Forestry Commission England

Woodland Management Plan

Woodland Property Name	Sherrardspark Wood Local Nature Reserve	
Case Reference		
Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (ten years)	**Approval Date:**	**To:** 2025
Five Year Review Date	2020	

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision
2 (2015-2020)	September 2015	Draft	End of previous plan period
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland			☒

User Support

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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)	☒
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)	☒
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)	☒
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)	☐
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	☐
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)	☒
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)	☒
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	☒
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	☐

1. Property Details

Woodland Property Name			
Name	Sherrardspark Wood	Owner ☒	Tenant ☐
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	Local Authority	Welwyn Hatfield Council
Grid Reference	TL 230139	Single Business Identifier	107142304
Management Plan Area (Hectares)		74.9	
Have you included a Plan of Operations with this management plan?		Yes ☒	No ☐
List the maps associated with this management plan		Map 1 - Location Map 2 - Infrastructure Map 3 - Habitats / Features 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 ☒ Thinning Licence ☒ Woodland Regeneration Grant ☒	
Tick to declare management control and agreement to public availability of the plan		☒	

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).

Sherrardspark Wood will continue to be one of Hertfordshire's most important oak woodlands, managed under a continuous cover regime to maintain the wood in favourable conservation condition as expected of its SSSI status. Careful management will ensure enhancement of a range of woodland habitats supporting a wide range of locally important species including birds, small mammals and invertebrates. Timber and firewood will be sold as outputs of conservation management . The wood will be well-known and loved by the local community including the Wood Wardens Society who will continue to 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	Ensure long-term continuity of mainly sessile oak woodland with varied age classes and structure with healthy regeneration of oak saplings so as to ensure woodland continuity and a harvestable resource for future generations.
2	Retain and enhance habitats supporting a wide range of wildlife species, including local Biodiversity Action Plan species such as dormouse, rare woodland butterflies and hole-nesting birds.
3	Provide a safe and attractive woodland experience for visitors on an appropriately managed path network providing reasonable access for all legitimate users whilst endeavouring to control less desirable activities.
4	Encourage community involvement by working in partnership with the Sherrardspark Wood Wardens Society (SPWWS).
5	Monitor changes in vegetation and species distribution resulting from habitat restoration

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No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
6	Control invasive non-native species where these are considered to be suppressing the mainly oak woodland community whilst also considering how

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
	other tree species not locally native may help to ensure future continuity.
7	Continue to contribute to the local economy by selling sawlogs, firewood and other products as outputs of conservation management.
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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
Ensure long-term continuity of mainly sessile oak woodland with varied age classes and structure with healthy regeneration of oak saplings so as to ensure woodland continuity and a harvestable resource for future generations.	Within the previous plan period oak was thinned in two 2-hectare blocks. Two good mast years have resulted in excellent regeneration. Small group transplanting of oak seedlings has been moderately successful. Regeneration of birch, hornbeam, pine and larch has also been good.
Retain and enhance habitats supporting a wide range of wildlife species, including local BAP species such as dormouse, rare woodland butterflies and hole-nesting birds.	1.9km rides have been widened. Good regeneration of shrub layer in most areas with a variety of ground vegetation consistent with local soil characteristics. Increase in occurrence of e.g. Silver-washed Fritillary butterfly. 0.5ha coppice cut annually in Brocks Wood. Hazel, hornbeam & honeysuckle planted. Dormouse nest boxes erected and monitored. Breeding woodpeckers surveyed. A ride mowing regime has been started to control bramble / encourage botanical diversity
Provide a safe and attractive woodland experience for visitors on an appropriately managed path network providing reasonable access for all	Path condition surveyed regularly by SPWWS who also undertake majority of tree safety work and clearance of seasonal overgrowth. Rights of Way are waymarked.

