

OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 20TH JULY 2022 AT 5.00PM

Outwoods Visitor Centre

To: Councillors Bailey, Campsall, Fryer (Chair), K. Harris, Morgan, Parsons, Smidowicz, and Tillotson
PB, RE(Vice-chair), GM, CN,

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES
2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS
3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING Pages 3 - 7
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2022.
4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
5. OFFICER UPDATE REPORT Pages 8 - 11
An update regarding issues raised at previous meetings, information concerning new issues and finance.
6. FINANCE UPDATE Pages 12 - 13
An update regarding finance.
7. FELLING AS PART OF THE OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT PLAN Pages 14 - 115
An update on the status of the Outwoods Management Plan in relation to felling.
8. PETITION
An update regarding the submission of a petition.
9. THE RANGERS REPORT (to follow) Pages 115 - ?
An update regarding activities and operational management at the Outwoods.
10. A.O.B

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

dates for 2022-23 are:

26 October 2022

25 January 2023

19 April 2023

A walk will be arranged at 4.00pm on 20 July 2022 starting from the Outwoods Café.

OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
13TH APRIL 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Bailey, Campsall, Fryer (Chair), Parsons, Smidowicz, Tillotson and PB, RE (Vice-Chair), and CN

Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
Democratic Services Officer (NC)

APOLOGIES: Cllr Morgan, K Harris

1. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

Disclosures of personal interests were made as follows:

- (i) Cllr Smidowicz as a member of Charnwood Arts Council.
- (ii) Cllr Bailey, as Chair of Charnwood Forest Regional Park and farms land adjacent to the Outwoods.
- (iii) PB who farms land adjacent to the Outwoods.
- (iv) RE whose wife is a member of ArtsSpace Loughborough.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2022 were agreed.

3. RESIGNATION OF TRUSTEE

It was noted that JN had resigned from the Committee for personal reasons. The Committee recognised her many years of support as a long-standing Trustee and wished to thank her for her participation and support to the Outwoods. It was noted that JN had been a Harry Bowler Trustee and that it was the responsibility of the remaining Harry Bowler Trustee to recommend a new appointee.

AGREED to write a letter on behalf of the Committee thanking JN for her service to the Committee.

4. OFFICER UPDATE REPORT

A report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces was submitted (item 5 on the agenda). The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces highlighted salient points in the report as follows:

- the opening of the Café had been well attended. It was noted at the opening event that the plaque for Harry Bowler had been relocated from the carpark gates to the wall of the café but that there was not a plaque commemorating the other original Donor Trustee of the Outwoods Management Committee, Alan Moss. Trustees proposed that a plaque was created to commemorate Alan Moss.

- Officers were working with the Geo Park to organise the Charcoal Burning event in June although the date had not yet been confirmed. A voluntary organisation had offered to support the charcoal burning and had participated in events held in the National Forest including tutorials. The Organisation was planning to arrange educational and arts sessions during the Charcoal burning event and had suggested that the charcoal be given to the Committee / Council. Early discussions had been held between officers and the Café owner to store the charcoal and possibly sell some bags from the Café.
- the tree felling and replanting contracts included a two-year period of aftercare. The first season of tree felling in 2019 had just completed its aftercare programme and further maintenance would now be included in the Rangers tasks.
- the car park bay designation would be underway soon and would increase capacity through better space utilisation. Enforcement activity had been requested and it was anticipated that an initial friendly reminder would be used followed by ticketing if this was required. Plans were in progress to encourage the use of other carparks further from the Outwoods, which would be free to park in.

Summary of discussion:

- charcoal burned at Bradgate Park had been sold and the profits used for maintenance of the Park. It would be beneficial if a similar approach could be taken with the Outwoods charcoal.
- the percentage of losses after planting was thought to be low but exact numbers could be confirmed by officers after the meeting.
- the tree guards were used to protect young trees from small mammals and strong weather. They were not biodegradable, as appropriate materials had not yet been approved by Forestry England, but they could be recycled. It was important to ensure the guards were removed when they were no longer required, and this was possibly a task the Green Gym Volunteers could undertake.
- that signage for the Nanpantan Road Sports Ground and Moat Road car parks should be improved and made clearer to highlight their availability for access to the Outwoods. Officers were considering renaming the Sports Ground Carpark to 'Lower Outwoods Carpark', and this was welcomed by the Committee.
- whether the location of the Nanpantan Road Cemetery could impact on the number of spaces free for parking in the car park. The cemetery did have its own car park and peak times of use was unlikely to clash with peak times of visitors to the Outwoods. However, if a football match was being held at the Sports Ground this could make the car park busy.
- the gates at the Outwoods Car park were not able to be closed. It had been proposed to install crocodile teeth on the exit from the car park which would have allowed the entry side of the gate to be closed but this had not taken place. The matter was being followed up by officers but had been hampered by recent staff changes within the team.

It was noted that the Senior Green Spaces Officer had left Charnwood Borough Council and the Trustees wished to thank him for his expertise and knowledge which he had brought to his work in the Outwoods and with the Committee.

AGREED

1. that a plaque commemorating Alan Moss be created for attaching to the wall of the Café;
2. that the Committee is updated on progress with arranging the Charcoal Burning Event in the Outwoods;
3. that the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces confirms the number of losses to the Committee from the tree planting programme.
4. that the report be noted.

5. FINANCE UPDATE REPORT

A report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces was submitted that covered the revenue budget (item 6 on the agenda).

The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces noted that there had been a request at the last meeting for the 'Fees & Charges Misc' category in the budget information to be itemised separately to clearly identify the tree felling income. He explained that the income under this category in this report was all from the sale of timber. He also drew the Committee's attention to the Year-on-Year Net Spend and that he would continue to provide this information at the end of every financial year. He noted that the spend was going down and he anticipated this trend to continue.

In response to a question, it was explained that the one-off contribution of £36K to the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership had been a match funding contribution for the duration of the project and that the cost of work to be completed by the Partnership would be of greater value.

AGREED that the report be noted.

6. ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT AT THE OUTWOODS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

An update regarding activities and operational management at the Outwoods was submitted (item 7 on the agenda). The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces highlighted that the operations yard access had been changed to the right-hand side of the toilets to provide better access to the Events Space and café. The fencing would also soon be improved, as it was currently temporary. He noted that a bluebell walk would be arranged shortly with the Head Ranger and would be publicised using the usual Council social media methods.

Trustees discussed whether a calendar could be created for 2023 as the photos included in the report were of excellent quality and could be used in a calendar if the Head Ranger gave his permission (as the photographer). The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces suggested that a photo competition could be run via the Council's Twitter account for future years, which was considered a good proposal by the Committee.

The Committee wished to thank the Rangers for their hard work and asked that the Report be circulated to all councillors after the meeting.

AGREED

1. That the Ranger's report be circulated to all councillors after the meeting and that this report is routinely circulated after every future meeting;
2. That officers investigate designing an Outwoods calendar for 2023;
3. That the 'Activities and Operational Management at the Outwoods since the last meeting' report be renamed to 'the Rangers Report' in future agendas.
4. that the contents of the report be noted.

7. A.O.B

The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces drew the Committee's attention to the recent reports of fires at the Outwoods. He noted that there had been a small amount of damage. In addition, there had been some enquiries regarding the tree felling programme. He had suggested that the querent wrote to the Committee to express their concerns. Trustees discussed the following:

- the amount of resources that had been required to deal with the fires, the damage that had been caused and whether fire beaters would be appropriate. It was noted that fire beaters were no longer considered suitable and that the fires may have been started deliberately in the fields near the kissing gate. Due to the location of the fires, they had been spotted quickly and this had resulted in less damage to the woods itself.
- the increase in litter since the café had been opened. Additional litter bins could be provided, and signage improved in the café area. The increase in litter bin emptying would continue. Discussions with the café owner were ongoing regarding the provision of reusable cups.
- the implementation of additional interpretation boards in the café / events area identifying species to look for in the woods and covering seasonal changes. It was suggested a 'nest cam' could also be installed.

The dates of future meetings were confirmed and that the venue and earlier start time was considered acceptable for future meetings.

ADDENDUM - DECISIONS WHEREBY A VOTE WAS TAKEN

At the meeting of the Committee held on 6th September 2017 it was agreed that when the Committee voted by a show of hands on decisions made by the Committee that this information was documented as an addendum to the minutes (minute 2.2 refers).

NONE

**OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
20TH JULY 2022**

ITEM 5 OFFICER UPDATE REPORT

Purpose of Report

To update the Outwoods Management Committee on issues raised at previous meetings of the Committee and to bring new issues to the attention of the Committee.

The Outwoods Visitor Centre Café

The Outwoods Visitor Centre/ Café continues to be popular amongst visitors to the Outwoods. An issue has arisen with low water pressure in the building. Severn Trent Water have conducted investigations which indicate that the problem lies with the supply from the water main. Officers are working on addressing this issue which is likely to involve replacing the water supply pipe between the highway and the building. This work will be funded from the Building Repairs and Maintenance Budget. The work is likely to cost in the region of £5.5k.

Charcoal Burning Event

The Charcoal Burning Event took place on the weekend of 18th/19th June and was a big success, despite inclement weather throughout the first day of the event. The burn should yield about 100 bags of charcoal for us to sell. Discussions are taking place with the café operator to sell the charcoal on behalf of the committee.



Sculpture Trail

Outwoods Sculpture Trail is currently taking place and is open between 2nd June and 24th July. The trail has been provided and hosted by Artspace Loughborough. The trail comprises of 70 tree people lining the 1½ mile woodland trail, willow bees and dragonflies, a Queen's horse, ceramic birds, and giant woodlice.

The trail celebrates biodiversity and explore concerns about habitat loss and the climate emergency.



INTO THE OUTWOODS Sculpture Trail

2nd June to 24th July

The Outwoods Sculpture Trail returns for 2022!

Discover the 70 tree people lining the 1¼ mile woodland trail, encounter willow bees and dragonflies, the Queen's horse, ceramic birds and giant woodlice ... and much more. We celebrate biodiversity and explore concerns about habitat loss and the climate emergency.

Opening on 2nd June to mark the Platinum Jubilee and celebrate 70 years of the Queen's guardianship of the people and lands of the UK.



FREE WORKSHOPS - details on our website.

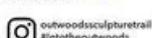


INTO THE OUTWOODS Sculpture Trail

Wheelchair accessible, but unsurfaced paths. Two trampier mobility scooters are available for those in need. Booking essential: Phone 07890 999 176.



www.artspace-lboro.co.uk



@outwoodssculpturetrail
#intothewoods

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Car Parking

Officers are currently waiting for a site survey to be conducted by our parking meter provider in order that pay by card provision can be added to the current parking machine. A further update will be provided at the next meeting.

Staffing Update

Ciaran Fern has been appointed as the Council's new Senior Green Spaces Officer. He is expected to start in post on 25th July 2022.

Alan Moss Plaque

Work is in progress for the manufacture and installation of a plaque to mark the contribution Alan Moss made towards the woods.

Tree Losses from the Tree Planting Programme.

Unfortunately, there are no records of the number of losses from the new planting that has taken place to date.

Outwoods Calendar for 2023

Work on this item will be progressed over the next quarter.

Officer to contact: Matthew Bradford
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
(01509) 634695
Matthew.bradford@charnwood.gov.uk

OUTWOODS MANAGMENT COMMITTEE
20TH JULY 2022

Report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces

ITEM 6

FINANCE UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

To update Trustees on finance issues relating to the Outwoods.

Update

The 22/23 figures (up to 29th June 2022) are as follows:

Account (T)	Amount	Total Spend Inc Commits	Current Orig Budget	Variance
Buildings-R & M	135.79	335.79	5,000.00	4,664.21
Car Park Machine P/R&M	78.00	491.50	1,900.00	1,408.50
Grounds General Maint	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Fencing/Gates	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
Seats	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
Mtc of Trees, Shrubs	1,817.42	1,817.42	4,800.00	2,982.58
Electricity	52.97	52.97	300.00	247.03
Metered Water Charge	43.23	43.23	500.00	456.77
Unmeasured Water Charges	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
Equipment Etc P/R&M	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Signs	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
Printing,Stat&Copying	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
Security Services & Charges	216.15	869.23	800.00	-69.23
Promotional Activities	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cesspit Emptying	0.00	0.00	4,900.00	4,900.00
MOS Contract - Basic	21,676.40	32,514.60	130,100.00	97,585.40
MOS Contract - Variations	122.61	370.27	1,500.00	1,129.73
Grant Contribution (FE Grants)	0.00	0.00	-4,000.00	-4,000.00
Fees & Charges Misc (Felling Income)	0.00	0.00	-10,000.00	-10,000.00
Car Parking Charges	-9,539.26	-9,539.26	-29,000.00	-19,460.74
Rent - General	-2,920.00	-2,920.00	-14,000.00	-11,080.00

Car Parking Income

Please find below the car parking income up until 20th June 2022

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
April	2,763.25	3,503.00	Covid19	3,918.10	4,012.60
May	3,200.60	4,407.00	Covid19	2,790.95	4,143.10
June	2,376.85	2,403.50	Covid19	2,405.40	2,730.50
July	2,265.05	1,763.10	Covid19	2,423.40	
August	2,738.10	Machine out of order	2,956.40	2,588.35	
September	1,879.70	973.20	3,177.30	1,880.10	
October	2,097.60	2,170.35	3,106.30	1,991.60	
November	1,655.85	1,814.40	3,761.90	351.10	
December	1,715.70	1,820.50	3,192.85	3,139.80	
January	2,980.70	2,268.25	2,533.35	3,445.20	
February	1,559.20	1,164.80	2,364.40	2,656.90	
March	2,199.05	1,650.60	3,039.75	2,973.65	
TOTAL (£)	27,431.65	23,938.70	24,132.25	30,564.55	

There are approx. 80 active season tickets, accounting for £3,200.

Officer to contact: Matthew Bradford
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
(01509) 634695
Matthew.bradford@charnwood.gov.uk

OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
20TH JULY 2022

ITEM 7 FELLING AS PART OF THE OUTWOODS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Purpose of Report

To update the Outwoods Management Committee on progress with the Outwoods Management Plan, particularly in relation to felling activities.

Update

The Outwoods Management Plan 2018-2023 (Appendix) was first shared with the Committee at its meeting on 18th July 2018 seeking comments from Trustees. The final draft was shared with the Committee at its meeting on 30th January 2019 when it was approved by the Committee with the provision of delegated authority to approve the final version given to the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces and Chair of the Outwoods Management Committee.

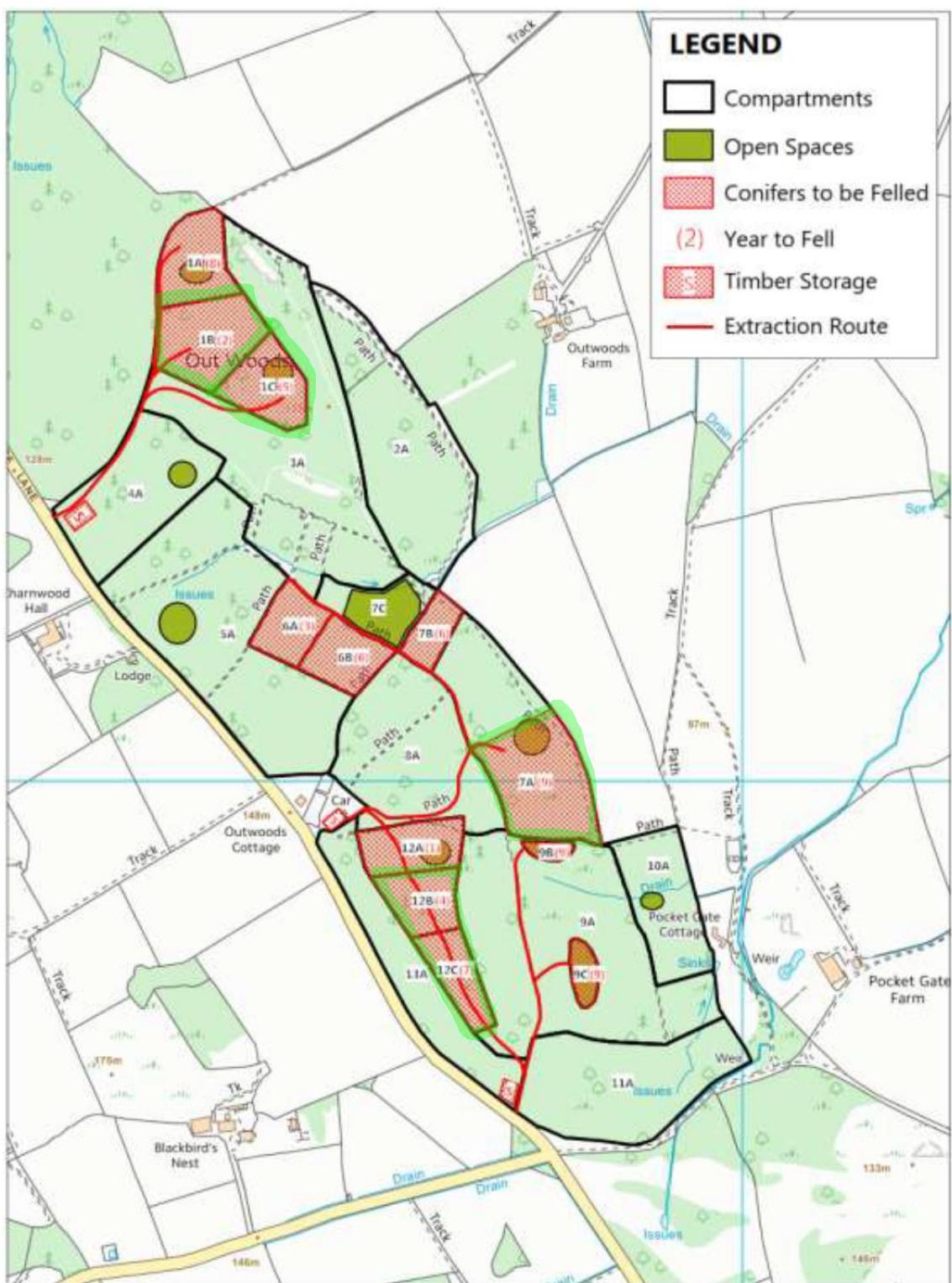
The felling programme started in 2018/19 and is approximately 50% complete. Some of the compartments have been felled out of sequence to the Outwoods Management Plan for practical and operational reasons. These changes were agreed with Forestry England. The plan states the following order of felling:

Planned Year	Compartment	Status
2018	12A	Completed 2019
2019	1B	Not completed
2020	6A	Completed 2021
2021	12B	Not completed
2022	1C	Not completed

The following has been completed:

Compartment	Year Completed
12A	2019
1A	2019
6A	2021
6B	2021
7B	2021

This leaves 1B, 1C, 7A, 12B and 12C to be completed. Please find the map overleaf for details of compartment locations.



At the present time, it is unclear whether any felling will take place over the winter 2022/23 this is primary due to the recent vacancy of the Senior Green Spaces Officer. The position will be filled from late July 2022 and discussions will take place around the priorities for the new postholder. There is a backlog of work, borough wide, that will need to be factored into the work plan for the rest of the year.

Informal discussions have taken place regarding the speed of the restoration work with officers considering accelerating the programme in order to minimise disruption on the woods and to bring forward the growth of any new plantations. This was on the basis that, the sooner we finish, the sooner we can leave the woods to regenerate naturally and through planned planting. Conversations took place with Natural England and Forestry England, and they were supportive of this approach, the main aim being that the restoration work being completed within the timeframe of 10 years.

Assessing the progress to date, and the possible delay in felling for winter 22/23, it is unlikely that the felling will be completed significantly ahead of time. Officers will work with the new Senior Green Spaces Officer to review the programme over the remaining years and recommend what happens next. Any decisions will be subject to the approval of the OMC.

The felling programme has caused a significant amount of public interest from visitors and local residents. We have had one written complaint from a resident in Woodhouse Eaves who is opposed to the tree felling on the grounds of:

1. destroying the eco system
2. removing the magnificent scots pines

Furthermore, a local councillor has arranged an online petition “Please review the scale and speed of the tree felling at the Outwoods” with 105 signatures (at 30th June 2022). The councillor organising the petition has been invited to address the committee.

In contrast to the objections to the felling, we have received another email from a local resident, whose father strongly argued for the removal of the conifers in 1970. I have provided a copy his letter, published in the Loughborough Echo for your information. The residents email stated:

“I have just found this letter (attached) my Dad wrote to the Echo 50years ago complaining about the management of the Outwoods and you are removing the conifers he was complaining about. My Dad spent a good portion of his life recording wild life and seeking to conserve it, he would have been so pleased. Could you please pass on my praise and gratitude for your management of the area to all concerned.”

ember 25th, 1970

From the *Echo*

Planting policy at Outwoods is wrong

To the Editor
Sir.—In last week's Echo it was reported that the Outwoods Management Committee had expressed concern at the amount of damage being caused to dry stone boundary walls and, to a lesser extent, at the number of fires started during the summer in the Outwoods and Bluebell Wood.

