <b>Indicator of Progress/Success</b> | <b>Method of Assessment</b>                          | <b>Frequency of Assessment</b> | <b>Responsibility</b> | <b>Assessment Results</b> |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
|  | pasture & acid grassland habitats    |  |                                | FONGW                 |                           |
| Support local woodfuel economy         | Sales of firewood                    | Income helping to offset costs of habitat management | Annually, on-going             | Landscape Officer     |                           |
|  |                                      |  |                                |                       |                           |
|  |                                      |  |                                |                       |                           |
|  |                                      |  |                                |                       |                           |
|  |                                      |  |                                |                       |                           |
|  |                                      |  |                                |                       |                           |
|  |                                      |  |                                |                       |                           |

**Add Box**

## FC Approval – FC Office Use Only

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