

Woodland Management Plan

Woodland Property Name	Herne Hill	
Case Reference		
Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (Ten years)	Approval Date: TBC	To: TBC
Five Year Review Date	TBC/2021	

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland			Yes

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 from tables where needed.

UKFS 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.

No.	UKFS Management Plan Criteria	Approval Criteria	Applicant Check
1	Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how the appropriate balance between economic, environmental and social objectives will be achieved.	Have objectives of management been stated? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2)	
2	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.	Does the management strategy (section 6) take into account the forest context and any special features identified within the woodland survey (section 4)	
3	In designated areas, for example national parks, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	Have appropriate designations been identified (section 4.2) if so are these reflected through the work proposals in the management strategy (Section 6)	
4	At the time of felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS Requirements.	Felling and restocking are consistent with UKFS forest design principles (Section 5 of the UKFS)	
5	Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.	Has consultation happened in line with current FC guidance and recorded as appropriate in section 7	
6	Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve structural diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	
7	Forests characterised by a lack of diversity due to extensive areas of even-aged trees should be progressively restructured to achieve a range of age classes.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve age class diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	
8	Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	Has a 5 year review period been stated (1st page) and where relevant achievements recorded in section 3	
9	New forests and woodlands should be located and designed to maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the landscape.	When new planting is being proposed under this plan is it consistent with UKFS and FC guidance on woodland creation	

1. Property Details

Woodland Property Name		Herne Hill	
Name	Ilminster Town Council	Owner: Yes	Tenant: No
Email	town.council@ilminster.gov.uk	Contact Number	01460 52149
Agent Name (if applicable) N/A			
Email		Contact Number	
County		Local Authority	Ilminster Town Council
Grid Reference	ST 351 140	Single Business Identifier	
Management Plan Area (Hectares)		8.25 ha	
Have you included a Plan of Operations with this management plan?		Yes	
List the maps associated with this management plan		Appendix 1, site access. Appendix 2 & 3, tree species key and map. Appendix 4, coppicing regime map.	
Do you intend to use the information within the management plan and associated plan of operations to apply for the following		Felling Licence	Yes/No
		Thinning Licence	Yes/No
		Woodland Regeneration Grant	Yes/No
Declaration of management control and agreement to public availability of the plan		Yes/No	

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).

To improve and maintain the natural ecology of Herne Hill as a valuable wildlife resource, through appropriate management techniques. Including hazel coppicing, dead-hedging, hedge laying, tree thinning and increasing the populations of native or localised species, while maintaining the sites access as a public open space.

Encouraging the woodlands use by the public and educating on the sites historic use and its importance as a wildlife resource. Returning the woodland management regime to one that closely matches its historical management as a coppice woodland.

The aim is for a balance to be achieved between restoring and conserving the sites wildlife, while improving its access to the general public.

Establishing and documenting the sites ancient woodland characteristics and achieving the designation of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) should also be an important ambition.

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	To encourage the natural vegetation to develop into high forest of native or locally naturalised species.
2	To conserve and enhance the local native landscape.
3	To conserve and enhance the local ecology, including the habitat management for rare or endangered species.
4	To assist stabilisation of slopes by establishing and maintaining tree cover on vulnerable areas.
5	To control pests from causing excessive damage.
6	To maintain reasonable safety margins for site users and neighbouring third parties.
7	To encourage and educate the public to visit and protect the site.

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

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:

Herne Hill is owned and managed as a public open space by Ilminster Town Council and is classified as a County Wildlife Site.

The Herne Hill site covers an area of 8.25 hectares and consists of a broad range of natural vegetation species, along with a number of introduced species. The species composition of the woodland varies throughout, with the most prevalent tree and shrub species being: Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

The field layer within the woodland includes: Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Red campion (*Silene dioica*), Dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Lords-and-ladies (*Arum maculatum*).

The ground layer within the woodland is dominated by Common ivy (*Hedera helix*), Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) along with substantial moss, liverwort, lichen and fungi communities.

The area at the hills summit is known as the fir-pound and is a plantation which consists of Scots pine and beech trees. Even though these species are not local to this habitat, they should remain as a significant part of the sites history and ecology.

Many parts of the woodlands shrub layer is currently sparse, consisting of mostly bramble and bracken. It is proposed that these areas be managed to allow for other species, which require more light, to germinate and thrive.

The site provides a habitat for many species of animal, including a large

population of European badger, a substantial range of invertebrates and wild birds.

There are currently 5 entrances to Herne Hill which connect to a network of footpaths crossing the site. In places they provide poor access during the winter months due to the poor drainage of the clay-rich soils.

