Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:		
Woodland or property name	**Hell Wath Woodlands**	
Woodland Management Plan case reference		
CS WMP agreement reference *(if applicable)*		
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland		**Yes**
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
1	31/03/2025	First draft	
2	01/04/2024	Second draft	Feedback from Skell Valley Project.

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
2	**Forest context and important features in management strategy:** Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.	Management intentions communicated in ***Sect. 6*** of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) ***Sect. 2***. Management intentions should take account of: • Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (***Sect. 4***) • Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (***Sect. 5***). • Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in ***Sect. 7***.	Yes
3	**Identification of designations within and surrounding the site:** For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	• Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations.	Yes
4	**Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:** When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS requirements. Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context. Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be	• 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

	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
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

Section 1: Property details

Woodland property name		Hell Wath Woodlands	
Name	North Yorkshire Council	Owner	
Email		**Contact number**	
Agent name *(if applicable)*		Will Richardson	
Email	Will.richardson@ruraldevelopment.org.uk	**Contact number**	07957 184978
County	North Yorkshire	Local Authority	North Yorkshire Council
Grid ref *(e.g. ST 625 785)*	SE 301 703	**Single Business Identifier**	
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? *(in hectares)*		10.88	
Have you included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan? *Please use the most up to date version (v4). Older versions may have to be returned.*		Yes	

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.*	Yes Compartments Constraints Biodiversity Operations	
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	
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	No
	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*)

North Yorkshire Council tree and woodland strategy sets out the benefits that trees and woodland provide to the natural environment, society and the landscape. Trees growing in the council's parks and open spaces are considered extremely important and valuable in providing leisure extensions to the general public.

Long-term Hell Wath woodland will:

1. Provide improved public access and recreation opportunities, enabling people to gain from the physical and mental health benefits associated with visiting woodlands.

2. Help our adaption to climate change, by providing natural environmental benefits including water management, air quality and carbon sequestration and storage.

3. Be resilient and sustainable, where woodland area, tree cover and health will be maintained or improved.

4. Contribute to the overall biodiversity of the area and protect priority woodland habitats and species.

5. Provide opportunities for public engagement with the natural environment via formal and informal education and voluntary work

Through collaborative working with the Friends of Hell Wath, operations relating to planned amenity interventions include control of INNS, litter picks and simple conservation related tasks. Other operational tasks including tree felling, removal of dog waste, scheduled path maintenance and pro-active management of wildlife features should be carried out with the help of professionals and contractors.

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	Biodiversity – to manage the woodlands with biodiversity as the major objective, protect and conserve rare and protected species and introduce management techniques such as thinning and regeneration felling, increasing levels of deadwood, coppicing and ride, glade, woodland edge habitat and open space and grassland management.
2	Climate change – to adapt the woodlands to climate change by diversifying species and age classes and to make them more robust with a healthy growing stock of trees.
3	People – to involve local communities in the management of the woodlands via volunteer opportunities and ensure high quality access, recreational and educational opportunities are provided, to increase public health and well-being.
4	Silviculture – to manage the woodland under sound silvicultural practices with the intention of encouraging mixed native broadleaves continuous cover regimes in the future. The long-term strategy is to create more irregular stands in terms of species and age class.
5	Heritage - to manage the woodland to protect and enhance cultural and heritage features.

Commented [GC1]: Do we need to add a sentence here along the lines of, alongside the grasslands. And is woodland edge considered part of the glade/open space management? Or do we need to mention managing the edges of the woods?

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
6	Safety – to manage the woodlands to provide a safe environment for visitors and volunteers using the site in line with the Councils Trees and Woodlands Policy.

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:

Hell Wath is a 21.9 acre area of land situated on the south side of Ripon. It is held under the terms of a 99 year lease initially granted by Redland Aggregates Limited to Harrogate Borough Council (now North Yorkshire Council). This lease has been held by the current owner, Tarmac since 1997. The terms of the lease require the Council to maintain the site for open public access; to conserve and enhance the wildlife value of the site, and to conserve and enhance the landscape character of the site.

The wider area known as Hell Wath is bordered on its western side by the River Skell and comprises two playing fields, (used as football pitches by Ripon City Panthers), two hay meadows, woodland and various areas of grassland interspersed with tree copses and hedgerows. Part of the site adjoining the River Skell is a designated Local Nature Reserve[1].