The many local people who treasure this area of woodland would, I am sure, likewise wish to express their concern at these stupid and selfish acts, but there is another type of damage which I would like to draw attention to which may not be as apparent at the moment but which, nevertheless, is destroying the character and much of the interest in these woods.

I refer to the continued planting of conifers in the open portions of the Outwoods.

Whatever justification there may be, on economic grounds, for planting coniferous trees in Forestry Commission or private woodland, there seems no really valid reasons for adopting such a policy in public amenity areas such as the Outwoods and it is extremely important that this practice is halted at once.

Woodlands consist, or should consist, of far more than just trees; an old oak wood (the natural vegetational climax in this part of Britain) would, in fact, support over a thousand different species of organisms, a fascinating community of interrelated and associated plants and animals.

Many of your readers will remember the Outwoods prior to the greater part of the southern section being clear-felled over 20 years ago.

Like myself, they will doubtless remember the hosts of wild flowers: the blue haze of countless bluebells; the pinky white patches of wood anemone; the small yellow star of wood pimpernel; the delicate, tiny white wood sorrel, and sturdy colonies of yellow archangel—and hosts of others.

Today these have largely disappeared, not as a result of vandalism in the usual sense but as a result of the widespread planting of blocks of conifers, and the woodland floor which a quarter of century ago was so rich in mosses, liverworts, ferns and woodland herbs is now largely bare but for a thickening carpet of pine/spruce needles.

Instead of the former flowery, sunlit glades we now have acres of uniformly dark uninteresting plantation where, because of the acidic nature of the decomposing needles and the small degree of light penetration, few other species can survive.

Much of this planting was done before the wood was bought and presented to the people of Loughborough by Alderman George Bowler and Mr. Alan Moss and so, therefore, cannot be blamed on present management, but why such an obviously undesirable practice should be continued when the contrast of the two types of woodland exists side by side for all to see is beyond comprehension.

The Outwoods, together with Beacon Hill and Hangingstone Rocks, is scheduled under Section 23 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act as a Site of Special Scientific Importance on account of the special nature and variety of the wildlife occurring there.

At the Outwoods much of the interest diminished with the felling of the old oak trees, but even so the right kind of management could, over the years, have restored much of this. Sadly this has not been the case, for during 20 years of public ownership a further deterioration has taken place and can be expected to continue as the recently planted conifers grow and eventually extinguish the bluebells, etc.

Only one or two English counties are more poorly wooded than Leicestershire; even so, last century the great naturalist, Alfred Russell Wallace, who resided for a time in Leicestershire and travelled extensively to some of the richest wildlife regions of the world, remarked in one of his books that he saw no finer sight anywhere on his travels than that of our Leicestershire bluebell woods in May!

During the present century, especially during the two World Wars, our local woodlands have suffered greatly as a result of clear-felling and subsequent re-planting with alien species. Not only have we in consequence lost the great proportion of our older trees but also much of the rich fauna and flora associated with them, and formerly so typical of the Charnwood scene.

During this European Conservation Year local conservation interests could be served enormously if those in charge of our woodlands planted more indigenous trees and less or no aliens, for the former have, as indicated, a wealth of associated species; the latter invariably few.

It is not necessarily good conservation practice to plant a tree or trees. It all depends on what you plant and where you plant it.

Yours etc.,

P. H. GAMBLE,

Chairman,

Loughborough Naturalists' Club,
96 Meeting-street,
Quorn.

The felling programme that is in place is fully approved, supported and part-funded by Natural England and Forestry England. It is completely in line with the policy objectives set out in the Managing ancient and native woodland in England – Practical Guide

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/720995/FCPG201.pdf

Recommendations

1. That the contents of this report are noted by the Committee;
2. That officers report back on further felling operations for approval.

Appendix: Outwoods Management Plan 2018-23

Officer to contact: Matthew Bradford
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
(01509) 634695
Matthew.bradford@charnwood.gov.uk

THE OUTWOODS

Management Plan 2018-2023



Charnwood Borough Council
Council Offices
Southfield Road
Loughborough
LE11 2UZ
Tel: 01509 634926

Document Control Sheet

James Lee (document coordinator), Charnwood Borough Council

Document Title : The Outwoods Management Plan

Rev.	Document Status	Approved	Date

Section 1 : Introduction, Background & Strategic Context

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Purpose of the Management Plan
- 1.3 Management Structure for the site

- 1.4 Relevant strategies and policies
 - 1.4.1 National Context
 - 1.4.2 Local & Regional Context

- 1.5 Statutory designations and constraints
 - 1.5.1 Deed of Trust
 - 1.5.2 Byelaws

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- 2.1 General Information
 - 2.1.1 Site Statistics
 - 2.1.2 Location & Context
 - 2.1.3 Ownership
 - 2.1.4 History/Past Usage

- 2.2 Physical Information
 - 2.2.1 Geology
 - 2.2.2 Topography
 - 2.2.3 Hydrology

- 2.3 Habitats & Biodiversity
 - 2.3.1 Overview
 - 2.3.2 Flora
 - 2.3.3 Key habitats
 - 2.3.4 Fauna

- 2.4 Cultural Value
 - 2.4.1 Recreational use & Community
 - 2.4.2 Site infrastructure

- 2.5 Site Evaluation & Recommendations

Section 3 : Vision

Section 4 : Management Aims & Objectives

- 4.1 Aims and objectives

Section 5 : Management Implementation

- 5.1 Annual maintenance programme
- 5.2 Annual management programme

Section 6 : Research, Monitoring & Review

- 6.1 Monitoring

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2. Compartment Map
3. Felling Operations
4. Themed Areas
5. Concept Map

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Appendix 2 – Byelaws

Appendix 3 –Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust Report

Appendix 4 –PAWS Survey

Appendix 5 –Outwoods Masterplan

Appendix 6 –FC Woodland Management Plan

Section 1 : Introduction, background and Strategic Context

1.1 Introduction

The people of Charnwood have good reason to be grateful to Alan Moss and George Bowler. It was through the generosity of these two local benefactors that the Outwoods came into public ownership, and as a result thousands of local people have had an opportunity to enjoy the peace and beauty of this very special place.

Despite their many competing interests, visitors to the Outwoods continue to report high levels of satisfaction with the way the woods are managed. We are proud of the high esteem in which the Outwoods is held, and the special place it has in the hearts of local people.

We believe that above all else the Outwoods is valued for its informal, natural appearance and we will continue to protect its rich ecological and geological heritage whilst at the same time striving to improve facilities wherever appropriate.

This management plan sets out the policies and procedures in operation at the Outwoods, and our vision for its future development. We trust that through the hard work and commitment of our staff, and volunteers, the Outwoods will continue to enchant and delight generations to come.

1.2 Purpose of the Management Plan

This Management Plan has been written in order to develop a vision for the direction, development and management of the Outwoods, to ensure its sustainable management and to protect and enhance its ecological value.

The Plan relates to the Outwoods and Bluebell Wood SSSI (collectively known as the Outwoods), a 45ha ancient woodland site situated 2 miles west of Loughborough in the Charnwood Forest area of Leicestershire. The plan has been developed by Charnwood Borough Council's Green Spaces Team in consultation with the Outwoods Management Committee, Natural England, site visitors and other stakeholders. The plan was adopted by the Outwoods Management Committee on **5th June 2013, and revised in August 2015** as part of an interim review.

The Operational Objectives contained within this management plan will be constantly monitored to ensure that they are being met; management aims will be reviewed in year 3/4 in order to inform future planning.

1.3 Management Structure for the site

The Outwoods is managed by the Environmental Services section, part of the neighbourhood and Community Wellbeing Directorate within Charnwood Borough Council.

In 2014 the Council outsourced its grounds maintenance and ranger function to an external provider, Quadron Services Ltd, who have since been taken over by Idverde as part of the Management of Open Spaces contract. Operations such as the emptying of bins and other waste services are undertaken on site by Serco Ltd as

part of the Environmental Services contract. The day to day running of the contracts is the responsibility of the Council's Contracts team.

Although the Outwoods has no formal 'Friends of Group', the Outwoods Management Committee was created to represent the views of the local community and park users. The Management Committee consists of 5 local residents and 8 district councillors. The Outwoods Management Committee is responsible for strategic decisions regarding the management of the site. The Management Committee's business meetings are open to members of the public to attend, and on two occasions each year these meetings are preceded by a site visit which users of the Outwoods are invited to attend. These site visits, which are advertised on the Outwoods' notice board and on the Charnwood Borough Council website, offer visitors an opportunity to question members of the Management Committee and to pass on their comments or concerns.

1.4 Relevant Strategies and Policies

1.4.1 National Context

It is important to understand the current political and policy context in which site managers and maintenance teams are operating when developing a management plan for the Outwoods. Green spaces have risen in importance on the political agenda in recent years, and there are now various national strategies that set out a framework for the future management of open spaces and help determine aims and objectives for the sites future management. Some of the current and relevant publications and policy guidance notes are outlined below.

National Planning Policy Framework (NNPF), 2018

The National Planning Policy Framework (revised) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. It replaces previous guidance in Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes. At its heart is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which promotes development that improves economic, social and environmental outcomes. Paragraph 96 states that 'access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. Planning policies need to be based on robust and up to date assessments of the need for open spaces, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses), and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision are needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate'.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018 is underpinned by a suite of Planning Practice Guidance which is regularly updated, added to and amended. This information is designed to support the interpretation of NPPF policies.

National Planning Practice Guidance includes ***open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and the new Local Green Space designation***. This guidance (2014) contains the requirement for local planning authorities to assess the

need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. It recommends that authorities and developers refer to [Sport England's guidance](#) on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities and consult Local [Sport England](#) in certain cases where development affects the use of land as [playing fields](#).

Planning Practice Guidance on **Health and Wellbeing** (2017) outlines a range of issues that could be considered through the plan-making and decision-making processes, in respect of health and healthcare infrastructure. It includes the consideration of opportunities for healthy lifestyles e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity, and promotes access to healthier food, high quality open spaces, [green infrastructure](#) and opportunities for play, sport and recreation.

Planning Practice Guidance **Natural Environment** (2016) covers landscape, biodiversity and ecosystems, green infrastructure, brownfield land, soils and agricultural land. In relation to the Open Space Strategy the key sections relate to ecosystem services which form part the Open Space Assessment Study (2017) site assessments and green infrastructure networks.

Forestry and Woodland Policy

This is the key policy document as set out by the Forestry Commission England. The following are the key objectives (in priority order):

- protecting the nation's trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change
- improving their resilience to these threats and their contribution to economic growth, people's lives and nature
- expanding them to further increase their value

The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework

The [UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework](#) was published in 2012. It was produced by JNCC and Defra, covers the period from 2011 to 2020, focusing the work of the UK at the country level to achieve the 'Aichi Biodiversity Targets' and the aims of the EU biodiversity strategy.

No trees, No future

Published in 2010 by the Trees & Design Action Group, [No trees, No future](#) highlights the wide range of benefits that trees in urban areas bring to both individuals and society as a whole. Particular emphasis is given on the economic, social & environmental benefits trees bring.

1.4.2 Local & Regional Context

This management plan complements the strategic context of a number of local and regional policies to which Charnwood Borough Council has developed or signed up that are appropriate to the management of the site. These include, but are not limited to:

The National Forest Strategy, 2014 – 2024

The National Forest Strategy sets out the key objectives for the Forest. It prioritises making the most of the asset created and securing the forest's future, through:

- sensitive achievement of the landscape change, with increased targeting to get the greatest benefits;
- making the most of forest sites (woodlands and other habitats, attractions, connections and views);
- increasing engagement, enjoyment and well-being by the widest range of people effective partnerships taking the forest to the next stage;
- bringing in new income and investment the national exemplar role, research and being a centre of excellence;
- securing a sustainable lead body into the future based on a balanced funding model and the reputation of the National Forest Company (NFC).

Charnwood Forest Partnership

The Council is committed to supporting the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership. After a successful Round 1 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid the Partnership is working on its two-year Development Phase, during which studies to provide key information and to work up the detail of how projects will be delivered will be undertaken.

The Charnwood Forest Landscape Scheme proposes to bring about a major change in how we protect, manage and celebrate the heritage of Charnwood Forest. It will celebrate the area's internationally important volcanic legacy, encouraging people to explore Charnwood Forest's rich landscape and diverse heritage.

The Outwoods, a SSSI ancient woodland managed by the Council lies within the Charnwood Forest area and is a key site within the scheme. Proposals include improved access and better linkages between this site and others within the Forest Area, connecting people to its history and securing its sustainable future.

Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2014

Charnwood Together is the Local Strategic Partnership for Charnwood which has developed the strategy to guide the work of partnership and agencies in securing the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough. The strategy sets out a series of themes and strategic objectives to deliver a vision of “an improved quality of life for everyone living and working in Charnwood”.

Strategic Objective SO12 for Places & Environmental Matter states ‘to maintain and enhance the range of ecological sites, habitats and species found in Charnwood and seek to deliver biodiversity gain and reverse habitat fragmentation’.

Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017)

In 2017 the Borough Council commissioned an update of the 2010 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study. These documents update and build upon the 2010 Study, having regard to changes in national policy guidance and analysis of local needs and priorities.

The Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) assesses the provision of eight established typologies of Open Space, as follows:

- Parks & Garden;
- Amenity Green Space;
- Natural & Semi-natural Green Space;
- Children & Young People's Facilities;
- Allotments & Community Gardens;
- Green Corridors;
- Civic Spaces;
- Cemeteries, closed churchyards and other burial sites.

Key aims and objectives of the Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) were to:

- Provide a robust evidence base for Open Spaces Strategy development;
- Provide local standards for open space provision;
- Support the drafting of planning policy for the Charnwood Local Plan;
- Identify surpluses and deficiencies in open space and consider these against current needs and future growth;
- Determine future provision needs e.g. protection, enhancement, surplus to requirements;
- Inform the determination of planning applications;
- Prioritise Charnwood Borough Council's and its partners' capital and revenue investment;
- Help understanding of local priorities for open space needs to better inform the negotiation of Section 106 agreements.

Open Spaces Strategy 2018-2036

Charnwood Borough Council has produced the [Open Spaces Strategy](#) for the provision of open spaces up to 2036. This is a strategy for the management of open spaces in the borough of Charnwood. It provides a review of the 2013 Open Spaces Strategy and a current Action Plan based on an up to date assessment of provision, user consultation and local needs analysis. It aims to provide a clear framework for practical action to protect and improve open spaces. It will guide prioritisation, management and resource allocation for the improvement of open spaces, and will deliver good practice in all aspects of provision. It will also exploit opportunities to increase the provision of open space, and support bids for funding to improve the network of open spaces to meet current and future needs.

The Strategy will ensure the Council's commitment to high quality open spaces is fully integrated into its strategies, plans and programmes, by influencing and informing policy development and implementation across the Council's activities.

The Charnwood Local Plan, Core Strategy 2015

The Council's Core Strategy is the primary document of the Charnwood Local Plan providing a strategy for delivering growth for Charnwood up to 2028.

The Strategy provides the vision, objectives and strategic policies for delivering growth for Charnwood. It will help shape and consider major developments, deliver infrastructure, and influence economic investment decisions. It will play a significant

part in delivering homes and jobs, regenerating the borough's towns and protecting the countryside, environment and heritage.

The Core Strategy reflects the Government's requirements as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Strategy has been developed within these requirements to support and deliver the Council's Corporate Plan and supporting strategies for Charnwood, particularly the Sustainable Community Strategy and Regeneration Strategy.

The Core Strategy provides policies for both the built and natural environment, including green infrastructure, biodiversity, open spaces, sport and recreation.

The Strategy notes that 'access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation contributes to the health, well-being and cohesion of our communities as well as civic pride. As our population increases, the pressure on current provision will mount, and there will be a need to provide significant areas of open space and long term management arrangements.'

The Council's Open Spaces Strategy forms an evidence base for the Core Strategy which adopts the standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.

The Core Strategy will see major areas of new development accompanied by significant areas of open space. This will have a major impact on open space provision in the Borough, and this Open Spaces Strategy will address the management implications of these developments.

Charnwood Climate Change Strategy 2018 – 2022

The Climate Change Strategy 2018-2022 sets out the Council's aim of influencing and empowering residents, community groups, schools and businesses in the Borough to help them to mitigate climate change by reducing their carbon emissions and also aims to implement carbon reduction projects to reduce the carbon emissions of its own buildings.

The Strategy sets out how the Council will work to increase the resilience and capacity of the Council's services to a changing climate and will support the residents and businesses of the Borough to adapt to climate change by helping them to prepare and increase their resilience to the possible impacts of climate change.

The Strategy recognises that specific actions are needed to address different climate change issues. The Climate Change Strategy is based around three themes:

- raising awareness
- reducing our impact on climate change
- resilience

The Strategy ensures that Council owned open spaces and habitat are well adapted to the changing climate.

6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)

The [GI strategy](#) set out a strategic green infrastructure (GI) network for the three counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, and for the three cities of Nottingham, Derby and Leicester (The 6Cs).²⁸ The strategy also sets out a vision for GI

in the area, fitting with strategic objectives and providing recommendations for the content of GI policies within Local Development Frameworks.

Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet endorsed a response to the Draft 6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy in November 2009, and in so doing supported the proposed strategic Green Infrastructure Network that was set out in the consultation document.

Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan, 2016 – 2026

In 2016 the Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Plan (LLRBAP) was updated. All the 19 Priority Habitat Summaries have been revised to include opportunities / conservation measures, an explanation of the link to Local Wildlife Site criteria, and to update the status of the habitat, where known.

The revised LLRBAP provides a summary of the current extent of habitats, including an assessment of the current trend in quality and extent for each, where evidence exists. The list of core LBAP species remains, but the definition of an LBAP species has been widened to include species listed in Local Red Data Books or identified as 'rare' in a County or VC55 checklist.

The 2016 LLRBAP includes a new Species Action Plan, for Swifts, Swallows and House Martins. The rest of the document is largely unaltered, apart from minor updates.

Charnwood Corporate Plan 2016-2020

The Borough Council's [Corporate Plan](#) sets out the Council's priorities and objectives until 2020, which make clear reference to the need for quality open spaces, whilst recognising the need to lead and work with partners. Particularly relevant to this management plan is the ambition of protecting our natural resources to provide a Borough which is clean and tidy and has a variety of green, open spaces for the benefit of all our residents.

The plan outlines how we intend to protect and enhance the green and open spaces of the Borough, with particular reference in the theme 'Our Place to... protect' that 'We will protect our natural resources to provide a Borough which is clean and tidy and has a variety of green, open spaces for the benefit of all our residents' and 'protect our built and natural heritage to maintain the character of the Borough by Working with local partners to protect the character and identity of our individual communities'.

The Charnwood Landscape Character Assessment (2012)

The [Charnwood Landscape Assessment](#) provides a structured evaluation of the landscape of the borough including a landscape strategy with guidelines for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the character of the landscape, which will inform development management decisions and development of plans for the future of the Borough.

Charnwood Borough Council Tree Policy

The tree policy sets out how the Borough Council manages its tree stock and the standards to which work is undertaken.

1.5 Statutory Designations and Site Constraints

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981(as amended)

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) is the principle legislative instrument for the protection of habitats and species in the UK, prohibiting actions that may harm or endanger specified species of conservation concern. Because of its important ecological and geological features, Natural England has designated the Outwoods (along with Hangingstone golf course and Beacon Hill Country Park) as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Any management or development operations carried out within the site must therefore be approved by Natural England.

Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000

This act increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest and strengthens existing legislation under the WCA, making the reckless disturbance of a place of rest or shelter of a protected animal an offence.

Forestry Act 1967

A felling licence is required from the Forestry Commission if more than 5 cubic metres of timber is felled in any one calendar quarter (2 cubic metres if the timber is sold).

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

This item of legislation places a duty on all public authorities in England and Wales to have regard, in the exercise of their functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity, including restoring or enhancing a population or habitat. A key purpose of this duty is to embed consideration of biodiversity as an integral part of policy and decision making throughout the public sector.

National Character Areas

The site falls within the 'Charnwood' (NCA Profile 73), as defined by Natural England (1996). National Character Areas (NCAs) were previously known as Joint Character Areas (JCAs).

Charnwood Borough Council Management of Open Spaces Contract 2014

Within the MOS contract the Outwoods are designated as a 'Natural & Semi Natural' site.

Public Rights of Way (PROWs)

There is a public footpath which follows the northern boundary of the Outwoods.

Leases, wayleaves and covenants

HM Land Registry Title Number LT246850, 6th April 1992 details the property register or the site.

Rights of Easement

There is a right of easement granted to Leicestershire County Council along the route of a gravity sewer running from Charnwood Hall.

1.5.1 Deed of Trust

In accordance with the Deed of Trust drawn up between the Loughborough Corporation and Mr Alan Moss, a Management Committee was formed to oversee the management of the Outwoods. This Committee is made up of elected members of the Council and nominees from the local community. The following obligations fall on the Management Committee:

1. The property to be preserved in perpetuity as a public open space by the Borough upon Trust.
2. Proceeds from the sale of timber to be paid to the Management Committee firstly for the management of the Outwoods. Any surplus monies to be used towards any purpose which may benefit or improve the Outwoods. An insufficiency of money for the management of the Outwoods to be made good by the Borough, the amount to be determined by the Borough Council.
3. To keep the Outwoods unbuilt upon except structures necessary for the management of the Outwoods.
4. To preserve the natural aspect, features, state of rural beauty and plant life of the Outwoods.

