



**BENWORRALL**  
COUNTRY SERVICES & TREE SURGERY

## **WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**In accordance with BSI British Standards BS 3998 2010:  
'Tree Work. Recommendations'**

**Site:**

**Wetters Bridge Plantation**

**Client:**

**Ms Tracy Jose**

**Date:**

**3/12/23**

**Document reference:**

**BWARB202302**

## **1 Introduction**

1.1 Ben Worrall Tree Surgery is experienced and qualified in tree management services. Our work includes providing services to national bodies such as the Forestry Commission and private companies and individuals. We have been in operation for just under 10 years.

We have extensive qualifications and experience within the field of arboriculture (full details are given in section 3.1).

We have been instructed by Ms Tracy Jose to create a woodland management plan for Wetters Bridge Plantation, reporting on the condition and safety of the Tree(s) within the woodland or property, whilst also making recommendations regarding any works required immediately and in respect of future tree management needs.

### **1.2 Brief**

We have been instructed to prepare a Woodland Management Plan for Wetters Bridge Plantation, near Waddington. A woodland management plan gives land managers (the applicant) a structured way to plan and organise the sustainable management of woodland in this case Wetters Bridge Plantation, to a common industry standard.

The UK Forestry Standard 5th edition sets out the UK government's approach to sustainable forestry and woodland management, including standards and requirements, regulations and monitoring, and reporting. It applies to all woodland and woodland operations, regardless of who owns or manages it. This woodland management plan has been prepared in accordance with the recently issued UK Forestry Standard, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, October 2023.

The document has also been informed and prepared using the following Arboricultural documents:

- Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement, 27th April 2023, Author Carl Riva, Urban Tree Management.
- Tree Protection Plan, 7th May 2023, Urban Tree Management
- Tree Survey, 27th April 2023, Carl Riva, Urban Tree Management
- Tree Constraint Plan, 7th May 2023, Urban Tree Management
- Existing Site Layout plan

In addition, the document also takes into account the following raised by the client team.

1.2.1 Concern has been expressed regarding the safety of tree(s) within the woodland or property.

1.2.2 The purpose of this plan is to provide a level of inspection intended to identify significant defects likely to compromise the health of the tree(s), or health and safety risks that the trees pose to property and potential injury to persons.

1.2.3 The plan will identify aspects of work that are recommended to be undertaken immediately in order to mitigate risks (1.2.2). It will also make recommendations that are in the interests of appropriate arboricultural and woodland management.

1.2.4 The trees within the scope of this plan are the specimens identified as within the area of Wetters Bridge Plantation.

1.2.5 No other trees beyond the area are of concern in this survey, though any trees deemed immediately dangerous should be mentioned regardless.

1.2.6 I am unaware of whether or not these trees are subject to any TPO's. If the trees in question are subject to TPO's or are subject to the restrictions of conservation areas then any works shall have to be authorized by the appropriate tree officer.

The woodland management plan should be read in conjunction with any Phase 1 habitat survey and biodiversity net gain metric data that is necessary to support the planning application.

### **1.3 Statutory Protection**

1.3.1 This plan is not a mandate to proceed with any recommended works. Prior to embarking upon any recommendations appropriate consideration should be given to;

1.3.2 Law dictates that if any tree included within the plan is subject to a TPO (tree preservation order) or is located within a conservation area (which confers provisional preservation status on all trees (bar exemptions) with stem diameters greater than 75mm at 1.5 meters above ground), then appropriate permission should be obtained from the local council prior to any works being undertaken.

There are, however, exemptions from this requirement: in general, provided 5 days' notice is given to the local Tree Officer, then any deadwood or trees deemed hazardous may be removed.

1.3.3 Prior to commencing any tree works it is up to the arboricultural contractor to check for any statutory protection within the site, and to contact the relevant Tree Officer in order to complete and submit any required TPO applications as may be required in order to cover the recommended works specified within this report.

1.3.4 This site is not exempt from provisions within the Forestry Act 1967 requiring a felling license to be obtained prior to the felling of more than 5m<sup>3</sup> timber per calendar quarter.

