Forestry Commission England

Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:		
Woodland or Property name	**South Molton community woodland**	
Woodland Management Plan case reference		
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland		**Yes**
Plan author name	**Mark Bowden**	

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

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

Template user support:

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

Forestry Commission England

UK Forestry Standard management planning criteria

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

	UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Author check ☑
1	**Plan Objectives:** Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, and environmental objectives will be achieved.	• Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.	Yes/No
2	**Forest context and important features in management strategy:** Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.	Management intentions communicated in ***Sect. 6*** of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) ***Sect. 2***. Management intentions should take account of: • Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (***Sect. 4***) • Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (***Sect. 5***). • Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in ***Sect. 7***.	Yes/No
3	**Identification of designations within and surrounding the site:** For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	• Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations.	Yes/No
4	**Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:** When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS requirements. Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context. Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.	• Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). • Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (***Sect. 4***). • Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees).	Yes/No
5	**Consultation:** Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.	• Stakeholder engagement is in line with current FC guidance and recorded in ***Sect. 7***. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. • Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland.	Yes/No
6	**Plan Update and Review:** Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	• A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan. • ***Sect. 8*** is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective.	Yes/No

Forestry Commission England

Section 1: Property Details

Woodland Property Name		South Molton community wood	
Name	South Molton town council	Owner	
Email		Contact Number	
Agent Name (if applicable)			
Email	markebowden@hotmail.com	Contact Number	07894 863 299
County	Devon	Local Authority	North Devon
Grid Reference		Single Business Identifier	114787752
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		8.57ha.	
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?		Yes	
You have listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan?		Yes/No	
Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?		Felling Licence	Yes
		Thinning Licence	No
		Woodland Regeneration Grant	No
You declare that there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?		Yes	
You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available?		Yes	

Section 2: Vision and Objectives

To develop your long term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland(s) and how you envisage it will be in the future. This covers the duration of the plan and beyond.

2.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s). (*Suggest 300 words max*)

To provide an accessable woodland delivering public amenity and oppertunitys for education and nature theropy. To create a resiliant woodland with a range of habitats with a multi aged structre to the canopy. This will inc;lude areas of high forest, open woodland and coppice.

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	Improve quality of final canopy trees through thinning.
2	Improve overall habitat value and begin to create a multi aged structure
3	Provide education opportunities by maintaining access and a forest school area.
4	Maintain public amenity access, open space and seating areas.
5	Create a sense of ownership through involving local groups/schools.
6	Create a community fire wood resource.
7	
8	

Section 3: Plan Review – Achievements

Use this section to identify achievements made against previous plan objectives. This section should be completed at the 5 year review and could be informed through monitoring activities undertaken.

Objectives	Achievement
Form community group	Friends of South Molton Community woodland (FoSMCW) has been active since around 2005 carrying out fund raising and maintenance work.
Prioritise area's, develop skills and start managing woodland works to enhance nature.	Dore mouse surveys have been carried out and boxes installed. Local groups has been carrying out coppicing sub cpt 7c, however this has now ceased. Cpt 6c is in the process of being made a small nature reserve by the FoSMCW.
Prioritise and develop partnerships and techniques to develop open space/grass management.	Parkland in Cpt 1b and open ground in Cpt 4b are scythed annually by FoSMCW. Wildflowers, in particular Yellow Rattle are now beginning to establish. Orchard Trees have been intermittently pruned under advice from Orchards Live.
Prioritise and improve access provision.	FoSMCW regularly prune and cut back encroaching branches and coarse vegetation to maintain access to paths. Recently South Molton Town council have paid a contractor to carry out extensive repairs and hard coring on the main path ways improving accessibility. A number of benches have been installed (see map 3)
Enhance recreational possibilities	Local exercise groups now include the woodland paths as part of their routs. An area of open ground near the car park (map3) has recently been used for organised poetry readings. An annual wassail of the Orchard is a great success.

Section 4: Woodland Survey

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

4.1 Description

Brief description of the woodland property:
The woodland is located on former pasture and moor/pasture north of the market town of South Molton. It sits at an elevation of 145m above sea level

and slopes gently north by 20m over 330m.

