Forestry Commission England

Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:		
Woodland or Property name	**Tilley's Copse and The Wilderness**	
Woodland Management Plan case reference	**Unfunded**	
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland		**Yes**
Plan author name	**Petra Billings**	

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
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
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
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
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
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

Section 1: Property Details

Woodland Property Name		Tilley's Copse & The Wilderness	
Name	Sarah Groom (Clerk to the Council) for Hurstpierpoint Parish Council	Owner √	Tenant
Email	office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk	Contact Number	01273 833264
Agent Name (if applicable)		Petra Billings	
Email	petra@sussexwoodlands.co.uk	Contact Number	07505 280155
County	West Sussex	Local Authority	Mid Sussex
Grid Reference	TQ282171	Single Business Identifier	N/A
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		4.47 ha	
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	
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	Yes
		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*)

Tilley's Copse and The Wilderness are two small parcels of urban fringe ancient woodland, which are almost entirely surrounded by housing development. The woods are mixed broadleaf with good species diversity and ancient woodland characteristics such as veteran trees, a good dead wood resource and many ancient woodland indicator species. However they are threatened by a number of issues including canopy closure, ash dieback and heavy public access with associated problems such as compaction, disturbance and dog fouling.

The vision is to restore the ancient woodlands, improving the age structure and conserving and enhancing the woodland biodiversity while balancing community engagement and public access. Where possible, landscape connectivity with other woods will be improved.

2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management demonstrating how sustainable forest management is to be achieved. Objectives are a set of specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision.

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Restore the ancient woodland character including the age structure, ground flora and woodland archaeology
2	Conserve and enhance the woodland biodiversity by improving the extent and quality of wildlife habitat
3	Manage public access to limit wildlife disturbance and other detrimental impacts on the woodland biodiversity
4	Encourage community engagement in survey, monitoring and conservation management of the woods
5	Improve local landscape connectivity

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
Restore the ancient woodland character including the age structure, ground flora and woodland archaeology	
Conserve and enhance the woodland biodiversity by improving the extent and quality of wildlife habitat	
Manage public access to limit wildlife disturbance and other detrimental impacts on the woodland biodiversity	
Encourage community engagement in survey, monitoring and conservation management of the woods	
Improve local landscape connectivity	

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:
Location Tilley's Copse and The Wilderness are situated in the northeast of Hurstpierpoint in the Sussex Low Weald approximately 3 km southwest of Burgess Hill. Woodland is sparse and fragmented in the area and Tilley's Copse and The Wilderness are now almost completely surrounded by housing development. Soils and Geology The underlying geology is mudstone of the Weald Clay Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 126 to 134 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas[1]. The

[1] From Geology of Britain Viewer, an online resource provided freely by the British Geological Survey and accessed on 6 August 2020

soils can be summarised as 'slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich, loamy and clayey soils with moderate fertility and impeded drainage.[2]

Description

Tilley's Copse and The Wilderness are two small ancient woodlands, linked by a narrow shaw. The northern parcel, Tilley's Copse, is a triangular parcel of closed canopy mature oak woodland with a dense mixed understorey dominated by hazel with holly. Other tree species include occasional ash, hornbeam, field maple, sycamore, wild cherry, aspen and horse chestnut. In addition to the hazel and holly, the shrub layer also includes common hawthorn, Midland hawthorn, alder buckthorn, spindle, blackthorn and elder. This is a typical Wealden bluebell wood with a diverse ground flora albeit dominated by bramble and ivy in areas. A detailed botanical survey in May 2020 recorded many ancient woodland indicator species. Important features of the wood include numerous oak veterans and potential veterans and a good deadwood resource, standing and fallen.

Tilley's Copse is linked to The Wilderness by a small narrow wooded shaw of mature oak and horse chestnut, some as stools, over a dense holly understorey. The trees are overcrowded and suppressed young trees compete with the mature oaks and horse chestnuts. A diverse shrubby eastern edge provides good wildlife habitat, especially for breeding birds.

South of Iden Hurst, The Wilderness is a small linear, mixed broadleaf woodland enclosing a chain of three large overgrown ponds, separated by bunds. The canopy is open and there is a high species diversity including frequent wild cherry (possibly planted), oak, sycamore, field maple, hornbeam, horse chestnut, alder, willows and a mature wild service in the south of the wood. Ash is much more frequent here than in Tilley's Copse with a large rectilinear block of diseased ash extending north/south through much of the wood. Despite the open canopy, there are a number of suppressed and ill-formed trees. The understorey is patchy but diverse with a mix of hazel, holly, common hawthorn, Midland hawthorn, buckthorn, spindle, blackthorn, elder and red currant. There are good levels of natural regeneration. The ground flora is similar to that of Tilley's Copse though, in addition to the invasive, non-native variegated yellow archangel which occurs in both woods invasive periwinkle and Wilson's honeysuckle also occur in The Wilderness.

