Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:		
Woodland or property name	**Wycoller Country Park**	
Woodland Management Plan case reference		
CS WMP agreement reference *(if applicable)*	**2196330**	
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland		**Yes / No**
Plan author name		

For Forestry Commission use only:				
Plan period *(dd/mm/yyyy – 10 years)*	**Approval Date:**		**Approved until:**	
5-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. Rows can be added and 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.
Before submitting, review your plan against the criteria using the checklist 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/No
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/No
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/No
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	• 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/No

	progressively restructured to achieve age class range.		
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 Forestry Commission 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 Forestry Commission Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland.	Yes/No
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 first page of the plan. • ***Sect. 8*** is completed with one indicator of success per management objective.	Yes/No

Section 1: Property details

Woodland property name			
Name	Wycoller Country Park	Owner	~~Tenant~~
Email	Will.swift@lancashire.gov.uk Chris.bennett@lancashire.gov.uk Tim.blythe@lancashire.gov.uk	**Contact number**	
Agent name *(if applicable)*			
Email	N/A	**Contact number**	N/A
County	Lancashire	Local Authority	Pendle Borough Council
Grid ref *(e.g. ST 625 785)*	SD934387	**Single Business Identifier**	111459189
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? *(in hectares)*		20.59	
Have you included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?		Yes/No	

Please use the most up to date version (v4). Older versions may have to be returned.		
Have you listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan? ***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 – Location Map Map 2 – Compartment map Map 3 – Sub-compartment map Map 4 – Topography map Map 5 – Public access map Map 6 – Designation map Map 7 – Species map Map 8 – Felling map Map 9 – Planting map	
Have you sent us your GIS shapefile data? **Note**: this is not mandatory, but it can help speed up the processing time of your application. Instructions on how to submit your shapefile(s) are included on create a management plan.	Yes/No	
Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?	Felling licence	Yes
	Thinning licence	Yes
	Woodland regeneration grant	No
You declare there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?	Yes	
You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available?	Yes	

Section 2: Vision and objectives

To develop your long-term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland(s) and how you envisage it will be in the future. This covers the duration of the plan and beyond.

2.1 Vision

Describe your long-term vision for the woodland(s). (*Suggest 300 words max*)

The long-term vision for Wycoller Country Park is to manage the site under a multi-purpose forestry regime, capable of meeting economic, environmental and social objectives while retaining the landscape value of the site.

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	Implement an ongoing thinning and felling programme to address the risk of tree disease, reduce the proportion of non-native conifers, enhance timber quality and encourage the formation of a diverse ground flora.
2	Restock and underplant woodlands with a diverse native mix of trees.
3	Manage areas of ASNW to best standard to improve their condition.
4	Increase volume of both standing and fallen deadwood throughout the woodland.
5	Identify, retain and protect native veteran/future veteran trees.
6	Maintain safety of public and permissive rights of way for visitors to the site.
7	Remove unwanted and invasive non-native species.
8	Monitor condition of woodland boundaries and replace where necessary.
9	Manage all operations to comply with the aim to achieve good forestry standard following best practice as detailed in the UK Forest Standard (2023).

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

Section 4: Woodland survey

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland and its location, including any statutory constraints, such as designations.

4.1 Description

Brief description of the woodland property:

Overview

Wycoller Country Park is a Countryside site owned by Lancashire County Council located in Wycoller, a hamlet in the civil parish of Trawden Forest in Pendle, Lancashire. The closest town is Colne, located approximately 2.5 miles to the north-west of the site (Map 1). The park is a mixture of woodland and pasture farmland.

After a history of agriculture then weaving, Wycoller was left mostly uninhabited before being purchased by Lancashire County Council in 1973, kickstarting the renovation of local properties and the establishment of the park. There are various points of historic interest through the park, including the ruins of Wycoller Hall, several historic bridges, remnants of stone slab walls and Aisled Barn, now a visitor centre awaiting refurbishment (as of February 2026).

Designations

Map 6 shows designations and locations across Wycoller Country Park and the directly surrounding area.

Following revisions in 2025 to the ancient woodland inventory, areas in Compartments 7, 21 and 22 were designated as Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands (ASNW) meaning they have been continuously wooded since at least 1600 AD.

Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) are non-statutory wildlife sites of at least county significance for biodiversity in Lancashire, identified using a set of published guidelines (Appendix 1). Several of the woodlands at Wycoller are within BHS areas. Compartments 19 and 20 fall within the BHS Bank House Flushes (ref 93NW05) (Appendices 2a and 2b) which supports species-rich neutral to acidic grassland with

flushes as well as the woodland compartment. Compartments 21 and 22 are within Turnholes Clough (ref 93NW07) (Appendices 3a and 3b) characterised by narrow steep sided clough supporting woodland with a mixed canopy and ground flora composition.

The entirety of Wycoller Country Park is within the Conservation Area of Trawden Forest (Appendix 4). Trawden Forest is characterised by its unique geological features, its rich history of ancient agricultural practices and its importance in preserving local wildlife.

Directly south of Wycoller Country Park lies the South Pennine Moors, designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The site is characterised by its diverse and extensive upland plant communities and the breeding bird assemblage it supports. See Appendices 5 to 7 for more details.

Access

Access for each woodland compartment across the site is varied and largely dependent on a woodland's proximity to roads, public rights of ways and other tracks. Access will be assessed on a woodland-by-woodland basis when planning harvesting operations.

Topography, elevation and soils

Wycoller Country Park is located in an elevated position, ranging from around 200m above sea level at its lowest point to 290m at its highest (Map 4). Wycoller Beck, flowing north-south, occupies the lower parts of the park, with land sloping relatively steeply on either side of this. The southernmost woodland compartment, 23, is located above the moorland line.

There are 3 different soil classifications across the site: Soilscape 16 – very acid loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface; Soilscape 17 – slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey; Soilscape 19 slowly permeable wet very acid upland soils with a peaty surface.

Water

Wycoller Beck flows through Wycoller Country Park, passing several riparian woodland compartments located adjacently to the watercourse. Woodland compartments 12, 15, 16, 17, 22 and 23 all contain smaller watercourses that run directly into Wycoller Beck.

Climate

The Ecological Site Classification (ESC) is a PC-based system to help guide forest managers and planners with their decision-making process. After entering a grid reference, the system is able to supply the user with a range of information about that particular area.

The site has two different climate classifications - warm, moderately exposed and moist in some areas, and warm, sheltered and moist elsewhere.

Recreation

There are several public footpaths running through or adjacent to the site's woodlands, connecting to a wider network of footpaths and bridleways in the local area (Map 5). The park is on the route of the Bronte Way, a 43-mile-long distance footpath between Oakwell Hall in West Yorkshire and Gawthorpe Hall near Burnley.

There are two public pay and display car parks: one at Trawden Road and one at Howarth Road.

Woodland boundaries

The woodland boundaries across Wycoller Country Park are a mixture of stock fencing, post and rail fencing and dry-stone walling. The condition of these is generally mixed, ranging from poor to fair.

Woodland resource

The woodland at Wycoller Country Park is split into 23 woodland compartments and 24 sub-compartments. The age of the woodlands varies across the site. Certain woodlands, including the ASNW sites, contain mature to veteran trees that are updwards of 150 years of age. Other woodlands were planted from 1975 onwards, with the youngest woodland, Compartment 23, planted around 2015. Several of the woodlands contain a mixture of age classes. The woodlands are either broadleaf only woodlands, or contain a mixture of broadleaf and conifer species.

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	No		Yes	6
Special Area of Conservation	No		Yes	6
Tree Preservation Order	No		No	
Conservation Area	Yes	All	Yes	6
Special Protection Area	No		Yes	6
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Areas of peat over 50cm deep	No		No	
RSPB Important Bird Area	No		No	
Higher Level Stewardship grant-funded land	No		No	
Priority Habitats - Blanket bog - Lowland fens - Upland flushes	No		Yes	10
Other (please specify):	No		No	
Notes				

Feature		Within woodland(s)	Cpts	Map no	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species					
Bat	Species (if known): Natterers; common pipistrelle; soprano pipistrelle; Daubenton's	Possible	All	N/A	LERN data identifies bat sightings and roosting activity within woodlands and wider local area.
Dormouse		No			
Great crested newt		No			
Otter		No			
Sand lizard		No			
Smooth snake		No			