The Management Committee has the power:

1. To thin, crop and replant the wood in accordance with approved methods of forestry under the direction of some competent person.
2. To drain and improve the Outwoods as necessary for the enjoyment of visitors subject to clause 4 above.
3. To maintain the existing pathways.
4. To make and maintain new pathways but only to the extent that they will be used by persons on foot.
5. To plant timber, or other trees and shrubs for the purpose of shelter or ornament and lay down turf.
6. To make temporary enclosures for the protection of any trees, plantation, shrubs, turf, gorse or heather.
7. To control ground game and vermin to prevent damage to the wood.
8. To encourage and preserve wild bird life in the Outwoods.
9. To make bylaws and regulations for the protection of the Outwoods.
10. To take any legal and other proceedings for the protection of the Outwoods. To regulate access by the public to any portion of the Outwoods as necessary for management purposes.

As a result of the deed of gift made between Loughborough Corporation and Mr Alan Moss the following obligations fall upon the Borough Council:

1. The property to be preserved in perpetuity as a public open space.
2. The footpath to be used only as footways.
3. Access to bicycles, horses and all other vehicles (except invalid carriages and vehicles required for management purposes) to be prohibited and prevented

by the erection of suitable notices, fences, barriers, gates and posts. The acquisition of a right of way by anyone except on foot to be prevented.

4. To maintain boundary walls, hedges and fences contiguous with the vendor's property.

The Outwoods was conveyed to the Loughborough Corporation in two parts, the following obligation falling upon the Borough Council as a result of the 1947 Conveyance:

1. The vendor reserves any easement of right of light, air or otherwise which would restrict the use of any adjoining land for building or any other purpose.
2. The owners and occupiers of Pocket Gate Cottage have the right to take water from the spring marked and to inspect, clean and repair the tank, filters and pipes used in supply of the water.
3. There are also three general clauses stating that the land is held subject to any rights under any planning scheme, any public rights of way or any right of easement and any liability to repair boundary walls and bridges, roads etc.

The following obligations fall upon the Borough Council as a result of the 1950 Conveyance:

1. To erect and maintain three suitable notices warning persons against trespassing on adjoining land.
2. To preserve the land in perpetuity as an open space.
3. The land is held subject to rights described in an earlier Conveyance which are the same as the rights described above.

1.5.2 Byelaws

The byelaws which were adopted in 1946 relate to the use of the wood by the public rather than the management of the woods (see Appendix 2).

Section 2 : Site description and Evaluation

2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1.1 Description

The Outwoods are situated in the north-eastern part of Charnwood Forest, 2 miles west of Loughborough. The woods occupy the eastern escarpment of the Charnwood Forest, forming a prominent landscape feature above the town. The site is popular with local walkers and naturalists who benefit from a network of surfaced footpaths throughout the site.

The Outwoods forms part of Beacon Hill, Hangingstone and Outwoods Site of Special Scientific Interest. The SSSI was first notified in 1956 under The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 but was re-notified in 1987 under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Outwoods were included because it holds important geological outcrops, stands of ancient semi-natural alder woodland, breeding bird communities, a breeding site of palmate newt and plants characteristics of ancient semi-natural woodland on dry acidic soils.

The Outwoods can be divided into two broad woodland types - plantation and ancient semi-natural woodland – divisions that reflect the site's recent history. Between 1900 and 1945 much of the Outwoods was clear felled, with the land being either replanted or left to regenerate naturally. As a result approximately a quarter of the woodland is conifer or mixed plantation whilst the remainder is semi-natural woodland.

Mature conifer plantations established across the site are mainly European larch with beech and/or sycamore, whilst more recent plantations are predominantly Scots pine and Norway spruce. Because of the dense shade created by the conifers regeneration and ancient woodland ground flora in these areas is sparse. The wood has two characteristics types of semi-natural woodland. The first is a distinctly wetter, neutral woodland and the second a more acidic, drier woodland. The former is associated with a number of watercourses draining a shallow valley and is characterised by alder and downy birch with ash, aspen and the occasional oak. The main shrubs are hazel, hawthorn, holly, and crab apple. Pendulous sedge, meadowsweet, wood anemone, yellow archangel, dog's mercury, greater woodrush and wood melick are some species of the rich ground flora layer. An impressive amount of standing and fallen deadwood has developed to benefit a richer invertebrate fauna.

The acidic type of woodland occurs along the ridge on the eastern edge of the wood. The native composition of the wood has been heavily altered by felling and replanting with exotic species such as beech, rhododendron, sycamore and conifers. Sessile oak, pedunculate oak, birch and rowan are the main trees that survive along with a ground flora of bramble, bracken, wavy hair grass and wood sage. In some areas bluebell and greater woodrush also occur. Notable plants include common cow-wheat, a county rarity.

2.1.2 Site Statistics

Name of Site	The Outwoods
Address	Woodhouse Lane, Loughborough, LE11 3YG
Location	Approximately 2 miles west of Loughborough
Grid Ref	SK 5116 4113
Size of site	44.6 ha
Site Owner	Charnwood Borough Council
Designations	i. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) ii. Natural & Semi Natural Site typology – MOS Contract iii. National character area

2.1.3 Location and Context

The Outwoods is located 2 miles to the west of Loughborough, fringed by Woodhouse Lane to the west. It is part of a larger woodland complex adjoining Jubilee Woods which is owned by Leicestershire County Council. It sits on an escarpment overlooking Loughborough with agricultural fields on the eastern side, dropping down to Loughborough. These fields and the Outwoods were once part of the original medieval park.

The site is part of the ancient Charnwood Forest and also sits within the National Forest area.

2.1.4 Ownership

The management of the Outwoods is the responsibility of the Outwoods Management Committee. The Committee can be contacted via Charnwood Borough Council, Southfields, Southfields Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

The Outwoods is wholly owned by Charnwood Borough Council. It was acquired by the former Loughborough Corporation and passed to the Borough Council on 1st April 1974. The woods were conveyed to the Corporation in three phases:

- The first area was conveyed to the Corporation in 1946 by Deed of Gift. The donor was Mr Alan Moss of Park Farm Nanpantan. At the same time the Corporation entered into a Deed of Trust setting up a committee to manage and administer the Outwoods in accordance with the Deed of Trust.
- The second area was purchased from the Beaumanor Estate in 1947. The money to purchase this area was donated by Mr George Harry Bowler, who wished the land to be held in trust along with that donated by Mr Alan Moss.
- The third area was sold to the Corporation by Mr Moss in 1950. This area was never made the subject of a formal Deed of Trust but is administered by the Management Committee along with the other parts of the Outwoods.

2.1.5 History/Past Usage

The Outwoods has been woodland since the later medieval period and is included in the Inventory of Ancient Woodland. It was originally dominated by Sessile Oak until clear felling operations between 1900 and 1945 introduced conifer plantations. These now cover about a quarter of the woodland. It has remained relatively untouched, although there have been localised plantings of other tree species, e.g. cherry. There has also been the introduction of rhododendron which was probably introduced in the Victorian era for pheasant cover.

Within the eastern fringe of the wood there are a number of ‘hollows’ which represent localised quarrying. There is also an extensive network of redundant stone walls across the site, representing an earlier period when the site would have been periodically grazed by livestock.

More recent use of the site is predominantly recreational.

2.2.0 Physical Information

2.2.1 Geology

The unique character of the Outwoods and Charnwood Forest in general, is determined by the Precambrian rock that underlies the area. These rocks were formed some 600 million years ago and are some of the oldest in Britain. Because they are hard and resistant to weathering the rocks frequently form craggy outcrops.

Most of the Outwoods stands on Precambrian rock of the Maplewell series (British Geological Survey 1976 and 1982). These outcrop in several places, the largest crags being in the northern part of the woods. Rare impression fossils have been found in the Outwoods, which are of international importance in the study of early life forms. Lower down the slopes from the Precambrian outcrops, particularly in the southern part of the wood, are deposits of gravelly material laid down in the Ice Ages.

The south-eastern section of the wood is underlain by Keuper Marls which are younger rocks of the Triassic age. These are covered by glacial deposits of boulder clay and in the area by the stream, alluvial deposits.

2.2.2 Topography

Topography is typical of the Charnwood Forest area. It generally slopes from west to east and there are numerous outcrops of Precambrian rock throughout the site.

2.2.3 Hydrology

The site falls under the Woodbrook Catchment, which is a tributary to the River Soar and covers 24.5 square kilometres. There are no major water courses through the wood, although there is a small central stream feeding downslope. There are numerous small water courses although many of these are storm runoff channels. All water from the wood feeds downslope into the more clearly defined Woodbrook channel.

2.2.4 Soils

Although there is no detailed soil map of the Outwoods, the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983) shows the area to be covered by soils from the Claverley Soil Association. Within the Association, Iveshead Series soils are found on the brows of hills and steep slopes where bare rock is common. They are shallow, acid, loamy soils; very stony and well drained.

On the lower slopes are found Claverley Series soils. These are also acid soils with coarse, loamy topsoil containing large stones over a loamy but only slowly permeable subsoil. These soils are usually seasonally waterlogged. In the lowest lying Pocketgate area of the Outwoods the soils may be of the Clifton and Salop Series. These are similar to the soils of the Claverley Series but of a finer texture, less stony and also only slowly permeable and hence prone to water logging.

2.3.0 Habitats and Biodiversity

2.3.1 Overview

2.3.2 Flora

Noteworthy species present include common cow-wheat, which can be found under the mature oaks in the south west corner of the wood. This species is declining within the Outwoods but is abundant along the adjacent road verge. Yellow loosestrife can be found in the marshy Pocketgate area of the woods. Both these species are rare in Leicestershire, occurring at only a few locations.

Because the Outwoods are situated on hard, acidic rock (unusual in the Midlands) a number of plant species present are almost entirely confined to the Charnwood Forest Area within Leicestershire. These include sessile oak, green-ribbed sedge, heath rush and pill sedge.

2.3.3 Key Habitats

Woodland

The main habitat within the Outwoods is woodland, which can be divided into two broad types - plantation and semi-natural woodland - divisions that reflect the site's recent history.

Between 1900 and 1945 much of the Outwoods was clear felled, with the land being either replanted or left to regenerate naturally. As a result approximately a quarter of the woodland is conifer or mixed plantation while the remaining is semi-natural woodland.

Plantations

The older plantations are mainly European larch with beech and/or sycamore. The younger plantations are largely Scots pine and Norway spruce. Because of the dense shade created by the conifers the ground flora in these areas is sparse.

In 1983 the plantation in compartment 4A (Figure 2) was clear felled and replanted with a variety of native and non-native broadleaved trees. Natural regeneration has

also taken place in this area with birch, ash, oak and sycamore occurring throughout the compartment. In many places the birch and sycamore have overtopped the planted trees. Where there are open areas in this compartment, the ground flora is dominated by sedges and rushes.

Compartment 10A (Figure 2) was clear felled in 1992/3 and replanted with sessile oak grown from acorns collected in the Outwoods; there is also considerable birch regeneration in this area.

In addition, part of compartment 7A (Figure 2) was subject to severe wind-throw in 1993 following thinning. Small scale thinning and felling of conifers in compartments 1A,B,C,6A,B,7,9C,12A,B,C has been taking place since 2003 under an agreement with Natural England. Where conifers have been removed they have been replaced by sessile oak of local origin.

Semi-natural woodland

Three of the woodland types within the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) can be found within the Outwoods.

The most extensive of these NVC types is W10, oak/birch woodland. Because of the extensive felling that has taken place in the past, these areas are dominated by young birch and oak with rowan frequent throughout. The ground flora in these areas is dominated by brambles or bracken with bluebells and creeping soft-grass frequently found beneath the bramble layer. The oak is mainly sessile with some pedunculate and some hybrids of the two. In the northern section of the wood are two areas of mature oak/birch wood (compartments 4 and 5).

National Vegetation Classification type W16 (lowland oak-birch woodland with bilberry) is present in small fragments associated with the rocky outcrops throughout the woodland. The best examples of this type of woodland can be found in the areas on the south-western edge of the wood which escaped felling (compartment 10). This area is dominated by mature sessile oak with a ground flora dominated by wavy hair-grass.

The south-eastern part of the wood is wet alder and alder/sycamore woodland, probably NVC type W7. The ground flora of the wetter alder areas includes yellow archangel, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, remote sedge and large bittercress. In the alder/sycamore areas the ground flora is dominated by bramble with wood anemone and broad buckler fern. Two small sections in this area have been clear-felled (compartment 11A). Compartment 11A was partially replanted with ash and alder and sessile oak.

Bracken

Scattered throughout the semi-natural woodland areas are open glades dominated by bracken with a few oak and birch trees. Bluebells and creeping soft-grass are frequent and there are also patches of rosebay willowherb. Some areas notably compartment 2, have been planted with groups of specimen trees and non-native broadleaves such as beech, whitebeam and maples.

2.3.4 Fauna

There are many species of birds breeding within the Outwoods and in the past woodcock and tree pipits, identified as rare and threatened in the draft Leicestershire Red Data Book, have been recorded, though there have been no reported sightings of these birds for several years.

There are several badger sets in the north-eastern part of the wood, which have statutory protection. There are also a small number of rabbits and grey squirrels in the woods and visitors have reported seeing muntjac deer on the site. Stoats and weasels have also been seen in the woods.

A survey carried out in the Outwoods by Rebecca Faulkner from Nottingham University (2012) identified 239 Lepidoptera species (moths and butterflies). This included 202 macromoth species, 72 micromoth species and 16 butterfly species. Incidental to the Lepidoptera survey a further 26 species of insect were also identified. A number of uncommon moth species were found during the survey including one, *Harpella Forficella*, which has only been recorded in Britain on three other occasions. In addition several nationally notable species of invertebrate are known to occur on the spring lines of Buck Hill just to the west of the Outwoods, and it is possible that they also exist along the spring zones within the Outwoods.

2.3.5 Fungi

The Outwoods has been identified as an important habitat for fungi and the Leicestershire and Rutland Fungi Study Group regularly conduct guided ‘Fungal Forays’ through the Outwoods which are open to the public to attend. A detailed survey of the Outwoods that was carried out by the Leicestershire and Rutland Fungi Study Group in October 2012 found 80 species of fungi including many specimens common to Charnwood Forest, though no red book species were found.

2.4.0 Cultural Value

2.4.1 Recreational Use and Community

The Outwoods were given to the Borough to be preserved in perpetuity as public open space, and is popular with visitors from Loughborough and further afield. As well as the formal path network, there is an extensive network of smaller, informal footpaths within the Outwoods which have been created by the public. Primary paths tend to have compacted stone surfaces. Some secondary paths have stone surfaces, while tertiary paths have no surface.

A visitor survey carried out in 2012 indicates that approximately 89% of visitors travelling to the Outwoods do so by car while 11% walk or jog. Over 70% of visitors live within 5 miles of the Outwoods, while 14% of visitors travel over 10 miles to reach the site. Over 60% of the people visiting the Outwoods do so on a regular basis (more than once a month) with most visits lasting for less than 2 hours (68%). Over half of the visitors surveyed said they came to exercise or walk the dog (58%), while most of the others came to enjoy the woods, their wildlife and the peace and quiet. Visitors particularly valued the ‘natural’, informal appearance of the woods.

As well as attracting casual visitors the Outwoods are regularly used for group activities including corporate events, ³⁸ conservation volunteering, rock climbing,

walking and orienteering. Because of its close proximity to Loughborough University, the Outwoods attracts a significant number of runners who use the woods for training. A number of guided walks led by Idverde staff also take place each year.

2.4.2 Site Infrastructure

There are 5 main access points into the Outwoods. The most popular access route is via the car park but there are also access points via gates and stiles in the north-west, north-east and south-west corners of the site and along its eastern edge. In addition to these formal access points there are a number of informal access points along the northern boundary of the Outwoods where the site adjoins Jubilee Woods. Jubilee Woods comprises ten hectares of mixed woodland with rocky outcrops which was presented to Leicestershire County Council in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

There is no public transport directly to the Outwoods; however, it is possible to travel to Woodhouse Eaves by bus from Leicester or Loughborough (service number 54, & 123) and walk to the Outwoods along Brook Road.

There is a designated disabled parking space in the Outwoods car park and the toilet has disabled facilities. In 2010 two all-terrain mobility scooters were procured by the Council to allow disabled people to access the whole of the Outwoods. One of these scooters was sponsored by a local charitable trust (the Cope Memorial Trust); the other was funded directly by Charnwood Borough Council. These scooters have been a great success and have generated considerable media interest, being the first of their kind in the area. The scooters are free to use and can be booked through the Council's Southfield Offices.

There are Sheffield cycle racks in the car park for the use of visitors, but because of the environmentally sensitive nature of the Outwoods cycling is prohibited within the woods themselves. Off road cycling facilities are however available at the nearby Beacon Hill Country Park, directions to which are displayed in the Outwoods car park.

Open access exists over most of the Outwoods. However, an area adjoining the car park is closed to visitors in order to provide a refuge for wildlife and to encourage the regeneration of native oak woodland.

Throughout the site are a number of seats which are mainly memorial seats with some form of commemorative plaque on them. These have been surveyed in terms of location, description and condition. They vary in age and design and are in varying states of repair. The car park has three new picnic tables with one being designed specifically for wheelchair use.

Footpaths

There is an extensive and well used footpath network throughout the woods. Paths can be classified into primary, secondary or tertiary depending on usage and style.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Primary | These are the main, key paths that tend to be used and are usually the widest paths. They have formalised crushed stone surfaces and are well maintained. |
| Secondary | These can be well used and are sometimes as wide as primary paths. Some of these have crushed stone surfaces. |

Tertiary	Tertiary paths are usually narrow and do not have stone surfaces. They are not as well used and can be transient in nature. There is no formal management of these paths.
----------	---

Dry Stone Walls

There are extensive dry stone walls fringing the eastern and western boundaries. They are built of locally sourced stone and appear to be of an unusual style in that they do not have the central 'infill' that most drystone walls have. The eastern wall also acts in some places as a retaining wall separating the Outwoods from the adjacent field.

Their condition is extremely variable and there are numerous sections in the eastern wall that have collapsed and gaps appeared.

There are also a number of remnant internal walls, which although do not need rebuilding are of historic value.

Water Courses

The site has a number of minor water courses, although there are no sizeable streams running through the site. Some are formalised in ditches with various pedestrian bridges over them to allow access. Some are storm channels that run after heavy rainfall.

They add an intrinsic aesthetic and ecological value to the site and are regularly maintained. A full survey of the water courses needs to be done in order to understand this resource better.

Section 3 : Vision

3.1 Vision

The Outwoods are important not just as an amenity for local people but also as a unique geological and ecological resource, and so conserving the natural heritage features of the site is the primary management objective. Most visitors value the Outwoods for its informal, “natural” appearance and, whilst wanting to see facilities improved, express a strong desire to see the existing character of the area maintained. Management of the site must therefore seek to balance the needs of visitors with the need to protect and enhance important habitat features and safeguard the informal character of the site.

The vision for the woodlands is to manage and improve the two characteristic types of woodland that exist here - acid oak woodland and wet alder woodland, and their associated species. To achieve this, there would be an ongoing programme of conifer removal and replanting (as outlined by the recent PAWS survey, Appendix 4). There would also be the phased control of other non-native species, e.g. sycamore and rhododendron. Thinning of target areas would be undertaken to improve regeneration, and create a more diverse age structure and composition to the overall woodland. Good public access will continue with regular improvements to footpaths, infrastructure and interpretation. The important geological resource will continue to be monitored, and any recommended management works e.g. vegetation removal will be undertaken with consultation from Natural England.

3.2 Work Operations

Day to day operations at the Outwoods are carried out by the Ranger Service, who are managed by Idverde as part of the Council's Management of Open Spaces Contract.

Large-scale works are carried out by contractors. This work includes major felling operations, path construction and car park and buildings maintenance.

In addition, work is also carried out by conservation volunteers and employees of local organisations engaged in community volunteering events. The work carried out by these groups includes planting trees, clearing rhododendron and sycamore, repairing walls, paths and fences, and tree thinning.

Section 4 : Management Strategy

4.1 Aims and Objectives of Management

Based on the above site based information and its evaluation, together with regional and national policy, the aims and objectives for the Outwoods have been identified as follows :

Aim 1 : Woodland Management

Objectives

Coniferous plantations

Clear fell and replant with native species, predominantly oak. The majority of the woodland is oak, birch and rowan dominated, and it is these species that would be replanted. Both sessile and pedunculate oak would be used to give more diversity. Small amounts of other species could be planted, for example holly and hazel, again to increase diversity. Planting stock would be sourced locally within the Charnwood and National Forest area. Any bracken incursion would be treated by spot spraying with a selective herbicide to prevent shading out of new plantings. Planting densities would be approximately 1100/ha or as agreed with the Forestry Commission. Trees would be individually guarded and planting densities would not be uniform across a clearfelled section. Planting would be in different sized groups to try and replicate the structure of a natural woodland. Some open spaces would be incorporated into any planting, along with rides where appropriate. These would be decided after felling has occurred in order to assess ground conditions and where these features would be best placed.