The woodland area of the site is about 11ha and is mostly covered by the Local Nature Reserve designation. Open ground grassland habitat makes up about 25% of this area and the rest of the wooded area is made up of mature woodland, scrub and wetland/water courses.

The Friends of Hell Wath actively pursue the objectives of enhancing the management of the site, preserving it as a local nature reserve that is safe and accessible to users and visitors[2].

Commented [GC2]: Do we need to mention they are now NYC?

[1] Extracts from Friends of Hell Wath Management Plan 2019.
[2] FOHW management objectives contained in the Management Plan 2019.

The adjacent recreational area and football pitches is used by Ripon City Panthers junior football club.

This woodland management plan seeks to support and build on the FOHW management plan and Councils Trees and Woodlands Policy.

The site has a rich cultural heritage being influenced in the past by previous landowners, agriculture, horse racing and as a large military base during and after the First World War. The Fairy Steps are a key heritage focal point of the site along with the remnant earthworks and Grade II listed boundary stone.

Latterly, Hell Wath was quarried for sand and gravel from the 1950s through to the 1970s. The site was leased to the Council in the mid 1980s to be managed for local amenity and nature conservation[3].

Soils

All compartments the soil type is that of slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils.

Climate

The average annual rainfall is around 640mm and the mean maximum annual temperature is 13.4C and the mean minimum annual temperature is 5.5C.

Description of the Landscape

The NCA is 22 Pennine Dales Fringe. It is typical transitional landscape between upland moorland and lowland farmed valleys intersected with river systems. Field boundaries are typically a mix of dry-stone walls and mature hedgerows with tall trees. Mixed and coniferous plantation woodlands contribute to a well wooded local landscape character. Hell Wath is situated on the western edge of Ripon – bordered to the east by the housing areas of Whitcliffe Lane and to the west by the registered park and garden and WHS of Studley Royal.

Key Constraints

TPO - 78/00001/TPORDR 01/1978 A1 covers cpts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9

Local Nature Reserve – LNR designation covers cpts, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9

Historic Importance – cultural and historic significance of the site and it's proximity to the Studley Royal WHS and Registered Park and Garden.

Pressures caused by public access and dog walking – the site is heavily used and indeed cherished by local residents and visitors alike. This brings with it

[3] Further details on the history of the site refer to the FOHW Management Plan 2019

pressure on the conservation and heritage values of the site with path erosion, littering and dog fouling being prevalent.

Open ground – there is a significant area of integral open ground which forms a key part of the Local Nature Reserve area and therefore woodland area.

River bank erosion – there are several sections of the Skell that run through the site where the banks are eroding. This is particularly evident in cpt 9 where the river is adjacent to the Fairy Steps and PROW. Stone gabions have been used to shore up the bank in this section.

Commented [GC3]: Is it 7a or is it cpt 9 that runs along the edge of the river?

Pests and Diseases

Ash die back is endemic in the area and many ash trees are showing signs of decline. Ash is a relatively abundant broadleaf species (>15%) across most compartments and a long term management strategy is required as they do form important mature and veteran trees and contribute towards the overall amenity value of the woodlands. Apply ash dieback management methodology levels 1 to 4 where tree impacts on safety and overall amenity values:

Level 1 - 0-25% of canopy affected - annual monitoring

Level 2 - 25-50% of canopy affected - annual monitoring and action: removal of dangerous branches if required

Level 3 - 50-75% of canopy affected - action: removal of dead branches to standing monolith particularly where the tree is a veteran, mature and or showing signs of veteranisation.

Level 4 - 75% + canopy affected and likely to die or already dead - action: fell tree

- The owners will try not to fell diseased trees as the default but to monitor the rate and severity of decline and to leave ash trees in situ if timber producing potential, safety and aesthetic reasons permit.
- As the woodlands will be undergoing silvicultural transformation over the next 10 years, selective felling and thinning activities will focus on thinning out ash where it is found to be in poor health or form with the objective to favour oak and the best remaining stems.
- Trees will be felled if decline is severe and or trees pose a safety risk (ref methodology above). Species that will be considered as replacements for ash will be beech, sycamore, oak, lime, red oak, Norway maple and aspen. The Ecological Site Classification Decision Support System will be used to review this species list over time.

Himalayan balsam – this has spread to most areas of the site and is becoming rank in places. The FOHW have regular control parties but a more integrated approached is required to prevent the site becoming dominated.

Rabbits – these are causing severe pressures on the open ground and surrounding grassland areas. Warrens are extensive and browsing is affecting the ecology of the site.