Natterjack toad		No			
Biodiversity – Priority Species					
Schedule 1 Birds	Species: Kingfisher	Yes	12a	N/A	Kingfisher - 1 count of possible breeding activity identified through LERN data.
Mammals (red squirrel, water vole, pine marten etc)		No			
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		No			
Plants		No			
Fungi/lichens		No			
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)		No			
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)		No			
Other (please specify):		No			
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments		No			
Unscheduled Monuments		No			
Registered Parks and Gardens		No			
Registered Battlefields		No			
World Heritage Sites (UNESCO)		No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees		Yes	Several		To be identified, tagged and mapped.
Listed Buildings		No			
Burial Grounds		No			
Other (please specify):		Yes	Several	N/A	Stone slab 'vaccary' walls – unique to the local area
Landscape					
National Character Area (please specify): Southern Pennines					
National Park		No			
National Landscapes (formerly AONBs)		No			
Other (please specify):		No			
People					
CROW Access		Yes	22a, 23a	6	Access land
Public Rights of Way (any)		Yes	6a, 8a, 12a, 21a	5	Public footpaths
Common land		No			

Other access provision	Yes	Several		Permissive public access/walking routes
Public involvement	No			
Visitor information	Yes			
Public recreation facilities	Yes			Benches/picnic areas/toilets
Provision of learning opportunities	Yes			Fenced learning area in Cpt 12. Current use is low, but opportunities being explored by local community youth group.
Anti-social behaviour	No			
Other (please specify):	No			
Water				
Acid vulnerable catchments	No			
Watercourses	Yes	15a, 16a, 17a	1	Watercourse runs through these compartments. Other woodlands are adjacent to Wycoller Beck.
Lakes	No			
Ponds	No			
Other (please specify):	No			

4.3 Habitat types

This section is to consider the habitat types within your woodland(s) that might impact/ inform your management decisions. Larger non-wooded areas within your woodland should be classified according to broad habitat type. Where relevant this information should also help inform your management decisions. Woodlands should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context of the woodland.

Feature	Within woodland(s)	Cpts	Map no	Notes
Woodland habitat types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes	7, 21, 22	6	Designated as ASNW following 2025 updates to the ancient woodland inventory.
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	No			
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
Other (please specify):	Yes/No			
Non woodland habitat types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	No			
Lowland meadows	No			
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			
Reed bed	No			
Wood pasture	No			
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			
Unimproved grassland	No			
Peat lands	No			
Wetland habitats	No			

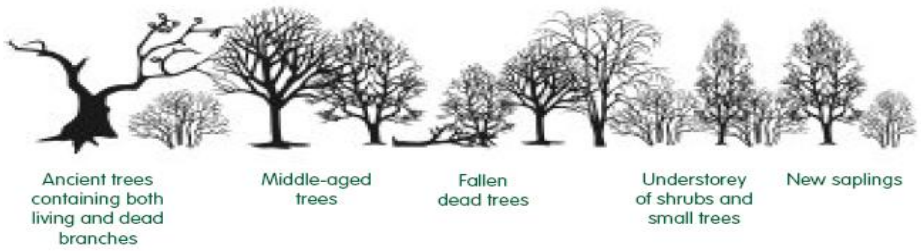
Other (please specify):	No			

4.4 Structure

This section should provide a snapshot of the current structure of your woodland as a whole. A full inventory for your woodland(s) can be included in the separate Plan of operations spreadsheet. Ensuring woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space will provide a range of benefits for the biodiversity of the woodland and its resilience. The diagrams below show an example of both uneven and even aged woodland.

Woodland type (broadleaf, conifer, coppice, intimate mix)	**Percentage of mgt plan area**	**Age structure (even/uneven)**	**Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)**
Broadleaf	50%	Uneven	Woodland understory present in mixed age woodlands. Natural regeneration is scarce across the park.
Broadleaf/conifer mix	50%	Uneven	European larch is the main component of several mixed woodlands on the park.

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



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity

Section 5: Woodland protection

Woodlands in England face a range of threats. This section allows you to consider the potential threats that could be facing your woodland(s). Use the simple risk assessment process below to consider any potential threats to woodland(s) and whether there is a need to take action to protect woodland(s).

Note: To add more tables, copy the table and paste below.

5.1 Risk matrix

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

Impact	High	Plan for action	Action	Action
	Medium	Monitor	Plan for action	Action
	Low	Monitor	Monitor	Plan for action
		Low	Medium	High
		Likelihood of presence		

5.2 Plant health

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora*, Needle Blight etc)	Ash dieback
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High – ash dieback is present.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low – although present, ash is not a prominent canopy species across the park.
Response (inc protection measures)	Target the removal of ash trees during thinning operations.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Phytophthora ramorum
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium – currently not identified on site but many sites across Lancashire are now infected.
Impact (high/medium/low)	High – if a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) is issued for the site, all larch trees will have to felled within a short timescale.
Response (inc protection measures)	A leading objective of the felling operations is to greatly reduce the proportion of larch across the park. This proactive approach means that if disease is identified later, necessary operations will be at a much smaller and affordable scale.