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 or 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		No	
Special Area of Conservation	No		No	
Tree Preservation Order	No		No	
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No		Yes/No	
Notes				

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species				
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes		Flight records – No confirmed roost.
Dormouse	No			Old records of population on the site – known nearby.
Great Crested Newt	No			
Otter	No			
Sand Lizard	No			
Smooth Snake	No			
Natterjack Toad	No			
Biodiversity – Priority Species				
Schedule 1	Species:	Yes		

Birds				
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)	No			
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)	Yes			
Plants	Yes			
Fungi/Lichens	Yes			
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes			
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes			
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No			
Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments	No			
Unscheduled Monuments	No			
Registered Parks and Gardens	No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes			
Listed Buildings	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No			
Landscape				
National Character Area (please Specify):				
National Park	No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No			
People				
CROW Access	Yes			
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes			
Other Access Provision	Yes			
Public Involvement	Yes			
Visitor Information	Yes			
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes			
Provision of Learning Opportunities	No			
Anti-social Behaviour	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No			
Water				
Watercourses	No			
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			AWI's are present and it could be argued that the area has been continuously wooded since prior to 1600.
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	Yes			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	Yes			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	No			
Upland mixed ash woods	Yes			
Upland Oakwood	Yes			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
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	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)
Hazel coppice	30%	Uneven-aged	
Conifer plantation	20%	Even-aged	Beech standards present
Ash, Cherry & Oak plantation	30%	Even-aged	Sparce understory. Bluebell field layer in spring.
Veteran, Ancient Oak	20%	Uneven-aged	Hitorical boundry markers

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). Using the simple Risk Assessment process below woodland owners and managers can consider any potential threats to their woodland(s) and whether there is a need to take action to protect their woodlands.

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				

Plant Health

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Ash dieback disease
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitoring and removal of infected trees. Planting of standards to replace where needed.

Deer

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor for signs of excessive damage

Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor for excessive damage to bark. Control methods to be considered by committee if

	needed.
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5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Rabbit
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Rabbit population does is not currently pose a risk to the site.

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Pollution, Acidification of Water etc)	No current known threats
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor for possible future impact

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Invasive species – Spanish bluebell
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Carry out bulb removal in early spring, further monitoring for hybridisation.

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Invasive species – sycamore, sweet chestnut
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	medium
Response (inc protection measures)	New growth should be removed, however existing trees within the fir pound are to be left as they help increase the stabilisation of the slopes. Standards elsewhere to be felled to remove seed source.

Climate Change

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Lack of biodiversity due to warmer/wetter winters.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor for possible future impact

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 Obj/Feature	Management Intention
To encourage the natural vegetation to develop into high forest of native or locally naturalised species.	Reduce areas of dense bracken and bramble to expose the ground layer to encourage vegetation which struggles to compete.
	Carry out coppicing of the hazel band on a 14 year cycle, encouraging new stool growth and increasing the mosaic structure.
	Selectively thin out and remove the ash and cherry trees within areas O and P (see map). This will allow for increased light to the field layer encouraging growth and allowing for the remaining trees to develop beyond their current pole structure.
	Leave deadwood in its place, unless it poses a risk to the public. This provides habitat for many species. If deadwood should need to be removed it should be stacked into piles on the woodland floor.
To conserve and enhance the local native landscape.	Non-native and invasive species are to be removed to encourage the growth of native species.
	The boundaries and hedges that enclose site are to be maintained. Dead hedging should be created from arisings to improve the hills natural enclosure and provide increased habitat for wildlife.
	The coppicing rotation will provide increased habitat for wildlife while encouraging the field layer to thrive.
To conserve and enhance the local ecology, including the habitat	Reducing the areas of dense bracken and bramble to allow other field layer species to take hold.