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		No	
Special Area of Conservation	No		No	
Tree Preservation Order	Yes – 78/00001/TPO RDR 01/1978 A1	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9	No	
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	Yes	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9	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	Yes – Deciduous woodland	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9	No	
Other (please specify):	No		No	
Notes				

Feature		Within woodland(s)	Cpts	Map no	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species					
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes			Likely to be present in most cpts due to presence of suitable habitat. Records indicate BLE, sop, pipistrelle and noctule present. FOHW have

Commented [GC4]: Records of BLE, Nocutle, Sop and Common Pips, natterer's whiskered/brandts and daubentons all found on site in surveys in 2024.

Commented [GC5R4]: FoHW have installed some bat boxes in the woodlands to provide habitat for bats.

					installed bat boxes across the site.
Dormouse		No			
Great crested newt		Unknown			Records show presence in local habitats and water courses such as Hollin Head Wood and Ellington Banks
Otter		Yes			Hunting habitat present. River Laver and River Ure
Sand lizard		No			
Smooth snake		No			
Natterjack toad		No			
Biodiversity – Priority Species					
Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	Yes			Woodland bird assemblages including wren, willow tit, tree sparrow, chiffchaff, goldcrest, blackcap, siskin. Birds of prey including tawny, sparrowhawk known to be in the locality.
Water vole		Yes			Records suggest presence along nearby River Skell
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		No			
Plants		Yes			Maintain areas of open ground to support and develop colonies of wildflowers including bee orchid. Manage light levels within woodland compartments to support colonies of woodland plants.
Fungi/lichens		TBC			
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)		TBC			

Commented [GC6]: There is a list of known fungi on site, but they're not specific to sub compartments The FoHW will have a butterflies list.

Commented [WR7R6]: Great if lists/records can be provided.

Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes			Suitable habitats present locally (e.g.pond in cpt 7a) for common toad and common frog
Other (please specify):	TBC			
Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments	No			
Unscheduled Monuments	Yes		2	Fairy Steps and other earthworks associated with past use throughout the site
Registered Parks and Gardens	Yes		2	Adjacent
Registered Battlefields	No			
World Heritage Sites (UNESCO)	Yes	All	2	Studley Royal
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes		2	
Listed Buildings	Yes		2	Grade II listed boundary stone with iron plaque
Burial Grounds	No			
Other (please specify):	No			
Landscape				
National Character Area (please specify):NCA 22 Pennine Dales Fringe				
National Park	No			
National Landscapes (formerly AONBs)	No			
Other (please specify):	No			
People				
CROW Access	No			
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes	2, 3, 6, 7, 9	2	
Common land	No			
Other access provision	Yes	All		Permissive access across whole of Hell Wath site
Public involvement	Yes	All		Friends of Hell Wath and volunteering opportunities for conservation related activities
Visitor information	Yes			Interpretation and waymarkers
Public recreation facilities	Yes			Playing fields adjacent

Commented [GC8]: Spawn in the pond, not sure if frog or toad!

Provision of learning opportunities	TBC			
Anti-social behaviour	Yes			Public access pressures including path erosion, littering and dog fouling and illegal access by motorbikes and bicycles
Other (please specify):	No			
Water				
Acid vulnerable catchments	No			
Watercourses	Yes	2		River Skell runs along western boundary of site. Merges with Laver adjacent to cpt 9
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	2		
Other (please specify):	No			

Commented [GC9]: Recent discovery by motorised bikes and bikes in general

Commented [GC10]: Or 9?

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.

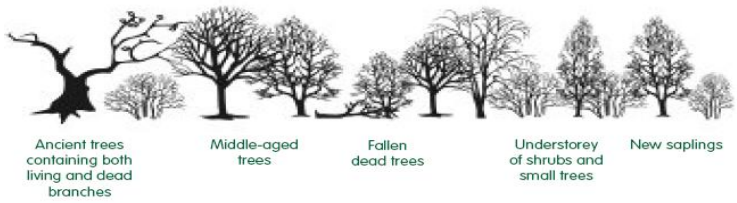
Feature	Within woodland(s)	Cpts	Map no	Notes
Woodland habitat types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	No			
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9	2	
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland oakwood	No			
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)
Broadleaf	100	Uneven	Combination of mature, intermediate and scrub layers. Limited regen under mature canopies.