5.3 Deer

Species – Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High – several roe deer were spotted during the site survey; muntjac deer sightings have previously been recorded.
Impact (high/medium/low)	High – some browsing and fraying damage evident but. Deer grazing is likely resulting in the significantly low levels of woodland regeneration across the site.
Response (inc protection measures)	Continue to monitor for deer presence and damage. Given the site is widely used by members of the public, a culling regime is likely unsuitable and would have to be undertaken discretely if at all. Monitor for native broadleaved regeneration and protect with 1.2 metre high tree tubes. Tree tubes will be used to protect trees planted in restocking/underplanting operations. Deer exclosures will offer a useful method of assessing the effect of deer pressure on natural regeneration across the site. Temporary deer fencing will be considered to allow the formation of an un-browsed woodland understory. All management proposals will be included in a deer management plan.

5.4 Grey squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High – low numbers of squirrel sightings recorded; historic damage and sightings during survey.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium. Although present, damage is not recent, widespread or catastrophic.
Response (inc protection measures)	Continue to monitor populations. Undertaking regular squirrel impact assessments will mean an increase in populations is identified.

	Should it be deemed necessary, culling could be considered. Despite the woodland's public access, it could be undertaken discretely through the use of modern, automatic traps e.g. GoodNature traps in discrete areas of the woodland, with the host tree fenced off from the public. Approval will be sought internally to implement this, however given the County Council's local authority status and the high likelihood of public backlash, this could be difficult. Include species less susceptible to squirrel damage in planting mixes. All management proposals will be included in a squirrel management plan.

5.5 Livestock and other mammals

Threat (sheep, horse, rabbit etc)	Sheep
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High. Woodland boundary fencing is in poor condition in places; sheep was spotted in woodland compartment during survey.
Impact (high/medium/low)	If sheep or cattle gain access to the woodland the impact on young trees and ground vegetation through browsing and trampling could be high.
Response (inc protection measures)	Continue to maintain boundaries and replace where necessary. Work with neighbouring landowners to ensure stock cannot enter the woodlands.

Threat (sheep, horse, rabbit etc)	Rabbit/hare
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High – LERN data sitings and rabbits seen during site survey. Extensive rabbit warren present in compartment 7a.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Rabbit browsing can have a high impact on the establishment of un-tubed planted stock and naturally regenerated trees.
Response (inc protection measures)	Continue to monitor for their presence. Plant trees in tubes. Consider implementing control measures.

Threat (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution incidents etc)	The groundwater vulnerability map (www.magic.defra.gov.uk) identifies Wycoller Country Park as low to medium vulnerability, meaning the groundwater is at moderate risk of contamination from a wide range of human activities. The woodlands are not located within a nitrate vulnerable zone.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Ensure woodland management activities are undertaken with considered operational methodology to reduce impacts of soil erosion and pollution such as oil spillages

5.6 Water and soil

Threat (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution incidents etc)	The groundwater vulnerability map (www.magic.defra.gov.uk) identifies Wycoller Country Park as low to medium vulnerability, meaning the groundwater is at moderate risk of contamination from a wide range of human activities. The woodlands are not located within a nitrate vulnerable zone.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Ensure woodland management activities are undertaken with considered operational methodology to reduce impacts of soil erosion and pollution such as oil spillages

5.7 Environmental

Threat (pollution, fire, flood, wind, invasive species etc)	Fire
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium. There is a low risk of fires catching and progressing in broadleaf woodlands, despite the high public usage which does increase the

	likelihood of fire events. The areas of conifer woodland across the site are more at risk.
Impact (high/medium/low)	High. Fire can have a catastrophic impact on woodlands, devastating timber crops, destroying wildlife habitats and releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere
Response (inc protection measures)	Notify fire brigade of: • Site entrance locations/grid reference and post code • All potential water sources Any controlled burning operations registered under a D7 Waste Exemption D7 waste exemption: burning plant and untreated wood waste at place of production - GOV.UK

Threat (pollution, fire, flood, wind, invasive species etc)	Destructive wind events
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low to Medium. The wind exposure rating varies from sheltered to moderately exposed across the site.
Impact (high/medium/low)	High. Windthrow can have a catastrophic impact on woodlands, affecting stand dynamics and tree stability, as well as result in increased harvesting costs and reduced timber quality.
Response (inc protection measures)	Ensure regular thinning interventions are undertaken to promote stand stability. Develop stands of mixed tree age ranges using continuous cover forestry principles. Retain wind firm edges to the woodland to protect from wind events.

