Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:		
Woodland or Property name	**Sherrardspark Wood**	
Woodland Management Plan case reference	**1905579**	
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland		**Yes**
Plan author name	**Gilles Sauvestre – Maydencroft Ltd**	

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
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		Sherrardspark Wood	
Name	Oliver Waring	Owner	
Email	o.waring@welhat.gov.uk	Contact Number	01707 357 329
Agent Name (if applicable)		Gilles Sauvestre	
Email	gilles.sauvestre@maydencroft.co.uk	Contact Number	[redacted]
County	Hertfordshire	Local Authority	Welwyn Hatfield Council
Grid Reference (e.g. ST 625 785)	TL 228 138	Single Business Identifier	107142304
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		81.27	
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? (PLEASE NOTE: Google Maps/ images of maps will not be accepted because they are copyright protected and should not be used commercially without the appropriate licencing from Google).		Map 1 – Designations Map 2 – Habitats Map 3 – Hazards, constraints and public access Map 4 – Species and stands Map 5 – Harvesting	
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	Yes
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?		No	

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*)

Sherrardspark Wood will continue to be one of Hertfordshire's most significant oak woodlands. Its resistance and resilience to climate change, pests, and diseases will be strengthened through an improved age range and genetic diversity of oaks, increased canopy species diversity, and enhanced structural variety resulting from abundant and healthy tree and shrub regeneration, as well as ongoing rotational coppicing.

Careful management, including the continuation of traditional techniques like coppicing and pollarding, will foster a diverse range of woodland habitats. These will include both temporary and permanent open spaces, healthy ponds, veteran trees, dead wood, and areas of dense understorey. Such habitats will support a wide array of locally important species, including birds, small mammals, and invertebrates.

This management approach will help maintain the SSSI in favourable conservation condition, ensuring the wood continues to offer a remarkable landscape and a relaxing, safe, and welcoming environment for visitors to enjoy.

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	Ensure long-term continuity of mainly sessile oak woodland, with an enhanced age classes, structural and genetic diversity.
2	Maintain and enhance the structural and species diversity of the woodland, to increase its environmental value and resilience to climate change, pests, diseases and other disturbances. Preserve the traditional management techniques.
3	Maintain and enhance biological diversity across the woodland by improving and preserving the diversity and condition of its habitats. Preserve the historic and archaeological features.
4	Provide a safe and attractive woodland experience for visitors.
5	Monitor diseases, pests, and invasive species to enable early detection of potential threats and take proactive mitigation measures.
6	Continue to contribute to the local economy.

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
Ensure long-term continuity of mainly sessile oak woodland, with an enhanced age classes, structural and genetic diversity.	
Maintain and enhance the structural and species diversity of the woodland, to increase its environmental value and resilience to climate change, pests, diseases and other disturbances. Preserve the traditional management techniques.	
Maintain and enhance biological diversity across the woodland by improving and preserving the diversity and condition of its habitats. Preserve the historic and archaeological features.	
Provide a safe and attractive woodland experience for visitors.	
Monitor diseases, pests, and invasive species to enable early detection of potential threats and take proactive mitigation measures.	
Continue to contribute to the local economy.	

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:
Sherrardspark Wood is a large Ancient Semi-natural Woodland located near Welwyn Garden City in Hertfordshire. The wood is positioned on high ground between the Lea and Mimram river valleys, and reaches 127 meters at its highest point at Six Ways. **Geology and soils:** The wood's underlying geology is primarily chalk covered with beds of clay, sand, and gravel. The chalk is particularly close to the surface

in the northern parts of the wood, where several small, historic pits are visible. Higher areas of the woodland are marked by deposits of London Clay containing variable amounts of pebbles and rock fragments of different composition, sizes and shapes. In some areas, sands are also found at the surface. These geological features contribute to the wood's largely acidic soils. However, the proximity of chalk in the north creates more neutral to calcareous conditions, which is evident in the variation of ground flora.

Hydrology: Sherrardspark Wood contains two shallow valleys that run in a southerly direction and host seasonal streams. During heavy rainfall, these streams can flow briskly, with one of the channels being deeply incised. However, the lower parts of the valleys, beyond the woodland's margins, remain dry due to three swallow holes that capture the water flow. The smallest of these is located in an adjacent golf course, while the other two are within the wood, characterised by large hollows.

Vegetation: The historic core of Sherrardspark Wood is dominated by a semi-natural, mature oak high forest. The oak trees, primarily sessile oak due to historical estate plantings (but common oaks and hybrids are also present), reach heights of over 30 metres, diameters at breast height of over 1 metre, and are up to 250 years old. Sessile oak high forests are now a rare habitat in lowland England, which is the main reason for its SSSI designation. Oak regeneration has been encouraged in some areas by the creation of gaps in the canopy when harvesting mature trees, leading to a local abundance of oak seedlings, saplings, and poles (cpts 1a1 and 1d).

Hornbeam coppice is found mainly on the west side of the Wood (Brocks Wood, cpt 5), but is also present scattered throughout the woodland. In cpt 5, it has been actively managed through rotational coppicing, showing positive results. Existing small amounts of hazel have been augmented with additional planting to enhance dormouse habitat.

In areas where chalk is closer to the surface, particularly in compartments 2 and 3, sycamore is now prevalent, alongside ash (often affected by ash dieback), wych elm (which likely dominated the woodland before Dutch elm disease), and wild cherry.