Acid oak woodland

Gradual thinning to favour oak and increase structural diversity. This would concentrate on birch dominated areas. Open pockets would be created to allow oak to establish well. Natural regeneration would be favoured, although some supplementary planting could be undertaken if establishment is poor.

Wet alder woodland

Little management required - low intervention. Remove any sycamore and rhododendron as necessary, in order to maintain wet alder pocket. There is no designated public access.

Sycamore

Gradually remove all sycamore and treat stumps. Stumps would be treated with the appropriate chemical, in order to prevent coppice regrowth. Areas of sycamore coppice would be targeted initially, as well as large seeding sycamores to help reduce the seed source.

Birch dominated areas

Compartments 2A,4A,5A,9A and 10A have a large density of birch. Birch is one of the key understorey trees in this type of woodland, but it would be beneficial to thin birch

areas, particularly to favour oak. Opportunities should be taken where possible to create small glades within these areas.

Aim 2 : Biodiversity

To conserve and encourage the ancient semi-natural characteristics of the site and their associated wildlife, and maintain or increase populations of key species and habitats.

Objectives

Rhododendron

Rhododendron is present throughout the wood but is particularly prevalent in compartments 8A,9A,12A,12B and 12C. The aim is to gradually remove all rhododendron and treat stumps. Untreated regrowth and large stands of major seed sources would be targeted first. Treatment would be with an approved herbicide to poison stumps or new growth. Where possible, stumps should be removed as this is more effective than herbicide application.

Bracken

Bracken is present in large areas of the wood and is inhibiting native flora. Whilst not presenting a significant problem, it needs to be regularly monitored to see if bracken areas are expanding. Consideration should be given to various control methods in bracken dominated areas – chemical treatment, rolling or cutting. Areas that are going to be replanted following conifer removal should be targeted first, to assist in the success of new plantings.

Deadwood

Increase amount of both standing and fallen deadwood wherever possible. Dead trees should be left in situ, unless they pose a risk to the public. Some dead wood should be left in any clearfell operation. Mature and over mature trees should be left wherever possible, to have the potential to become veteran trees in the future.

Rides/glades

Although there are no formal rides or glades, opportunities should be taken when areas of conifer are clearfelled to create these. Sizes should vary to create a variety of niche habitats. Consideration should also be given to some of the existing footpaths, particularly through birch dominated areas, to see if birch can be felled along the line of the path to create varied marginal vegetation.

Replanting

Following conifer removal, areas should be monitored for natural regeneration. Whilst birch and rowan are likely to regenerate well, native oak will probably have to be planted to supplement the tree stock in the area. If the ground needs preparation, e.g. bracken control, this should be done prior to any planting.

SSSI Management

Maintain the site at all times to SSSI standard as set out by Natural England (see Appendix 1). Permission should be sought for all operations where it does not currently exist. Maintain dialogue with NE so as to improve management of the site and seek advice where necessary.

Aim 3 : Landscape

To maintain and protect the landscape value of the site.

Objectives

Any operations carried out on site must take into consideration the landscape aesthetics and the Outwoods in its wider setting, that is part of the ancient Charnwood Forest. It is also part of an important woodland fringe that dominates the skyline to the south of Loughborough.

Felling Operations

These should be planned sensitively and the public need to be kept informed as to the reasons and vision for the area.

Stone Walls

These historic boundary walls are a unique feature to the wider area. They are constructed in the local stone almost certainly quarried on site. Many of these walls are in disrepair and have large sections where they have fallen down. Whilst not serving any stockproof function, it is important to retain this feature and implement a programme of restoration.

All walls need to be accurately surveyed so the priority sections can be addressed. There are a number of redundant internal walls, which although it would be unfeasible to restore them, they should be mapped to give the historical context to the site as a whole.

Rock Outcrops

The importance of the geology is mentioned in the SSSI citation and reflected in the RIGS status of the site. Outcrops should not be damaged and need little management. However, there may be times when some sensitive vegetation clearance would be beneficial, but this should be done in full consultation with Natural England.

Aim 4 : Recreation and Access

To provide for safe, welcoming and sustainable access and leisure for all.

Objectives

Path network

There is an extensive path network through the Outwoods, consisting of primary, secondary and minor/temporary paths. Primary paths are the most used and have improved surfaces of crushed stone. Secondary paths are less used and only some of these have been improved. Minor paths are not improved.

A full survey of the whole path network needs undertaking and mapping as currently this information does not exist. This should also include current condition.

Primary paths should be maintained with similar stone as required, ideally with a different section being stoned every year. Drainage is often the problem and improving this in key areas would improve conditions underfoot.

Secondary paths should be considered for a formal surface, if the walking conditions are consistently difficult. However, drainage improvements may well alleviate the problem as priority for stoned paths should be the primary network.

Minor paths do not require any work, but should be monitored as problems arise.

Trampers

There are currently two 'trampers' which are available for people to book which allow less able users to access the wood. These should be maintained and the service continued. Consideration should be given to purchasing a new tramper.

Interpretation

A new orientation and information panel have recently been installed in the car park. Other orientation panels at the entrances will be replaced in line with the main one in the car park.

A new leaflet is about to be designed which will have some elements displayed on the notice board.

The current waymarked routes are inadequately signed and not fit for purpose. Three key walks have been identified and are shown on the orientation panel. The short walk is waymarked by carved wooden sculptures. The other two walks need to be waymarked with appropriate posts along each route.

Infrastructure

Seats and picnic benches should be surveyed on an annual basis and any improvements carried out as and when required.

Wooden fencing on site around the edge of the car park should be maintained to a good standard as and when it becomes damaged. Consideration should be given to removing other wire fencing on site.

High winds procedure

This should be reviewed and updated and a more effective plan put in place. This will be based on a usage zone map and rationale, and identify a clear process for closing the woods when gust speeds reach a certain limit.

Tree Survey

Based on the usage zone map, areas of the Outwoods will be formally surveyed on a yearly basis. Other less well used areas of the wood will be surveyed on a three year basis. The car park and primary paths would be the focus and any works identified would be actioned within a designated timeframe.

Aim 5 : Community Involvement and participation in site management

The regular meetings with the Outwoods Committee are proving to be a good forum in which to discuss management of the site. These should continue at the current frequency (every three months).

Work should continue to involve all relevant stakeholders, particularly the National Forest, LCC and Bradgate Park. With the development of the Charnwood Forest lottery bid, communication has been good but needs to remain.

Volunteer involvement is good on site and this should be developed by the Ranger Service.

Section 5 : Management Implementation

5.1 Annual (cyclical) maintenance programme

This work programme represents the tasks that are required to be done on an annual basis. Their frequency may be anything from daily to annually. The work programme for non-cyclical tasks for the next 5 years is to be found in Section 5.2.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCY
Woodland Management		
Bracken	Control around new plantings either by hand or spray	Mar-Sept Monthly
New plantings	Check for losses and replace	Annual
Glades/rides	Cut rides/glades created. Strimming or hand cut.	Sept
Tree risk	Survey and action any tree works as required.	Annual
Infrastructure		
Water courses	Clear 50m of primary water course	Annual
	Clear one blocked primary culvert/drain	Annual
	Once clear, check and clear all culverts/drains	Annual
Furniture	Survey all countryside furniture	Annual
	Undertake priority repairs deriving from survey	Annual
Signage	Clean all signage	2 times
Car park	Fill potholes as necessary with similar stone	Annual
Stone walls	Repair/rebuild 20m section	Annual
General Maintenance		
Footpaths	Strim and prune edges of primary paths	Mar-Sept Monthly
	Strim and prune edges of secondary paths	Mar-Sept 3 times
	Leaf blow primary paths	Aug-Dec
Litter	Litter pick	When required
	Empty bins	Daily
	Empty dog bins	Daily
Toilets	Check toilets and clean as necessary	Daily
Entrance	Prune back ivy and cut back branches at the vehicle entrance	Annually
High winds procedure	Review procedure	Annually
	Post storm checks	When required
Engagement		
Walks/events	Deliver a programme of public walks/events	Monthly
Information	Refresh notice board with information on management operations	When required
Trampers	Manage trumper service ⁴⁷	When required

5.2 5 Year Work Programme 2018 – 2023

The following table itemises the work planned for the life of this plan, and so is not cyclical in nature.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PLAN YEAR (with compartment)				
		1	2	3	4	5
Coniferous plantations	Clear fell plantations	12A	1B	6A	12B	1C
	Replant plantations		12A	1B	6A	12B
	Weed plantings					
Birch areas	Thin birch	10A 5A	10A 5A	5A 4A	5A 4A	5A 4A
Rhododendron	Clear rhododendron	8A 9A	12A 12B 12C			
	Inject stumps/spray regrowth	8A 9A	12A 12B 12C			
Bracken	Control bracken		12A 12B 12C			
Path network	Survey and map all paths	All	All			
	Install 2 'grips' on primary paths to help remove water	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any
Watercourses	Survey and map all water courses			Any	Any	
Stone walls	Survey and map all external stone walls	All	All			
Sycamore	Remove young sycamore as part of other operations.	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any
	Fell 2 mature specimens	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any
Hazel	Coppice on a 7 year rotation	2A	2A	2A	3A	3A

SECTION 6 : Monitoring and Review

6.1 Monitoring

To effectively assess the planned benefits of the various management works proposed, a monitoring programme is proposed:

Habitat Management

A “before” and “after” photographic record will be kept during all major management works, particularly the pollarding programme. Section 8 of the Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plan sets out the monitoring responsibilities as required under the terms of the Countryside Stewardship agreement.

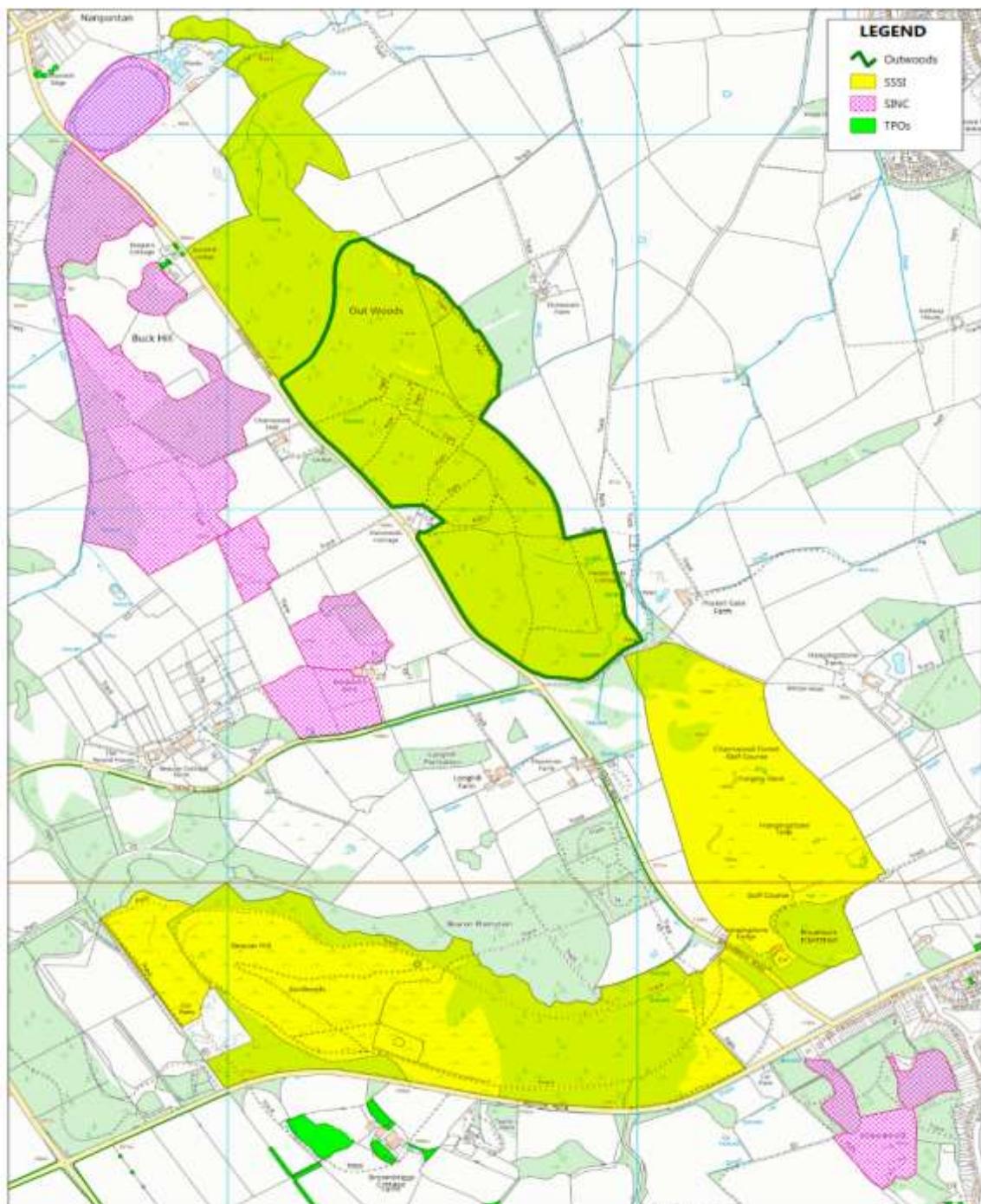
As required, flora and fauna surveys of these areas where management works are concentrated will be undertaken, again to help to quantify/identify the proposed benefits.

Health and Safety

The safety of trees, structures and banks within the site will be assessed as outlined in the site maintenance programme.

Routine visits will inevitably identify unpredictable issues and concerns that need addressing as they arise, such as litter, vandalism, the unrecorded presence of new species of importance etc. This information will be fed into the LAGAN customer management system and maintenance and management work programmed as appropriate.

Figure 1 Site location



Charnwood Borough Council
Southfields
Southfield Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 2TN
tel: (0115) 263151
www.charnwoodbc.gov.uk

500 m
400 m

Figure 2 Compartment map

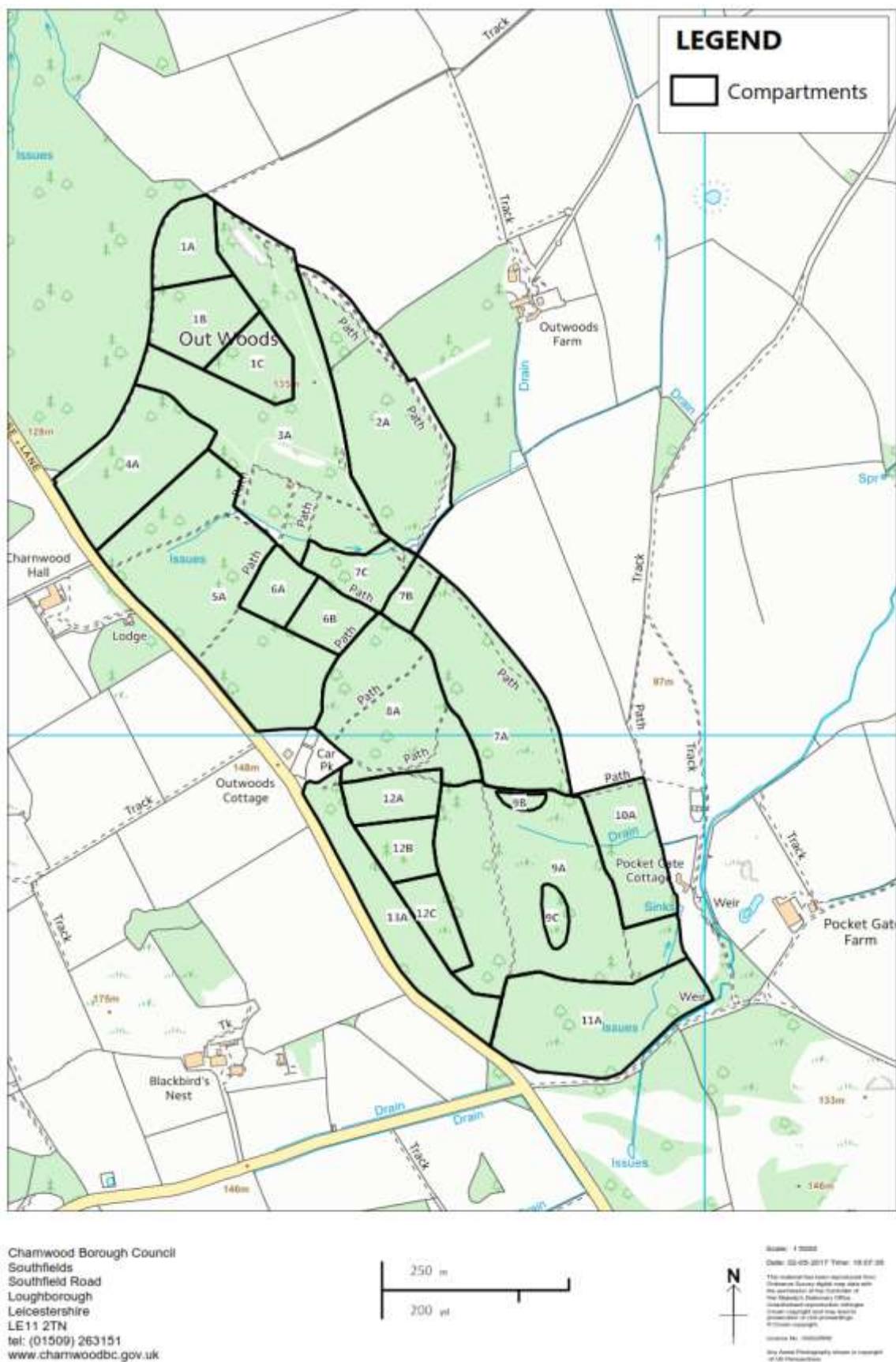
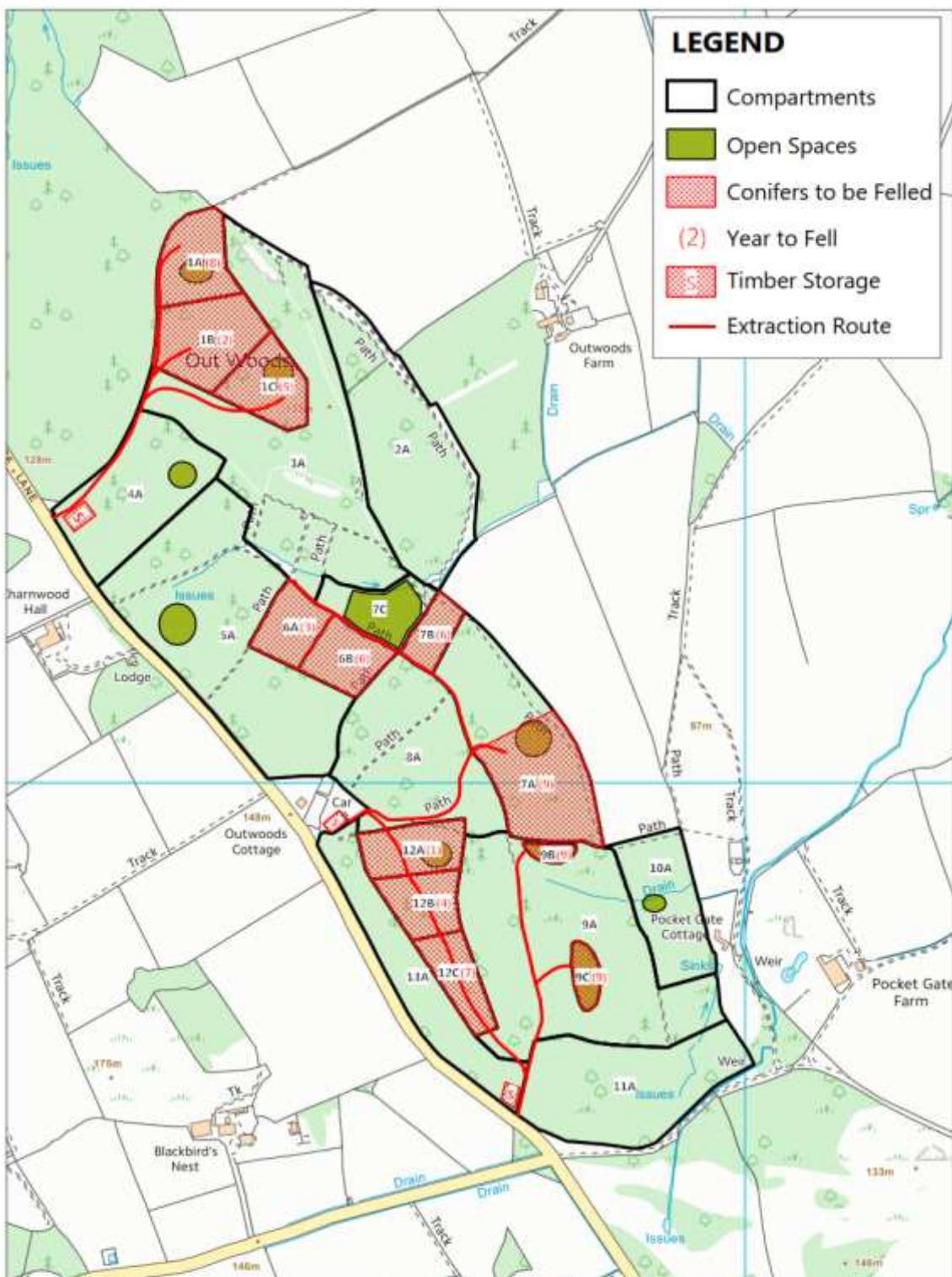