1.3.5 Any restrictions that may inhibit work completion must be taken into account prior to undertaking any tree works; TPO, conservation, bird nesting, red squirrels and roosting bats all need to be considered prior to starting any work.

In addition to the statutory protections discussed previously, the site (application site and wider land ownership area) has been examined using the DEFRA magic mapping source to identify any statutory designations. The following extracts show the woodland constraints. It should be noted that these do not affect or over wash the application site (marked in red) these are applicable to land in the same ownership only (blue edged area).

## Magic Map Extract: Extent of priority habitat deciduous woodland

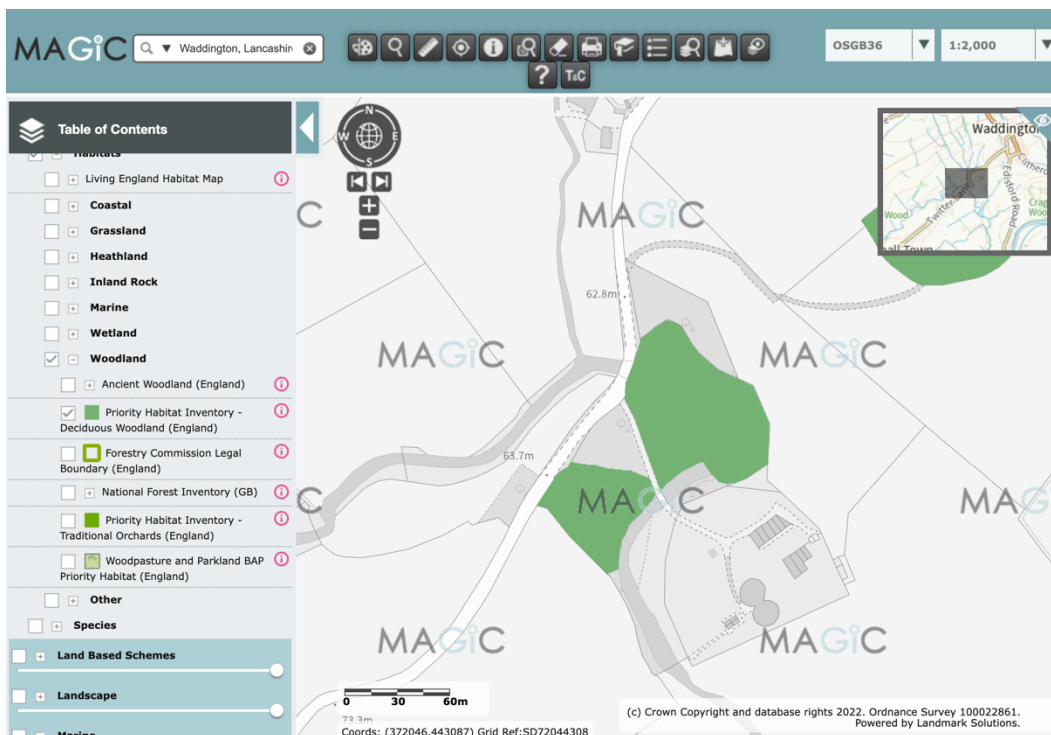


Fig 1. (Source, DEFRA Magic Map, Accessed December 2023)