The wood also contains small remaining plantations of larch, Scots pine and Corsican Pine (e.g. in cpt 1h). Conifers can also be found dotted around the wood or mixed with broadleaves in a light canopy above heather in cpt 1e. Areas where conifers, poplars and diseased ash have been removed are now regenerating, although species of interest are often little dense and diversified, with young sycamore, elm or bramble frequently dominating the stand (2a, 3d2, 4a, 4b).

Groves of mature sweet chestnut and sweet chestnut coppice are present in cpts 1f and 1g. Holly, beech, birch, field maple and rowan form a locally abundant understory, particularly in areas that have undergone thinning operations.

The ground flora of Sherrardspark Wood reflects the closed canopy and acid soils of the wood and is generally dominated by bramble. On more calcareous soils, dogs mercury, wood anemone, yellow archangel, wood violet and broad buckler fern can be found. In areas where rhododendron has been removed, heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) has re-appeared, especially in cpts 1e and 1h3. Violet and broad-leaved helleborines, both regionally important, have been recorded close to the old railway line. A typical woodland ride flora is developing, forming an important habitat for invertebrates which does not occur elsewhere in the wood.

Fungi, Mosses, and Lichens: The wood is well-known for its wide variety of fungi and extensive foray lists have been recorded by Herts Fungi Group. While mosses and lichens are less studied, they are believed to be ecologically significant within Hertfordshire, with one lichen species indicating long-term woodland continuity.

Wildlife: The woodland is home to several badger setts and is frequented by various wildlife. However, grey squirrels and muntjac deer are causing significant damage through bark stripping and browsing, posing challenges for woodland management.

Public frequentation: Sherrardspark Wood is crisscrossed by numerous public and permissive footpaths, leading to high levels of public frequentation throughout nearly all parts of the wood due to its urban location. The woodland is highly valued for its environmental and recreational significance, as evidenced by the active involvement of a dedicated team of volunteer wood wardens who work to maintain and protect the 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 and the Forestry Commission Land Information Search.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
Biodiversity - Designations				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Yes	1, 3, 4, 5	No	1
Special Area of Conservation	No	-	No	-
Tree Preservation Order	No	-	Yes	-
Conservation Area	Yes	1g2, 3f2, 4c	Yes	1
Special Protection Area	No	-	No	-
Ramsar Site	No	-	No	-
National Nature Reserve	No	-	No	-
Local Nature Reserve	Yes	1, 3, 4, 5	No	1
Other (please Specify):	No	-	No	-
Notes	SSSI – designated in 1986 LNR – designated in 1997 Local Wildlife Site – listed in 1997 but deselected in 2009 due to its SSSI status Conservation Area – only very limited areas of the woodland are under CA			

Feature		Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species					
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes	All	-	Not surveyed, although highly likely with presumed roosting sites in all compartments. According to Woodland Wildlife Toolkit, the wood is likely to shelter Barbastelle, Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared bat. Prior to any felling work, the area should be surveyed from the ground for potential bat roosting sites. If any are seen, the tree, together with its neighbours should be excluded from the work area. The timing of the work in areas of high bat roost potential will be kept

					to late Summer/ early Autumn to minimise the risk of disturbance.
Dormouse		No	-	-	No records despite the presence of very favourable habitats in the wood (dense mix of regenerating coppice, including hazel, bramble, etc.)
Great Crested Newt		No	-	-	No records in the ponds (licenced new trapping carried out in 2023)
Otter		No			
Sand Lizard		No			
Smooth Snake		No			
Natterjack Toad		No			
Biodiversity – Priority Species					
Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	No	-	-	No records of priority bird species in the wood (local records, NBN Atlas).
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		No	-	-	No records of priority mammal species in the wood (local records, NBN Atlas).
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		Yes	4	-	Records of Slow worm.
Plants		No	-	-	No records of priority plant species in the wood (local records, NBN Atlas).
Fungi/Lichens		No	-	-	No records of priority fungi or lichens species in the wood (local records, NBN Atlas). According to Woodland Wildlife Toolkit, the wood is likely to shelter Bearded Tooth. Records of the rare *Thelotrema lepadinum* which is an indicator of woodland continuity.
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)		Yes	All	-	Records of White Admiral, White-letter Hairstreak. Old records of other invertebrate priority species (e.g. NBN Atlas: last record of *Pechipogo strigilata* in 1977).
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)		Yes	1a2, 1f3, 5c	-	Records of Common Frog, Common Toad.
Other (please Specify):		No			
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments		No			

Unscheduled Monuments	Yes	3b1, 3c1, 3c3, 3f2	-	Remains of water supply infrastructure for Digswell Park.
Registered Parks and Gardens	No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes	All	3	Presence of perimeter and internal historic wood banks. The southern boundary is the ecclesiastical boundary of Digswell and Bishop's Hatfield parishes and is parliamentary boundary between Hitchin & St Albans. The boundary between Digswell and Welwyn parishes passes through the north-western side of the wood. Several old hornbeam coppice stools, old oaks (and occasionally old ash and sycamore) can be found marking the perimeter and internal banks. Several veteran trees can be found across the wood.
Listed Buildings	No			
Burial Grounds	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
Landscape				
National Character Area (please Specify): 111 – Northern Thames Basin				
National Park	No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes	3a		Welwyn Hatfield Landscape Character Assessment Area 35: Ayot St Peter Wooded Uplands Unimproved grassland to the north was once part of Digswell Park. The beech avenue known as Monks Walk (cpt 3a) and another more recent beech avenue leading into the northern side of the wood are part of former estate plantings/parkland.
People				
CROW Access	No			
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes	All	3	Extensive network of public footpaths and bridleways giving