Soil maps show the overlying soil type to be soilscape-13 freely draining, loamy soils over rock and soilscape-17 (compartments 6&7) slowly permeable, seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils.

The woodland was planted in 1993 specifically for community use with habitat value. It is served by a network of accessible pathways as well as many unofficial 'desire lines' amongst the trees. There are 7 compartments, the boundaries of which are made up of the pre-woodland field banks and the newer main pathways. A pond surrounded by Willow *spp* can be found in cpt. 6c (see map 3) and a parkland area of 1.4ha, planted with well-spaced, small, intermate groups of trees and an orchard makes up the majority of cpt 1b. The rest of the wood consists of a mixture of tree and shrub species of a single age. Oak and Ash are the most abundant with Alder, field Maple, sweet Chestnut, Hornbeam and Lime occurring frequently amongst myriad other species such as Red Oak, Rowan and Walnut to name a few. Compartments 6b and 7c, 0.33 and 0.13ha respectively, offer a different structure with Hazel coppice under Oak standards. The northern edges of cpt's 5 and 6 are more open woodland in character and density, offering good habitat for birds and insects as well as hunting ground for bats. Good edge habitats consisting of low, thorny and shruby patches can be found bordering the parkland offering yet another layer of habitat for Birds, Insects and small mammals.

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	No		No	
Special Area of Conservation	No		No	
Tree Preservation Order	No	1,6,7	Yes	2
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other (please Specify):	No		No	
Notes				

Feature		Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity – European Protected Species					
Bat	Species (if known)	No			Due to the age structure of the woodland It is unlikely that Bats are roosting within the wood. However Mature trees along the woodland/park boundary and parkland nearby may support small colonies. Habitat within the woodland such as scruby edges, the orchard, wet woodland and wildflower rich areas of open ground are likely to attract nearby populations for feeding.

Dormouse		Yes	7c,6e	8	Potential for presence in hazel coppice areas cpts.
Great Crested Newt		No	6c	3	Possible presence in the future around the pond.
Otter		No			No suitable habitat
Sand Lizard		No			No suitable habitat
Smooth Snake		No			No known records
Natterjack Toad		No			No known records
Biodiversity – Priority Species					
Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	No			No known records
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		No			
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		No			No records but some good habitat for grass snakes.
Plants		No			
Fungi/Lichens		No			
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)		No			
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)		yes	6c	3	No records but possible in the vicinity of the pond.
Other (please Specify):		No			
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments		No			
Unscheduled Monuments		No			
Registered Parks and Gardens		No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees		No			
Listed Buildings		No			
Other (please Specify):		No			
Landscape					
National Character Area (please Specify): 149 The culm.					
National Park		Yes		7	Exmoor national park lies 5.4km north.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty		No			
Other (please Specify):		Yes		7	Woodland within the north Devon biosphere.
People					
CROW Access		No	All		Whole wood is open to public.

Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes	1&4	3	Tarmacked path.
Other Access Provision	Yes	All	3	Hard cored paths meander through all compartments.
Public Involvement	Yes	7c,6b	6	Local groups and schools will be invited to carry out coppice activities.
Visitor Information	Yes	1b,7c, 6c	3	Information signs.
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes	7c,6c, 5,4,1b	3	Park benches.
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes			
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes	1b,7c, 6c	3	Signs have been vandalised in the past.
Other (please Specify):	No			
Water				
Watercourses	No			
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	6c	3	
Other (please Specify):	Yes		4	Drainage ditches run the length of hedge banks though are now generally dry. A wet flush runs the eastern edge of cpt 6b to the pond.