legitimate users whilst endeavouring to control less desirable activities.	Permissive horse ride waymarked. Over 15 oak memorial benches constructed by SPWWS have been sponsored by local families. WWs have continued to watch out for and report fires and to liaise with local emergency and council services. WWs organise annual walks programme attracting hundreds of visitors.
Encourage community involvement by working in partnership with the Sherrardspark Wood Wardens Society	SPWWS has been involved with the wood for nearly 50 years, within the last 10 years as a very active and committed working group undertaking practical management, including use of chainsaws, twice-weekly. Wood Wardens have overseen the coppice restoration project in Brocks Wood and undertaken biennial deer damage monitoring surveys. In 2012, SPWWS undertook an evaluation of management needs throughout the wood.
Monitor changes in vegetation and species distribution resulting from habitat restoration	After a slow start in some areas, ground layer regeneration is now improving
Control invasive non-native species where these are considered to be suppressing the mainly oak woodland community whilst also considering how other tree species not locally native may help to ensure future continuity.	Within previous plan period, large areas of invasive Rhododendron ponticum have been removed from the wood, leaving only a small clump for 'amenity' at Six Ways. Wood Wardens monitor and control seedling regen. Sycamore has been controlled within historic extent of Sherrardspark and in other areas where its density is suppressing more diverse vegetation. Some sweet chestnut is being managed as coppice. Regenerating pine and larch used a nurse for oak with small groups earmarked as longer term retentions. Crops of poplar and larch felled in former plantation areas and regeneration of mixed broadleaves encouraged.
Continue to contribute to the local economy by selling sawlogs, firewood and other products as outputs of conservation management.	Bulk firewood arising from contracted work sold to brickworks for wood-fired kilns. Oak sawlogs sole to merchant. Smaller quantities roundwood disposed of locally to provide funds for SPWWS. Sales 2010-2015: 178 tonnes as logs, 496 tonnes as firewood, 108 tonnes as biomass

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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

Sherrardspark Wood is a large Ancient Semi-natural Woodland dominated by oak high forest and is a product of the physical attributes of its location and man's long term intervention...

Geology: The underlying geology comprises chalk covered with beds of clays, sands and gravels. The latter are derived from fluvial deposits left behind by the River Thames before it was diverted by the Anglian glaciation. Sherrardspark Wood is the location of a remnant of the highest and oldest Sudbury Formation of gravels known as the Stoke Row gravel. This contains a higher proportion of quartz derived from Triassic, Carboniferous and Devonian sources in the west Midlands and south Pennines. (John Catt et al Herts Natural History Society). Elsewhere, remnants of Reading gravels can be found. These are the source of Hertfordshire 'pudding stone' – accretions of flint pebbles concreted together by natural silica cement. Deposits of brick earth found on the east side of the wood provided the material from which many garden city houses were built. The chalk comes closer to the surface most noticeably in the north of the wood and here there are a number of former small pits. There are deposits of London Clay on the higher areas of the wood and these continue to cause subsidence problems in local housing particularly following changes in water table.

The highest point in the wood is at almost 127m at Six Ways.

Soils: Sherrardspark Wood has largely acid soils as a result of the underlying geology, although the proximity of chalk on the north side creates more neutral – calcareous conditions, clearly shown by the variation in ground flora.

Hydrology: Two shallow valleys falling in a southerly direction contain seasonal streams. After heavy rain, water flow is brisk and one of the stream channels is quite deeply incised. The lower parts of the valleys beyond the margins of the wood are however always dry due to the existence of three swallow holes which capture the flow. The smallest of these is located in the adjacent golf course but the other two are within the wood and are characterised by large hollows.

Vegetation: The historic part of Sherrardspark Wood is dominated by mature oak high forest. The oak is thought to be originally mostly sessile as a result of earlier estate plantings but there are also common oaks and resultant hybrids. Hornbeam coppice is

found mostly on the west side (compartments 5a-d) in Brocks Wood but is scattered throughout. Where the chalk lies closer to the surface, sycamore predominates along with ash, wych elm and wild cherry. Beech is a relatively common component within the oak, although there are few older specimens. There are small remaining plantations of poplar/larch (4b2), scots pine (1h2 & 3), with occasional Scot's and Corsican Pine dotted about. Groves of mature sweet chestnut are located in compartment 1f1 particularly around the swallow hole. Holly, birch and rowan are also found.

The understorey is generally weak due to past management as high forest but hornbeam coppice remains in Brocks Wood on the west side. Existing small amounts of hazel have been augmented with additional planting for dormouse habitat.

Ground flora reflects the closed canopy and acid soils of the wood and is generally dominated by bramble. However, on more calcareous soils, dogs mercury, wood anemone, yellow archangel, wood anemone, wood violet and broad buckler fern can be found. Recent ride wideing has encouraged Wood Avens, Self-heal, Heath Speedwell and woodland sedges to regenerate and in areas where rhododendron has been removed, heather (Calluna vulgaris) has re-appeared especially in Compartment 1e and 1h3. Both violet and broad-leaved helleborine, both regionally important have been recorded close to the old railway line.