				pedestrian access throughout the wood.
Other Access Provision	Yes			A dense network of permissive footpaths complements the PROWs. A disused railway line (Ayot Way) gives additional access to the wood. Ayot Way is accessible to wheelchairs at its eastern end (town centre) and western end (Red Lion entrance).
Public Involvement	Yes	All	-	Sherrardspark Wood Wardens Society is an active volunteer group working twice a week on practical management and providing regular input to reserve management planning.
Visitor Information	Yes	All	-	Interpretation boards are located at the 4 main entrances and at Six-Ways. A web page on council's website contains information for visitors.
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes	-	-	A car park is located at the north end of the wood, adjacent to the reservoir.
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes	All	-	Walks and events are occasionally arranged by Sherrardspark Wood Wardens Society (including with schools, scouts, etc.).
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes	All	-	Sporadic littering, dog fouling, fires and vandalism.
Other (please Specify):	No			
Watercourses	Yes	1a1, 1c, 1d, 1f1, 1f2 1h3	3	Two natural stream courses flow southwards through the wood into swallowholes.
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	1a2, 5c (adj. 5b)	3	Four ponds can be found in the wood (cpts 1a2, 4c and 5c), and an additional pond is located near Ayot Way (adjacent to cpt 5b), outside of the property.
Other (please Specify):	Yes	1f3	3	Wet area (drain) in compartment 1f3.

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	1, 3, 4, 5	2	Ancient woodland characteristics can be observed in cpt 2 as well, although not inventoried as ASNW.
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	Yes	1, 4	2	Conifers have been removed from cpt 4, although the area is still categorised as PAWS.
Semi-natural features in PAWS	Yes	1, 4	2	Presence of mature native broadleaves mixed with conifers.
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes	All	2	
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	Yes	1e	4	Extensive heather area in cpt 1e suggests past history of grazing.
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	Yes	1e	4	Area previously cleared of Rhododendron ponticum currently being managed as heather /

				broadleaves / conifers mosaic
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)
Mature oak high forest	37%	Even/uneven	Generally, even aged stands of mature oaks. Where the canopy is dense, almost no understory. Where the canopy is open, understory or rowan, hornbeam, birch, etc. Locally, abundant oak natural regeneration.
Mature broadleaved high forest	11%	Even/uneven	Ash, sweet chestnut or beech high forest. Very diverse stands.
Mature coppice with standards	22%	Even	Generally, overmature hornbeam coppice with oak standards, with little structural diversity.
Recently regenerated areas (including coppice)	22%	Uneven	Generally, dense coppice regrowth or natural regeneration under a light canopy of scattered standards.
Mixed conifers and broadleaves high forest	6%	Even/uneven	Very diverse stands, with mature conifers sometimes mixed with oak standards, sometimes over a dense natural regeneration of conifers and broadleaves.
Heather area	1%	Uneven	Area of heather dominating the ground flora, under a light canopy of scattered standards

			and natural regeneration (both conifers and broadleaves).

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	Ash Dieback
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Ash is present in many areas of Sherrardspark Wood, though it is generally scattered and mixed with other species. Only a few stands, such as those in compartments 2a and 4a, are dominated by ash. As a result, ash dieback is not a major concern in most parts of the woodland. However, ash dieback will be closely monitored in areas with higher ash concentrations and throughout the woodland, particularly near footpaths and public rights of way. This monitoring will allow for timely and appropriate actions to preserve the crop, ensure the future viability of affected stands, and maintain the safety of workers and the public who frequent the area. In stands dominated by ash, two management approaches will be implemented: • Where ash trees remain relatively healthy, a vigorous thinning of the canopy will be carried out to improve airflow, in an effort to reduce the future intensity of ash dieback. The proportion of non-ash species will be increased, by favouring other species during thinning

	operations, or by planting site-suited species where large canopy gaps have formed, if natural regeneration of non-ash species is insufficient. • Where ash trees are severely affected, regeneration felling or clear felling will be undertaken, followed by restocking with site-suited native broadleaved species. Across the woodland, trees and clusters of trees showing signs of resistance or resilience to ash dieback will be retained whenever possible to support the long-term presence of ash in Sherrardspark Wood and the landscape as a whole. Grants are available to support the restocking of areas where ash with ash dieback is a major component of the stand. Applications for these grants should be explored and discussed with the Forestry Commission prior to any felling activities.

Threat	Acute Oak Decline
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Sherrardspark Wood is a remarkable and emblematic oak woodland where the potential spread of Acute Oak Decline (AOD) poses a significant threat. Oak trees are vital to the landscape, biodiversity, and the overall health of the woodland ecosystem. Recently, many oaks in Sherrardspark Wood have died, and symptoms such as trunk bleeding and crown dieback are frequently observed in dead, dying and living trees. While AOD has been positively identified in the area in 2015 (though suspected since 1990 droughts), not all trees exhibiting bleeding symptoms have been diagnosed with the disease. AOD remains poorly understood, and current guidance from Forest Research emphasises the importance of recording the number and location of symptomatic trees, as well as assessing the severity of their condition. Infected trees should generally be left in place and monitored unless there is an immediate safety concern. However, if a small number of trees appear to be infected, especially if they belong to

	the same oak species, it may be advisable to fell and destroy the infected trees. This approach aims to reduce the risk of spreading the disease to healthy trees and to keep inoculum levels low. Sightings of symptomatic trees should be reported to the Forestry Commission via the Tree Alert app or online via https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-andresources/tree-alert/ For more detailed guidance on managing AOD, visit: https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/publications/managing-acute-oak-decline/

Threat	Oak Processionary Moth
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	Medium
Response	Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) has not yet been identified in Sherrardspark Wood, but it is likely to colonise the area in the coming years due to its ongoing expansion. Oaks will be monitored, and any sightings of OPM will be reported using the Tree Alert app. Where necessary and feasible, appropriate safety measures will be implemented to manage the impact of this pest.