Important features of The Wilderness are the large historic ponds with wet woodland areas on the margins of the southern pond and some veteran and potential veteran oaks. There is a large badger sett in the northwest of the wood.

[2] From Soilscapes, an online resource provided freely by the Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute, accessed 6 August 2020

There is no evidence of recent management of either wood apart from tree safety works which were undertaken in 2019 following the acquisition of the woods by Hurstpierpoint Parish Council.

Hydrology

Tilley's Copse is bounded by ditches along the east and west boundaries. The ditches are prone to localised flooding in winter, causing access problems around the path network.

The Wilderness too is bounded by a ditch along the western boundary. There is also a seasonal stream running north/south through the middle of the wood, linking the three large, online ponds. The ponds are thought to have originated as clay pits then later managed as commercial fishing ponds. The middle pond has dried out completely and has become vegetated while the ponds to its north and south still retain water in the wetter months. They were dry at the time of the survey.

Access

There is a public footpath through Tilley's Copse, off which a network of small paths has developed from desire lines created by local people, especially from the Recreation Ground to the west. There is no formal access through The Wilderness but an uneven but well-used path runs north/south near the eastern boundary. West of the stream, The Wilderness is relatively inaccessible. There is no vehicular access into either wood.

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	Yes	All	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	Area TPO reference: HP/01/TPO/11			

Feature		Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species					
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes	All		Potential roost sites in veteran trees. Barbastelle , Bechstein's, Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle, Brown Long-eared bat occur locally (Woodland Wildlife Toolkit)
Dormouse		No			Occurs locally and habitat is suitable but the small size of the woods probably precludes dormouse
Great Crested Newt		Yes			Not surveyed but potential habitat in C3 ponds
Otter		No			
Sand Lizard		No			
Smooth Snake		No			
Natterjack Toad		No			

Biodiversity – Priority Species					
Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	No			Not surveyed. Potential habitat for range of woodland birds except those which require extensive wooded areas eg lesser spotted woodpecker
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		No			
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		No			Not surveyed but potential habitat
Plants		Yes			Many AWIs (Botanical survey, May 2020)
Fungi/Lichens		No			Not surveyed. Good potential especially for deadwood species
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)		No			Not surveyed. Good potential for range of species
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)		No			Not surveyed. Potential habitat in ponds
Other (please Specify):		No			
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments		No			
Unscheduled Monuments		No			
Registered Parks and Gardens		No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees		Yes	All		Boundary banks and frequent veteran and potential veteran oaks
Listed Buildings		No			
Other (please Specify):		No			
Landscape					
National Character Area (please Specify): Low Weald					
National Park		No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty		No			
Other (please Specify):		No			
People					
CROW Access		No			
Public Rights of Way (any)		Yes	1	1,2	

Other Access Provision	Yes	1		Permitted open access
Public Involvement	Yes			Proposed 'friends' group and/or conservation volunteer group
Visitor Information	No			
Public Recreation Facilities	No			
Provision of Learning Opportunities	No			
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes	All		Dog fouling, littering, desire lines
Other (please Specify):	No			
Water				
Watercourses	Yes	1,2,3	2	Drains. Seasonally wet.
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	3	2,3	
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.

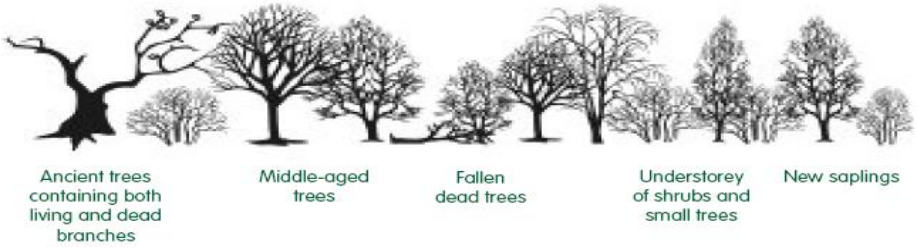
Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes	All	1	
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes			
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	Yes	3		Small areas by southern pond
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	No			
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, Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
Mixed broadleaf	100%	Uneven	Good understorey in C1 but limited natural regeneration. Patchy understorey in C3 but some natural regeneration.