management for rare or endangered species.	
	Coppicing of hazel to promote new growth and increase the structure of the woodland.
	Clearing the areas adjacent to the walkways to create rides.
To assist stabilisation of slopes by establishing and maintaining tree cover on vulnerable areas.	In areas at risk of subsidence non-native standards should not be removed as they are contributing to ground stability.
	When land slips occur, timber barriers should be constructed to prevent risk to the public.
	Encouraging growth within the field layer by allowing natural succession of standards and shrubs to take place will help improve the stabilisation of slopes
To control pests from causing excessive damage.	Monitor the areas of bluebell for the invasive Spanish bluebell and hybrid. Remove bulbs where necessary. Continued monitoring is required to ensure eradication.
	Monitor impact of the grey squirrel population with regards to damage to the trees. If ringbarking is occurring it will kill the affected tree. Further consultation would be required regarding managing their numbers.
	Inspections carried out to monitor for invasive Japanese knotweed, rhododendron or giant hogweed. If found, a herbicide regime should be used to eradicate them.
To maintain reasonable safety margins for site users and neighbouring third parties.	Improve and maintain the sites boundaries and hedges, by using dead hedging and hedge laying using traditional methods.
	The margin of mature trees and earth banks are to be maintained so as to minimise the impact of management on the landscape.
To encourage and educate the public to visit and protect the site.	Steps, handrails, gates, bridges and other infrastructure should be maintained and replaced where necessary to improve access to the site.
	Footpaths and walkways are to be kept between 1m and 2m wide. Thick vegetation and overhanging branches should be removed to create rides, which will improve access as well as improving the structure of the woodland.
	Uneven paths to be supported by wooden beams at their edges to prevent further erosion.
	The implementation of site interpretation boards to educate visitors of the sites ecology,

	history and to provide mapping.
	Guided walks should be carried out with visitors and groups, encouraging community involvement and educating on the important wildlife value of the site.
	Volunteer groups should be encouraged to assist in the management task on the site. Improving community involvement in the woodland.

8. Monitoring

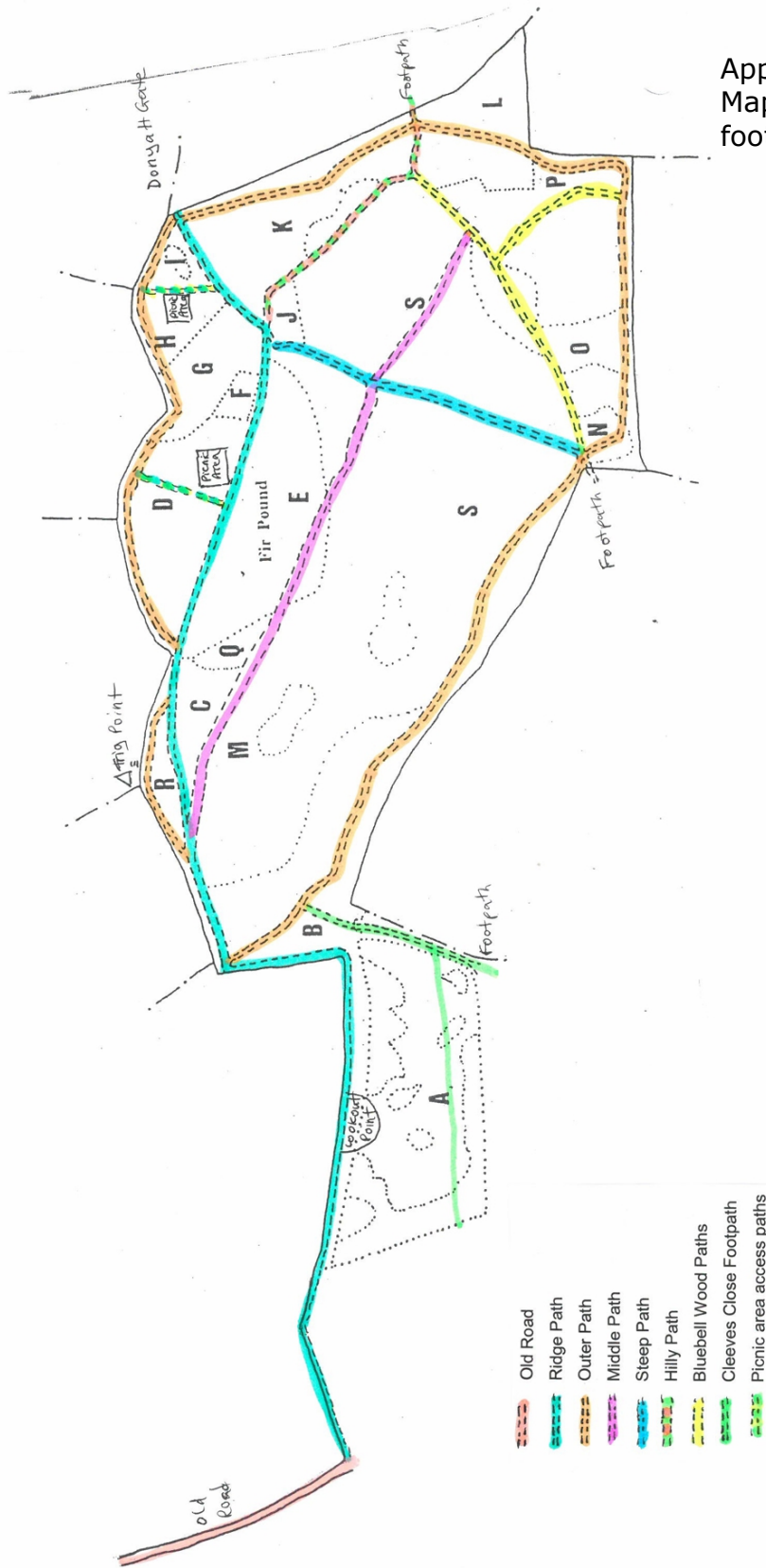
Indicators of progress/success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Other management activities could also be considered within this monitoring section. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Bracken and Bramble clearance.	Increased diversity within the field layer. Increased germination of tree species	Survey to inspect the species mix within the field layer. Particular attention to AWI's	Annually	Open spaces team	
Hazel coppicing	Improved mosaic structure. Increased diversity within the field layer	Hazel coppicing to be carried out as per the work plan. Annual inspections for health of new growth.	Annually	Open spaces team	
Dead hedging	Improved boundaries and habitat. Ecological disposal of arisings	Boundaries and earth banks inspected for signs of erosion. Dead hedging to be checked and replenished as required	Annually	Open spaces team	
Rides widened.	Increased biodiversity	Survey vegetation for	Annually	Open spaces team	