Threat	Needle blight *(Dothistroma septosporum)*
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Needle blight has not been detected in Sherrardspark Wood, but it poses a potential threat due to the presence of Scots and Corsican pine-rich stands. While pines rarely dominate the stands, they contribute significantly to its landscape. Therefore, the presence of needle blight will be monitored. In stands containing pine, thinning operations will be conducted when necessary to reduce density. This will promote better air circulation between tree crowns, lowering humidity levels and creating conditions less favourable for the development of needle blight-causing fungi.

Threat	*Phytophtora ramorum*
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Low

Response (inc protection measures)	*Phytophthora ramorum* has not been observed in Sherrardspark Wood, but it remains a potential threat due to the presence of European larch stands. Although larch rarely dominates the stands, it plays an important role in the overall landscape. To mitigate this risk, the presence of *P. ramorum* will be monitored annually (although not in the autumn season). In larch stands that are too dense, thinning operations will be conducted to improve air circulation between the tree crowns. This will help reduce humidity levels, creating conditions that are less favourable for the development and spread of *P. ramorum*.

Threat	Larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle *(Ips typographus)*
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	The woodland is situated within the *Ips typographus* Demarcated Area (as per its 2024 boundaries). Norway spruce is only a minor component of the woodland, appearing scattered in some stands. Consequently, the impact of *Ips typographus* in Sherrardspark Wood will be very limited. However spruce trees in the wood can serve as a stepping stone facilitating the insect's spread to other spruce woodlands. Regular inspections of Norway spruce stands will be conducted to detect early signs of health decline and any potential *Ips typographus* outbreaks. Any confirmed outbreaks will be promptly reported to the Forestry Commission. Given that Norway spruce is not likely to be well-suited to the site in the near future, efforts will be made to remove it from the woodland to prevent potential outbreaks. The Forestry Commission's guidance on *Ips typographus* will be regularly reviewed to ensure that current recommendations and controls, including restrictions on the movement of materials, are implemented effectively.

5.3 Deer

Species - Likelihood of presence	Muntjac – high Roe - medium
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Muntjac deer are present in Sherrardspark Wood and have a noticeable impact on the vegetation. Unprotected coppice, tree, and shrub regeneration are experiencing significant browsing pressure, which impedes their growth and threatens the woodland's regeneration and diversity. Deer control presents a challenge in Sherrardspark Wood due to the high level of public activity. Given this context, it is crucial to implement all possible protection measures to support the regeneration of trees, shrubs, and coppice. These measures will include constructing brash baskets or stacking brash around regenerating coppice stools, using protective shelters such as tubes and wraps on planted and naturally regenerating trees and shrubs, and erecting deer fences in areas where the other methods do not provide adequate protection. Tubes will also help locate naturally regenerating and planted oaks within dense regrowth, facilitating their management. Plastic protection should be removed as soon as it is no longer needed to ensure that it does not inhibit growth or cause plastic pollution.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Grey squirrels pose a significant threat to the future of Sherrardspark Wood, especially impacting the regeneration of oak, hornbeam, and sycamore trees. The damage caused by squirrels to oak regeneration is particularly concerning, as it is essential for maintaining the woodland's exceptional oak characteristics. Many young oaks have already succumbed to squirrel damage, and those that remain face a high risk of future damage or long-term health and quality issues. To preserve Sherrardspark Wood's oak woodland status, effective grey squirrel control is crucial. Developing a

	comprehensive grey squirrel control plan is essential, addressing opportunities, challenges, and strategies for managing the squirrel population. This plan should include methods such as shooting and trapping and ideally be coordinated with neighbouring woodlands to enhance effectiveness. Monitoring the impact of grey squirrels through standardised protocols is also critical. This approach will help assess the effectiveness of control measures and their impact on woodland vegetation, ensuring ongoing adjustments and improvements to the management strategy.

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat	Rabbit and hare
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Rabbit guards used on trees/shrubs planted in areas near fields.

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat	Wet and soft soils
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	The woodland soils in Sherrardspark Wood can become very wet at certain times of the year. Therefore, activities involving heavy machinery, such as timber extraction, should be scheduled for drier conditions, typically from late spring to early autumn.

5.7 Environmental

Threat	Invasive species
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium (high in long term)
Response (inc protection measures)	The woodland's proximity to residential areas makes it particularly vulnerable to invasive garden species. Variegated archangel, laurel, and buddleia are notably

	present, especially near the woodland's edges and access points. Mature clumps of *Rhododendron ponticum* are found at Six-Ways, where they are appreciated for their flowers, while smaller regenerating rhododendron plants are scattered throughout the woodland. These invasive species are likely to expand, potentially suppressing the growth and diversity of the ground flora, shrub layer, and natural regeneration. This poses a significant threat to the woodland's biodiversity and resilience. To mitigate this, the presence of invasive species will be closely monitored, and actions such as cutting, stump removal, chemical treatment, and pulling will be implemented to control their spread. This should include managing the rhododendron at Six-Ways to address the risks posed by its seeds and suckers. Neighbouring residents should also be actively engaged to raise awareness about the risks and costs associated with invasive species in woodlands. Educating residents about how garden escapes can harm the local ecosystem will help foster a sense of shared responsibility. Efforts should focus on encouraging responsible disposal of garden waste and promoting the use of non-invasive plants in residential gardens.