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



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity

Section 5: Woodland Protection

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

5.1 Risk Matrix

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

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

5.2 Plant Health

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Ash dieback
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low/medium (Tilley's Copse) High (The Wilderness)
Response (inc protection measures)	The FC recommends an individual-tree approach for older stands with infected trees such as Tilley's Copse. Where more than 50% of the crown is infected and the trees are a safety issue, felling should be considered. Some local authorities use 30% crown reduction as the limit. Note that as the disease progresses, infected trees become increasingly brittle and dangerous to fell. For contractor safety, the use of specialist forestry machinery such as tree shears is recommended. Where less than 50% of the crown is infected, trees should be regularly monitored. In all cases any apparently tolerant trees should be retained, as should a proportion of dying or dead trees where it is safe to do so. In The Wilderness, there is a

	belt of diseased ash running north-south through the middle of the wood and regeneration felling should be considered, followed by restocking with a suitable species mix. This could be grant-funded.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Oak processionary moth
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low/Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium (particularly in Tilley's Copse)
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor oaks for signs of infestation, looking for distinctive white, silken webbing nests on oak trunks and branches in early summer or processions of hairy caterpillars. OPM can defoliate, or strip bare, large parts of oak trees, leaving them vulnerable to attack by other pests and diseases, and less able to withstand stresses such as drought and flood. The caterpillars are also a health hazard: their microscopic hairs can cause severe skin irritation and respiratory problems. Treat affected trees by nest removal or use approved insecticide in spring to kill the caterpillars soon after they emerge. Either method should be applied by trained operators following best practice guidance. Also consider alternative methods such as the use of pheromone traps. Report any sightings via the Tree Alert app or online via https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/tree-alert/

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Acute oak decline
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low/medium
Response (inc protection measures)	This disease is poorly understood as yet. Current guidance from Forest Research is to record the number and location of symptomatic trees and the severity of their condition. Unless there is immediate concern

	about safety, infected trees should be left in place and monitored. If however only a limited number of trees appear to be infected on a site, it is advisable to fell and destroy the infected individuals to reduce the risk of infecting healthy trees and to keep inoculum levels low. Report sightings to FC via the Tree Alert app or online via https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/tree-alert/

5.3 Deer

Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low (roe)
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low: recent fraying of small saplings in Tilley's Copse was noted but deer damage is generally limited and natural regeneration occurs where light permits.
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor deer impacts and increase protective measures if necessary. Culling is not an option due to the small size and heavy public usage of the woods.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor and respond as appropriate.

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	N/A
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Point pollution from leaks from machinery and fuel/oil spills
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Minimise the risk of fuel/oil leaks or spills by following UKFS requirements to store oil and fuel in a way that minimises the risks of leakage and pollution, for example, using bunded fuel storage containers; refuelling in drip tray and having a spill kit available. Any fuel and/or oil storage on-site should be in secure bunded containers located >20m away from any water bodies.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Siltation of drains
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low/medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Reduce the risk of siltation of drains by timing operations to avoid working during, or following, periods of wet weather and only using machinery appropriate to the site. The drains discharge into a water course. Maintain buffers of 5m along them, aiming for 50% dappled shade in the buffer zones. Follow UKFS Soil and Water guidelines.

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Invasive species (mainly ground flora eg variegated yellow archangel, periwinkle. Also Wilson's honeysuckle)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium but localised
Response (inc protection measures)	Remove all NNIS by digging out.

5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Public access
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High: heavy use by the local community has led to the development of a network of informal paths with compaction, nutrient enrichment from dog fouling and some litter.
Response (inc protection measures)	Community engagement/signage to discourage anti-social behaviour and foster culture of woodland protection.

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Operational costs
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Reduce costs by use of volunteers where appropriate. Pursue grant-funding from WT Lost Woods of the Weald and Downs Project.

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Poor age structure (Tilley's Copse)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Canopy closure has limited natural regeneration. Open up the canopy by thinning and ride improvements.

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
Restore the ancient woodland character including the age structure, ground flora and woodland archaeology	In both Tilley's Copse and The Wilderness, fell diseased ash within falling distance of the paths but retain and halo-release any ash which show signs of resilience. Dying ash which are part of the mixed canopy and do not pose a safety risk should also be retained to contribute to the deadwood habitat. In The Wilderness, regeneration fell the block of pure diseased ash in phases in blocks of 0.1 to 0.2 hectares, restocking with a mix of species appropriate to the local area, for example, oak, hornbeam, field maple and alder in the wetter areas. It is expected that natural regeneration will account for a proportion of the restocking. Additional trees supplied for restocking should be of local provenance. Remove invasive non-native species including variegated yellow archangel, Wilson's honeysuckle and lesser periwinkle by digging them out and disposing of them off-site. Cherry laurel has been recorded previously and should also be removed if it recurs. Tag veteran and potential veteran oaks and other notable trees and halo-thin them by removing competing woody vegetation from beneath the canopy. Ideally vegetation should be removed as far as the dripline but in the narrower parts of these woods, more limited removal of the woody vegetation closest to the trunks is more appropriate. Where any trees are particularly hemmed in, the release should be undertaken in stages to limit stress from wind exposure. Retain dead wood, standing and fallen. Leave fallen dead wood in situ except where it is a safety risk or obstructs the paths. Leave woody debris in the central drain in The