## Magic Map Extract: Extent of National Forestry Inventory that shows broadleaved woodland

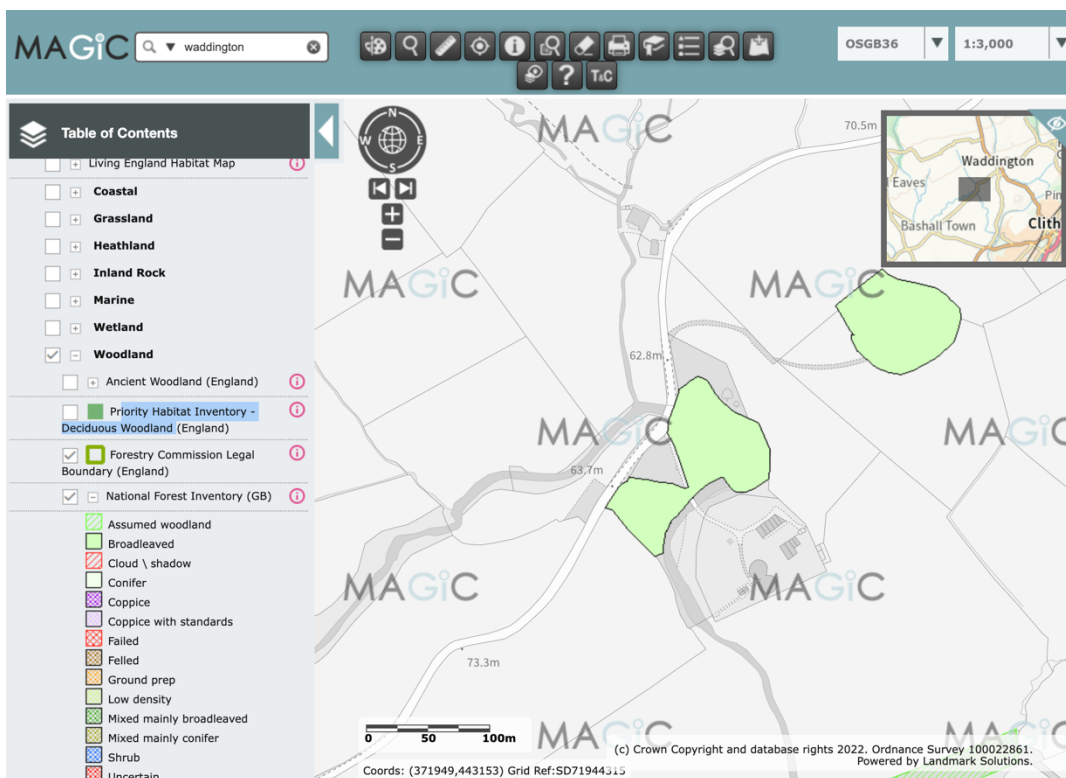


Fig 2. (Source, DEFRA Magic Map, Accessed December 2023)

#### **1.4 Tree Owner Responsibilities**

1.4.1 Tree owners are liable for damage caused by their trees to the property of others, provided that the potential for damage is reasonably foreseeable. Owners have a common law duty of care to inspect trees on a regular basis (usually interpreted as once a year) and to seek advice from a suitably qualified/experienced arboriculturalist at suitable intervals (this may be five years), unless earlier re-inspections have been specifically recommended. Tree owners should continue to monitor their trees in the interim periods.

#### **1.5 Caveats**

1.5.1 This plan is intended solely as an arboricultural one. Comments relating to arboriculture are submitted as a professional. Comments and opinions regarding other areas, such as construction and utilities are submitted as a layman. For comments and advice in these areas, contact a professional in the required field.

1.5.2 This plan does not deal with the effect trees may have, or have had, on the structural integrity of property and the possibility of structural movement, subsidence and heave.

1.5.3 Trees were surveyed previously by Urban Tree Management. The tree plan should not be substituted for a 'tree risk assessment' report. This plan has been produced solely to give recommendations for arboricultural works to improve the overall quality and safety of the woodland. A copy of the tree constraints plan is shown in below.

# Urban Tree Management

WWW.URBANTREEMANAGEMENT.CO.UK  
0800 222 9529

## Tree Constraint Plan

SCALE :

1 : 800 @ A4

DATE :

07/05/2023

MAP FILENAME :

Wettersbridge Plantation



Map data shown may contain Ordnance Survey products supplied by  
Pear Technology Services Ltd. Email: info@peartechology.co.uk  
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Ordnance Survey licence number 100023148



Crown Spread



Root Protection Area



Shading Arc



Category 'A'



Category 'B'



Category 'C'



Category 'U'

0

50m



### Key

- Proposed Construction
- Site Boundary
- Tree To Be Removed

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1.5.4 Detailed inspection activities such as decay mapping, aerial inspection, root or soil analysis etc have not been undertaken as previously referenced in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement, written in the 27th april 2023. In cases where it is considered that further investigation of this nature may be required, then this is detailed within the tree survey data.

