

<u>Woodland Property Name</u>	Levens Drive Wood	
Unique Reference		
Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (ten years)	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	Lancashire County Council	Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tenant <input type="checkbox"/>
Email	timothy.blythe@lancashire.gov.uk	Contact Number	
Address			
Agent Name (if applicable)	Tim Blythe		
Contact Number	01772 534186	Email	Timothy.Blythe@lancashire.gov.uk
County	Lancashire	Nearest Town	Heysham
Grid Reference	SD 423 624	Local Authority	Lancaster City Council
Management Plan Area (Hectares)	2.21		
List the maps associated with this management plan			
Do you intend to apply for a felling licence with this management plan?	Yes <input 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).

To manage the wood for public access, wildlife habitats, community involvement and education using sustainable woodland management practices.

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	Maintain informal public access to the site though maintenance of the footpaths and access infrastructure.
2	Manage the woodland to ensure long term resilience taking into account pest and disease and climate change factors by maintaining and developing age and species diversity. Emphasis will be on native species without excluding non-native where appropriate. Continuous Cover Forestry principles will be used to guide management practices. Thinning, coppicing, ride side management and encouragement of regeneration will be priorities. Adjoining owners and occupiers views will be carefully considered in the planning of work programmes.
3	Involve local people in the management of the wood though the development of a Friends of Group and practical work parties.
4	Provide educational and interpretation facilities.
5	Seek external funding to facilitate maintenance and improvements

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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



General

The woodland is owned by Lancashire County Council and was planted as a community wood by them in the 1990's on land which was part of the adjoining school. It is a mosaic of woodland and open space with some small ponds.

The site has been the responsibility of the County Countryside Service and has been overseen by a ranger although, like most sites, it has not been possible to implement active management in recent years.

It is adjacent to medium density housing to the south west, a railway line to the north east and a school playing field to the north west. The site is flat and is prone to waterlogging

The predominant tree species is aspen which is suckering freely. Other species include ash, oak, willow, rowan, alder and birch.

Setting

The woodland is situated on the boundary of the extensive urban areas of Heysham and Morecambe. The photo below shows its location in the landscape.



The flat landscape means the woodland is only visible locally but forms an important part of the overall green space of the area. Being on the edge of peri-urban countryside it provides a real woodland feel for an area so close to lot of people.

Structure

The woodland was planted on bare land in the 1990's using a mix of native broadleaved species including Aspen. It was laid out with public access and nature conservation as the priorities and incorporated blocks of woodland with grass rides, ponds and open space. Planting patterns were typical of the era with close spacing of small trees. The success rate has been good supplemented by prolific natural suckering of aspen. Most of the planting blocks are now densely stocked resulting in dense shading and poor ground flora. There is little or no shrub layer.

Management history

Apart from occasional visits from the Countryside Ranger, some ad hoc woodland management and responsive works there has been no active management.

A community consultation exercise was carried out in April 2013 to get opinions on site management and use and to invite people to form a Friends of Levens Drive Wood group. There was interest from local residents and users and, overall, the site is valued and all want to see it retained as a public site.

Recreation

The proximity of a large urban population make this wood very valuable for public recreation especially dog walkers. There is a network of mown grass paths which are cut on an ad hoc basis by the County Council. Paths can be wet after prolonged rainfall. The excellent design of the woodland provides great potential to develop it into a flourishing community woodland.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The location adjacent to urban areas brings typical issues of anti-social behaviour although at the time of writing the litter problem and damage from misuse is minimal. Groups of young people hang out in the wood from time to time and create some damage by clearing areas, lighting fires and leaving litter but this tends to be cyclical. Local information suggests underage alcohol consumption and recreational drug use does take place from time to time.

Dog fouling has been highlighted as a problem and the installation of dog bins has been requested by users.

Increased use of the wood by the public and more involvement in the care and management by local people should help to keep anti-social behaviour to a minimum.

Ecology

The site does not appear to have any special ecological value beyond that of good

broadleaved woodland habitat, ponds and ditches and rough grassland all of which are valuable for a wide range of common native wildlife including birds.

Neighbours

Typical of woodlands adjacent to housing issues about management of the vegetation have arisen in the past with some people wanting vegetation cut down and others wanting it left to grow. A pragmatic approach has been taken by the County Council in order to maintain good relations with neighbours. There is no reason to believe this pragmatic approach cannot be continued in the future. Involving the neighbours in the management planning process should help to give them a greater sense of ownership and minimise future conflicts.

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

This young woodland is very healthy and increased management and use will enable a close watch to be kept for pest and disease e.g. Ash dieback. The woodland should be regularly monitored to identify any infection and current Forestry Commission guidance followed. Other pests and diseases could become a problem and monitoring will help to identify any issues at an early stage. Given that many of the pest and diseases are not controllable maintaining and improving the vitality of the trees and the woodland ecology is the best form of protection for the woodland ecosystem as a whole. Diversification of species will help to minimise the impact of any future problems.

Deer

This woodland on the edge of an urban area, bounded by housing and a railway line appears to be relatively free of any significant deer browsing. In any case deer control would be impracticable on this site.

Grey Squirrels

Grey squirrel will frequent the woods but do not appear to be causing any problems at present. The situation will be monitored. Opportunities for control measures are limited due to the open public access.

Livestock and Other Mammals

There is no livestock adjacent to the wood so issues should not arise. Rabbits could be problem but will be tolerated.

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

The site is bounded on 2 sides by drainage ditches. The site does get waterlogged and explains why aspen was part of the planting mix and has grown well. Other species tolerant of wet ground conditions such as willow and alder are also frequent in the wood. The ponds are at risk of succession to woodland if not kept open and dredged

from time to time.

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

The wood is not known to flood although extensive areas of waterlogging do occur after prolonged rainfall. Wind and fire are currently very low risk. Fire could become more of an issue if management works create too much brash but this should be manageable and the close proximity of residential properties should make detection and alert of the fire brigade quick and effective. There is good access to the wood for firefighting. The major invasive species is the aspen. This will be controlled as part of the ongoing management work.

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

The young and vigorous nature of the wood together with its species diversity makes the woodland relatively resilient to climate change. Active management will control the Aspen to ensure increased species diversity

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
Public Access	Maintain mown grass pathways Maintain access gates etc. Seek funding for signage and interpretation boards	
Woodland structure	Thin and small-group felling including halo thinning where appropriate	
Ponds	Remove trees on edge of ponds to maintain optimal light/shade balance. Maintain open water by dredging by hand	
Community Involvement	Initiate a Friends of Group Organise practical work tasks to implement approved works	
Educational use	Promote site for Forest School activities and school educational visits	

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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
	Lancashire County Council				
	Lancaster City Council				
	Local residents				
	Lancashire Wildlife Trust				
	Local Elected Members				

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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
Improved woodland structure	Less aspen More ground flora	Fixed point photography	Annually	Volunteers/site owners	
Community involvement	Friends of group established				

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