Figure 3 Felling operations



Charnwood Borough Council
Southfields
Southfield Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 2TN
tel: (01509) 263151
www.charnwoodbc.gov.uk

250 =
200 m

Scale: 1:5000
Date: 02-01-2017 Time: 10:00:33
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Figure 4 Themed areas

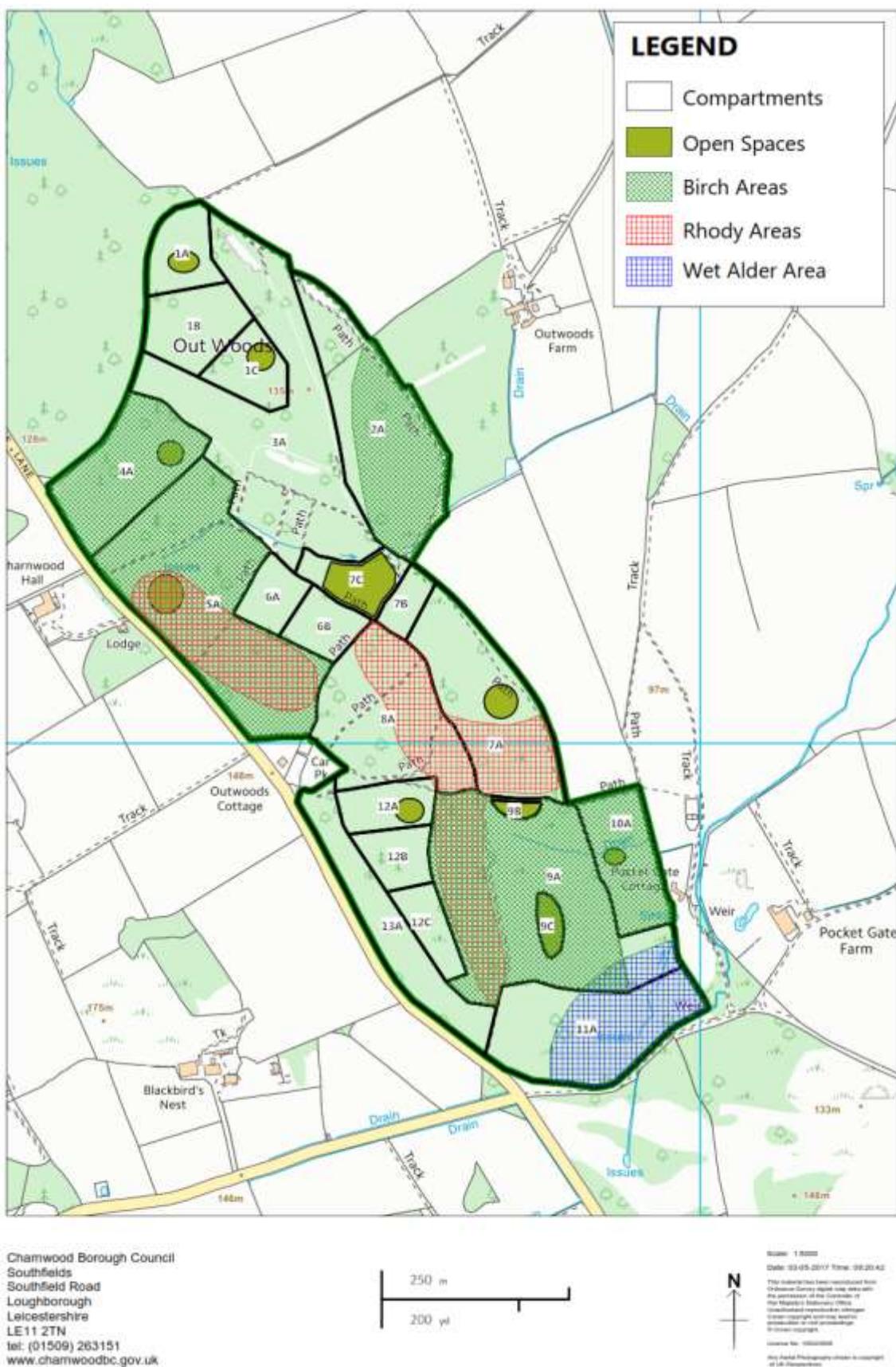
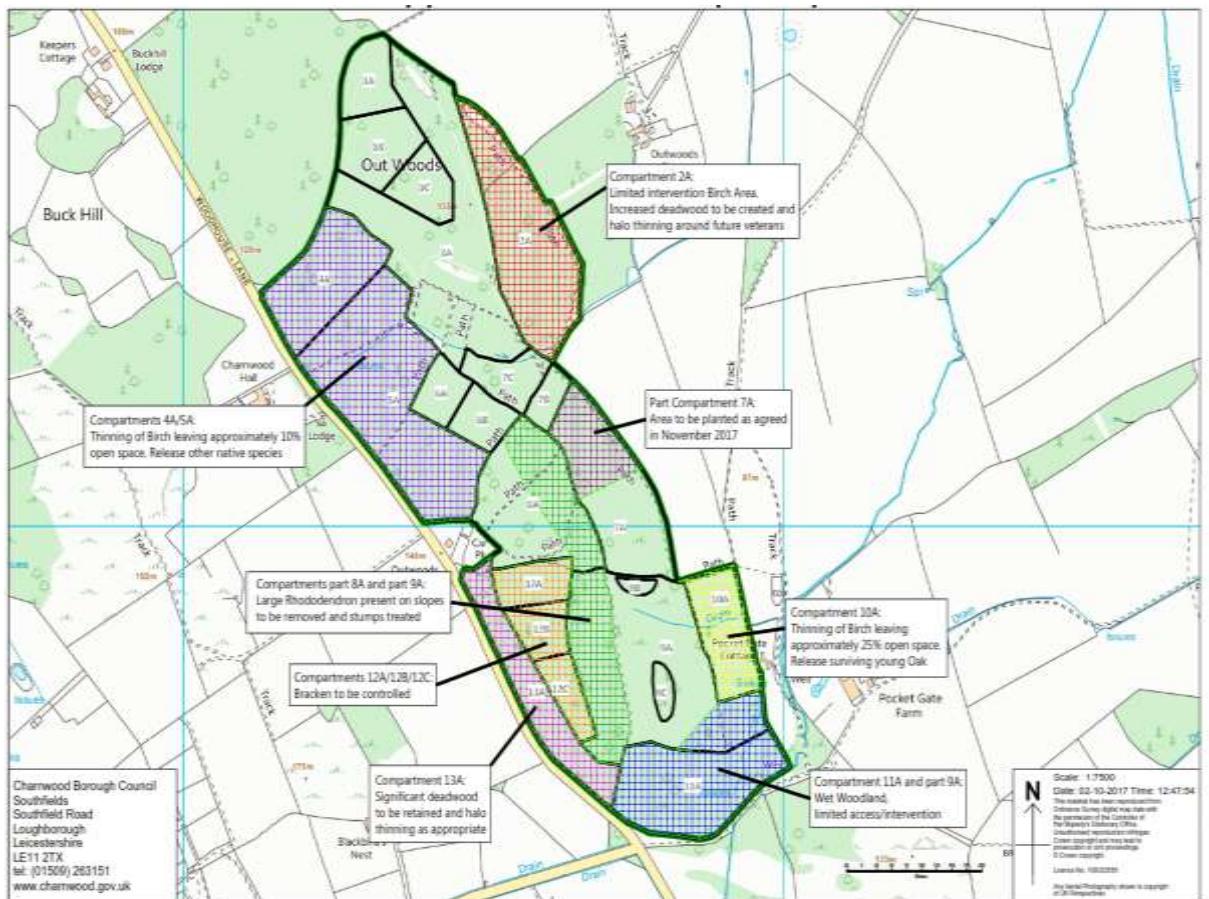


Figure 5 Concept map



Appendix 1

Site of Special Scientific Interest

COUNTY: LEICESTERSHIRE

SITE NAME: BEACON HILL, HANGINGSTONE & OUTWOODS

DISTRICT: CHARNWOOD

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Local Planning Authority: CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 512147, SK 523152

Area: 140.8 (ha.) 348.00 (ac.)

SK: 512165

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000: 129 1:10,000: SK 51 NW, SK 51 SW

Date Notified: (Under 1949 Act): 1956 Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified: (Under 1981 Act): 1987 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Beacon Hill is managed by Leicestershire County Council as a public open space. Parts of the Outwoods are also open to the public.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Beacon Hill and Outwoods provide some of the best habitat in Leicestershire for breeding birds. The Outwoods support one of the most interesting stands of ancient semi natural alder woodland in the County. The Hangingstone Hills and Outwoods area includes some important geological exposures that have yielded coelenterate impression fossils unique in the British Isles and of world-wide significance in the study of early life forms.

Biology: Beacon Hill supports a succession of semi-natural habitats ranging from acidic grassland around the rocky outcrops at the summit, down through bracken *Pterigium aquilinum* covered slopes into areas of secondary oak *Quercus robur* and birch *Betula pendula* woodland.

A pond at the eastern end of Beacon Hill feeds a small stream. Associated marshy ground supports bog moss *Sphagnum* spp., marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and violet *Viola palustris* all of which are scarce in Leicestershire. A second pond on the hill is one of only three known breeding sites in the County for the palmate newt *Triturus helveticus*. Such habitat diversity makes the hill attractive to a wide variety of breeding birds including tree pipit, grasshopper warbler, redstart, cuckoo, green woodpecker, lesser spotted woodpecker, whitethroat and tawny owl. Hangingstone golf course supports a similar range of habitats but the areas of close mown acidic grassland are more extensive and heather *Calluna vulgaris* occurs in places. The area supports a high density of badger setts. Although much altered by recent replanting the Outwoods retain many of the plants characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland on dry acidic soils, including common cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense*.

A large stand of coppice grown alder *Alnus glutinosa* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* occupies the wet ground in the north of the wood. The shrub layer here contains redcurrant *Ribes rubrum* and guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus*. The ground flora is

diverse and includes pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, water avens *Geum rivale*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* and ramsons *Allium ursinum*. Another breeding site of the palmate newt is located in this area. The Outwoods support a variety of breeding birds including tawny owl, nuthatch, redstart and three species of woodpecker.

Geology: The Hangingstone Hills – Outwoods area includes a type section for the Hanging Rocks Conglomerate Member of the Brand Hill formation and exposures of the volcaniclastic Hallgate Member of the Maplewell Group (Charnian Supergroup). The latter have yielded the best examples of the late Precambrian fossils for which the Charnian sequence is framed. Exposures in North Quarry, Hangingstone contain the first British Precambrian metazoan fossils to be discovered and studied. The forms present are *Charnia masoni*, (frondose), *Charniodiscus concentricus* and a variety of discoidal impression fossils.

The crags in Outwoods contain complex impression fossils of probable coelenterate origin, namely ovoid medusoid jellyfish in strong relief. The only specimen of arthropod-like *Pseudovendia charnwoodensis* was also found here. The complex structure of the “medusoids” is uniquely exhibited at this locality. As fossils found at Hangingstone and Outwoods are closely comparable with those found in Newfoundland, Russia and South Australia, the site is of great importance in the study of Precambrian palaeontology.

Appendix 2

Byelaws

Made by the Outwoods Managing Committee under the Town Garden Protection Act, 1863, applied by s.15 (3), of the Open Spaces Act, 1906, at the Regulation of "The Outwoods", in the Borough of Loughborough.

1. In the construction of the byelaws "the committee" means the Outwoods Managing Committee appointed by a Deed of Trust dated the Sixth day of June, 1946, made between Alan Moss, Esq., J.P., and the Mayor Alderman and Burgesses of the Borough of Loughborough in the county of Leicester and the "Outwoods" means the land thereby entrusted to the committee, and the lands adjoining for the time being under control of the committee.

"Unauthorised person" means any person except –

- a) A person for the time being duly authorised by the committee in writing for any purposes in connection with the management, maintenance or administration of the Outwoods.
 - b) A person acting in the legal exercise of some right, in over or affecting the Outwoods, or
 - c) A person duly authorised by a person entitled so to act as aforesaid.
2. No unauthorised person shall enter or quit the Outwoods otherwise than through some one of the gates, wickets, passages, steps or openings appointed by the committee as the authorised means of entrance to or egress from the Outwoods.
 3. No authorised person shall climb any tree in the Outwoods.
 4. Where the committee set apart a sanitary convenience for the use of one sex, as indicated by a Notice affixed or set up in a conspicuous position near to such sanitary convenience, a person of the opposite sex shall not improperly enter or use such sanitary convenience.
 5. No unauthorised person shall dig, cut or take turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance on or from the woods, or dig up or remove, cut fell or wilfully or negligently injure any gorse, heather, timber, or other tree, shrub, brushwood, flower or other plant growing thereon.
 6. No person shall light any fire, or place or throw or let fall any lighted matches any substance or thing, in, among or near to the fern, bracken, heather, furze, bushes, or trees in the "Outwoods", so as to be likely to cause damage by fire to anything growing there.
 7. No unauthorised person shall in the Outwoods fire or discharge any firearm or to the danger of any other person therein throw or discharge any missiles.
 8. No unauthorised person shall deposit in the Outwoods or in any pond or stream therein, any wood, stone, road sand, materials for the repair of the roads, or any drug use rubbish or other offensive matter, or leave or scatter about the Outwoods any bottles, egg shells, orange peel, tins, waste paper or other litter.*

* NOTE – it is particularly objectionable and dangerous to leave bottles, tins and broken glass in the Outwoods, as these may cause fire in hot weather, and may injure children or animals that tread on them.

9. No unauthorised person shall injure, deface or otherwise tamper with any hydrant or other firefighting appliances provided or maintained by the Committee in the Outwoods, nor use the same except for the purpose of fighting an outbreak of fire.
10. No unauthorised person shall injure, deface or remove any building, structure, shelter, commemoration stone, seat, gate, fence, implement, notice board or other things put up or maintain by the committee in the Outwoods or deface any rock, tree or turf by cutting or otherwise writing or marking words or marks thereon.
11. No unauthorised person shall post or paint any bill, placard, advertisement or notice on any hedge, wall, enclosure, tree, fence, rock, building, seat, notice board or any other erection in the Outwoods.
12. No unauthorised person shall catch or kill any bird or animal, or set any trap, net, or line, or lay any snare for birds or animals, or take, injure, or destroy any birds eggs or nests, or shoot or chase or drive game or other animals or fish in any waters in the Outwoods or use the Outwoods for the purpose of fishing in any waters adjacent thereto.
13. No person shall cause or suffer any dog belonging to him or in his charge to enter or remain in the Outwoods unless such dog can be and continue to be under proper control and be effectively restrained from causing annoyance to any person and from worrying or disturbing any animal.
14. No person shall bathe in any lake or pond that may be made or constructed or in any stream in the Outwoods, or use the Outwoods for bathing in any lake, pond or stream adjacent to the Outwoods.
15. No unauthorised person shall enter the Outwoods otherwise on foot or draw, drive or propel across or over or place upon any part of the Outwoods any carriage, cart, caravan, truck motor car, cycle or other vehicle, or permit to enter the Outwoods any horse, cattle, sheep or other animal except dogs as aforesaid.
16. Where by notices exhibited in the Outwoods the committee set apart any parts of the Outwoods for specific purposes, no unauthorised person shall resort to assemble with other persons on or attempt to occupy any such part.
17. No unauthorised person shall erect or permit to remain in the Outwoods any building, shed, tent or other structure.
18. No unauthorised person shall place in the Outwoods any show, exhibition, swing, roundabout, organ or other like thing.
19. No unauthorised person shall on any part of the Outwoods hawk or sell or expose or offer for sale or hire any article or thing.

20. No person shall play or take part in any game in the Outwoods in such place or in such fashion as to cause danger or annoyance to others.
21. No unauthorised person shall hold any meeting or assembly in the Outwoods.
22. No person shall in the Outwoods use any indecent or obscene language to the annoyance of any person in the Outwoods, or behave in an indecent or offensive manner.
23. Every person who shall offend against any of the foregoing Byelaws shall be liable for such offence to a penalty of £5.

Provided nevertheless, that the Justices or Court before whom any complaint may be made or any proceedings may be taken in respect of any such offence, may, if they think fit, adjudge the payment, as a penalty, of any sum less than the full amount of the penalty imposed by this Byelaw.

24. Nothing in or done under any of the provisions of the foregoing Byelaws shall in any respect prejudice or injuriously affect the rights of any person acting legally by virtue of some estate, right or interest in, over or affecting the Outwoods.

Appendix 3



**Leicestershire
& Rutland
Wildlife Trust**

Report on a survey of The Outwoods

Surveyed by Sara Botterell, John Bristow, Hazel Graves & Claire Install of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, 02.05.17 & 04.05.17

Written by Sara Botterell, December 2017

Owner: Charnwood Borough Council Grid Reference: SK 5158 1603

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1. Summary

The Outwoods is composed of a mixture of conifer plantation and large areas of semi-natural woodland on an ancient woodland site. Although subject to considerable intervention in the past, the woodland retains significant areas of ancient woodland ground flora, a botanically diverse area of wet Alder woodland and some areas of mature Oak woodland including Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*). Also present are large areas of naturally regenerating Oak/Birch woodland. Many of the plant species identified are typical of Charnwood Forest and now largely confined to this area within Leicestershire and Rutland. These include the red data book species Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*). Also present are some small streams and open glade areas.

Of particular value for wildlife are the following habitats some of which are LLRBAP (Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan) and/or UKBAP (UK Biodiversity Action Plan).

- Broadleaved woodland - LLRBAP & UKBAP (section 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2 & 4.1.1.3)
- Wet woodland - LLRBAP & UKBAP (section 4.1.1.1)
- Streams – UKBAP (section 4.1.3)
- Ancient woodland ground flora (section 4.1.1)
- Woodland Glades (section 4.1.2)

As The Outwoods is a SSSI, any management should be agreed with Natural England. Management should aim to retain and enhance these habitats with particular emphasis on the old woodland ground flora, the wet woodland and the mature Oak woodland. Continued expansion of the semi-natural Oak/Birch woodland should be achieved by removal of non-native species and replacement with native species, preferably by natural regeneration. Further enhancement of the diversity of the site and hence its wildlife potential should be achieved by an increase in the number of glades and creation of woodland rides. Efforts should be made to protect new glades and rides from human / canine disturbance to allow vegetation to establish.

2. Introduction

The Outwoods is part of the Beacon Hill, Hangingstone and Outwoods SSSI and is included in the Inventory of Ancient Woodland. It is situated at the north-eastern edge of Charnwood Forest, approximately 1km south-west of Loughborough and separated from it by mostly arable farm land. It covers approximately 45ha and is part of a larger block of woodland totalling approximately 74ha, most of which is also part of the SSSI. Rocky outcrops typical of Charnwood Forest and of high geological interest are present. In addition to the woodland, the SSSI also contains acid grassland, heath and scrub.

The woodland was originally dominated by Sessile Oak, but between 1900 and 1945 was mostly clear-felled and either replanted with conifer or left to regenerate naturally resulting in Oak/Birch woodland. Planting with some non-native broadleaf trees also occurred. In later years the area of conifer woodland has been further reduced and is gradually being replaced with native trees by either planting or natural regeneration. Currently approximately 25% of the woodland is conifer plantation. The small areas that were not clear felled contain mature Oak or Oak/Birch woodland or wet Alder woodland.

Some habitat diversity occurs with the presence of small streams, springs and open glades in close association with the woodland. Habitat diversity increases the wildlife potential of the site. For example, open glade areas can support a rich invertebrate community including butterflies and damselflies and provide important feeding areas for birds and bats, that nest and roost in the woodland.

3. Methods

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust surveyed the site in May 2017 to assess habitat quality and to give advice on management. This was primarily a botanical survey. The site was divided into compartments based on the 1989 management plan. A map (Appendix 3) is included at the end of this report which shows the compartment boundaries and broad habitat type. Photographs are included in Appendix 2. Species lists (Appendix 1) were compiled for each compartment or feature where required. A list of incidental fauna was also compiled where it was noted, but no specific survey was undertaken.

Red data book plant species were defined as described in the Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (2011, 4th edition) in accordance with the most recent Checklist and Rare Plant Register (Jeeves, 2011).

This report splits the site into its key habitats. For each habitat, the conservation value of the habitat is explained, a description of the areas where this habitat occurs within the site is included and finally management recommendations made to maintain or improve the habitat for wildlife.