Threat	Holly
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Holly is a native and common species in many English woodlands, offering dense cover, nesting, hibernation opportunities, and food for birds and small mammals. It also serves as a visual and noise barrier along residential boundaries and roads. However, in some woodlands, including extensive areas of Sherrardspark Wood, holly can grow to extreme densities and heights. In these areas, it can overgrow coppice and shrubs, compete with mature trees, hinder natural regeneration, and suppress ground flora. This ultimately jeopardises the woodland's species diversity, age range, and

	structural diversity, and, as a result, its biodiversity and resilience. To address this, holly in these areas will be drastically reduced, though not completely removed, through cutting, root removal, and/or chemical treatment. This will bring it back to a density and height that does not compromise natural regeneration, coppice growth, and the development of ground flora. These operations will generally take place before or concurrently with silvicultural operations, such as regeneration felling or thinning, in the same areas. Holly can be maintained at a higher density along roads and residential boundaries as a visual and sound barrier, with the understanding that it will likely re-colonise the controlled areas from these locations.

Threat	Sycamore
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	In accordance with recommendations from previous management plans and guidance from Natural England regarding the management of the SSSI, sycamore has been controlled in core oak areas to prevent it from inhibiting the development of other species, including oak regeneration. This control can continue in these areas. In areas where chalk lies closer to the surface, sycamore has become more prevalent, often replacing elm and ash as these species have declined. Given the abundance of sycamore regeneration and the presence of numerous mature trees, complete eradication of sycamore in these areas is neither realistic nor desirable (due to the lack of species better suited to the chalky soils in this part of the wood). However, sycamore can be managed to reduce its dominance through regular coppicing, allowing other species to establish and thrive.

Threat	Pollution incidents
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	To minimise environmental impact and pollution risks, all fuels, oils, and chemicals must be stored in work vehicles at all times. Refuelling should be conducted at the vehicle

	and away from watercourses and water bodies. All machinery with hydraulic hoses should carry an oil spillage kit to address potential leaks. Chemical product application will be avoided during rainy conditions, with extra care taken near watercourses to prevent runoff. Plastic shelters should be collected and recycled when no longer in use to prevent degradation in the woodland and subsequent plastic pollution.

Threat	Wind
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	The woodland is generally flat with a low wind hazard, except in the northeastern part where slopes are more pronounced, and stands are more exposed. As a general rule when thinning stands or enlarging rides, the orientation facing dominant winds should be kept as windfirm as possible by retaining windfirm trees and not opening too large gaps where winds could rush into the woodland.

Threat	Fire
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Medium
Response	Lighting campfires in the woodland should be discouraged due to the risk of fires spreading and damaging the flora, coppice regrowth, and seedlings. This risk is heightened by the increasing likelihood of prolonged droughts due to climate change. The local fire brigade should be provided with a detailed map of the woodland, highlighting the best entrance points and any areas of surface water that could be used in case of a fire emergency.

5.8 Social

Threat	Public access – residential boundaries
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium

Response (inc protection measures)	The woodland is extensively used by local residents, with numerous public and permissive footpaths crossing through it. It is bordered to the east by residential areas and to the southwest by a golf course. To ensure safety, trees along the footpaths and residential boundaries will be regularly inspected, and any dangerous trees or limbs will be removed. Appropriate measures such as signage and labour resources will be implemented during maintenance and harvesting works to ensure visitor safety. Trampling by walkers and dogs can significantly impact soils (compaction), ground flora such as heather and bluebells, and natural regeneration and planting, particularly in high-traffic areas or where the ground becomes muddy. Authorised footpaths should be clearly marked and, where feasible, made more accessible with drier, flatter surfaces and clear boundaries. Public and dogs access to areas of natural regeneration, planting, or sensitive flora should be restricted using dead hedges or temporary fences. Visitors should be informed about the impacts of trampling and the importance of soil, flora, and regeneration conservation. Developing a denser understorey and ground flora through coppicing, thinning the overstorey, and planting can also discourage people from straying off the designated footpaths.

Threat	Anti-social behaviour
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	Low
Response	Anti-social behaviours can occasionally be observed in the woodland: littering, dog fouling, fires being lit in the wood, dens being built with damage to vegetation and a few events of vandalism to signs and finger posts. However, the impacts are currently rather low.

5.9 Economic

Threat	Markets – operational costs
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Firewood, oak and softwood timber markets can fluctuate. While revenue from timber is not the primary focus of the council's woodland management, timber sales will be

	strategically timed to avoid market lows and capitalise on peaks. If market conditions deteriorate, the harvesting of the most affected products will be postponed. However, excessive delays in silvicultural operations to wait for market improvements can negatively impact the health and resilience of the woodlands and should be avoided. To minimise impact on the landscape and wildlife, operations will be small-scale. This approach may produce limited quantities of timber, complicating commercialisation. Therefore, whenever feasible, operations will be planned or combined to ensure that timber volumes are sufficient for marketability.

Threat	Hand cutters availability
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Finding hand cutter teams for traditional harvesting methods, such as coppicing, pollarding, or felling large oaks, has become increasingly difficult. This challenge threatens the continuation of these traditional management techniques and the maintenance of stand structures like coppice with standards. To address this, harvesting techniques should be diversified according to the specific requirements of each task. Consideration should be given to using machinery, such as harvesters and shears, in certain stands (e.g., pure ash stands with ash dieback) to complement traditional methods, mitigate safety risks, and enhance efficiency.