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	No			
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes			Whole wood
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	Yes	6b,6c	7	Wet flush in cpt 6b and the new wild lif sanctuary that makes up the pond area of cpt 6c
Wood-pasture and parkland	Yes	1b	7	1.4 ha of cpt 1 is open ground with small intermate groups of trees. Wildflowers including Yellow Rattle and Rosebay Willow herb are abundant locally.
Other (please Specify): Hazel coppice with Oak standards	Yes	7c,6b	7	
Non Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	No			
Lowland meadows	No			
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			

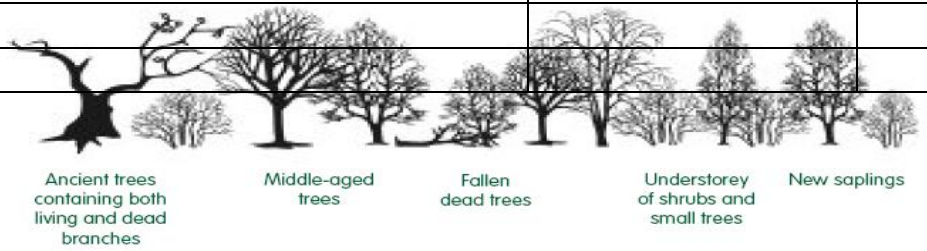
Reed bed	No			
Wood pasture	No			
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			
Unimproved grassland	Yes	1b	7	Open Parkland that was once agricultural pre woodland creation. No artificial nitrates since 1993 at the earliest.
Peat lands	No			
Wetland habitats	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes	1b	7	Orchard

4.4 Structure

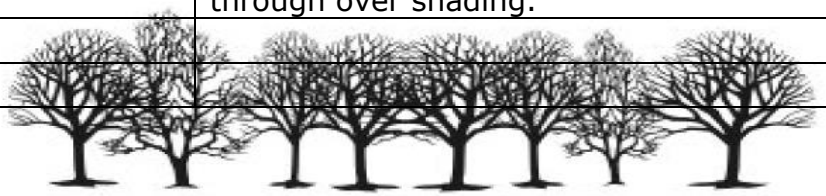
This section should provide a snapshot of the current structure of your woodland as a whole. A full inventory for your woodland(s) can be included in the separate Plan of Operations spreadsheet. Ensuring woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space will provide a range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

Woodland Type (Broadleaf, Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
Broad leaf	80%	Even	Broad species diversity. Some natural regeneration is developing beneath moribund Ash canopy. Little to no shrub layer regeneration.
Open ground/Parkland	5%	N/A	Parkland with small intermate group of trees. Broad leaf wild flowers present in the sward.
Orchard	5%	Even	Community orchard with a range of culinary and desert apples.
Hazel coppice with Oak standards	10	Uneven	Hazel has been coppiced on more than one rotation. However poor management of the canopt trees is causing mortality in the Hazel through over shading.

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



Even-aged woodland – ladybird of low diversity



Section 5: Woodland Protection

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

5.1 Risk Matrix

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

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

5.2 Plant Health

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Ash dieback
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Confirmed
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Ash dieback is present in all the Ash blocks within the woodland compartment network and will likely have a significant impact on 95% of the stock. In areas where infected trees are over footpaths they should be surveyed by a qualified arborist and action taken accordingly to protect the public. Those that do not pose a direct risk should be retained as future deadwood habitat. Health individuals should be retained. Ongoing monitoring for public safety will be undertaken by a qualified arborist.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Acute Oak decline
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High

Response (inc protection measures)	Oak makes up 30% of the woodland planting mix therefore AOD would cause significant problems should an outbreak occur. Any suspicion of an out break should be confirmed immediately then control felling and burning carried out in line with advice from plant health.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Phytophthora ramorum
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Phytophthora is present in North Devon with a confirmed out break 7km away. Public access to the woodland will significantly increase the risk of inoculated material entering the wood on boost or on the paws of dogs. However the most susceptible species present, Sweet chestnut, makes up only 3% of the woodland structure. Therefore, the impact of an outbreak would be minimal. Members of the public should be encouraged to think bio security and clean walking boots and pets paws every time they walk in woods to avoid brining in inoculated material. Contractors should adhere to bio security good practice.

5.3 Deer

Species – Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Deer browsing coppice regrowth in cpt 7c and 6b would have a considerable impact. As would browsing in areas where natural regeneration is desired. However, the likelihood of Deer entering the wood, due to its location and high presence of people and dogs, is so minimal that occasional monitoring for signs of deer ie droppings and slots is all that is required.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor susceptible species, in particular the Oak. If a pattern of damaging behaviour begins to occur trapping may be required. It should noted that although the squirrel presence is high, there is little to no damage on any trees. I Think that the high and regular presence of people and dogs has in some way deterred the territorial behaviour amongst the Squirrel population.