4. Results

4.1 Habitats

4.1.1 Woodland

In Leicestershire and Rutland woodland is a rare habitat extending over about 4% of the counties. Only 1% is ancient woodland and a large part of this has been damaged by felling and replanting. All ancient woodlands, including replanted ones, are important due to their rarity and because of the large number of animals and plants that are largely confined to this habitat. The LLRBAP identifies wet woodland and broadleaf woodland as priority habitats. Deadwood found in these woodlands provides important sites for hole-nesting birds and bats and also good habitat for saprophytic invertebrates and fungi. Old stumps and root plates provide good habitat for ferns and bryophytes.

Conifer plantation woodland has little conservation value. Lack of light allows for virtually no ground flora or understorey to develop. The woodland therefore supports limited native wildlife.

4.1.1.1 Wet woodland

At the southern end of the wood lies compartment 13 which is largely composed of semi-natural wet woodland dominated by young high forest Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). A network of small, shallow streams some with gravelly beds cross this area and arise from a natural spring. The understorey contains mainly Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Regenerating Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is frequent in places. The ground flora is particularly species-rich containing seven ancient woodland indicator species. These include locally frequent Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) on the stream banks. Species that prefer more acidic soils are frequent and include Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Ramsons or Wild Garlic (*Allium ursinum*) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*). Wood Sage is now largely confined to Charnwood forest. Large Bitter-cress (*Cardamine amara*), a plant of wet places which is becoming scarce in the county, is locally frequent in this compartment. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is more common in the drier areas around the edges which also contain large patches of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) with Birch and Oak in the canopy. Some tree planting, including Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) has taken place. Deadwood is present, but this is limited due to the relatively young age of the trees. See Appendix 1 for species list, Appendix 2, Photos 1-5 for photographs and Appendix 3 for a map.

A separate survey indicates that this area contains a diverse bryophyte flora including species indicative of old, wet woodland including a number of rare species and Charnwood Forest specialties (Hamzaoui, 2017).

Previous records of Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*), in this area (Jeeves, 2011) were not repeated in this survey, but this may have been due to the season in which the survey took place. Yellow Loosestrife is a red data book plant listed as rare in Leicestershire and Rutland.

4.1.1.2 Mature Oak woodland

Within the Outwoods lie a number of small areas of mature Oak woodland. The ancient woodland indicator species Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) is present as are Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and the hybrid of the two, *Q. petraea x Q. robur* = *Q. x rosacea*. Due to time constraints, the exact distribution of Oak species for each compartment was not determined.

At the south-western edge of the wood lies compartment 10. This narrow strip of land is separated from Woodhouse Lane by a dry-stone wall. A gravelled path runs roughly along its centre. The ground rises to outcrops on the east side. It is dominated by mature Oak which include Sessile Oak and Hybrid Oak. More detailed survey would be required to determine the relative distribution of Oak species and whether or not Pedunculate Oak was also present in this compartment. The northern third of Compartment 10 contains an understorey dominated by Holly with frequent Rowan. Bramble is dominant in the ground flora with occasional Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and large patches of Bluebell are present. In the south little understorey is present except in the far east side of the compartment. The ground is largely bare to the east of the path and to the west of the path it contains mainly short grasses and bryophytes. **This area also contains a large colony (100+ plants) of Common Cow-wheat (SK5154 1578 - SK51611569). There is a further small colony at the southern end (SK5170 1560). Common Cow-wheat is a red data book species, listed as rare in Leicestershire and Rutland (Jeeves, 2011) and is a plant of old woodland on acidic soils now confined to Charnwood Forest.** Across the compartment, in addition to Sessile Oak, four further ancient woodland indicator species are present, Wood Sorrel, Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Wood Anemone and Great Wood-rush. Also present are Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), a plant of old woodland and Pill Sedge (*Carex pilulifera*) a plant of heath grassland that is nearly confined to Charnwood Forest. See Appendix 1 for species list, Appendix 2, Photos 6 & 7 for photographs and Appendix 3 for a map.

Compartment 5 is a small area containing mature Oak and some Birch with mainly Holly in the understorey. There is a small open area with wet-loving plants including Rushes. A larger open area is present by the road where coppicing of Hazel, Sycamore and Rhododendron has taken place. A large old Hazel coppice is present. See Appendix 1 for species list and Appendix 3 for a map.

Compartment 4 is composed of predominantly semi-natural Oak and Birch woodland containing some mature trees (e.g. A Pedunculate Oak at ~3.8m, SK5144916337) and regenerating Oak/Birch woodland. Mature Beech were also seen, some with evidence of decay. A very large specimen of Sycamore is present (SK5148816305). The understorey includes Holly and Elder. Honeysuckle is frequent. Hornbeam and Sycamore regeneration was noted. Bramble and Bracken are the dominant ground flora and the ancient woodland indicator species Wood Sorrel and Yellow Pimpernel were also seen. A single specimen of Hard-fern was observed adjacent to a path (SK 5139 1621). Some deadwood is present. A small stream (see Section 4.1.3) crosses the compartment and is surrounded by a richer ground flora than that seen elsewhere in the compartment. This includes two additional ancient woodland indicators, Great Wood-rush and Yellow Archangel which was only seen in this area. Also present are Wild Angelica, which again was only observed in this area, Bugle, Wood Sage and another single specimen of Hard-fern on the stream bank (SK51401629). Compartment 4 also

contains an open area (see Section 4.1.2). See Appendix 1 for species lists (one for the general compartment and one for the area adjacent to the stream), Appendix 2, Photos 8-12 for photographs and Appendix 3 for a map.

Additionally, a small area of mature Oak is situated in the north-east of Compartment 1 and some mature Oak line the small stream that runs along the south-east side of Compartment 3, along the eastern edge of Compartment 7 and the northern edge of Compartment 12. See Appendix 3 for a map.

4.1.1.3 Semi-natural regenerating Oak/Birch woodland

Within the wood there are a number of areas where felling has taken place then the woodland allowed to regenerate naturally. These areas are largely dominated by Birch and Oak woodland in varying proportions. The extent of old woodland ground flora is variable.

Compartment 2 is an area dominated by young regenerating Birch. Frequent Rowan and Sycamore and rare Beech and Oak regeneration also occur. Holly is frequent in the understorey and Bramble is the dominant ground flora. Cherry and Lime are also present with rare frequency. No Bluebell or other old woodland species were noted in the ground flora. This woodland composition extends into a small section of Compartment 1. See Appendix 1 for species list, Appendix 2, Photo 13 for photograph and Appendix 3 for a map.

Compartment 3 is an area of semi-natural regenerating woodland where Oak is dominant. Some mature Oak trees are present. Also present are Birch, Rowan and Sycamore. Younger trees are present in the southern part with more mature trees also present further north. Bluebell are locally dominant and extensive, covering the majority of this compartment with Bramble being more dominant in the far south. Bracken is occasional. Outcrops are present on the higher elevation. Some old coppiced Hazel and Holly are present. Pathways and digging likely due to badger activity were noted. See Appendix 1 for species list, Appendix 2, Photos 14 & 15 for photographs and Appendix 3 for a map. There is a small stream running along the south-eastern boundary. This is lined with mature Oak and Scaly Male-fern, Wood-sorrel and Great Wood-rush are present on the banks. See Appendix 1 for an additional species list, Appendix 2, Photo. 2 for a photograph and Appendix 3 for a map.

Compartment 6 can be split roughly in half with the north-eastern half being composed of Larch plantation (see Section 4.1.1.4). The south-western half is composed of semi-natural woodland with regenerating Birch the dominant species. Also present are Rowan, Cherry and occasional mature Oak with Holly in the understorey (noted as Larch plantation in 1989 management plan). Rhododendron, Sycamore and Larch are also present as are Beech some of which are mature. The ground flora is fairly sparse, but Great Wood-rush is locally frequent and Yellow Pimpernel is also present. Also observed were one specimen of Slender St. John's-wort (*Hypericum pulchrum*), a plant of open woodland on acid soil that is becoming scarce and a few clumps of Green-ribbed Sedge (*Carex binervis*), a species of heath grassland and woodland on acid soils which is almost confined to Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire. A possible badger trail was also noted going towards the road where a gap is present in the dry-stone wall. See Appendix 1 for species list, Appendix 2, Photo 16 for photograph and Appendix 3 for a map.

Compartment 8 is an area that is currently fenced containing semi-natural Oak/Birch woodland with Holly, Rowan, Elder and Sycamore regeneration in the understorey with frequent Rhododendron. Bramble, Bracken and Bluebell are frequent in the ground flora. See Appendix 1 for species list and Appendix 3 for a map.

Compartments 9 and 11 are largely composed of semi-natural regenerating Birch, Oak and Rowan with Birch generally the dominant species and variable amounts of Oak. Cherry and Sycamore regeneration are also common. Mature Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) occur rarely. Holly and Hazel are present in the understorey. Bramble is dominant in the ground flora, beneath which Bluebell and Wood Anemone are locally abundant (more common in the south of the compartments). Wood-sorrel also occurs with rare frequency and Yellow Pimpernel is common along the path edges. In general, the ground flora is more species rich in the south of the compartments. Rhododendron occurs with rare frequency. Blocks of mature Scots Pine and European Larch plantation also occur (Section 4.1.1.4). See Appendix 1 for species list, Appendix 2, Photo 17 for photograph and Appendix 3 for a map.

Compartment 12 is mostly composed of young birch regeneration with Rowan and Holly in the understorey. Also present are occasional Oak; some young planted specimens and some more mature trees (up to ~2m in diameter) particularly along the northern border and also scattered across the compartment. This compartment previously contained Scot's Pine plantation with Sycamore plantation at the eastern boundary according to the 1989 management plan. It has retained some ancient woodland ground flora with extensive areas of Bluebell along with 4 ancient woodland indicator species and Ransoms. Mature Sweet Chestnut are rare and non-native invasive species including Snowberry (*Symporicarpos albus*), Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* sp.) occur. Also, young sycamore regeneration is frequent. See Appendix 1 for species list, Appendix 2, Photo 18 for photograph and Appendix 3 for a map.

4.1.1.4 Conifer plantation

Compartment 1 is largely composed of mature Larch with a narrow strip of mature Scots Pine around the edge. Mature Beech occur at the far northern end amongst the conifer. Here there is virtually no understorey or ground flora, likely due to heavy usage by people. Outcrops are present. There are patches of dense Holly, Broad Buckler-fern and Bramble. Occasional Oak are also present. See Appendix 2, Photo 19 for a photograph.

Compartment 7 contains mature European Larch plantation with a dense understorey dominated by Holly and some Rhododendron. Spruce are planted around the edge. Approximately half of the plantation (at the north) has recently been clear felled (leaving a strip of conifer at the far north) and replanted with broadleaf trees. Natural regeneration including Rowan, Oak and Birch is also taking place.

Compartments 9 and 10 contain blocks of mature Scots Pine and European Larch with Bramble dominant in the ground flora, Broad Buckler-fern is common and some Bracken is present. Rhododendron is present occasionally.

4.1.2 Glades and Rides

Woodland glades and rides, provide two important sheltered habitat types within a woodland, those of unimproved species-rich grassland and woodland edge habitat where tall herbs and grasses transition into scrub then high forest.

Species-rich grassland can support a rich invertebrate community including butterflies and damselflies and also provide important feeding areas for birds, bats and small mammals.

A greater diversity of species is found in the first 10m from the woodland edge due to higher levels of sunlight. Increased sunlight allows for a greater range of nectar and pollen producing plants providing food for invertebrates. In turn this means more berries and seeds will be available as food for birds and small mammals. Additionally, the structural diversity given by a scrubby layer at the

edge of the high canopy grading into tall herbs then a shorter sward provides a wide range of microhabitats leading to greater biodiversity than is generally seen in the high canopy areas alone. Scrub also provides shelter. Native scrub will provide these benefits even at the edge of a conifer plantation on an ancient woodland site.

Due to heavy usage by people throughout the Outwoods, there is little ground flora present on pathways so grassy rides are not present. However, some open glade areas are present containing taller herbs and grasses and the potential exists to generate further areas of glades and rides in areas where conifer are removed.

At the north-east edge of Compartment 4, by a Charcoal burning kiln, is a large, open area (~0.6 ha) dominated by Bracken in one part and Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) in the other. Here a number of butterflies were observed including Peacock, Orange tip and Brimstone. Rhododendron and Sycamore regeneration are occurring at a low frequency. See Appendix 2, Photo 20 for a photograph.

As described in Section 4.1.1.4 a large section of Compartment 7 has been clear felled. Although still largely open this area has been planted with broad-leaf trees and natural regeneration is also occurring.

Compartment 5 contains a couple of small glade areas (Section 4.1.1.2).

4.1.3 Stream/springs

Springs and small streams provide important wet conditions for moisture loving plants found in wet woodland including bryophytes. With associated woodland the streams form important wildlife corridors. Woody debris, leaf litter and a gravelly substrate provides important food and shelter for invertebrates within the stream.

The streams and springs that are situated across the wetter part of Compartment 13 are responsible for the presence of the wet woodland and support a wide community of wet-loving higher plants and bryophytes (see Photos 2,3 & 4 in Appendix 2).

An additional small stream provides a wildlife corridor across Compartment 4 and along the south-eastern edge of Compartment 3. This stream supports a more diverse ground flora on its banks and in the adjacent area than is found across the remainder of the compartments (see Sections 4.1.1.2 & 4.1.1.3). In places the water level drops below the surface (see Photos 11, 12 & 21 in Appendix 2).

4.2 Red data book species summary

Species	Common name	Status	Location
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i> ^{1*}	Common Cow-wheat	Rare	SK5154 1578 - SK51611569 & SK5170 1560

As noted above Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) was not found during the course of this survey.

5. Management Recommendations

Due to its status as part of the Beacon Hill, Hangingstone and Outwoods SSSI all management within the woodland should be performed in agreement with Natural England.

5.1 Habitats

5.1.1 Woodland

The priorities are:

- To retain the remaining areas of ancient woodland ground flora.
- To retain the wet woodland and mature Oak woodland, in particular those containing Sessile Oak.
- To generate an increased diversity of structure across the woodland.
- To protect rare species such as Common Cow-wheat and species largely confined to Charnwood Forest such a Hard-fern
- Removal of non-native species

For areas of semi-natural broadleaf woodland, the woodland should be managed to maintain and enhance the diversity in the canopy, understorey and ground flora. This would be best achieved by minimal intervention allowing natural processes to take place. Additional recommendations include:

The wet woodland ground flora found in Compartment 13 is particularly species rich and sensitive to damage from overuse by people. It is therefore of importance to limit access to this area and if it is anticipated that increased numbers of people will be using the site to further protect the area by either fencing or explanation of why the area should not be entered.

Protection of remaining areas where ancient woodland ground flora is present across the site by controlling access.

Control of invasive species. Sycamore regeneration occurs throughout the woodland and should be removed where it will become a dominant influence. Particular care should be taken in Compartment 13 so as not to damage the ground flora. Rhododendron is present in Compartments 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Cotoneaster, Cherry Laurel and Snowberry are all found in Compartment 12. These species should be completely removed by cutting and treating the stumps with a suitable non-residual herbicide to restrict re-growth. **This should take place outside of the bird nesting season between November and February.** Secondary treatment of new growth may be required using non-residual herbicide and suitable adjuvant. The Snowberry may need to be dug out rather than cut.

Retain all dead wood in situ, both standing and fallen, unless causing a safety hazard, to provide habitat for saproxylic invertebrates and fungi. Cut logs and brash should be retained in the wood where possible.

Remove non-native species, in particular conifer. Staged removal of conifers followed by natural regeneration of native broadleaved species would be of most benefit to wildlife. If planting is required this should be of tree species native to the Charnwood Forest area and of local provenance. If a block of conifer is not being cleared, priority should be given to removal of conifer from the compartment edges (10m minimum) to allow the natural regeneration of a scrubby woodland edge composed of native species with the associated wildlife benefits described in Section 4.1.2. Additionally, where native trees are present amongst conifer plantation such as in Compartment 1, priority should be given to remove conifer from their surroundings to allow them to flourish.

Possibly close some of the walkways that appear to have been made unofficially. There are lots of these and some may not be needed so could be closed to allow ground flora to establish.

5.1.2 Glades and Rides

The priorities are to

Retain open areas as woodland glades.

To generate further glades and connecting rides amongst naturally regenerating woodland in areas where conifers are felled.

The aim of management is to maintain open sunny conditions and a structurally diverse, scrubby woodland edge. Sunlight should be able to reach the central grassland area and the south facing scrubby woodland edge if present.

For the greatest benefit rides and glades should be maintained as a three-zone system

A central zone of short grassland

Tall herbs and grasses bordering the central zone

A scrub zone allowed to develop into dense thickets in places, that grades into high forest

Control of scrub should take place outside of the bird nesting season between November and February

Efforts should be made to ensure that newly created glades and rides are not used as footpaths as this would prevent ground flora from becoming established.

For further information on creation and management of rides, glades and scallops please refer to:

[\\$FILE/ewgs-on011-ride-mangt.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on011-ride-mangt.pdf)

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/owning-a-wood/managing-your-woodland-for-wildlife/06-chapter-4---improving-woodland-habitat-for-wildlife.pdf>

5.1.3 Stream/springs

No management is required to maintain the high wildlife value of these natural habitats. Dynamic processes such as bank erosion of woodland streams and decomposition of woody debris continually provide new areas of habitat and should be left to continue. Fallen wood should be left in situ providing it does not cause a hazard. It is particularly important that the hydrology of Compartment 13 should be left unchanged to maintain the diverse wet woodland habitat.

6. References

Jeeves, M. (2011). *The Flora of Leicestershire and Rutland: Checklist and Rare Plant Register*. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Leicester.

Guidelines for the Selection of Local Wildlife Sites (previously known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or SINCs) in Leicestershire and Rutland. 4th Edition (revised 2011). Available from <http://www.lrwts.org.uk/what-we-do/local-wildlife-sites/>

Hamzaoui, U. (2017). Report on a bryophyte survey of the wet woodland at The Outwoods

Appendix 1: Species Lists

Surveys performed by Sara Botterell, John Bristow, Hazel Graves and Claire Install on 02.05.17 and 04.05.17.

DAFOR Abbreviations: D – dominant (75-100% cover), A - abundant (25-74% cover), F – frequent (10-24% cover), O – occasional (5-9% cover), R – (<5% cover), LA – locally abundant, LF – locally frequent, P – present.

Local Wildlife Site (LWS) species lists as defined in the Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (2011, 4th edition).

List Z1 – Ancient Woodland Indicator species

* Red data book species: As defined in the Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (2011, 4th edition).