The wood is well-known for its wide variety of fungi and extensive foray lists have been recorded by Herts Fungi Group. Mosses and lichens have been less well studied but are assumed to be of importance in a Hertfordshire context, with one species of lichen indicating long-term woodland continuity.

Fauna: The 1998-2003 management plan notes that both common and scarce species of fauna appear to be diminishing, indicating visitor pressure as the main reason. Muntjac deer, badger, fox, rabbit, hare, grey squirrel, (hazel) dormouse, bank vole and common shrew are all present. Both squirrel and muntjac are causing damage by bark stripping and browsing. However, biennial vegetation monitoring indicates that browsing damage by muntjac is declining.(Smith, Fox & Smith 2013:' Transactions' Herts Natural History Society) The more usual woodland birds are abundant, although the once common seasonal warblers are becoming less common and in the case of wood and willow warbler are now extinct in the wood. All three native woodpeckers are recorded as is the locally rare hawfinch.

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
Biodiversity - Designations				

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Yes ☒	No ☐	1,3,4 ,5	Yes ☐	No ☐	
Special Area of Conservation	Yes ☐	No ☐		Yes ☐	No ☐	
Tree Preservation Order	Yes ☐	No ☐		Yes ☒	No ☐	
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	SSSI - designated in 1986. LNR – designated in 1997 County Wildlife Site – listed in 1997.					

Feature		Within Woodland(s)		Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species						
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes ☒	No ☐	All?		
Dormouse		Yes ☒	No ☐	5a,b & c	3	Presence suspected.
Great Crested Newt		Yes ☐	No ☐			
Otter		Yes ☐	No ☐			
Sand Lizard		Yes ☐	No ☐			
Smooth Snake		Yes ☐	No ☐			
Natterjack Toad		Yes ☐	No ☐			
Biodiversity – Priority Species						
Schedule 1 Birds	Species	Yes ☒	No ☐			Red Kite regularly seen
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		Yes ☐	No ☐			
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		Yes ☐	No ☐	4	3	Slow worm
Plants		Yes ☒	No ☐	1e 1h1-	3	Heather, Broad-leaved &

			3		Violet Helleborine
Fungi/Lichens	Yes ☒	No ☐	All		Lichens last surveyed 2011: rare Barnacle Lichen Thelotrema lepadinum is indicator of woodland continuity. (A Harris & M Powell). Fungi surveyed annually by Herts Fungus Group
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes ☒	No ☐	All		Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral, White-letter Hairstreak
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes ☒	No ☐	5c	3	Common Frog, Common Toad, Smooth Newt
Other (please Specify):	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments	Yes ☐	No ☒			
Unscheduled Monuments	Yes ☒	No ☐	3b1, 3c1, 3c3 3f2	3	Remains of water supply infrastructure for Digswell Park
Registered Parks and Gardens	Yes ☐	No ☒			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes ☒	No ☐	1e, 1g 1h 3d-f	3	Perimeter and internal historic wood banks. S boundary is ecclesiastical boundary of Digswell and Bishop's Hatfield parishes and is parliamentary boundary between Hitchin & St Albans. Boundary between Digswell and Welwyn

					parishes passes through NW side of wood.
Listed Buildings	Yes ☐	No ☒			
Other (please Specify):	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Landscape					
National Character Area (please Specify): Profile 111: Northern Thames Basin					
National Park	Yes ☐	No ☒			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Yes ☐	No ☒			
Other (please Specify):	Yes ☒	No ☐			Welwyn Hatfield Landscape Character Assessment Area 35: Ayot St Peter Wooded Uplands Unimproved grassland to N was once part of Digswell Park. Beech avenue known as Monks Walk and another more recent beech avenue leading into N side of wood are part of former estate plantings/parkland
People					
CROW Access	Yes ☐	No ☒			
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes ☒	No ☐			Extensive network of public ROWs giving pedestrian access throughout the wood. Public & permissive bridleways as well as disused railway line (Ayot Way) give additional access. Ayot Way accessible to wheelchairs at E

					(town centre) end.
Other Access Provision	Yes ☒	No ☐			Access for 4WD and forestry machinery is possible throughout the wood E of the railway line.
Public Involvement	Yes ☒	No ☐			Sherrardspark Wood Wardens Society is active volunteer group working twice a week on practical management and providing regular input to reserve management planning.
Visitor Information	Yes ☒	No ☐			Interpretation boards are located at 4 main entrances. Folding leaflet also available. Web page on council website
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes ☒	No ☐			A car park is located at north end of wood adjacent to the reservoir.
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes ☒	No ☐			Annual walks programme arranged by SPWWS.
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes ☒	No ☐			Sporadic but increasing incidents of 'camp fires' with underage drinking
Other (please Specify):	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Water					
Watercourses	Yes ☒	No ☐	1a&h 1c,d& f		Two natural stream courses flowing southwards into swallowholes
Lakes	Yes ☐	No ☒			