5.8 Social

Threat (rights of way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights, anti-social behaviour etc)	Walking/hiking use.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High – a network of well used public footpaths run through the site.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Impacts can include littering and vandalism of the site and health and safety concerns.

Response (inc protection measures)	Tree safety inspections to be undertaken along paths and tracks to ensure public safety. Harvesting sites will be managed to ensure public safety with PROWs closed if deemed necessary.

5.9 Economic

Threat (timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Felling timber and associated costs could be too high for regular thinning interventions.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	High. Undermanaged woodlands generate less income, provide fewer biodiversity and social benefits, and become more difficult to manage as time goes on.
Response (inc protection measures)	Implement a regular thinning program to provide income and in turn increasing the growth and value of standing stock. Utilise grant assistance (e.g. Countryside Stewardship schemes) to generate income for woodland management activities. Maintain good access for machinery and timber haulage vehicles.

5.10 Climate change resilience

Threat (uniform structure, provenance, lack of diversity etc)	Woodland resilience to tree disease. This can be affected by a lack of tree species diversity.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium. Currently the woodlands have a broad range of tree species, but larch is a prominent canopy species in some compartments.
Impact (high/medium/low)	High – tree disease can be catastrophic to a woodland.
Response (inc protection measures)	Focus felling on the removal of larch and restock with a diverse mix of species.

Threat (uniform structure, provenance, lack of diversity etc)	Tree species becoming unsuitable for the changing climate.

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low to medium – the range of species across the site are largely rated as suitable to very suitable using the 'Medium-High 20250' scenario on the Forestry Commission's ESC tool. However, a higher chance of extreme weather events e.g. droughts and storms does put the woodlands at risk.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium.
Response (inc protection measures)	All new tree planting scheduled for the site contains species suitable for the region's future climate.

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.

<table>
<tr><th>Management objective/feature</th><th>Management intention</th></tr>
<tr><td>Implement an ongoing thinning and felling programme to address the risk of tree disease, reduce the proportion of non-native conifers, enhance timber quality and encourage the formation of a diverse ground flora.</td><td>
Implement the felling and thinning works in accordance with the felling license based on the works outlined in the Plan of Operations document, the below table and in Map 8.

The general strategy of the of the works is to:

Address the risk of phytophthora ramorum through reducing the proportion of larch trees across the park (selective felling).
Bring woodlands into active management through thinning works.
Secure site safety in woodlands widely used by visitors to the site.

<table>
<tr><th>Sub-cpt</th><th>Felling type</th><th>Felling prescriptions</th><th>Estimated volume (m3)</th></tr>
<tr><td>1a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• First thin of millennium plantings, focussed on ash removal. Thin to waste – utilise as deadwood habitat.</td><td>• <5m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>3a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• Thin to best stem.</td><td>• 25m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>6a</td><td>Tree safety</td><td>• Given public access, obtain thinning licence to undertake tree safety felling if required.</td><td>• N/A</td></tr>
<tr><td>7a</td><td>Tree safety</td><td>• Given public access, obtain thinning licence to undertake tree safety felling if required.</td><td>• N/A</td></tr>
<tr><td>8a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• First thin focussing on removal of dieback affected ash.</td><td>• 5m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>12a</td><td>Thin & selective fell</td><td>• Selectively fell larch – leave approx. 10% of most vigorous as seed trees.
• Thin broadleaf species to best stem.</td><td>• Larch – 615m^3
• Broadleaf spp. – 155m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>13a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• First thin to best stem.</td><td>• 18m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>14a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• First thin to best stem.</td><td>• 20m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>15a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• Lightly thin (<20%) through felling and/or ring barking to enhance riparian habitat. Thin to waster – utilise as deadwood habitat.</td><td>• <5m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>16a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• Lightly thin (<20%) through felling and/or ring barking to enhance riparian habitat. Thin to waste – utilise as deadwood habitat.</td><td>• <5m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>17a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• Thin focussed on larch. Thin to waste – utilise as deadwood habitat</td><td>• 5m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>18a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• First thin to best stem.</td><td>• 38m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>21a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• Lightly thin denser areas of younger age class trees.</td><td>• 10m^3</td></tr>
<tr><td>22a</td><td>Thin</td><td>• Lightly thin denser areas of younger age class trees, focussing on beech removal.</td><td>• 5m^3</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

Restock and underplant woodlands with a diverse native mix of trees.

