

<u>Woodland Property Name</u>	Esthwaite Gardens Wood	
Unique Reference		
Plan Period 2015-2025	Approval Date:	To:
Five Year Review Date		

Approval Criteria – FC Office Use Only

The UKFS states that a management plan should:

UKFS	Approval Criteria	FC Approval & Notes
State the objectives of management, and how sustainable forest management is to be achieved	Have objectives of management been stated? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2)	
Provide a means to communicate forest proposals and engage interested parties	Have work proposals been communicated in the management strategy (section 6) and felling & restock table (section 8) and potential interested parties identified in Section 7	
Serve as an agreed statement of intent against which implementation can be checked and monitored	Has a five year review period been stated below and achievements recorded in section 3	
Approving Officer Name		Plan approved <input type="checkbox"/>

To Maximise Functionality

- Connect to the internet;
- Enable macros when prompted;
- where the text is blue and underlined additional information is available, hover over the text with your mouse and double click to open;
- where you see the  symbol, left click on it and press the F1 key for a further explanation of the detail required;
- throughout the document where you see '**Add Box**' double click on the text and additional boxes will appear (enable macros first).

1. Property Details

Name	Helen Ryan		Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tenant <input type="checkbox"/>
Email	hryan@lancaster.gov.uk		Contact Number	01524 582822
Address	White Lund Depot, White Lund Road Morecambe LA3 3DT			
Agent Name (if applicable)	Paul Bullimore			
Contact Number	07884 657844	Email	lwp@cf-trust.org	
County	Lancashire	Nearest Town	Lancaster	
Grid Reference 	SD 487 621	Local Authority	Lancaster City Council	
Management Plan Area (Hectares)	1.7 Ha			
List the maps associated with this management plan	Compartment Map			
Do you intend to apply for a felling licence with this management plan?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>	

2. Vision and Objectives

To develop your long term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland and how you envisage it will be in the future.

2.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

- Maintain and improve the woodland for the benefit of local residents as a low key natural recreational location.
- Maintain and improve the wildlife value of the woodland.
- Maintain and improve the community food growing potential of the site by developing forest garden plantings using permaculture design principles.
- Generate small quantities of firewood for volunteers.
- Seek funding to assist with the costs of management.

2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management, and 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 (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Repair and maintain footpath and steps to ensure safe access for users. Remove redundant fence. (All Cpts)
2	Thin areas of mature/semi-mature trees to allow more light to woodland floor (Cpt 1)
3	Establish 5-7 year coppice rotations on areas of hazel and other suitable species. (Cpt 2) Develop plan for use of arisings
4	Plant understory species to provide edible crops using permaculture design principles. (Cpt 1)
5	Engage with the community to inform them about the value of the woodlands and encourage their participation in management.
6	Establish community entity to assist with management and seek external grant funding for support of capital works.
7	Maintain orchard area by cutting and mulching whilst maintaining its seclusion to minimise abuse.
8	Maintain public safety through regular tree inspections and works to remove danger within sensible risk management guidelines. Lancaster City Council to lead on this as owner of site.

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3. Plan Review - Achievements

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

Objective	Achievement

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4. Woodland Survey

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland and its location, including any statutory constraints: designations, European Protected Species etc.

Woodland information for your property can be found on the ['Magic'](#) website or the Forestry Commission [Land Information Search](#).

Brief description of the woodland property 

The wood is small amenity woodland situated on the edge of Lancaster. To the west is modern housing and to the east school playing fields beyond which is open countryside. Contiguous with the woodland area owned by Lancaster City Council is a mature woodland area in the ownership of Lancaster Royal Grammar School. The obvious course of action would be for this plan to include the woodland in their ownership but the Trustees have declined the initial approach to work together on this.

An area of the woodland on LRGS land has been created for forest school activities and fenced off with tall metal palisade fencing.

The woodland is a mixture of mature trees to the south which are remnants of the tree cover on the site prior to the modern developments in the 1960 and 70s, and younger plantation to the north around dating from the late 90's. The young planting has been established using close spacing and now need thinning/coppicing.

Some planting along fence with the school is important for screening the palisade fence.

Some community activity has taken place in the past including the planting of a small orchard area.

The main species present are Ash, Sycamore, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, Beech, Pine, Willow, Field Maple, Birch and a range of native and naturalised woodland shrubs.

A small community orchard area was planted around 2009 which has established well and produces good crops of fruit which are harvested by local people.

In the centre of the wood is a more open area with extensive view across Lancaster to the Lake District Hills. Bench seating here is the focus for young people to gather and have camp fires and drink alcohol. This results in litter and unsightly debris from the fires.

The wood has other bench seating and picnic benches of a very sturdy design which are still in good order after a number of years in service.

The woodland appears to support a range of common wildlife species although no detailed records have been discovered yet.