Ponds	Yes ☒	No ☐	1a2 4c adj. 5b 5c	3	Two ponds on west side of wood. Small seasonal pond west of reservoir and in south-east corner
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 ☐	1 all 3 5	3	Contained within historic boundary of Sherrardspark and extending in to Brocks Wood
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	Yes ☒	No ☐	1h2 1h3 2a 4b2	3	Pine & remnant larch plantations
Semi-natural features in PAWS	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes ☒	No ☐	all		
Upland mixed ash woods	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Upland Oakwood	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Wet woodland	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Wood-pasture and parkland	Yes ☒	No ☐	1e & 1i	3	Extensive regeneration of heather suggests

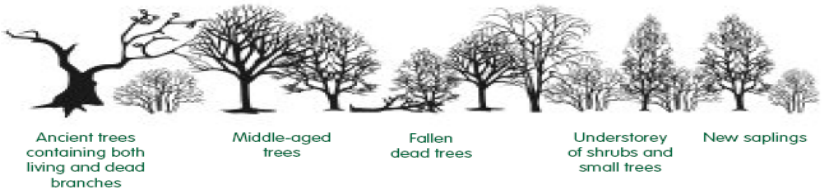
					past history of grazing
Other (please Specify):	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Non Woodland Habitat Types					
Blanket bog	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Fenland	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Lowland calcareous grassland	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Lowland dry acid grassland	Yes ☐	No ☐			
Lowland heath land	Yes ☒	No ☐	1e	3	Area cleared of ponticum currently being managed as heather / birch / pine mosaic
Lowland meadows	Yes ☐	No ☐			
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	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
Native Broadleaves	75%	Uneven Aged	mainly oak with some ash & beech. Holly understorey in places. Excellent recent regeneration of oak, hornbeam & birch
Coniferous	10%	Even Aged	with mixed broad-leaves as understorey in places
Coppice	15%	Uneven Aged	oak with hornbeam & hazel
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.

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	Acute Oak Decline
(Other Please Specify)	Ash dieback confirmed 2015
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Only positively identified in 2015 but suspect present since 1990 droughts. Two oaks near property felled. Situation will be monitored and advice taken from Forestry Commission.

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5.3 Deer

Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	New coppice areas fenced. Damage assessments undertaken biennially. Results in 2015 suggest damage is declining.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence	High

Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	None.

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat	Rabbit
(Other Please Specify)	Hare
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Rabbit guards used on trees/shrubs planted in areas near fields

Add Box

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat	Soil Erosion
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Some damage arising from reservoir drain-down. Veolia Water made aware of problem.

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5.7 Environmental

Threat	Anti-social Behaviour
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Actual damage limited at present but high nuisance impact. Wood Wardens liaising with local police & council's street wardens

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5.8 Climate Change Resilience

Threat	Uniform Structure
(Other Please Specify)	Limited species diversity
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Thinning carried out to encourage regeneration. Coppicing in Brocks Wood is helping to diversify structure. Shrubby regeneration at

	sides of rides will be rotationally coppiced. Sweet chestnuts being controlled in some areas but allowed to coppice in others.

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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
Ensure long-term continuity of mainly sessile oak woodland with varied age classes and structure with healthy regeneration of oak saplings so as to ensure woodland continuity and a harvestable resource for future generations.	Continue thinning in small areas to create canopy gaps for regeneration of oak, birch and hornbeam. Continue coppicing in Brocks Wood to create structural diversity and opportunities for regeneration of oak. Protect recent oak regeneration and plant small groups of oak trees where regeneration is poor.
Retain and enhance habitats supporting a wide range of wildlife species, including local BAP species such as dormouse, rare woodland butterflies and hole-nesting birds.	Maintain newly widened rides by annual rotational cutting to control bramble and encourage greater diversity of other woodland flora. Maintain coppice management to create temporary glades and shrub layers. Retain standing and fallen dead trees where no safety hazard
Provide a safe and attractive woodland experience for visitors on an appropriately managed path network providing reasonable access for all legitimate users whilst endeavouring to control less desirable activities.	Ensure footpaths and bridleways are kept open by clearing fallen trees and cutting back overgrowth. Maintain way marking. Investigate funding for improvement of paths with poor / permanently muddy surfaces. Continue to encourage liaison between Wood Wardens, local Police and Street Wardens in controlling anti-social behaviour.
Encourage community involvement.	Continue to support Wood Wardens with necessary training and re-funding of expenses. Maintain regular site meetings to plan future work. Encourage their involvement with local schools.
Monitor changes in vegetation and species distribution resulting from habitat restoration	Continue to encourage annual butterfly transect surveys to track their expansion into new areas. Monitor regeneration of oak. Encourage on-going involvement of Herts Natural History Society species recorders and groups.