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat	Oak: age range, provenance
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Oak is the most emblematic tree species in Sherrardspark Wood, making it one of the most exceptional oak woodlands in Hertfordshire. However, the species faces significant challenges that must be addressed. There are high rates of dieback observed throughout the woodland, though the exact causes remain uncertain. Factors such as site characteristics, the dry summer of 2022,

	pathogens (including those responsible of Acute Oak Decline), lack of genetic diversity, and the strong presence of sessile oak may play a role, possibly in combination. Furthermore, the age range of oaks in Sherrardspark Wood lacks diversity. Several oak stands have been opened up, creating gaps large enough to support oak regeneration, either due to the harvesting of mature trees or the loss of large, dying trees. The outcomes vary: • In many areas, a dense and diverse understorey of species like rowan, hornbeam, and holly has developed. While this enhances the woodland's structural and species diversity, it does not contribute to diversifying the oak age range. • In several areas, bramble has overtaken the openings, with little to no regeneration occurring. This makes oak regeneration nearly impossible without intervention, as seen in compartments 1a2 and 3d1. • In some areas, oak regeneration, both natural and planted, is present and even abundant, particularly in compartments 1a1 and 1d. However, these young oaks often struggle due to a lack of maintenance, facing competition from fast-growing vegetation like birch (as in compartments 1a1 and 5a) or being overshadowed by mature oaks (as in compartments 1a1 and 1d). Additionally, young oaks that reach a certain diameter are frequently heavily damaged by grey squirrels, compromising their survival, health, and quality. However, the woodland overall remains dominated by old, commercially mature even-aged oak stands. This uniformity reduces the resilience of the woodland and its ability to adapt to changing conditions. To enhance the woodland's resilience and resistance against extreme weather events, pests, and diseases, diversifying the age range and increasing the genetic and provenance diversity of oaks are crucial strategies. In woodlands with limited dieback, trees being harvested when they reach commercial maturity promotes the development of the regeneration. However, in Sherrardspark Wood, where a significant number of large-crown oaks are dead or dying, the focus should shift away from obtaining regeneration through felling healthy mature oaks, preserving this exceptional resource and avoiding the creation of additional gaps in the canopy, especially given the limited

	importance of timber income for the council. Instead, efforts should prioritise using the large gaps created by dead and dying trees, previously felled trees or groups of trees, and coppicing operations, to encourage oak regeneration. Healthy oaks should only be removed if regeneration has already been obtained and the canopy needs further opening to support young growth (regeneration felling – the removed oaks then need to have reached commercial maturity), or when stands are too dense resulting in competing trees being stressed (thinning). To diversify oak age range, the following strategies will be implemented: • Capitalise on existing gaps in the canopy that are large enough to support oak regeneration (under large dead, dying, and groups of felled trees), mulching bramble and bracken that cover the ground to remove competing vegetation (at the appropriate season for minimal disturbance of wildlife). These areas can be expanded by coppicing and pollarding adjacent hornbeam and hazel where present. Oak will be replanted in these areas, at sufficient densities to account for potential losses over time and to allow for future selection of the highest-quality trees. Additionally, natural regeneration will be protected where it occurs. • Promote natural oak regeneration and plant oaks after coppicing operations to establish new standards. • Remove commercially mature oaks over areas with dense, successful oak regeneration (e.g. cpts 1a1 and 1d). • Protect and maintain young oaks, both naturally regenerated and planted, through the use of tree shelters, the control of competing vegetation (bramble, bracken, etc.) using manual or chemical methods, and the respacing of regenerating trees when they become too dense. • Control grey squirrel populations to reduce damage to young oaks. To preserve and enhance the genetic resources within the woodland (and maintain the rare sessile oak woodland in time), natural regeneration will be prioritised. Oak seedlings

	from areas where they are not needed (e.g., in heather areas or along rides) can be translocated to areas targeted for regeneration, such as recently coppiced zones or under dead trees. Acorns from Sherrardspark Wood trees will be collected, grown into seedlings, before being replanted in the woodland. However, increasing genetic and provenance diversity is also essential, including increasing the proportion of pedunculate oak in the woodland. This can be achieved by supplementing natural regeneration with planted sessile and pedunculate oaks from diverse origins, e.g. southern provenances from western mainland Europe.

Threat	Uniform structure – species diversity
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Overall, Sherrardspark Wood exhibits notable structural and species diversity: • The efforts by the Wood Wardens to reinstate coppice rotation have been highly successful, enhancing the wood's structural diversity (e.g., in compartment 5). • In mature stands where the canopy of standard trees has been opened through thinning, a rich understorey often thrives, featuring hazel, hornbeam, rowan, birch and other species. • Despite being dominated by oak and hornbeam, the woodland supports a diverse array of broadleaf and conifer species. However, some stands, particularly mature, even-aged oak stands with a very dense canopy often mixed with overmature hornbeam coppice, lack structural diversity. These stands also frequently suffer from limited species diversity. Moreover, the woodland as a whole is deficient in alternative long-lived canopy species, with ash being severely affected by ash dieback. This lack of structural and species diversity reduces the resilience of certain areas of the woodland to major events, pests, and diseases. To enhance resilience, increasing structural diversity is essential. This can be achieved by thinning the canopy to encourage natural regeneration and the development of a thriving understorey, and by bringing more coppice back into rotation, especially in areas where it is mixed with oak standards and where mature hornbeam competes with oak