¹Axiophyte: Considered a species of good quality habitat in Leicestershire and Rutland (Jeeves, M. (2011))

²W&C: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sch 8 species

Compartment 13

Species	Common name	DAFOR
List Z1 – LWS ancient woodland indicator species		
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> ¹	Wood Anemone	LF
<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i> ¹	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage	LF
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> ¹	Yellow Archangel	P
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i> ¹	Great Wood-rush	P
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i> ¹	Yellow Pimpernel	P
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> ¹	Wood-sorrel	P
<i>Veronica montana</i> ¹	Wood Speedwell	R
W&C² and axiophyte¹ species not included above		
<i>Ajuga reptans</i> ¹	Bugle	P
<i>Allium ursinum</i> ¹	Ramsons	P
<i>Cardamine amara</i> ¹	Large Bitter-cress	LF
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> ²	Bluebell	P
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i> ¹	Wood Sage	P
Additional species		
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	P
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	P
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies	P
<i>Betula sp.</i>	Birch	P
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood-sedge	P
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	P
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	P
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	P
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern	P

<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Cellandine	P
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	P
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft-rush	P
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	P
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	P
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Red Currant	P
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	P
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	P
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	P
<i>Tilia sp.</i>	Lime	P
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog-violet	R

Compartment 10

Species	Common name	DAFOR
List Z1 – LWS ancient woodland indicator species		
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> ¹	Wood Anemone	R
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i> ¹	Great Wood-rush	R
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i> ¹	Yellow Pimpernel	R
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> ¹	Wood-sorrel	R
<i>Quercus petraea</i> ¹	Sessile Oak	D (Oaks combined)
W&C², Red Data Book* and axiophyte¹ species not included above		
<i>Carex pilulifera</i> ¹	Pill Sedge	R
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> ²	Bluebell	LF
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i> ^{1*}	Common Cow-wheat	LF
<i>Stellaria holostea</i> ¹	Greater Stitchwort	R
Additional species		
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	R
<i>Circaeaa lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-nightshade	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	R
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern	O
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	R
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common Ivy	LF
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	D
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	O
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	R
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	O
<i>Q. petraea x Q. robur = Q. x rosacea</i>	Hybrid Oak	D (Oaks combined)
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron	R
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	D
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	F
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	

Compartments 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 & 11 and 12

Species	Common name	Compartment								
		2	3	4	5	6	8	9 & 11	12	
		DAFOR								
List Z1 – LWS ancient woodland indicator species										
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> ¹	Wood Anemone	-	-	-	-	-	-	LA	R	
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i> ¹	Great Wood-rush	-	-	-	-	LA	-	-	-	
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i> ¹	Yellow Pimpernel	-	-	R	-	R	-	LF	O	
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> ¹	Wood-sorrel	-	-	R	-	-	-	R	O	
<i>Quercus petraea</i> ¹	Sessile Oak	-	-	-	-	-	-	R	-	
<i>Veronica montana</i> ¹	Wood Speedwell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R	
W&C², Red Data Book*, axiophyte¹ species not included above and other notable species										
<i>Allium ursinum</i> ¹	Ramsons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	R	
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard-fern	-	-	R	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Carex binervis</i> ¹	Green-ribbed Sedge	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	-	
<i>Carex pilulifera</i> ¹	Pill Sedge	-	-	-	-	-	-	R	-	
<i>Crataegus monogyna x laevigata = C. x media</i> ¹	Hybrid Hawthorn	-	-	R	-	-	-	R	-	
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> ²	Bluebell	-	A	R	-	-	F	LA	A	
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i> ¹	Slender St John's-wort	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	-	
<i>Luzula campestris</i> ¹	Field Wood-rush	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	-	
Additional species										
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	F	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
<i>Betula</i> sp.	Birch	D	P	P	P	D	F	P	D	
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter-cress	-	-	-		-	-	-	P	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	-	
<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.	Cotoneaster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Scaly Male-fern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern	-	P	-	-	-	P	P	-	
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male fern	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	P	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	R	-	P	-	P	R	-	-	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	F	P	P	P	P	O	P	P	
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Compact Rush	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft-rush	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch	-	-	-	-	LD	-	LD	-	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	P	-	F	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Malus</i> sp.	Apple	-	R	-	P	-	-	-	-	
<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	Three-nerved	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	

	Sandwort								
<i>Picea</i> sp.	Spruce	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	-	-	-	-	-	-	LD	-
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	R	-	-	-	P	-	P	-
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	-	O	P	-	-	F	O	-
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	P
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Oak	R	D	P	P	P	D	P	-
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron	-	-	P	P	P	F	R	-
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	D	P	P	-	P	F	P	P
<i>Schedonorus gigantea</i>	Giant Fescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	-	-	P	-	-	P	-	-
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	F	P	-	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
<i>Tilia</i> sp.	Lime	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Ulmus</i> sp.	Elm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	P

Compartment 4, area surrounding the stream

Species	Common name	DAFOR
List Z1 – LWS ancient woodland indicator species		
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> ¹	Yellow Archangel	R
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i> ¹	Great Wood-rush	R
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i> ¹	Yellow Pimpernel	R
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> ¹	Wood-sorrel	LF
W&C², Red Data Book[*] and axiophyte¹ species not included above		
<i>Ajuga reptans</i> ¹	Bugle	LF
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica	R
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard-fern	R
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i> ¹	Wood Sage	R
Additional species		
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	P
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	P
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	P
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male fern	P
<i>Malus</i> sp.	Apple	P
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	P
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	P
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	P
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	P

Compartment 3 wet ditch

Species	Common name	DAFOR
List Z1 – LWS ancient woodland indicator species		
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i> ¹	Great Wood-rush	P
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> ¹	Wood-sorrel	P
Additional species		
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	P
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Scaly Male-fern	P
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	P
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	P
<i>Quercus sp.</i>	Oak	P
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron	P

Incidental records

Mammal	Birds	Amphibian	Insect
Grey Squirrel	Blackbird	Frog	Brimstone
	Bluetit		Orange tip
	Chiff chaff		Peacock
	Cuckoo		
	Great tit		
	Greater spotted woodpecker		
	Jay		
	Robin		
	Wren		

Appendix 2: Photographs



Photo. 1: Compartment 13, drier section.



Photo. 2: Compartment 13 spring.



Photo. 3: Compartment 13 stream



Photo. 4: Compartment 13 stream



Photo. 5: Compartment 13



Photo. 6: Compartment 10
Looking southeast



Photo. 7: Compartment 10 looking northwest.



Photo. 8: Compartment 4



Photo. 9: Compartment 4



Photo. 10: Compartment 4, mature Sycamore



Photo. 11: Compartment 4 stream



Photo 12: Compartment 4 stream



Photo 13: Compartment 2



Photo. 14: Compartment 3 southern end



Photo. 15: Compartment 3 northern end.



Photo. 16: Compartment 6, Great Wood-rush



Photo. 17: Compartment 11



Photo. 18: Compartment 12



Photo. 19: Compartment 1



Photo. 20: Compartment 4, glade.



Photo. 21: Stream at edge of Compartment 3.

Map



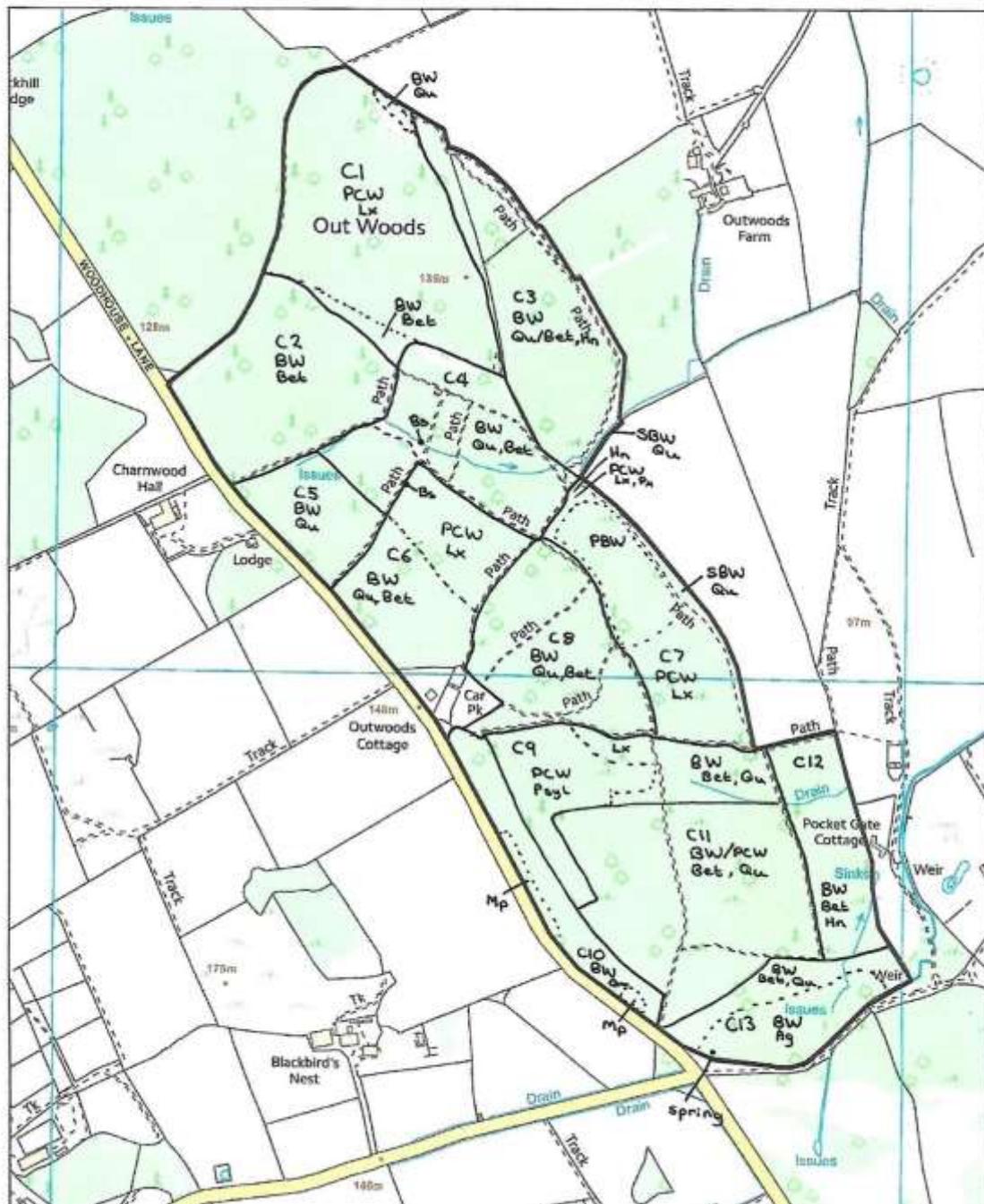
Leicestershire
& Rutland
Wildlife Trust

Charnwood Forest Habitat Survey 2017

Outwoods

Drawn by Uta Hamzaoui on 27/04/2017

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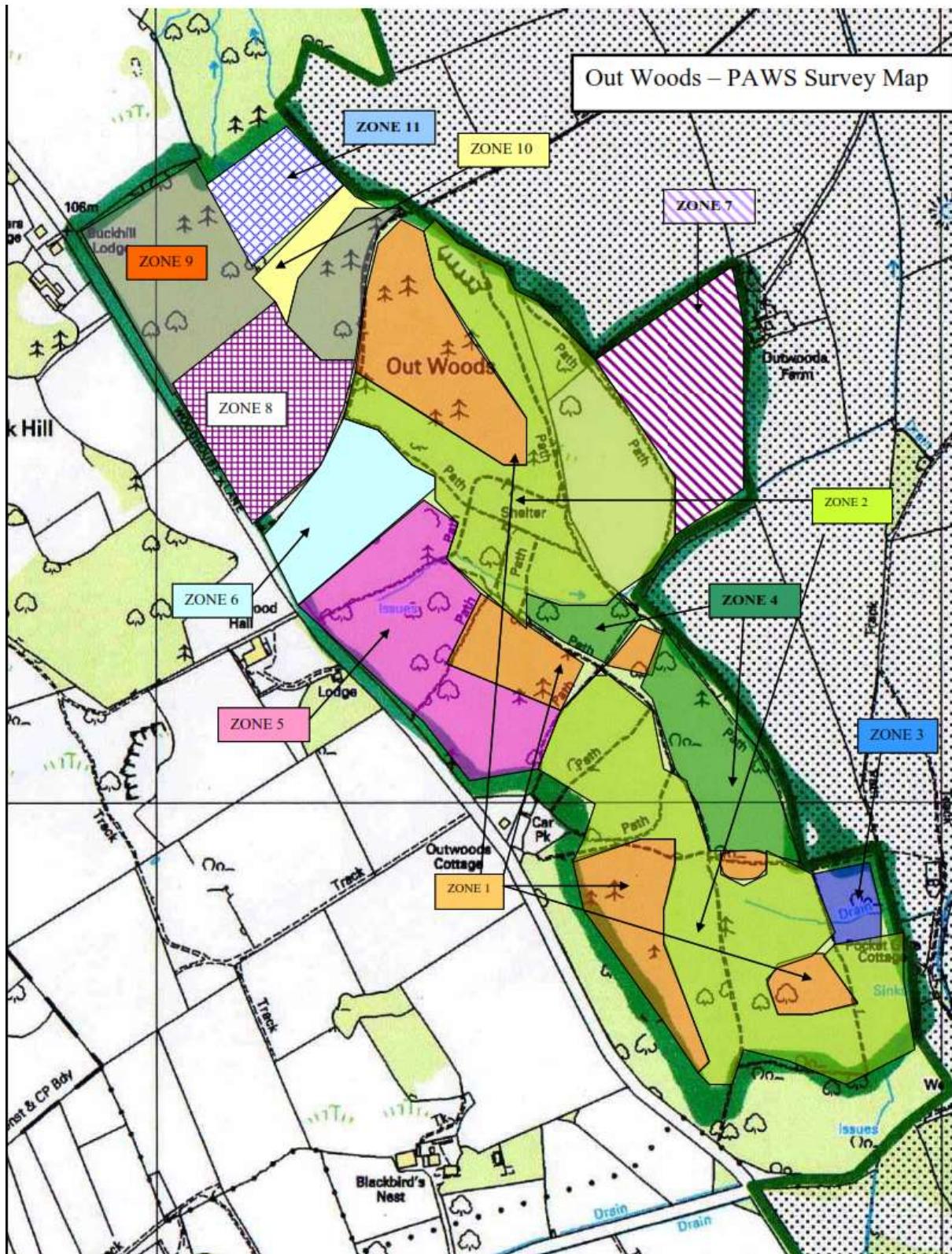
Habitat codes

BW	Broadleaf woodland	-----	Habitat boundary
PBW	Broadleaf plantaiion	_____	Compartment
PCW	Conifer plantation	C1	Compartment label, eg. compartment 1
SBW	Scattered broadleaf woodland		

Dominant species codes

Ag	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder
Bet	<i>Betula</i> sp.	Birch
Bs	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard-fern
Hn	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
Lx	<i>Larix</i> sp.	Larch
Mp	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat
Px	<i>Picea</i> sp.	Spruce
Psyl	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
Qu	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Oak

Appendix 4



PAWS ZONE SURVEY TABLE					
Wood	Out Woods	Zone No.	1	Surveyor/date	GW 23/6/16
Grid Ref: SK515159					

STEP 1 Stand Notes					
<p>Description: This wood is jointly managed; Zones 1 to 6 by Charnwood Borough Council & Zones 8 to 10 by Leics County Council. Zone 7 is privately owned. This zone consists of blocks of mature conifers, mainly SP and larch and some NS. Understorey is generally light with holly and birch. In a few areas it is stronger with young oak, ash & sycamore coppice and rowan present. Ground flora is predominantly bracken and bramble with scattered patches of bluebells. Very few other AW plants present. Some old stumps noted.</p> <p>Rhododendron is present both as large bushes and young saplings.</p> <p>The main paths through this wood are generally good although a bit narrow in places.</p>					
Crop Species?	Conifers: SP/larch/NS	Broadleaves: oak/bi/ash/syc			
Semi natural composition	>80%	50-80%	20-50%	<20%	1-5% X
Understorey- Hazel etc	>80%	50-80%	20-50%	<20% X	1-5%
Tree Regeneration (<30yrs)? DAFOR	Conifer	Semi Natural: canopy	:understorey R	:ground	
Invasive species? DAFOR	Rhododendron X	H Balsam	J Knotweed	Snowberry	Other
Risk of invasion of coarse vegetation?	Species: bramble & bracken		High	Medium X	Low
Grazing/Browsing Damage?	Species: Old squirrel damage noted on hardwoods.	Damage assessment needed Y/N? N	Fence repair needed Y/N? N	Other comment	
STEP 2 Assessment of Ancient Woodland Remnant Features					
	DAFOR or absent	Threat Category S/T/C *	Agent of threat		
Woodland specialist Flora	O	S			
Deadwood	R	S			
Pre Plantation trees (semi mature onwards)	None in zone				
Archaeology Y/N?	N	Category:	Threat S/T/C	Agent of threat:	

STEP 3 Assessment of Work Required	
Standard work Proposals – choose A-H	D
Work Priority – choose 1(high)-5(low)	4
Site specific work proposals (max 254 characters/spaces)	Where there is a strong understorey these areas could be thinned over a long period of time in order to release the broadleaves. Where there is little or no understorey either clearfell or group fell and replant in tubes with native species of trees and shrubs. Rides and tracks could be improved by some internal landscaping during thinning/felling operations. Rhododendron should be eradicated from whole wood.



***s** = **secure** ie no threats to long term survival **t** = **threatened**- under stress but surviving just now
severely threatened and could disappear shortly **c=critical**





WOODLAND

TRUST

PAWS ZONE SURVEY TABLE					
Wood	Out Woods	Zone No.	2	Surveyor/date	GW 23/6/16
Grid Ref: SK515163					

STEP 1	Stand Notes
Description: This wood is jointly managed; Zones 1 to 6 by Charnwood Borough Council & Zones 8 to 10 by Leics County Council. Zone 7 is privately owned. This is a large area of the wood made up of broadleaves, mainly semi-mature birch with some rowan and oak of similar age. Also scattered throughout are much older specimens of 'Charnwood' oak, sweet chestnut and beech. In the centre, near 'The Shelter' are some particularly large specimens. There is a small area of alder coppice in the southern section. Understorey is generally good and some broadleaved regen was noted. Ground flora is predominantly bracken and bramble with scattered patches of bluebells, creeping jenny and herb robert. Very few other AW plants present. Some old stumps noted.	
Part of this area is designated as a conservation area and fenced to exclude public access.	
An important feature in this zone are the two outcrops of rock that are present.	
Rhododendron is present and quite strong in places. Some attempt has been made to remove it but has re-grown from stumps	
The main paths through this wood are generally good although a bit narrow in places. There are a number of small open spaces particularly round the specimen trees.	
The main stream that runs through this area has a good mix of light and shade.	

Crop Species?	Conifers:		Broadleaves: Bl/oak/SwCh/rowan/Be			
Semi natural composition	>80%	X	50-80%	20-50%	<20%	1-5%
Understorey- Hazel etc	>80%		50-80%	20-50% X	<20%	1-5%
Tree Regeneration (<30yrs)? DAFOR	DAFOR	Conifer	Semi Natural: canopy	:understorey O	:ground O	
Invasive species? DAFOR	Rhododendron X	H Balsam	J Knotweed	Snowberry	Other	
Risk of invasion of coarse vegetation?	Species: Bracken and bramble				High	Medium X Low
Grazing/Browsing Damage?	Species: Some minor (mainly old) squirrel damage noted		Damage assessment needed Y/N? N	Fence repair needed Y/N? N	Other comment	

STEP 2	Assessment of Ancient Woodland Remnant Features				
		DAFOR or absent	Threat Category S/T/C *	Agent of threat	
Woodland specialist Flora		O	S		
Deadwood		O	S		
Pre Plantation trees (semi mature onwards)		F	S		
Archaeology Y/N?	N	Category:		Threat S/T/C	Agent of threat:

STEP 3	Assessment of Work Required				



WOODLAND
TRUST

Standard work Proposals – choose A-H	D
Work Priority – choose 1(high)-5(low)	4
Site specific work proposals (max 254 characters/spaces)	Gradual thinning of birch areas favoring oak and allowing any regen to develop. Although some open areas exist tracks and rides would benefit from some internal landscaping to encourage more floral diversity. Rhododendron should be eradicated from whole wood.

*s = **secure** ie no threats to long term survival t =**threatened**- under stress but surviving just now c=critical- severely threatened and could disappear shortly







WOODLAND
TRUST

PAWS ZONE SURVEY TABLE					
Wood	Out Woods	Zone No.	3	Surveyor/date	GW 23/6/16
Grid Ref: SK518159					

STEP 1	Stand Notes				
Description: This wood is jointly managed; Zones 1 to 6 by Charnwood Borough Council & Zones 8 to 10 by Leics County Council. Zone 7 is privately owned. This zone is a small area of a mainly failed broadleaf planting (circa 20 years old). A few oak have survived but is mainly made up of natural regen birch and rowan. There is little understorey and ground flora is light bramble.					
Crop Species?	Conifers:			Broadleaves: B/oak/rowan	
Semi natural composition	>80% X	50-80%	20-50%	<20%	1-5%
Understorey- Hazel etc	>80%	50-80%	20-50%	<20%	1-5% X
Tree Regeneration (<30yrs)? DAFOR	Conifer	Semi Natural: canopy	:understorey	:ground	
Invasive species? DAFOR	Rhododendron	H Balsam	J Knotweed	Snowberry	Other
Risk of invasion of coarse vegetation?	Species: Bramble & bracken			High	Medium X Low
Grazing/Browsing Damage?	Species:	Damage assessment needed Y/N?	Fence repair needed Y/N?	Other comment	
STEP 2	Assessment of Ancient Woodland Remnant Features				
	DAFOR or absent	Threat Category S/T/C *	Agent of threat		
Woodland specialist Flora	None				
Deadwood	None				
Pre Plantation trees (semi mature onwards)	None				
Archaeology Y/N?	N	Category:	Threat S/T/C	Agent of threat:	

STEP 3	Assessment of Work Required			
Standard work Proposals – choose A-H	D			
Work Priority – choose 1(high)-5(low)	4			
Site specific work proposals (max 254 characters/spaces)	Future thinning to favour oak and open canopy to encourage development of understorey. Some enrichment planting could be considered.			