5. Woodland Protection

This section allows you to consider the potential threats facing your woodland(s). Where relevant, under the following headings, describe any potential threats and as

informed by both the likelihood of presence and potential impact, communicate any required management response. This could, for example, be providing information in relation to putting in place a plan, monitoring or direct action.

Plant Health

Ash Dieback is a risk given the extensive area of ash natural regeneration. Diversification of the species structure will help to mitigate any effect of any pest or disease outbreak in the wood. In pursuance of Permaculture principles consider improving soil condition by inoculation with mycorrhiza.

Deer

The location on the edge of the urban area close to more open countryside means deer may occasionally venture into the woods. At present there is no obvious damage from browsing and the risk is low. The situation should be monitored closely in light of the increasing number of deer present in the surrounding countryside and the likely damage to coppice stools.

Grey Squirrels

Grey squirrels are present in the woodland but do not pose a risk at the moment. The situation can be monitored but it is unlikely any control programme would be appropriate unless damage became excessive.

Livestock and Other Mammals

There is no risk from livestock. Rabbits may be present on site but do not appear to be causing any significant problems to the wood.

Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc)

The site is undulating and rainwater runoff is causing washout of the footpath surface in places and can cause pooling of water, and in winter ice, at the bottom of the southern steps.

Environmental (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc)

The wood is not adversely affected by flooding and is at low risk from wind damage. Fire could be problem in prolonged periods of dry weather due to the use of barbeques and camp fires on the site. Due to the predominately broadleaved nature of the wood and generally damp climate it is only in exceptional periods of dry weather when the risk would be high. Due to the proximity of residential properties it is likely any fire which got out of control would be spotted early and the fire services alerted. Knotweed may have been present on the site but does not now appear to exist.

Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)

This is small amenity woodland with a range of species present. There is some age and structural diversity across the site but this could be increased with good management. Use of native and local provenance species and seed is to be preferred but this should not preclude the use of near native, naturalised or non-local provenance to increase the resilience to climate change. Maintaining the soil biosphere in good condition through the application of Permaculture principles will help to make the woodland more resilient.

6. Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features and issues identified within the previous sections of the plan. The information provided should be succinct.

Mgt Objective/Feature	Outline Work Prescriptions/Operations	Year
Maintain and improve footpath	Repair steps and path surface deal with surface water run off affecting steps to south end	2/3
Bench seat circle at summit	Consider removal to minimise misuse and anti-social behaviour which disturb the neighbours or install proper firepit and accept/formalise use which will almost certainly continue. The solution to this problem needs discussion with the community and the PCSO.	1/2
Areas of hazel	Coppice now and establish a sustainable coppice rotation to provide material for local allotment holders and small amounts of firewood. Formulate plan for use of arisings to maximise community value e.g. Bean poles, material for green wood working, firewood.	1
Mature areas of woodland	Selective thinning, favouring for removal conifers and sycamore (whilst recognising the value of these species to diversity and resilience) Remove line of cypress at top of steps adjacent to No. 2 Esthwaite Gardens.	2-5
Orchard	Cut vegetation and mulch trees. Prune as required to maintain productivity.	1
Forest Garden Planting	Using Forest Garden principles Plant 2 or more understory layers to produce edible crops.	1
Redundant fence	Remove all redundant chestnut pale fence and reuse/recycle where possible or use as firewood.	1
Litter	Litter clearance blitz.	1
Ecological surveys	Carry out survey work of the wildlife using local experts. E.g. Lancaster University	Ongoing

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7. Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to [Operations Note 35](#) for further information.

Work Proposal	Individual/Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
	Lancaster City Council				
	Residents Groups	Posters			
	County Ecologist				
	Neighbours	Distribute leaflet			
	Friends of Miss Whalleys field.				
	Central High School				
	LRGS				
	Ridge Community Primary School. Head teacher and chair of governors				
	Claver Hill Project				

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8. Felling & Restocking

Should you wish to associate a felling licence with your management plan please complete the table below. Set out your felling intentions by identifying individual species where they comprise more than 20% of the volume to be felled. Individual species at or below 20% need to be grouped as MB (mixed broadleaf) and/or MC (mixed conifer).

Cpt(s)	Sub Cpt	Felling Type	Species	Area of Felling (ha)	Est Volume M ³ (Bdlv/Con)	Pref Fell Year	Restock Species	Restock Area (ha)	% of Total Restock Area	Map No	TPO	Designation
1	1a, 1b	CF	BE, MB, JL, MC	1.3	100/200	16/17	OK/BI/BE/WCH	1.3	100	1	No	No
1		T	MB	0.1	10 (5/5)	Year 3						
2		FC	HAZ/MB	0.1	5	Year 2						

9. Monitoring

Indicators of success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Use the below section to identify when and how monitoring is to be carried out. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

Management Objective	Indicator of Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Establish coppice coupe	Good coppice regrowth	Visual inspection with photo comparison	Annually		
Introduce Forest Garden Species	Successful establishment	Visual inspection	Annual		

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