	adjacent to footpaths. Improved light levels to the ground leading to a more varied field layer	species mix, particular attention to AWI's			
Tree thinning	Improved condition of remaining standards. A more varied field layer due to increased light to woodland floor	Tree inspections to determine health of remaining standards	Annually	Open spaces team. Contracted arborists	
Maintenance/improvements to steps, handrails, footpaths, benches and other structures	Improved access onto and around the site. Reduced slip risk to site users	Regular inspections on entrances and access routes through the site	Monthly	Open spaces team	
Introduce interpretation boards	Improved user knowledge on the sites ecology and history	Through site user feedback and increased usage by the public. Signage to be checked for damage/wear	Annually	Open spaces team. Third party contractor	
Organise public guided walks/volunteer activities	Increased public awareness of the site historical and ecological importance	Through increased interest/attendance	Monthly	Open spaces team, Town Councillors or qualified volunteers	

FC Approval – FC Office Use Only

UKFS Management Plan Criteria	Approval Criteria	Achieved	Notes
Forest management plans should state the objectives of management, and set out how the appropriate balance between economic, environmental and social objectives will be achieved.	Have objectives of management been stated? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2)	Yes/No	
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.	Does the management strategy (section 6) take into account the forest context and any special features identified within the woodland survey (section 4)	Yes/No	
In designated areas, for example national parks, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	Have appropriate designations been identified (section 4.2) if so are these reflected through the work proposals in the management strategy (Section 6)	Yes/No	
At the time of felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS Requirements.	Felling and restocking are consistent with UKFS forest design principles (Section 5 of the UKFS)	Yes/No	
Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.	Has consultation happened in line with current FC guidance and recorded as appropriate in section 7	Yes/No	
Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve structural diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	Yes/No	
Forests characterised by a lack of diversity due to extensive areas of even-aged trees should be progressively restructured to achieve a range of age classes.	Do the felling and restocking proposals create or improve age class diversity (refer to the plan of operations)	Yes/No	
Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.	Has a 5 year review period been stated (1st page) and where relevant achievements recorded in section 3	Yes/No	
New forests and woodlands should be located and designed to maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the landscape.	When new planting is being proposed under this plan is consistent with UKFS and FC guidance on woodland creation	Yes/No	
Approving Officer Name		Plan approved	Yes/no



Appendix 1
Map of Herne Hill
footpaths.

Appendix 2
 Herne Hill Tree Species Index.

Species	Code
Alder Buckthorne	AB
Ash	A
Beech	B
Bird Cherry	BC
Cherry	C
Cherry Plum	CP
Crab Plum	CA
Elder	EL
Elm	E
Field Maple	FM
Guelder Rose	GR
Hazel	H
Hornbeam	HB
Hawthorn	HW
Holly	HL
London Plane	LP
Oak	O
Poplar	P
Pear	PR
Rowan	R
Red Oak	RO
Silver Birch	SB
Sweet Chestnut	SC
Scotts Pine	SP
Spindle	SPI
Service Tree	ST
Sycamore	SY
White Beam	W
Walnut	WA
Wych Elm	WE
Wayfarer Tree	WT

Appendix 4
Herne Hill Hazel Coppicing
Compartments.