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 on young trees, medium elsewhere
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Action Ash is present within most compartments especially where ash forms a relatively high % (>10%) of the species present. The site managers will undertake annual monitoring surveys to check for signs of the disease. Infected trees will not be felled straight away but monitored over time unless where safety is a concern or there are significant landscape impacts. Where trees are being lost, restocking will take place with site appropriate mixed native broadleaves. Regen fell 0.3ha area of ADB L3/4 in cpt 7a. Refer to ADB policy in section 4.1 above.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Sooty bark disease
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor Affects sycamore and can also affect beech. Thinning and removal of infected trees helps to reduce severity and spread.

5.3 Deer

Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Roe – medium, especially along Skell and Laver valley corridors
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor The locality is known to have roe deer present. Deer damage – browsing and rubbing - can be seen on some of the naturally regenerating trees and understory. However, this is limited due to high levels of public access and dog walking. Strong consideration has been given to deer management but it would be difficult to implement lethal control measures owing to public perception. In the absence of lethal control policies, the Council should/could commit to installing exclosure plots, monitor and conduct impact assessments and implement non-lethal management techniques including fencing, dead hedging and brashing of coppice stools.

Commented [WR11]: Does the council have a deer policy?

Commented [GC12R11]: I've not found anything easily accessible to suggest they do for any of the below as well. Best checking with them for these bits.

5.4 Grey squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor Regular monitoring at the landscape scale will be carried out to assess any increase in the rate and spread of damage to the broadleaves present and, in particular, beech and sycamore. Control measures will need to be considered depending on the level of damage incurred but difficult to control owing to public perception.

Commented [WR13]: Does the council have a policy on grey squirrels?

5.5 Livestock and other mammals

Threat (sheep, horse, rabbit etc)	Rabbits
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Action High population of rabbits on adjacent open ground and amenity areas. Extensive warrens and grazing is having an impact on the ecology of the site. Control methods should be considered including culling.

Commented [WR14]: Does the Council have a policy?

5.6 Water and soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Soil erosion
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium – adjacent to water courses
Response (inc protection measures)	Plan for action

	To reduce the likelihood of erosion happening, operational interventions/tree felling will be confined to when ground conditions are firm with low ground impact vehicles. Motor manual felling techniques will be used. Provide detailed operational site assessment prior to any operational works.

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Pollution incidents from woodland operational activities.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium - on sites with or adjacent to water courses
Response (inc protection measures)	Plan for action Tree felling operations to use biodegradable oils, contractors to be trained in dealing with spills and use of spill kits. Motor manual felling techniques will be used. Provide detailed operational site assessment prior to any operational works.

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Invasive species
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Balsam - high
Impact (high/medium/low)	Balsam – high
Response (inc protection measures)	Action Himalayan balsam present across the site and in danger of becoming dominant. Eradication is unlikely but reduction of the area affected and prevention of further spread should be carried out through control

	measures – cutting, pulling and crushing. Follow up annual treatments will be required. Hell Wath is a trial site for HB rust fungus. It is hoped that this will contribute to controlling it across the site in combination with pulling and cutting. Work with FOHW to carry out control measures.

Commented [GC15]: Hell Wath is a trial site for the HB rust fungus and that should help in combination with the other techniques

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Scrub encroachment onto grassland habitat areas
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Action Hawthorn scrub encroachment across the site and in danger of becoming dominant and eroding areas of grassland habitat. Eradication is unlikely but reduction of the area affected and prevention of further spread should be carried out through control measures – hand and motor manual cutting techniques. Follow up annual treatments will be required. Work with FOHW to carry out control measures.

Commented [GC16]: Hell Wath is a trial site for the HB rust fungus and that should help in combination with the other techniques

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Wind
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor

	Monitor for signs of wind damage, especially along main paths and access points, and after strong winds or heavy snow. Make safe windblown trees and retain timber for deadwood habitat value.

5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Rights of way and permissive access
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Action The site is crossed by several ROWs and permissive routes and desire lines. Ensure paths are kept clear of blockages. Monitor trees above and adjacent to paths for safety. Work with FOHW to maintain paths.

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights etc)	Anti-social behaviour
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Action Instances of antisocial behaviour should be monitored and recorded. Littering and dog fouling most common occurrences. Motorbike and bicycle illegal access also a threat. If behaviour results in dangerous trees/infrastructure, this must be rendered safe. Work with FOHW to conduct litter picking activities.

