

Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:				
Woodland or Property name	Spa Ponds Nature Reserve			
Woodland Management Plan case reference	1009829/WMP			
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland				
Plan author name	Shlomo Dowen			

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

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

Template user support:

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



UK Forestry Standard management planning criteria

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

	UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Author check ☑
1	Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, and environmental objectives will be achieved.	 Management plan objectives are stated. Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes/No
2	Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.	 Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) Sect. 2. Management intentions should take account of: Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (Sect. 4) Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (Sect. 5). Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in Sect. 7. 	Yes/No
3	Identification of designations within and surrounding the site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	 Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes/No
4	Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be reassessed 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 <i>Sect. 7</i>. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. 	Yes/No
6	Plan Update and Review: Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	 A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan. Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective. 	Yes/No



Section 1: Property Details

Woodland	Property Name	Spa Ponds Nature Reserve			
Name	Shlomo Dowen, Forest Town Nature Conservation Group	<u>Owner</u>			
Email	shlomo.dowen@gmail.com	Contact Number 07981340001			
Agent Nam	ne (if applicable)				
Email		Contact Number			
County		Local Authority			
Grid Reference	SK 570 633	Single Business Identifier 200510056			
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		4.66ha			
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?		Yes			
	isted the maps associated with and management plan?	Yes			
•	end to use the information within	Felling Licence	Yes		
	and management plan and Inventory and Plan of Operations	Thinning Licence		Yes	
to apply fo	r the following?	Woodland Regeneration Grant No			
You declare that there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?		Yes			
-	to make the woodland ent 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)

Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG) to manage, preserve and celebrate heritage trees, and look after the mature chestnut trees that make up the Chestnut Walk including some to be managed to provide timber for use on site through sustainable coppicing. The remaining woodland on the site will be maintained as traditional Sherwood Landscape Oak/Birch woodland and indigenous understory trees and associated ground flora. Areas of open glade will be established to provide pollinator corridors along the length of Packman's Way. 1,150 meters the site's boundary will be improved, through the establishment of mature trees, shrub layers and base layers. Dense vegetation will be nurtured to provide a mosaic of microhabitats. Dead wood will continue to be an integral component of the woodlands, ecosystem wildlife habitat, maintaining health and geomorphological processes. Ongoing improvement to the four spring-fed ponds will allow for more light and dappled shade and less silt and leaf fall, these in turn will support a more diverse range of plants to create rich biodiverse areas of open water and intermediate wetland. The beauty and tranquillity around the ponds will be protected and enhanced. At the point where the ponds empty into the River Maun the riverbanks will be protected and improved using brash and timber, allowing for existing river bed gravels to be revealed and brown trout to breed and flourish. The site will continue to be a vital link in the mosaic of green corridors that sustain biodiversity up to the Mansfield urban fringe. Spa Ponds will continue to provide exciting and nourishing experiences of the natural world for children and young people, and this will be reflected in the oral histories of the future, carrying on the tradition of our community affection and ownership of this hidden gem.

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	• maintain and enhance >90% as semi-natural broadleaf woodland				
2	• maintain <10% (primarily chestnut) for timber production, via coppicing				
3	increase overall biodiversity value				
4	create structural diversity to support micro-habitats and ecotones				
5	allow selected trees to mature, encouraging the broadening of tree crowns				
6	honour and protect heritage trees				



No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
7	• rotationally thin young trees, bramble, and nettle to allow mature trees to
	flourish
8	develop ground flora with a focus on woodland wildflowers for pollinating
	invertebrates
9	eradicate non-native species like Himalayan balsam



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

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:

FTNCG owns the Spa Ponds site, which includes the Spa Ponds Nature Reserve, an area of 4.8 hectares of land highlighted in Figures 1a and 1b, below. Spa Ponds was purchased FTNCG by in May 2014, and in March 2015 the deeds (Title number NT502006) were registered in the name of the Official Custodian for Charities.

Habitats at Spa Ponds include: semi-natural broadleaved woodland, freshwater ponds, and a section of the River Maun. The northern half of the reserve, including the four ponds and the surrounding woodland, glades and rides, is designated as a Local Wildlife Site, and the entire site (excluding Spa Lane to the north, on the Mansfield Woodhouse side of the River Maun) has been designated a Local Green Space in the Mansfield District Local Plan. The site is also formally registered with Mansfield District Council as a Non-designated Heritage Asset.