	Wilderness to create leaky woody dams and diversify the flow. This will potentially lead to localised flooding and create small areas of wet woodland. However if the flooding causes access problems or threatens property, the woody debris should be cleared. Protect banks and streams/drains by felling away from them and avoiding extraction across them. Where this is unavoidable, use brash mats to protect them. Follow UKFS guidance for protection of water. Where a drain discharges into a water course, a buffer of at least 5m is required to protect the drain from siltation during forestry operations.
Conserve and enhance the woodland biodiversity by improving the extent and quality of wildlife habitat	Open up the canopy by selective thinning, removing diseased ash within falling distance of the path (see above), then suppressed, damaged or overcrowded trees. In the south-east of Tilley's wood, young oak standards are overcrowded and competing. Selective felling of a small number of the trees will reduce competition and promote the better trees for the future. It will also generate revenue to mitigate against non-economic costs. In parallel with the thinning, coppice shrubs in the working areas, piling brash over the cut stools to deter deer browsing of regrowth. When coppicing hazel, retain the young sun shoots where possible. These measures will encourage natural regeneration and improve the understorey as bird nesting and feeding habitat. Improve the main path around the wood by scalloping to open up small ride-side glades where this can be achieved by coppicing hazel and removal of suppressed or diseased trees or saplings. Also open up small glades at the ride intersections. Maintain a thick, diverse shrubby woodland edge along the eastern side of Cpt 2 by establishing a shrub coppice rotation of, say, 5 years. Open up the north and south ponds in The Wilderness by clearing shrubs and trees from the main pond area and, if possible, increasing light levels from the south by clearing

	selected trees. Encourage wet woodland species such as alder and willows around the ponds.
Manage public access to limit wildlife disturbance and other detrimental impacts on the woodland biodiversity	Manage public access to limit impacts such as compaction, dog fouling and litter. Encourage use of selected paths/deter creation of additional unauthorised paths in Tilley's Copse by judicial use of brash to create dead hedges or by allowing bramble to grow over. Maintain the footpath bridges. Maintain the ditches and culverts to prevent localised flooding which creates muddy areas and encourages woodland users to move off the paths, damaging the ground flora. In The Wilderness, improve access along the main north/south path by clearing overhanging vegetation, putting in steps and undertaking localised levelling where appropriate. Encourage responsible dog ownership by signage and ensuring that dog waste bins are appropriately sited. Similarly use signage and/or additional litter bins on the west margin of Tilley's Copse by the Recreation Ground to reduce littering. Carry out regular tree safety inspections by qualified personnel at least every 3 years and respond promptly to reports of any dangerous trees.
Encourage community engagement in survey, monitoring and conservation management of the woods	Encourage community engagement with the woods by setting up a 'friends' group and/or conservation volunteer group. Consider developing a programme of events, conservation tasks and activities such as germination of replacement trees for restocking following ash clearance.
Improve local landscape connectivity	Improve connectivity within the landscape by additional planting of native species in the newly planted area to the south of The Wilderness and by hedge management/ planting to encourage large, diverse, native hedges connecting the woods with other woods in the local landscape.

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
All	Mid Sussex Tree Officer				
All	Lost Woods Project Manager				
All	Hurstpierpoint Parish Council				

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
Restore the ancient woodland character	Year on year improvement in condition of ancient woodland features	Visual survey	Annual	HPC	
Improve age structure	Year on year increase in natural regeneration of trees and shrubs	Visual survey	Annual	HPC	
Conserve and enhance the woodland biodiversity	Year on year increase in wildlife abundance and diversity	Wildlife surveys	As opportunities arise to commission expert surveys	HPC	
Manage public access to limit wildlife disturbance and other detrimental impacts on the woodland biodiversity	Year on year reduction in anti-social behaviour such as dog-fouling and litter	Visual survey	Annual	HPC	
Encourage community engagement in survey,	Increasing numbers of active	Records of events	Ongoing	HPC	

monitoring and conservation management of the woods	participants in woodland activities				
Improve local landscape connectivity	Improved connections with other local woods within the life of the plan	Visual survey	Annual	HPC	
Deer and squirrels	No increase from current low deer and squirrel impacts	Deer and squirrel impact surveys	Annual	HPC	If deer and/or squirrel impacts increase, implement greater protective and/or control methods. Protect any new planting from mammal damage in tree shelters.
Tree pests and diseases	Any new tree pests and diseases are identified promptly and the appropriate body informed	Visual survey	Ongoing	HPC	Appropriate reporting and response undertaken promptly
Non-native invasive species (NNIS)	All NNIS are removed within the life of the plan	Visual survey	Annual	HPC	
Tree safety	No avoidable injuries from trees	Tree safety inspection	At least every 3 years	HPC	Prompt response to reports of dangerous trees

Forestry Commission England

UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

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

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

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

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