1.5.5 Owners of trees have a duty of care to inspect trees on a regular basis and seek advice from a qualified arborist if required. This is emphasized, especially if the area in question is of public use.

1.5.6 It is not possible to guarantee the safety of any tree; even apparently healthy trees with no signs of defect can collapse or partially collapse, especially in extreme weather conditions. **Trees are dynamic, biological organisms which are subject to change with age, as a result of biotic or abiotic pathogens. These factors reinforce the need to have trees inspected regularly.**

**Below (fig.3) shows a map with the location of the tree(s) relating to the entire woodland, of which the application site is within.**



**Fig. 3** Wetters Bridge Plantation

## **Woodland Management plan**

The site here at Wetters Bridge Plantation has a proposed area for development indicated on the redline plan. Previously 10 trees have already been felled no further trees are required to be felled for the development of this site.

To maintain the integrity of the woodland, and to help enhance the ecological diversity for the foreseeable future, a woodland management plan has been scheduled as follows.

- Remedial replanting of the trees;  
To replace the trees that have and are being removed, replant the woodland with a mixed selection of the species that are already on site, Bird Cherry, Oak, Lime and disease resistant Ash ( if and when available), these should all be sourced from local nurseries to help avoid further spreading of diseases.
- Adjacent to Twitter Lane, this section of the woodland should be planted up with pioneering trees such as; Birch, Hazel, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. This will help naturally screen the site to help reduce the visual impact of the development for the local area, and enhance biodiversity and create additional food sources.
- Due to the prevalent Ash trees with dieback, these should be replaced with disease resistant alternative species to maintain the structural integrity of the woodland and its canopy.

The Ash trees that have dieback, should be managed according to their location on the site. This is because Ash dieback is unpredictable and is extremely difficult to identify the current state of the structural integrity of the tree. For example, anything within falling distance or the road, boundaries and the development site, should be felled to help eliminate potential hazards. The timber should be left on site and used to improve natural woodland habitat, helping prevent further spread of the disease.

For the detailed woodland management plan assessment please see appendix of this report.

## **Conclusion**

This plan details the current state of the trees at Wetters Bridge Plantation for the applicant. I would expect these trees to contribute to the amenable nature of the area for the foreseeable future. However, trees are dynamic, continually self-optimising organisms and so inherently pose a certain degree of hazard and risk from breakage, failure or other causes and conditions. Therefore, identifying and addressing these issues will help to mitigate against problems in the future but can in no way eliminate all potential future biotic or abiotic issues.

Notwithstanding the above, the completion of the recommended works will help to mitigate against potential future issues posed by these trees in the woodland and will also promote their future wellbeing and amenity value through the adoption of sound arboricultural practices.

Any necessary tree works should be undertaken within six months of the submission of this Report or within an appropriate planting season. Trees and their surroundings are constantly changing. Shelving any recommended works for too long a period may lead to a secondary plan having to be submitted. Some proposed tree works may be suggestions for general improvement, rather than a necessity e.g. with the intention of increasing light levels within areas or preventing trees from causing unnecessary inconvenience for people.