	crowns. The coppice regrowth will be protected (e.g. with brash baskets) and supplemented by the plantation of coppice species (hornbeam, hazel, field maple), especially where the coppiced trees are too old to respond positively to coppicing. Recently coppiced areas will be recut once their environmental value begins to decline. Hornbeam is unlikely to respond well to coppicing where the canopy is not sufficiently opened to allow enough light to reach the stools. Therefore, hornbeam will not be coppiced in areas where it is too sparsely distributed among other trees that are being retained. In these conditions, where hornbeam is not competing with oak crowns, some will be retained to evolve into veteran trees. Additionally, following the above recommendations for regeneration, additional long-lived standard species beyond oak should be introduced in areas targeted for regeneration, such as newly coppiced zones or under large dead trees. Naturally regenerating areas showing little species diversity or species with little chance to survive in time (e.g. dense elm regeneration in cpt 4b) can be enriched by planting clusters of site-suited species. For example, in the SSSI, native species like small-leaved lime, wild cherry, wild service tree, whitebeam and field maple will be introduced to provide alternative canopy options if oak becomes less viable in the future. Finally, the existing species diversity within the stands (including conifers) will be preserved through appropriate selection during thinning operations.

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
Ensure long-term continuity of mainly sessile oak woodland, with an enhanced age classes, structural and genetic diversity.	Refer to section 5.10 for more detailed recommendations. Oak natural regeneration will be promoted in recently coppiced areas and in areas of oak high forest where the canopy has been opened sufficiently to sustain oak regeneration. Where the density of natural regeneration is not sufficient to allow for potential losses and for long-term selection of the best-quality stems, natural regeneration will be supplemented by seedlings and saplings translocated from parts of the wood where regeneration is not desired (ride edges, heather area), and by planted oaks from diversified provenances to enhance genetic diversity. In situations where natural regeneration and planting are not feasible (e.g., due to bramble cover), preparatory works like mulching will be undertaken to capitalise on existing gaps in the canopy that are large enough to support oak regeneration. These gaps might occur under large dying or dead trees, or in areas where the canopy has been opened sufficiently but where natural regeneration has been unsuccessful. This approach will help avoid the creation of additional gaps in healthy mature oak stands. However, temporary and permanent open spaces will be retained to preserve the diversity of habitats in the wood. Both naturally regenerated and planted oaks will be protected against deer browsing and managed to reduce competition from ground flora, shrubs, lower-quality oak regeneration, and other tree species such as birch and sycamore. Mature oaks that overshadow dense clusters of successful regeneration will be

	removed to ensure survival and optimal growth conditions. To mitigate damage to young oaks, grey squirrels will be controlled. Additionally, high pruning may be undertaken on selected stems to improve the quality of the developing trees. In stands where oaks are overly dense or where secondary species like hornbeam compete with oak crowns, thinning should be carried out. Priority should be given to removing the lowest-quality oaks and other species, particularly those capable of coppicing to enhance the structural diversity of the woodland.
Maintain and enhance the structural and species diversity of the woodland, to increase its environmental value and resilience to climate change, pests, diseases and other disturbances. Preserve the traditional management techniques.	In addition to the strategies previously outlined to diversify the structure and age range in oak stands, the following actions will be implemented: • The rotational coppice program will be continued where it has already been implemented to rejuvenate areas where coppice growth has reached a height, diameter, and density that no longer provides valuable habitats for wildlife. • Further areas of hornbeam, sycamore, and hazel will be brought into rotation across the woodland, in priority in areas where they compete with oak. Care will be taken not to overly open sections of the wood where adjacent regenerating areas have not yet reached sufficient height and density (minimum 2m height to comply with adjacency guidelines). Coppice regeneration will be protected and supplemented by planting, especially where the regrowth is not dense enough. Where appropriate, thinning will be conducted in the canopy. • Although the felling licence covers a larger area, no more than 20% of the total woodland area can be coppiced within the 10-year validity period of this plan. • Care will be taken to minimise stress on old coppice stools, particularly hornbeam, by implementing graduated coppicing. This approach involves removing only a few stems per stool while retaining at

	least one or two stems where possible to support the stool's survival. • These coppicing operations will create temporary open spaces, followed by the development of a dense but diverse understorey that supports abundant wildlife. Thinning operations will also promote the development of a dense and diversified understorey of trees and shrubs, and natural regeneration of standard species. • Species diversity, including that of conifer species, will be maintained across the woodland through appropriate selection of trees to be felled or retained during silvicultural operations. • Natural regeneration of trees and shrubs will be supplemented by the planting of site-suited, diverse native broadleaf species. Priority will be given to long-lived canopy species, which tend to be less diverse than understory species in the wood. This will include species such as small-leaved lime, wild cherry, wild service tree, field maple and whitebeam. Areas where naturally regenerating species are unlikely to survive (e.g., elm) can also be enriched. For more detailed recommendations, refer to section 5.10. Traditional management technics will be continued, such as coppicing and pollarding. Existing pollards will be re-pollarded, and a target of 10 new pollards (mainly hornbeams) will be created.
Maintain and enhance biological diversity across the woodland by improving and preserving the diversity and condition of its habitats. Preserve the historic and archaeological features.	In addition to the strategies outlined above to diversify woodland structure, age, and species composition, the following actions will be implemented. Ride management: • Vegetation along woodland rides will be managed using one-, two-, or three-zone patterns. The central strip will be mown annually, while lateral strips will be cut every other year, with alternating sides mowed