Control invasive non-native species where these are considered to be suppressing the mainly oak woodland community whilst also considering how other tree species not locally native may help to ensure future continuity.	Continue to weed out rhododendron seedlings. Aim to control sycamore & sweet chestnut in core oak areas but consider its management as coppice in a mix with other species elsewhere without letting it become dominant. Use regenerating softwoods to nurse young oak.
Continue to contribute to the local economy.	Sell sawlogs, firewood and other products as outputs of conservation management.

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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 on management plan revision	Natural England WHBC Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Herts County Council Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust Sherrardspark Wood Wardens Society Welwyn Garden City Society	15 September 2015 to agree external consultation			

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action

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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
Ensure long-term continuity of mainly sessile oak woodland with varied age classes and structure with healthy regeneration of oak saplings so as to ensure woodland continuity and a harvestable resource for future generations.	Successful regeneration of oak seedlings. Maintenance of 'good conservation condition' status	Visual survey	Annual or after good mast years Every 4-5 years (?)	Landscape Officer Natural England local officer	
Retain and enhance habitats supporting a wide range of wildlife species, including local Biodiversity Action Plan species such as dormouse, rare woodland butterflies and hole-nesting birds.	Healthy regeneration of ride-side ground flora. Good coppice regen from cut stumps. Good retension of standing and fallen dead wood. Damage from deer	Visual survey Visual survey Visual survey with reference to Forestry Commission guidlelines	Annually Annually As at present Biennial	Landscape officer Landscape Officer and Wood Wardens Dr Ken Smith Wood Wardens	

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
	browsing kept at sustainable level	Ivy browse test			
Provide a safe and attractive woodland experience for visitors on an appropriately managed path network providing reasonable access for all legitimate users whilst endeavouring to control less desirable activities.	Paths maintained in good condition. Low levels of complaints from visitors. Low/declining incidents of fires, fly tipping etc	Visual survey. Tree hazard survey Reports from Wood Wardens and complaints received by council contact centre. Maintain log of reported incidents	Annually and after storm events On-going On-going	Landscape Officer & Wood Wardens Landscape Officer & Wood Wardens	
Encourage community involvement by working in partnership with the Sherrardspark Wood Wardens Society (SPWWS).	Increasing membership of Wood Wardens Society. Increasing standards of competence. Maintenance of contact with	Society reports Training certification	Annual On-going Weekly emails agreeing work	Landscape Officer & Wood Wardens	

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
	Landscape Officer		party activities		
Monitor changes in vegetation and species distribution resulting from habitat restoration	Improving structural diversity. Increase in species diversity	Visual Survey Ad hoc surveys	Annual (butterfly monitoring transects) Every 3-4 years for structural diversity survey	Wood Wardens Landscape Officer Natural England Herts Natural History Society species groups	
Control invasive non-native species where these are considered to be suppressing the mainly oak woodland community whilst also considering how other tree species not locally native may help to ensure future continuity.	Decline of e.g. sycamore within historic area of Sherrardspark Wd. Decreasing need to weed rhododendron Seedlings / stump regen no longer present Variegated archangel restricted to extreme woodland perimeter or even controlled completely in some	Visual survey Visual. Visual	On-going On-going On-going	Landscape Officer with Wood Wardens	

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
	areas				
Continue to contribute to the local economy by selling sawlogs, firewood and other products as outputs of conservation management.	Sales of firewood (as and when appropriate)	Budget figures	Annually	Landscape Officer and Forestry Adviser	

Add Box

Forestry Commission England

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? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2)	☐	☐	
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)	☐	☐	
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)	☐	☐	
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)	☐	☐	
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	☐	☐	
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)	☐	☐	
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)	☐	☐	
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	☐	☐	
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	☐	☐	
Approving Officer Name		Plan approved		☐