Where selective felling is taking place, woodlands will be restocked. Elsewhere, enrichment planting will be undertaken under existing canopy gaps or post thinning operations. The prescriptions are outlined in the below table and in Map 9.

Sub-cpt	Prescriptions	Planting area	Stems per hectare	Species mix
3a	• Underplant AH standing deadwood area.	• 0.36ha	• 800	• POK 20%/CAR 20%/DBI 20%/WCH 15%/HAZ 15%/HAW 10%
12a	• Restock areas of selectively felled larch. EL established through natural regeneration.	• 2.21ha	• 1100	• EL 15%/POK 25%/DBI 10%/CAR 10%/WCH 5%/HAZ 10%/HAW 5%
15a	• Enrichment planting post thinning to diversify and enhance riparian habitat	• 0.15ha	• 200	• DBI 40%/HAZ 40%/ROW 10%/WSH 10% (GDR/GOW)
16a	• Enrichment planting post thinning to diversify and enhance riparian habitat	• 0.13ha	• 200	• DBI 40%/HAZ 40%/ROW 10%/WSH 10% (GDR/GOW)
17a	• Enrichment planting post thinning to diversify and enhance riparian habitat	• 0.17	• 200	• DBI 40%/HAZ 40%/ROW 10%/WSH 10% (GDR/GOW
21a	• Underplant in canopy gaps to enhance ASNW habitat	• 1.23	• 400	• POK 20%/CAR 20%/DBI 20%/WCH 15%/HAZ 15%/HAW 10%
22a	• Underplant in canopy gaps to enhance ASNW habitat	• 1.24	• 400	• POK 20%/CAR 20%/DBI 20%/WCH 15%/HAZ 15%/HAW 10%

Manage areas of ASNW to best standard to improve their condition.	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland areas in sub-compartments 7a, 21a and 22a will be managed in accordance with the good practice guidelines outlined in Appendix 8. Management prescriptions will include: - Thinning to eradicate non-native trees, release understory, create areas of open space and enhance woodland ground flora (see Objective 1). - Underplant/enrichment plant to increase woodland resilience, woodland continuity and carbon sequestration (see Objective 2). - Manage deer, grey squirrels and rabbits and prevent livestock access in woodlands to allow ground flora and natural regeneration to establish. - Conserve deadwood and veteran trees (see Objectives 4 and 5).
Increase volume of both standing and fallen deadwood throughout the woodland.	Deadwood should be increased throughout all the woodland compartments as it forms a vital part of a woodland's ecosystem, providing habitat and nutrients for various species. Deadwood types and opportunities to create them: - Deadwood sections on retained, standing veteran trees. - Standing deadwood left to decompose. - Fallen (either naturally or felled) deadwood left on site to provide valuable habitat. Can be stacked in piles in shaded, moist areas. - Tree stumps left to provide invertebrate habitat and seed beds for new tree seedlings.
Identify, retain and protect native veteran/future veteran trees.	Identify, tag, map and retain veteran/future veteran trees for their ecological importance, cultural significance and unique characteristics. Actions that can be taken for their long-term preservation include: - Buffer zones around trees to avoid root damage. - Regular assessment of the tree to identify signs of disease, pests and safety issues. - 'Haloing' – clearing vegetation from around the tree to increase the light they receive and reduce the competition from other trees. Opportunities to undertake this are most apparent in the site's ASNW woodlands, but there is opportunity elsewhere where trees of an older age class are present.
Maintain safety of public and permissive rights of way for visitors to the site.	To ensure public safety, regular tree safety inspections to be carried out along the paths and tracks throughout the woodlands. Necessary work will then be undertaken in accordance with the perceived risk level – this will be facilitated by the felling licences in place for the sub-compartments. The upgrading/improvement of the paths throughout the woodland will be considered and undertaken if deemed beneficial.
Remove unwanted and invasive non-native species.	There is considerable bracken cover in areas of sub-compartments 21a and 23a. This can problematic due to its ability to outcompete other native vegetation, meaning biodiversity is reduced in these areas and natural regeneration of trees is hampered. Dry bracken litter can also increase the risk of wildfires. Bracken could be effectively controlled through bashing in the summer months, which is a low impact method and doesn't require machinery or herbicides. Help from local volunteer groups could be utilised. N.B. bracken does provide good habitat and cover for wildlife, so its full eradication will not be sought.