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		No	
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
Biodi	versity - <u>E</u> t	<u>ıropean Protec</u>	ted Species			
Bat	Species (if	known)	Yes	1	SK 570	
	Brown long	j-eared bat			633	
	Daubenton	's				
	Brandt's ba	at				
	Noctule ba	t				
	Pipistrelle I	oat				
	Soprano Pi	pistrelle				
Dorm	ouse		No			
Great	Crested Nev	wt	No			
Otter			No			
Sand	Lizard		No			
Smoo	th Snake		No			
Natte	rjack Toad		No			
Biodi	versity - P	riority Species				
Sched	lule 1	Species:	Yes	1	SK 570	Frequent visitor
<u>Birds</u>		Kingfisher			633	
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water		Yes	1	SK 570	Historic records of	
Vole, Pine Marten etc)				633	Water Vole; July	
Water	Water Vole					2021 river
						restoration project commences to



				improve bankside habitat to develop macrophytes
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)	No			
Plants	Yes	1	SK 570 633	Bluebell Hyacinthoides non- scripta
Fungi/Lichens	No			
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes	1	SK 570 633	Bumble bee
Amphibians (pool frog, common	Yes	1	SK 570	Locally important
toad)			633	breeding site for Common toad
Other (please Specify):	Yes	1	SK 570 633	Common Starling Linnet Skylark Song Thrush Yellowhammer
<u>Historic Environment</u>				
Scheduled Monuments	No			Beeston Lodge is a Historic England Scheduled Monument located immediately to the north-east of Spa Ponds
Unscheduled Monuments	No			
Registered Parks and Gardens	No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes	1	SK 570 633	All mature chestnuts in the chestnut walk are considered veteran trees
Listed Buildings	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes	1	SK 570 633	

A number of trees believed to be older than 100 years, with some thought to be more than 300 years old. The oldest trees on the site include at least 4 sweet chestnut, along with at least one very large oak tree stump, a hazel, a pair of pedunculate oaks, and a sessile oak. There is also a 'County Champion' downy birch (Betula pubescens). With a girth of 2.33 metres, this downy birch (Ancient Tree Inventory reference 156390). A number of paper-bark birch trees, an ornamental North American tree traditionally used by Native American Indians for making canoes. This type of tree was introduced into the UK from around the 1750's. Ancient, veteran and notable trees identified at Spa Ponds are recorded in the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory. Spa Ponds is designated as a Local Green Space within the Mansfield Local Plan adopted on 8 September 2020. The site is designated in the Local Plan for its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, and richness of wildlife.



<u>Landscape</u>				
National Character Area (please				
National Park	No			
Area of Outstanding Natural	No			
Beauty				
Other (please Specify):	No			
<u>People</u>				
CROW Access	Yes			
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes	1	SK 570	MW BW31
			633	(Packmans Way),
				MW FP58, and MW FP59
Other Access Provision	Yes			Permissive paths
Public Involvement	Yes		SK 570	Volunteer
Tublic Involvement	103		633	managed site
Visitor Information	Yes		SK 570	Interpretation
Visitor Information	103		633	boards
Public Recreation Facilities	No		033	
Provision of Learning	Yes	1	SK 570	Site used for
Opportunities		-	633	training and
Оррогитисез			033	education
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes	1	SK 570	Littering and Illegal
			633	fishing and
				Motorbikes
Other (please Specify):	No			
<u>Water</u>				
Watercourses	Yes	1	SK 570	River Maun
			633	GB104028052960
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	1	SK 570	4 spring-fed ponds
			633	
Other (please Specify):	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	No			
Planted Ancient Woodland Site	No			
(PAWS)				
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew	No			
woodland				
Lowland mixed deciduous	Yes	1	SK 570 633	
woodland			033	
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
Non Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	No			
Lowland meadows	No			
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			
Reed bed	No			
Wood pasture	No			
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			
Unimproved grassland	No			
Peat lands	No			
Wetland habitats	Yes	1	SK 570 633	4 spring-fed ponds River Maun
Other (please Specify):	No			



4.4 Structure

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

Woodland Type (Broadleaf,	Percentage of Mgt	Age Structure	Notes (i.e. understory or natural
Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Plan Area	(even/uneven)	regeneration present)
Native Broadleaves	90%	Uneven	Oak, birch, alder. Some holly, hawthorn, elder and blackthorn. Understorey. Regeneration of oak and & birch present, however restricted by sycamore and chestnut regrowth.
Chestnut coppice	10%	Uneven	Some holly, hawthorn, elder and blackthorn.