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat	Rat
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	• Members of the public have been setting up and stocking bird feeding platforms and feeder in some areas of the woodland, in particular the vicinity of the pond. This has encouraged an un-naturally high population of rats to establish. If still present during nesting season these could pose a threat to the nests of Birds that favour scrubby edge habitats such garden, willow and wood Warbler and wintering Woodcock. • Bird feeding stations should be discouraged and existing ones either removed entirely or re-located away from the pond, banks and edge habitats.

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Pollution from contractor fuel/oil spillage
Likelihood of presence	Low

(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Contractors to have relevant insurance, store and transport fuel and oil in appropriate containers, carry appropriate spill kits, report immediately any incidence of water contamination to EA.

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Pollution from contractor fuel/oil spillage
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Contractors to have relevant insurance, store and transport fuel and oil in appropriate containers, carry appropriate spill kits, report immediately any incidence of water contamination to EA.

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Introduced invasive species.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High (Spanish Bluebell and parrot feather weed already present)
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	• Parrot feather in the pond has already been dredged by a contractor and a plan is in place to remove from site the silt and parrot feather weed remains for appropriate disposal. • Volunteer group will continue to monitor and when necessary, remove and dispose of any regeneration of the parrot feather. • Spanish Bluebell has been planted in the woodland by a member of the public. This should be removed and education on the dangers of INNS be communicated to the public via signage and information of the woodland fb

	page. • On going monitoring for INNS should be carried out annually.

5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Anti-social behaviour
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	• Any future installation of benches to made of non wood material and bolted down to prevent theft and damage by fire. • In the event of current signage being vandalised consider replacing with more robust material (ie metal posts etc) • Encourage a 'neighbourhood watch' approach through the woodland Facebook page with regular users of the woodland reporting anti-social behaviour to the council and local police where appropriate. • Encourage local school groups to get involved in forest school and in volunteering opportunities to educate and create a sense of ownership and pride in the woodland.

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights etc)	Public access
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Education through signage and engagement via events and woodland facebook page to discourage introduction of invasive non natives ie parrot feather in the pond, which has already required dredging at considerable expense, and Spanish bluebell in the wider woodland. Encourage a sense of ownership

	through involvement of maintenance activities and events i.e. the annual wassail to prevent vandalism of infrastructure i.e. benches and signs. This will be a priority as enrichment planting is carried out to ensure planted stock is not vandalised.

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Operational cost.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Coppicing and management of standards in cpts 7c and 6a can be carried out by volunteers, as can scrub management. The wider thinning operations and safety works will need to be carried out by contractors. The timber generated from this could be sold into the local firewood market, or taken in lieu of part payment by a contractor. However there is a desire within the community group to create a community firewood scheme using timber generated by thinning. Further discussion between the owner and FoSMCW are needed.

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Uniform structure
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	• Allow already developing, natural regeneration to develop beneath the diseased Ash. Where regeneration is rare or lacking enrichment plant with native species. • Carry out coppicing work on appropriate species around the woodland edge and coppice Hazel in 3 coups on a staggered rotation.

Section 6: Management Strategy

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

Management Objective / Feature	Management Intention
Improve quality of final canopy trees through thinning.	• Selectively thin all compartments concentrating on giving space to trees of good form and overall health and condition. • Halo thin trees with interesting and character canopies. • Identify, halo thin and retain trees with potential to become future veterans.
Improve overall habitat value by beginning to create a multi aged structure	• Coppice in three coups on a 7 year rotation areas of Hazel, selectively thin Oaks in areas of Hazel copse to create a more open canopy of approximately 30% cover • Coppice shrub species around the woodland edge where enough light is available to increase longevity and create edge effect. • Where natural regeneration is encroaching into open ground (Cpt 1c) coppice small areas on a 5-10 yearly rotation to maintain the edge effect. • Where diseased Ash has been felled (Cpt 7b) and under diseased Ash where natural regeneration is poor/absent with BL trees within the woodland and with a Hazel rich shrub mix on the woodland edge. • Where natural regeneration is present mange to recruit into the canopy. • Maintain existing areas of open woodland, wet woodland, coppice, meadow and open ground to create a mosaic of habitats. • Retain dying Ash that are not a risk to paths as standing deadwood habitat • Retain all brash and non-usable timber from operations to become fallen deadwood habitat.