	Holly cover is dominant in areas of the woodland understory in sub-compartments 6a and 7a. Selective management of this would encourage light to the surrounding understory and woodland floor. Giant horsetail, an invasive non-native species, is present in sub-compartment 22a. Given its status and location within an ASNW and BHS, its removal should be undertaken using manual methods without the use of herbicides.
Monitor condition of woodland boundaries and replace where necessary.	The woodland boundaries should be maintained as stock proof and all gates/stiles in good working condition. Boundaries and entrance points will be assessed prior to application to a Countryside Stewardship scheme, with replacement fencing/gates included in the scheme as funded capital items where required.
Manage all operations to comply with the aim to achieve good forestry standard following best practice as detailed in the UK Forest Standard (2023). (Appendix 10)	Undertake an Operational Site Assessment prior to all felling operations to enable all site features to be considered and best practice to be applied. See Appendix 9 for a template. Ensure all operators are trained in first aid with forestry and have the correct certification for the work being undertaken e.g. chainsaws, spraying and machinery use. Ensure re-fuelling is undertaken on hard standing and well away from watercourses, flushes and ditches. All machinery must carry an appropriately sized spill kit.

Section 7: Stakeholder engagement

There can be a requirement on both the Foresty Commission and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Refer to Operations Note 35 for further information. Use this section to identify people or organisations with an interest in your woodland and record any engagement you have carried out, relative to activities identified within the plan.

Work proposal	Individual/ organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
All proposed works in WMP.	Trawden Forest Parish Council (clerk@trawdenparishcouncil.org.uk)	17/02/26			
All proposed works in WMP.	Pendle Borough Council (philip.riley@pendle.gov.uk)	17/02/26			

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
Implement an ongoing thinning and felling programme to address the risk of tree disease, reduce the proportion of non-native conifers, enhance timber quality and encourage the formation of a diverse ground flora.	Increased light levels; natural regeneration; diameter/height/canopy growth	Visual assessment; Woodland Condition Assessment	Annual	Forest Manager	
Restock and underplant woodlands with a diverse native mix of trees.	Successfully establishment of planted trees; natural regeneration; area of temporary open space created through felling	Visual assessment; Woodland Condition Assessment	Annual	Forest Manager	
Manage areas of ASNW to best standard to improve their condition.	Increase in ancient woodland indicator species;	Visual Assessment; Woodland Condition Assessment	Annual	Forest Manager	
Increase volume of both standing and fallen	Visible deadwood of different types	Visual.	Pre and post thinning	Forest Manager	

deadwood throughout the woodland.	retained across the woodland.				
Identify, retain and protect native veteran/future veteran trees.	Veterans tagged and mapped.	Visual and record checking.	Post marking	Forest Manager	
Maintain safety of public and permissive rights of way for visitors to the site.	No safety concerns for trees in proximity to the path/track network	Visual assessment and tree safety inspections	Annual	Forest Manager	
Remove unwanted and invasive non-native species.	Targeted species are eradicated/reduced to suitable levels	Visual assessment.	Annual	Forest Manager	
Monitor condition of woodland boundaries and replace where necessary.	All boundaries are stock proof and entrance points in good working order.	Visual assessment	Prior to Countryside Stewardship application	Forest Manager	

UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For Forestry Commission 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 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:	• Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management.	**Yes/No**	

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.	• Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations.		
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 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.	• 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/No**	
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 Forestry Commission 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.	**Yes/No**	

	• Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref Forestry Commission Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland.		
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 first page of the plan. • ***Sect. 8*** is completed with one indicator of success identified per management objective.	**Yes/No**	

Approved in principle This means the Forestry Commission is happy with your plan and it meets UKFS requirements. **a) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.** **b) WMPs must be fully approved before you can apply for CS HT.**	**Name (WO or FM):**	**Date:**
Approved This means Forestry Commission 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).	**Name (AO, WO or FM):**	**Date:**