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Operational costs
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Plan for action Most operational activity will be at cost to the Council as activities will be centred around ongoing provision of public access, nature conservation improvements/nature recovery and clearance of litter. Public access is granted free of charge and the council does not generate income from the site. The council has an internal budgeting process and budgets are allocated to looking after green spaces across the borough. These are generally insufficient to support improvements to nature conservation and access. Apply for CS Higher Tier funding at the next opportunity to help pay for conservation works and public access provision.

Commented [GC17]: I'm not sure where exactly it would sit, but is there somewhere to mention a threat being lack of management and therefore loss of the grasslands due to encroachment? Wondered whether economic, being it's not feasible to do anything.

Commented [WR18R17]: I've added a new section in 5.7 for scrub encroachment.

5.10 Climate change resilience

Threat (uniform structure, provenance, lack of diversity etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Diversity. Woodland structure, species diversity, site suitability for species (now and in the future), provenance of new planting stock, threats to small woodlands are key considerations.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	The woodlands are generally diverse in age class and species across all cpts. Enrichment planting should consider the range of potential tree diseases and consider alternatives to ash where it may be lost to die back, especially rowan, hazel, aspen, oak, lime, beech, wild cherry and hornbeam. Thinning, fostering natural regeneration and enrichment planting regimes. Thin to increase light levels and foster natural regeneration. Where cpts already show diverse species and age range, focus on selective felling and management and protection of veterans and coppice management. Where natural regeneration fails, enrichment planting should consider the range of potential tree diseases and consider alternatives to ash where it may be lost to die back, focusing on site appropriate native species.

Section 6: Management strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features identified within the previous sections of the plan. A detailed work programme by sub-compartment can be added to the Plan of Operations.

Management objective/feature	Management intention
1 - Biodiversity	To manage the woodlands with biodiversity as the major objective, protect and conserve rare and protected species and introduce management techniques such as thinning and regeneration felling, increasing levels of deadwood, coppicing and ride, glade and open space management. <u>Deadwood</u> The amount of deadwood in the woodland will be increased with standing deadwood considered as a priority without detriment to the safety of the site. Ringbarking selected trees which won't cause safety issues will be considered as a potential strategy. Fallen deadwood will be left where it does not impinge on access around the woodland. <u>Long term retentions</u> Oak and ash and other mature native broadleaf trees that are present in the woodland will be identified for long term retentions, particularly those that show veteran features. <u>Uneven age structure</u> As it is the primary silvicultural objective to bring the woodland under continuous cover management, a more diverse age structure will be achieved throughout the site. <u>Rides and glades</u> The permanent rides in the woodland will be managed as woodland edge habitats encouraging the colonisation of native ground flora wherever possible. Pond

	Ensure pond is kept open and clear of encroaching woody vegetation. Remove scrub as required. Control balsam. <u>Coppice</u> Select areas of mature/overstood hazel and willow coppice and bring into a medium to long term coppice management regime. Combine cyclical cutting of open areas with coppice management to improve ground flora and foraging for pollinators and birds. <u>Veteran Trees</u> Protect veteran trees to ensure their longevity. Prevent excess shading or competition from adjacent trees and apply pruning techniques to reduce the risk of collapse. Hola thin around identified veteran trees. <u>Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)</u> Himalayan balsam is the biggest threat. Control by pulling, cutting and crushing. <u>Protected Species</u> Conduct protected species surveys prior to operational activities in areas known to have them present. Measures will be implemented to ensure protection of bats prior to and during works. Features such as old trees, trees with splits, holes and snags, epiphytic growth or close to potential feeding grounds will be considered before felling or surrounding works. EPS checklist and guidance will be followed when monitoring for bats. <u>Other Strategies</u> Felling contracts should run between 1st September and 28th February. If felling occurs outside of this period, then trees to be felled must be checked for nesting birds prior to felling.
2 - Climate change	To adapt the woodlands to climate change by diversifying species and age classes and to make them more robust with a healthy growing stock of trees.