*'Sensible management will almost always involve the removal of some trees from time to time... All populations are dynamic rather than static, and removal of trees, as necessary, is a necessary part of management.'* (Helliwell, ARB Journal Sept 2012)

### 3.1 Biography

Ben Worrall Tree Surgery is experienced and qualified in tree management services. My work includes providing services to national bodies such as the Forestry Commission and private companies and individuals. My specialisms are:

- SMSTS Site Manager
- Experienced and qualified inspector with an in-depth knowledge of plant and arboricultural science
- Tree surveying as a Lantra professional tree inspector qualification (PTI)
- BS5837: Tree Surveying & Categorisation
- Chainsaws – Maintenance, Cross-cutting and Felling
- Felling and Process Trees Over 380mm (15")
- Climb Trees and Perform Aerial Rescue
- Operate a Chainsaw from a Rope and Harness
- Carry out Pruning Operations
- Sectional Felling
- Operation of Brush Wood chipper

Qualifications include NPTC City and Guilds, Level 3:

- SMSTS Site Manager
- 201/202/203 chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting
- 301 Felling and processing trees over 380mm
- 305 Emergency tree work operations/ windblown
- 306 Aerial rescue operation
- 307 Aerial pruning
- 308 Aerial cutting of tree with a chainsaw using free fall technique
- 309 Aerial tree rigging
- UA1 basic electrical knowledge
- 101 Principles of safe handling and application of pesticides
- 151 safe application of pesticides using handheld equipment

Ben Worrall Tree Surgery complies with all relevant British standards 3998 recommendations for tree work and The arboricultural Association BS5837 : Tree Surveying & Categorisation. I also work with associates where necessary who also have appropriate qualifications and experience.

Lantra Awards: Professional Tree Inspector qualification (PTI)

Previous work experience includes:

- Subcontracting felling for the Forestry Commission in Dimmingsdale;
- Clixbys land designs working in forestry and national trust grounds, including the preparation for the Commonwealth games in 2022 at Cannock Chase;
- Tree work and site preparation for Ivygrove Development Ltd;
- SSSI maintenance and improvement working within the DEFRA higher level stewardship scheme at Foxtwood cottages;
- Woodland and safety management of trees in public spaces at Foxtwood cottages.
- Contract work for Ivygrove Development LTD, prebuild preparation and site clearing, and ongoing maintenance.

This plans for the sole use of the aforementioned client and refers only to those trees identified within, used by any other person(s) in attempting to apply its content for any purpose, renders this plan invalid for that purpose.

**Appendices:****Forestry Commission Small Woodland Management Plan Template**

For more information on how this has been applied visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/create-a-woodland-management-plan>**Property Details**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                 |                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | MS Tracey Jose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Owner yes       | Tennant no                    |
| Email                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Contact Number  | N/A                           |
| Address                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Wetters Bridge Plantation, Twitter Lane, Waddington, BB7 3LG                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                 |                               |
| Agent Name (if applicable)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                 |                               |
| Contact Number                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Email           | N/A                           |
| County                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Lancashire                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Nearest Town    | Clitheroe                     |
| Grid Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | SD 72230 43113                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Local Authority | Ribble Valley Borough Council |
| Management Plan Area (Hectares)                                                                                                                                                                                                            | See Tree Constraints plan for site area and location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                 |                               |
| List the maps associated with this 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). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arboricultural Impact Assessmen &amp; Preliminary Arboricultural Method Statement, 27th April 2023, Author Carl Riva, Urban Tree Management.</li> <li>• Tree Protection Plan, 7th May 2023, Urban Tree Management</li> <li>• Tree Survey, 27th April 2023, Carl Riva, Urban Tree Management</li> <li>• Tree Constraint Plan, 7th May 2023, Urban Tree Managment</li> <li>• Existing Site Layout plan</li> </ul> |                 |                               |
| Do you intend to apply for a felling licence with this management plan?                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                 | No                            |

## 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).

The long term vision is to retain, replace and improve the health and diversity of the woodland, while keeping and maintaining a wide biodiversity of habitat.

This will be achieved by adopting an appropriate thinning plan for the Ash trees with dieback and then the plan to replant with native disease hardy Species.

To maintain and enhance the amenity and biodiversity of the value of the woodland and what it gives to the local area.

To further maintain species and age class diversity within the woodland, to increase robustness against disease attacks, and habitat.