	every 20-50 meters. Scallops that become overgrown with shrubs or natural regeneration after being left unmown for several seasons will be reset by mulching or low cutting. • Rides will be selectively enlarged through scalloping, while maintaining regular pinch points to encourage canopy corridors. Mowing frequency will be adjusted to support specific species, such as sallow or honeysuckle, which benefit butterflies and insects. Heather areas management: • Bracken, trees, shrubs and regeneration will be managed in heather areas in cpts 1e and 1h3, to manage light levels and reduce competition. Some mature trees might need to be cut. Veteran tree management: • Veteran trees will be identified, mapped, and released from competing vegetation when necessary during silvicultural operations. Contractors working near these trees will be informed of their locations to prevent damage, including ground compaction or physical injury to the trees. Pond and ground water management: • Vegetation around ponds will be managed through coppicing and the removal of low branches on older trees to control light levels. This approach will prevent excessive overshadowing and macrophytic cover, which can lower water temperature, limit aquatic vegetation and invertebrate biomass, and reduce the attractiveness of ponds for breeding amphibians. • Vegetation management will be carried out in sections around the pond edges to allow newts and other wildlife to disperse, and to create varied light levels. Feeding, foraging, and hibernation habitats will be enhanced near ponds by creating log habitat piles and retaining lying deadwood.

	• Heavier operations, such as dredging and leaf litter removal from ponds and drainage ditches, will be considered as needed, depending on pond conditions and available incentives. The integrity of clay linings and any existing central islands will be preserved. • Recent investigations have explored ways to enhance groundwater retention in the woodland, such as the use of leaky dams and scrapes in existing ditches. These efforts aim to improve habitats, boost biodiversity, and help mitigate downstream flooding. The findings from these investigations should guide the improvement of existing features or the creation of new ones to achieve these objectives. Deadwood management: • Both standing and ground deadwood will be retained during harvesting operations, and efforts will be made to increase deadwood whenever possible, enhancing habitat value and biodiversity. For example, as is commonly practiced in Sherrardspark Wood, large dead trees will be left standing or monolithed wherever safety permits. Archaelogical features: • Archaeological features such as earthbanks will be mapped and their presence as well as appropriate protection measures will be notified to any contractor working in their vicinity.
Provide a safe and attractive woodland experience for visitors.	Implementing Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) principles will minimise the visual impact of harvesting on the landscape, preserving structural diversity in the woodland and preventing the creation of overly large openings or sudden, large-scale changes. To ensure the safety of visitors and neighbouring residents during silvicultural and management operations, appropriate signage and additional labour resources will be utilised. Regular safety inspections, particularly along

	footpaths, boundaries, and areas with ash trees, will be conducted. Necessary safety measures will be implemented to reduce the risks posed by diseased and dangerous trees. Ensure footpaths and bridleways are kept open by clearing fallen trees and cutting back overgrowth. Maintain way marking. Enhancing the accessibility of footpaths in the wettest and muddiest areas, will make the woodland more attractive to the public while safeguarding its environmental features.
Monitor diseases, pests, and invasive species to enable early detection of potential threats and take proactive mitigation measures.	Monitor the presence of diseases and pests, and implement appropriate mitigation measures (refer to section 5.2). Protect vegetation regrowth from deer browsing (refer to section 5.3). Control the grey squirrel population to minimise its impact on young and regenerating trees, and monitor its impacts (refer to section 5.4). Monitor and control the presence of both non-native and native invasive species (refer to section 5.7).
Continue to contribute to the local economy.	Sell sawlogs, firewood and other products resulting from conservation management, and to offsett parts of its costs where possible.

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 works in the SSSI	Natural England				
All	Forestry Commission				
All	Sherrardspark Wood Wardens Society				
All	Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust				
All	WHBC Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee				
All	Herts County Council				
All	Herts Natural History Society				

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
Ensure long-term continuity of mainly sessile oak woodland, with an enhanced age classes, structural and genetic diversity.	Areas planted/number of oaks planted/provenance Areas of maintained oak regeneration/type of maintenance (protection, respacing, pruning) Preparatory works prior to plantation undertaken Areas of oak stands undergoing thinning and regeneration felling	Data collated in annual management report	Annually	Forest manager	
Maintain and enhance the structural and species diversity of the woodland,	Area of woodland coppiced, thinned	Data collated in annual	Annually	Forest manager	

to increase its environmental value and resilience to climate change, pests, diseases and other disturbances. Preserve the traditional management techniques.	or with regeneration felling Area/number of non-oak trees planted Preparatory works prior to plantation undertaken	management report			
Maintain and enhance biological diversity across the woodland by improving and preserving the diversity and condition of its habitats. Preserve the historic and archaeological features.	Length of rides managed, nature of the management Number of ponds managed, nature of the management Management in heather area Mapping of veteran trees, number of veteran trees released from competition Number of dead trees monolithed,	Data collated in annual management report	Annually	Forest manager	

	or felled and left on the ground				
Provide a safe and attractive woodland experience for visitors.	Number, extent and result of tree safety inspections Description of tree safety works undertaken Nature and extent of maintenance and improvement works on footpaths and marking	Data collated in owner's records	Annually	Owner	
Monitor diseases, pests, and invasive species to enable early detection of potential threats and take proactive mitigation measures.	Presence levels of invasive species and other pests. Area of invasive species and other pests control operations undertaken. Number of trees protected against deer browsing Grey squirrel impact level	Routine monitoring Data collated in annual management report. Data collated in owner's records Grey squirrel activity and	Annually Annually Annually Annually	Forest manager Forest manager Owner Game manager/owner	

	Grey squirrel culling numbers	habitat impact levels Culling records	Annually	Game manager/owner	
Continue to contribute to the local economy.	Volumes of timber sold and corresponding incomes	Data collated in annual management report.	Annually	Forest manager	

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).		