	Thinning, fostering natural regeneration and enrichment planting regimes. Thin to increase light levels and foster natural regeneration. Prioritise management and protection of veterans and coppice management. Where natural regeneration fails, enrichment planting should consider the range of potential tree diseases and consider alternatives to ash where it may be lost to die back, focusing on site appropriate native species. Provenance of planting stock should be considered especially selecting stock sourced from two degrees further south. Increased peak flow levels and occurrences on the river are leading to increased bank erosion along cpt 9. Bank stabilisation is required. Build on work already done using stone gabions and natural revetments.
3 - People	To involve local communities in the management of the woodlands via the Friends of Group and volunteer opportunities and ensure high quality access, recreational and educational opportunities are provided, to increase public health and wellbeing. Keep rights of way and permissive access routes and desire lines open and improve access where budgets allow. Working with the Friends of Group, increase the opportunities for people to volunteer in the woodlands. The group can perform nature conservation and access improvements tasks such as INNS control, cutting back vegetation and scrub from access routes, coppicing, enrichment planting and removal of litter. Promote the use of woodlands for educational visits and their use by forest schools where appropriate.
4 - Silviculture	To manage the woodland under sound silvicultural practices with the intention of encouraging mixed native broadleaves continuous cover regimes in the future. Long term strategy is to create more irregular stands in terms of species and age class.

Commented [GC19]: Do we need a sentence in here about the river and it's impact on the woodland, namely compartment 9?

	Apply sound silvicultural practices following UKFS best practice guidelines to achieve species and age diverse and resilient woodlands. This will include: CCF - Continuous Cover Forestry will be adopted as the main silvicultural management strategy. Light thinning operations and targeted removal of non native shade bearing species such as sycamore where regen is present or more likely to succeed. Halo thinning will be used to release and recruit veterans. Selective felling – use selective felling to target specific area of ash die back in cpt 7. Restocking – natural regeneration will be used as the favoured method. Where this fails, use ESC, latest best practice guidelines to provide species restocking options. Select species which will best suit soil and climatic conditions but also help to increase diversity, reduce risk from pests and diseases. Restock with native broadleaves. 30-60cm bare rooted whips planted in tubes with stakes for support with three years after care and beat up will be preferred. Felling operations to be aware of risk of soil erosion and increased run off and pollution occurrences. Use silt traps and spill kits to help minimise risk.
Heritage	To manage the woodland to protect and enhance cultural and heritage features. Maintain permissive paths and vistas by appropriate management including cutting of paths and rides and coppicing edges where they may impact on visits and access. Protect heritage features including the Fairy Steps and Boundary stone by appropriate removal of trees which are or may damage the feature.

Safety	To manage the woodlands to provide a safe environment for visitors, volunteers and other visitors using the site in line with the Councils Trees and Woodlands Policy. Regular visual safety surveys to be conducted by the site managers. Consider retention of dead and dying trees away from paths and access points where risk is considered very low. Where unsafe trees need to be felled, retain timber as deadwood habitat and where it is safe to do so.

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
Site lease holder	NYC tree and woodland team				
Local community	Friends of Hell Wath				
Site freeholder	Tarmac				
Local community	Ripon City Council				
Skell/Laver	EA				
Users of adjacent playing fields	Ripon City Panthers Football Club				
Adjacent land owners	National Trust				
WHS status	Historic England				
Engagement with FOHW and volunteers	Others? NYC community team				

Commented [GC20]: NYC have a separate community team, who are the ones that tend to engage with the FoHW on works on site they might be worth speaking to as well, so they are aware of the agreed plan.

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
Biodiversity/Nature conservation	Increased diversity, especially ground flora, deadwood and reduction in area dominated by INNS.	On site inspections – walk over survey	Annual	Site Manager and FOHW	To develop and fine tune future operational activity
Climate Change/resilience	Low/negligible incidences of pests and diseases.	On site inspections - walk over survey	Annual	Site Manager	To develop and fine tune future operational activity
People**Error! Reference source not found.**	Residents and visitors enjoying the site for recreational and amenity purposes. Reduced occurrences of littering and dog fouling.	On site inspections - walk over survey. Photographic record.	Quarterly	Site manager	To develop and fine tune future operational activity
Silviculture	Move to Continuous Cover Forestry – increase in natural regeneration layers	On site inspections - walk over survey	Annual	Site manager	To develop and fine tune future operational activity

Commented [GC21]: This could be aided by FoHW

Heritage	Protection and enhancement of heritage features. Maintenance of paths.	On site inspections - walk over survey. Photographic record.	Annual	Site manager	To develop and fine tune future operational activity
Safety	No incidences of issues caused by unsafe trees.	On site inspections – walk over survey and photographic record	Annual	Forest Manager	To develop and fine tune future operational activity

Commented [GC22]: Not sure if they do Annual tree surveys at the Council!

Commented [WR23R22]: We can take advice of NYC tree and woodlands team on this

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:**