### 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   | To manage the effect of Ash dieback within the woodland, firstly for safety, but also to maintain the diversity of habitat that dying trees can offer. |
| 2   | To replant trees, to replace the trees that have been removed for the development of the site.                                                         |
| 3   | To manage and improve the amenity, biodiversity and green infrastructure of the site, maintaining the woodland.                                        |

## 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                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To manage the effect of Ash dieback within the woodland, firstly for safety, but also to maintain the diversity of habitat that dying trees can offer. | The safety aspect to be achieved at year 1, the diversity of habitat to be achieved by year 5. |
| To replant trees, to replace the trees that have been removed for the development of the site.                                                         | To be achieved by year 1                                                                       |
| To manage and improve the amenity, biodiversity and green infrastructure of the site, maintaining the woodland.                                        | To be achieved by 5 to 10 years                                                                |

## 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Wetters Bridge Plantation, The site is located at postcode BB7 3LG on Twitter lane, show in Fig 3.</p> <p>The closest town is Clithroe which is 2.3 miles east of the site.</p> <p>The Bashall Brooke, works its way into the site from the north and exits in the south.</p> <p>The Site consists of land that is used for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>The site has semi-mature to mature broadleaved deciduous trees .</p> |

## 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                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| To manage the effect of Ash dieback within the woodland, firstly for safety, but also to maintain the diversity of habitat that dying trees can offer. | Ash dieback is present on site, and 24 of the trees are going to be removed from area G1. This will have an impact of the landscape of the site, but replanting of these trees in the area of G1 in blue, over time will fill in the canopy and reduce the impact of the site on the local landscape. To keep good habitats created by standing dead trees, any dead/dying Ash trees, that are not within falling distance of the development site and anywhere, where the public may be e.g. main roads and access routes. Can be left as upto 2meter high stems, as this will encourage a variety of insect and birds to still inhabit the site. | Year 1                                       |
| To replant trees, to replace the trees that have been removed for the development of the site.                                                         | The replanting of trees that have been removed. To replace the trees that have been removed on the site(24 in total) new trees should be planted in the blue area. this will give a diverse age in the woodland and replace any trees that have been lost through development, the species to be used should be native disease hardy trees for example; Oak, Birch, Cherry, lime and other native species, These should all be locally sources to decrease the spread of disease.                                                                                                                                                                  | Year 1                                       |
| To manage and improve the amenity, biodiversity and green infrastructure of the site,maintaining the woodland.                                         | To prevent the visual impact of the site to the local area, the sites under canopy trees and shrubs/bushes can be managed to create a habitat barrier. Smaller trees like Birch, hazel hawthorn and blackthorn can be used to plant up the edges of the site along twitter lane to create the healthy barrier, have a multi layered canopy withi the woodland not only creates a visual barrier, but it also offers great habitat for                                                                                                                                                                                                              | year 1, with on going manage ment every year |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  | <p>birds and other animals to feed and live in. These lower level trees/ bushes should be managed over the years(with a strategy of clearing sections at the correct time of year), so that they do not take over the site and shade out too much of the woodland floor, as a mixed variety of habitat is a healthy woodland.</p> |  |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

## 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.

| <b>Management Objective</b>                                                                                                                            | <b>Indicator of Success</b>                                                                                            | <b>Method of Assessment</b>                                                                           | <b>Frequency of Assessment</b> | <b>Responsibility</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| To manage the effect of Ash dieback within the woodland, firstly for safety, but also to maintain the diversity of habitat that dying trees can offer. | Eradication of ash dieback within the woodland                                                                         | visual inspection, annual inspection for trees adjacent to access track and twitter lane.             | annual                         | land owner            |
| To replant trees, to replace the trees that have been removed for the development of the site.                                                         | tree planting cycles showing consistent aging of the woodland                                                          | Visual inspections during tree planting seasons, replacing any whips that haven't become established. | annual<br>(september - march)  | land owner            |
| To manage and improve the amenity, biodiversity and green infrastructure of the site, maintaining the woodland.                                        | consistent planting in accordance with this management plan, woodland establishes and the health of the tree improves. | visual inspections.                                                                                   | annual<br>(september - march)  | land owner            |