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



containing both living and dead branches ldle-aged trees

Fallen dead trees Understorey of shrubs and small trees

New saplings

Even-aged woodland - tidy but of low diversity





Section 5: Woodland Protection

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

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

5.1 Risk Matrix

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

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

5.2 Plant Health

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, Phytophthora, Needle Blight etc)	Ash Dieback
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	There is one ash tree at Spa Ponds, and this has been assessed as healthy and so has been tagged (Number 03820) as part of the Living Ash Project. Ash Management Prescription: • Retain healthy F. excelsior ash trees in the canopy to encourage seed production

5.3 Deer

Species - Likelihood of presence	High – Roe deer
(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor tree damage



5.4 Grey Squirrels

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

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Low
Likelihood of presence	High – horses use Packmans Way bridle path
(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor path erosion

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of	Surface water run off
Water, Pollution incidents etc)	
Likelihood of presence	High
(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Create brash bundles to catch and collect silt;
	monitor water quality in ponds

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind,	Invasive species: Himalayan Balsam
Invasive Species, etc)	
Likelihood of presence	High - confirmed
(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	coordinated removal within the freshwater
	ponds and surrounding habitats

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind,	Invasive species: American Signal Crayfish
Invasive Species, etc)	
Likelihood of presence	High - confirmed
(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor and submit records via irecord



5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW,	Rights of Way
permissive access, events sporting	
rights, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	
Likelihood of presence	High
(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Maintain & Monitor; engage with local
	authority and police regarding measures such
	as Public Space Protection Orders

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW,	Illegal fishing
permissive access, events sporting	
rights etc)	
Likelihood of presence	High
(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor and explore developing a managed
	fishing club

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets,	Operational costs
products, operational costs etc)	
Likelihood of presence	Low
(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	none

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure,	Lack of diversity and poor structure
Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	
Likelihood of presence	Medium
(high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	5-year habitat management plan to improve
	site for biodiversity, nature-based solutions
	and climate change resilience



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
Manage young growth trees and shrubs to encourage broadening of tree crowns.	Rotational thinning
Increase light penetrating the ground layer allow space for mature trees to continue to thrive and ground flora to develop	Remove dominant areas of bramble (and common nettle; Remove approximately 25% of the dense/dominant young trees
Remove sycamore non-native cherry species	Improve habitat heterogeneity
Reduce sweet chestnut regrowth to an area 30% or less	Create a more open canopy with oak and birch, a mixture of other native species and a ground layer richer, more grass-dominated
Create dead hedge in areas where there are 'gaps'	Hedgerow structure needs to be restored and sustainably maintained for improved biodiversity value
Create structural diversity by preserving an 'A-Frame' hedgerow shape that 'slopes' down towards the agricultural fields	At woodland boundary develop more biodiverse ecotones
Leave deadwood on living trees; Leave standing dead wood; Leave fallen wood; Position/move some deadwood to create features near dappled or partial shade	Provide all decay stages and habitat stability for low mobility species



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



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
Manage young growth trees and shrubs to encourage broadening of tree crowns.	Intensity of thinning	Visual: fixed point photography	Annual	Owner	
Increase light penetrating the ground layer allow space for mature trees to continue to thrive and ground flora to develop	Improved light Levels to ground layer	Visual: fixed point photography	Annual	Owner	
Remove sycamore non- native cherry species and eradicate non-native species like Himalayan balsam	Greater species diversity	Visual: fixed point photography	Annual	Owner	
Reduce sweet chestnut regrowth to an area 30% or less of the Chestnut Walk whilst protecting heritage / veteran trees	Greater species diversity, more penetrating light	Visual: fixed point photography	Annual	Owner	
Create dead hedge in areas where there are 'gaps'	Improved structure	Visual: fixed point photography	Annual	Owner	



Create structural diversity by preserving an 'A-Frame' hedgerow shape that 'slopes' down towards the agricultural fields	Improved structure	Visual: fixed point photography	Annual	Owner	
Leave deadwood on living trees; Leave standing dead wood; Leave fallen wood; Position/move some deadwood to create features near dappled or partial shade	Increased invertebrate populations	1st year baseline survey of beetle orders	Year: repeat survey	Owner	



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 <i>Sect.6</i> of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in <i>Sect. 2</i>. Management intentions should take account of: Relevant features and issues identified in the woodland survey (<i>Sect. 4</i>). Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (<i>Sect. 5</i>). Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement are documented in <i>Sect. 7</i>. 	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.	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 <i>Sect. 7</i>. 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	Name (WO or FM):	Date:
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.		
Approved	Name (AO, WO or FM):	Date:
This means FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements, and we have		
also approved a felling licence for any tree felling in the plan (where required).		