Provide education opportunities by maintaining access and a forest school area.	• Maintain area of open ground near the car park and keep clear of bramble and other coarse vegetation. • Maintain areas of open woodland. • Maintain existing hard cored access paths. • Involve schools in coppicing work as an activity and education opportunity.
Maintain public amenity access, open space and seating areas.	• Maintain quality of existing path ways • Maintain open space and prevent the invasion of coarse vegetation • Maintain existing benches and repair/replace as neccsercery. • Survey diseased Ash over paths and ensure required safety work is carried out.
Create a sense of ownership through involving local groups/schools.	• Encourage local groups to carry out coppicing work of scrub to improve the overall habitat • Encourage local allotment/gardening groups and schools to coppice the Hazel in exchange for taking away suitable rods to be used as pea sticks, bean poles, pegs and other garden infrastructure projects. • Encourage local groups and schools to carry out enrichment planting and future maintenance of these areas.
Create a community firewood resource	• Organise volunteers and the FoSMCW or arrange contractors to move hardwood from operations to a suitable location where logs can be processed, bagged and distributed to those in need within the community.

Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement

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

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Thinning operations within 5m of public footpath, possible use of compact tractor on and crossing public foot path.	Devon county council	28/10/2022			
Thinning operations and delivering multi aged structure to woodland will change current aesthetic.	Friend of South Molton Community Woodland.				

Section 8: Monitoring

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

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Improve quality of final canopy trees through thinning.	Tree health and canopy development.	Visual survey	5 years	Agent	Feed back into plan review.
Create multi aged structure in canopy	Thinned standards healthy and developing canopy, areas of coppice have good vigour, natural regeneration and planted stock establishing.	Visual survey	2 years	Agent	Feed back into plant review/take action in the event of damage through vandalism or pest.
Recruitment of natural regeneration/enrichment planting beneath diseased Ash	Natural regeneration/planted stock establishing and unhindered by coarse vegetation.	Visual survey	2years	Agent	Feed back into plant review/take action in the event of damage through vandalism or pest.
Maintain pubic access	Pathways are accessible on foot and clear of branches/coarse vegetation. Hard paths are accessible by foot	Visual survey	Annual	FoSMCW	Maintenance issue relating to access infrastructure reported to owner (town council) to action repair.

	and wheelchair				
Monitor condition of diseased Ash over pathways.	Dangerous trees removed.	Survey carried out by qualified Arborist.	Annual or at intervals recommended by qualified Arborist.	Owner	Action to be taken within recommended time frame stated by surveyor.
Seating areas kept clear of branches and coarse vegetation.	Benches are easily accessible and usable	Visual survey	Monthly	FoSMCW	Wear and tear/vandalism reported to owner to action repair/replacement.
Local groups/schools involved in woodland activities	FoSMCW and agent to liaise and work with/supervise.	Records kept of group activity	Annual	FoSMCW	

Forestry Commission England

UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Achieved	Review notes
Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, environmental objectives will be achieved.	• Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.	**Yes/No**	
Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.	Management intentions communicated in ***Sect.6*** of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in ***Sect. 2***. Management intentions should take account of: • Relevant features and issues identified in the woodland survey (***Sect. 4***). • Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (***Sect. 5***). • Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement are documented in ***Sect. 7***.	**Yes/No**	
Identification of designations within and surrounding the woodland site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account is taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	• Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations.	**Yes/No**	
Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-	• Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). • Current diversity (structure, species, age	**Yes/No**	

assessed and any necessary changes made to meet UKFS requirements. Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range of trees, appropriate to the scale and context. Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.	structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (***Sect. 4***). • Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees).		
Consultation: Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations.	• Stakeholder consultation is in line with current FC guidance, and recorded in ***Sect. 7***. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. • Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland.	**Yes/No**	
Plan update and review: Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	• A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan • ***Sect. 8*** is completed with 1 indicator of success identified per management objective	**Yes/No**	

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