*s = secure ie no threats to long term survival t = threatened- under stress but surviving just now c=critical-severely threatened and could disappear shortly



PAWS ZONE SURVEY TABLE					
Wood	Out Woods	Zone No.	4	Surveyor/date	GW 23/6/16
Grid Ref: SK517161					

STEP 1	Stand Notes					
<p>Description: This wood is jointly managed; Zones 1 to 6 by Charnwood Borough Council & Zones 8 to 10 by Leics County Council. Zone 7 is privately owned. This zone is made up of two open areas. The larger one is a recent larch clearfell site which has not yet been re-stocked. There is some regen/regrowth of birch, sycamore and rowan and an occasional seedling was noted. The other area which has been felled for some time and is also mainly bracken shows some signs of colonisation by trees and scrub. There are more signs of a broader spectrum of woodland flora round the edges including red campion and rosebay willowherb.</p>						
Crop Species?	Conifers:			Broadleaves: Bl/rowan/oak		
Semi natural composition	>80%	50-80%	20-50%	<20% X	1-5%	
Understorey- Hazel etc	>80%	50-80%	20-50%	<20%	1-5%	
Tree Regeneration (<30yrs)? DAFOR	Conifer	Semi Natural: canopy O	:understorey O	:ground		
Invasive species? DAFOR	Rhododendron	H Balsam	J Knotweed	Snowberry	Other	
Risk of invasion of coarse vegetation?	Species			High	Medium	Low
Grazing/Browsing Damage?	Species:	Damage assessment needed Y/N?	Fence repair needed Y/N?	Other comment		
STEP 2	Assessment of Ancient Woodland Remnant Features					
	DAFOR or absent	Threat Category S/T/C *	Agent of threat			
Woodland specialist Flora	O	S				
Deadwood	None noted					
Pre Plantation trees (semi mature onwards)	None					
Archaeology Y/N?	N	Category:	Threat S/T/C	Agent of threat:		

STEP 3	Assessment of Work Required				
Standard work Proposals – choose A-H	F				
Work Priority – choose 1(high)-5(low)	3				
Site specific work proposals (max 254 characters/spaces)	Unsure what plans are for this site but would recommend treatment of bracken (if not able to use chemical other methods, e.g. rolling, could be used.) and re-stocking. The other block is interesting as some regeneration is taking place. In time it may become more wooded and in the meantime this transitional phase is a useful addition to the wood as a whole.				

*s = secure ie no threats to long term survival t =threatened- under stress but surviving just now
severely threatened and could disappear shortly

c=critical-



PAWS ZONE SURVEY TABLE					
Wood	Out Woods	Zone No.	5	Surveyor/date	GW 23/6/16
Grid Ref: SK513161					

STEP 1	Stand Notes					
<p>Description: This wood is jointly managed; Zones 1 to 6 by Charnwood Borough Council & Zones 8 to 10 by Leics County Council. Zone 7 is privately owned. This zone is almost pure pole stage birch with a few oak and rowan, with a light understorey and medium bracken and bramble beneath. There are a few large beech trees scattered throughout. Some work has been done to thin out the birch and it is looking quite promising. The track is rather narrow although some small scallops have been created.</p>						
Crop Species?	Conifers:			Broadleaves: Bi/be		
Semi natural composition	>80% X	50-80%	20-50%	<20%	1-5%	
Understorey- Hazel etc	>80%	50-80%	20-50%	<20%	1-5% X	
Tree Regeneration (<30yrs)? DAFOR	Conifer	Semi Natural: canopy	:understorey	:ground		
Invasive species? DAFOR	Rhododendron	H Balsam	J Knotweed	Snowberry	Other	
Risk of invasion of coarse vegetation?	Species: bramble			High	Medium X	Low
Grazing/Browsing Damage?	Species:	Damage assessment needed Y/N?	Fence repair needed Y/N?	Other comment		
STEP 2	Assessment of Ancient Woodland Remnant Features					
	DAFOR or absent	Threat Category S/T/C *	Agent of threat			
Woodland specialist Flora	R	S				
Deadwood	None noted					
Pre Plantation trees (semi mature onwards)	O	S				
Archaeology Y/N?	N	Category:	Threat S/T/C	Agent of threat:		

STEP 3	Assessment of Work Required				
Standard work Proposals – choose A-H	D				
Work Priority – choose 1(high)-5(low)	3				
Site specific work proposals (max 254 characters/spaces)	Continuation of thinning of birch and favoring oak. Could consider some enrichment planting of both trees and shrubs.				

***s = secure** ie no threats to long term survival **t = threatened**- under stress but surviving just now
severely threatened and could disappear shortly **c=critical-**





PAWS ZONE SURVEY TABLE

Wood	Out Woods	Zone No.	6	Surveyor/date	GW 23/6/16
Grid Ref: SK512163					

STEP 1 Stand Notes					
<p>Description: This wood is jointly managed; Zones 1 to 6 by Charnwood Borough Council & Zones 8 to 10 by Leics County Council. Zone 7 is privately owned. This zone is an area planted in 1985 and has a wide spectrum of trees including cherry, oak, red oak, whitebeam, birch and a few redwoods. There are also a few old beech trees scattered throughout. There is an understorey developing and the ground flora is mainly bramble.</p> <p>Track is very narrow and boxed in.</p>					
Crop Species?	Conifers: redwood	Broadleaves: Cherry/oak/ROK/Bi/W.Beam			
Semi natural composition	>80% X	50-80%	20-50%	<20%	1-5%
Understorey- Hazel etc	>80%	50-80%	20-50%	<20% X	1-5%
Tree Regeneration (<30yrs)? DAFOR	Conifer	Semi Natural: canopy	:understorey	:ground	
Invasive species? DAFOR	Rhododendron	H Balsam	J Knotweed	Snowberry	Other
Risk of invasion of coarse vegetation?	Species Bramble		High	Medium	Low
Grazing/Browsing Damage?	Species: None noted but squirrels present in wood.	Damage assessment needed Y/N? N	Fence repair needed Y/N?	Other comment	
STEP 2 Assessment of Ancient Woodland Remnant Features					
		DAFOR or absent	Threat Category S/T/C *	Agent of threat	
Woodland specialist Flora		R	S		
Deadwood		None noted			
Pre Plantation trees (semi mature onwards)		O	S		
Archaeology Y/N?	N	Category:	Threat S/T/C	Agent of threat:	

STEP 3 Assessment of Work Required		
Standard work Proposals – choose A-H	D	
Work Priority – choose 1(high)-5(low)	4	
Site specific work proposals (max 254 characters/spaces)	Standard thinning operation, removing red oak as a first choice. Widening of the track with some scalloping will help encourage wider ground flora diversity.	

*s = secure ie no threats to long term survival t =threatened- under stress but surviving just now c=critical-severely threatened and could disappear shortly



Appendix 6



Forestry Commission
England

Woodland Management Plan

Woodland Property Name	The Outwoods	
Case Reference	UR00219	
Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (ten years)	Approval Date:	To:
Five Year Review Date		

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

User Support

To maximise the functionality available:

- Connect to the internet;
- Enable macros as prompted;
- Where the text is blue and underlined additional information is available, hover over the text with your mouse and double click to open;
- Where you see the symbol, left click on either the symbol or the adjacent cell and press the F1 key for a further explanation of the detail required;
- Throughout the document where you see 'Add Box' double click on the text and additional boxes will appear.



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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	At the time of felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be reassessed 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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>



1. Property Details

<u>Woodland Property Name</u>		The Outwoods	
Name	Charnwood Borough Council	Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tenant <input type="checkbox"/>
Email	james.lee@charnwood.gov.uk	Contact Number	01509 634928
Agent Name (if applicable)			
Email		Contact Number	
County	Leicestershire	<u>Local Authority</u>	Charnwood Borough Council
Grid Reference	SK 516160	Single Business Identifier 	107107287
Management Plan Area (Hectares)		44 ha	
Have you included a Plan of Operations with this management plan?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
List the maps associated with this management plan			
Do you intend to use the information within the management plan and associated plan of operations to apply for the following		Felling Licence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thinning Licence <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland Regeneration Grant <input type="checkbox"/>	
Tick to declare management control and agreement to public availability of the plan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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).

The vision is to manage and improve the two characteristic types of woodland that exist here - acid oak woodland and wet alder woodland, and their associated species. To achieve this, there would be an ongoing programme of conifer removal and replanting (as outlined by the recent PAWS survey). There would also be the phased control of other non-native species, e.g. sycamore and rhododendron. Thinning of target areas would be undertaken to improve regeneration, and create a more diverse age structure and composition to the overall woodland. Good public access will continue with regular improvements to footpaths, infrastructure and interpretation. The important geological resource will continue to be monitored, and any recommended management works e.g. vegetation removal will be undertaken with consultation from Natural England.

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	Phased removal of all coniferous plantations as identified in the PAWS survey.
2	Replanting of coniferous areas with native species.
3	Establish rides in some previously coniferous areas.
4	Continue phased removal of large, seeding sycamores and removal of saplings.
5	Continue phased removal of rhododendron.

Add Box

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
6	Continue thinning of birch dominated areas to favour regeneration and improve structural diversity.
7	Continue to maintain footpath network.
8	Improve infrastructure - orientation panels, wheelchair friendly benches, waymarkers and free leaflet.
9	Continue to maintain water courses - clearing of channels and drainage under pathways.
10	Phased programme of drystone walling - local heritage feature.



No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
11	Monitor geological interest - liaise with NE regarding possible vegetation clearance from key outcrops.
12	Undertake archaeological survey work to identify historic features.
13	
14	
15	
16	

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
Fell coniferous areas and convert to native woodland.	One large area felled, need to tackle bracken problem prior to replanting.
Fell large seeding sycamores & control regeneration of non native tree species.	Most have now been felled. Only individuals with interest have been left.
Remove rhododendron.	This has gone well. Much rhododendron still to remove.
Thin birch dominated areas to increase structural diversity and encourage development of oak.	Good progress but more to be done.
Improve infrastructure.	New orientation panels are scheduled to be installed shortly. Improvement to access for woodland management required e.g. stacking/loading areas.

Add Box

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

The Outwoods are situated in the north-eastern part of Charnwood Forest, 2 miles west of Loughborough. The woods occupy the eastern escarpment of the Charnwood Forest, forming a prominent landscape feature above the town. The site is popular with local walkers and naturalists who benefit from a network of surfaced footpaths throughout the site.

The Outwoods forms part of Beacon Hill, Hangingstone and Outwoods Site of Special Scientific Interest. The SSSI was first notified in 1956 under The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 but was re-notified in 1987 under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Outwoods were included because it holds important geological outcrops, stands of ancient semi-natural alder woodland, breeding bird communities, a breeding site of palmate newt and plants characteristics of ancient semi-natural woodland on dry acidic soils.

The Outwoods can be divided into two broad woodland types - plantation and ancient semi-natural woodland – divisions that reflect the site's recent history. Between 1900 and 1945 much of the Outwoods was clear felled, with the land being either replanted or left to regenerate naturally. As a result approximately half of the woodland is conifer or mixed plantation whilst the remaining half is semi-natural woodland.

Mature conifer plantations established across the site are mainly European larch with beech and/or sycamore, whilst more recent plantations are predominantly Scots pine and Norway spruce. Because of the dense shade created by the conifers regeneration and ancient woodland groundflora in these areas is sparse.

The wood has two characteristic types of semi-natural woodland. The first is a distinctly wetter, neutral woodland and the second a more acidic, drier woodland. The former is associated with a number of watercourses draining a shallow valley and is characterised by alder and downy birch with ash, aspen and the occasional oak. The main shrubs are hazel, hawthorn, holly, and crab apple. Pendulous sedge, meadowsweet, wood anemone, yellow archangel, dog's mercury, greater woodrush and wood melick are some species of the rich ground flora layer. An impressive amount of standing and fallen deadwood has developed to benefit a richer invertebrate fauna.

The acidic type of woodland occurs along the ridge on the eastern edge of the wood. The native composition of the wood has been heavily altered by felling and replanting with exotic species such as beech, rhododendron, sycamore and conifers. Sessile oak, pedunculate oak, birch and rowan are the main trees that survive along with a ground flora of bramble, bracken, wavy hair grass and wood sage. In some areas bluebell and greater woodrush also occur. Notable plants include common cow-wheat, a county rarity.



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	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	All	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Special Area of Conservation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tree Preservation Order	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation Area	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Special Protection Area	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ramsar Site 	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
National Nature Reserve	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Local Nature Reserve	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please Specify): LWS	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Notes	Please see Appendix 1					

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species				
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No hard evidence, but inevitable given the type of woodland and habitat niches present.
Dormouse	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Great Crested Newt	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Otter	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Sand Lizard	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Smooth Snake	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Natterjack Toad	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Biodiversity - Priority Species				
Schedule 1 Birds	Species	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Brambling.
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Plants		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Common cow-wheat, redcurrant, bluebell, ramsoms



					and yellow archangel.
Fungi/Lichens	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			Extensive fungi list.
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			Policy to leave standing & fallen deadwood. Extensive Lepidoptera list.
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			Palmate newt present.
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Unscheduled Monuments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Registered Parks and Gardens	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Listed Buildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			Stone walls
Landscape					
<u>National Character Area</u> (please Specify): Falls within Area 73 Charnwood - National Character Area.					
National Park	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			Most easterly part of the National Forest. Also, part of the ancient Charnwood Forest.
People					
CROW Access	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			One public right of way.
Other Access Provision	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			Permitted rights of way.
Public Involvement	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			Volunteers regularly help with maintenance.
Visitor Information	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			Orientation panel and free leaflet.
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			Rangers provide guided walks
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Water					

Watercourses	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			Various small streams.
Lakes	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Ponds	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	2a,3a ,4a,5 a,8a, 9a,10 a,11a , 13a	Appendix 2 and 4. Oak, birch and rowan dominated, this forms part of a larger woodland type within the area. It has high conservation value and can be improved by the removal of invasive species.
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	1a,1b ,1c, 6a,6b 7a,7b ,7c,9 b,9c, 12a,1 2b,1 2c	The recent survey indicated the extent of conifer blocks within the woodland. These are relatively recent and need removing in order to improve diversity within the wood.
Semi-natural features in PAWS	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Appendix 3
Lowland beech and yew woodland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		



Upland mixed ash woods	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Upland Oakwood	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Wet woodland	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	11a		Alder woodland in the south easterly corner. Valuable habitat with very little public access. Managed as a non-intervention area.
Wood-pasture and parkland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Non Woodland Habitat Types					
Blanket bog	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Fenland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland calcareous grassland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland dry acid grassland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland heath land	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland meadows	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lowland raised bog	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Rush pasture	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Reed bed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Wood pasture	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Upland hay meadows	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Upland heath land	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Unimproved grassland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Peat lands	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Wetland habitats	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please Specify):	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			



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	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure	Notes (i.e. understorey or natural regeneration present)
Native Broadleaves	75	Uneven Aged	Natural regeneration present - birch, sycamore, oak.
Coniferous	25	Even Aged	No understorey or regeneration present.
Please Select....		Please Select...	
Please Select....		Please Select...	
Please Select....		Please Select...	

Uneven-aged woodland – young woodland facilitates loss of tree diversity

Ancient wood, juvenile wood, Middle-aged trees, Adult mixed forest, Mature woodland

Even-aged woodland – loss of tree diversity

V1.1



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
Likelihood of Presence		Low	Medium	High

5.2 Plant Health

Threat i (Other Please Specify)	Acute Oak Decline
Likelihood of presence i	Low
Impact i	Low
Response (inc protection measures) i	Visual monitoring of site undertaken by Rangers to identify any potential threats. If trees are suspected of having the disease, they will be surveyed, recorded and monitored. If isolated cases, then consider felling and destroying to keep infection levels down. If more than isolated cases, replanting may have to have more of a mix of broadleaves and less oak. At all times follow FC practice note, April 2010.

Add Box

Threat	Oak Processionary Moth
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Visual monitoring of site undertaken by Rangers to identify any potential threats. Hold

	in-house training sessions to raise Rangers awareness and have clear systems of reporting, as identified in FC information pages.
--	---

Add Box

Threat	Phytophthora ramorum
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Visual monitoring of site undertaken by Rangers to identify any potential threats. If suspected, inform FC as to appropriate course of action. This is likely to involve felling of infected trees in line with the various FC guidance notes.

Add Box

Threat	Please Select....
(Other Please Specify)	
Likelihood of presence	Please Select....
Impact	Please Select....
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.3 Deer

Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor presence of deer and potential impacts/damage on native flora. If restocked areas are being badly damaged, then a different strategy may have to be adopted. Initially this could include overstocking areas with a view to future thinning. It could also include a higher proportion of birch in the initial planting mix as they are not favoured by deer. Also attend the recently set up 'Deer Management' group for Charnwood Forest.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor presence of grey squirrel and impact on trees. If levels increase significantly, consider live trapping or a poisoning programme. This would be best undertaken



with the support of neighbouring landowners.

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Other Please Specify)	Other
Likelihood of presence	Please Select....
Impact	Please Select....
Response (inc protection measures)	

Add Box

Threat (Other Please Specify)	Please Select....
Likelihood of presence	Please Select....
Impact	Please Select....
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Other Please Specify)	Point Pollution
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Patroling & visual monitoring of site undertaken by Rangers to identify any potential threats.

Add Box

Threat (Other Please Specify)	Soil Erosion
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Felling programme is designed in such a way that large open areas are avoided. Larger blocks, although split into two or three interventions will not be conducted in consecutive years.

Add Box

Threat (Other Please Specify)	Please Select....
Likelihood of presence	Please Select....
Impact	Please Select....
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Other Please Specify)	Invasive Species
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Planned programme of removal to non natives e.g. conifers, rhododendron and sycamore. Rhododendron control will target previously cut areas and major seed sources, following FC guidance in 'Managing and controlling invasive rhododendron'.

Add Box

Threat (Other Please Specify)	Anti-social Behaviour
Likelihood of presence	Low
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	There is a Ranger presence on site, although at present there is no permanent base at The Outwoods. The site is visited at least once a day, and it is hoped to establish a permanent Ranger base here in the future.

Add Box

Threat (Other Please Specify)	Wind
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	A high winds procedure is currently being written. This will have usage zone maps, and a clear procedure to follow when gust speeds reach a certain level. Appropriate signage and barriers will be employed at the appropriate locations by the Ranger team.

5.8 Climate Change Resilience

Threat (Other Please Specify)	Uniform Structure
Likelihood of presence	Medium
Impact	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Programme of selective felling of PAWS to improve woodland structure

Add Box



Threat (Other Please Specify)	Lack of Tree Species Diversity
Likelihood of presence	High
Impact	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Due to the SSSI designation there is a limit to what species can be planted here. Oak is predominant with birch and rowan making up the remainder. If the oak in particular are affected this would compromise the longevity of the woodland, and a more varied planting palette would need to be looked at.

Add Box

Threat (Other Please Specify)	Please Select....
Likelihood of presence	Please Select....
Impact	Please Select....
Response (inc protection measures)	

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
Coniferous plantations	Clear fell and replant with native species, predominantly oak. The majority of the woodland is oak, birch and rowan dominated, and it is these species that would be replanted. Both sessile and pedunculate oak would be used to give more diversity. Small amounts of other species could be planted, for example holly and hazel, again to increase diversity. Planting stock would be sourced locally within the Charnwood and National Forest area. Any bracken incursion would be treated by spot spraying with a selective herbicide to prevent shading out of new plantings. Planting densities would be approximately 1100/ha or as agreed with the FC. Trees would be individually guarded and planting densities would not be uniform across a clearfelled section. Planting would be in different sized groups to try and replicate the structure of a natural woodland. Some open spaces would be incorporated into any planting, along with rides where appropriate. These would be decided after felling has occurred in order to

	assess ground conditions and where these features would be best placed.
Acid oak woodland	Gradual thinning to favour oak and increase structural diversity. This would concentrate on birch dominated areas. Open pockets would be created to allow oak to establish well. Natural regeneration would be favoured, although some supplementary planting could be undertaken if establishment is poor.
Wet alder woodland	Little management required - low intervention. Remove any sycamore and rhododendron as necessary, in order to maintain wet alder pocket. There is no designated public access.
Rock outcrops	Little management required. Liaise with NE as to whether periodic vegetation clearance would be beneficial.
Sycamore	Gradually remove all sycamore and treat stumps. Stumps would be treated with the appropriate chemical, for example, glyphosate, in order to poison the stump and prevent coppice regrowth. Areas of sycamore coppice would be targetted initially, as well as large seeding sycamores to help reduce the seed source.
Rhododendron	Gradually remove all rhododendron and treat stumps. Untreated regrowth and large stands of major seed sources would be targetted first. Treatment would be with an approved herbicide to poison stumps or new growth.
Footpath network	Maintain primary network with good surfaces and drainage as appropriate. Primary paths are constructed of compacted stone and cover the site. These paths would be the main routes for any machinery involved with felling and extraction of timber. Some paths to the north of the site may not be wide enough, or present too much of a slope for significant machinery to use.
Infrastructure	Maintain benches, picnic tables and fences in good working order. Also, the historic stone wall that bounds the northern and western boundaries is in a generally poor state of repair. Although not needed as a stockproof boundary, this historic feature would benefit from a phased programme of restoration.
Interpretation	Refresh and install new orientation panels. Install new waymarkers.

Add Box

	Please see Appendix 3.

7. Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to [Operations Note 35](#) for further information. Use this section to identify people or organisations with an interest in your woodland and also to record any engagement that you have undertaken, relative to activities identified within the plan.

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
All works.	Outwoods Management Committee.	Quarterly meetings	Regular	Committee approved the production of a woodland plan. They understand the sensitive nature of the SSSI and are happy with all management proposals.	
All works	Idverde	Regular meetings	Regular	They are the contractors who are responsible for all outdoor spaces and have a contract with the council. They are happy with all proposals.	
All works	Leicestershire County Council	To be confirmed.		They own the neighbouring woodland. Would be beneficial to discuss plans for the whole area.	

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
All works	Members of the public	To be confirmed		Plans for any significant works will be put on the notice board at the Outwoods. Contact details made available.	
All works, production of woodland plan.	Forestry Commission	Jan 2017	March 2017	Advice on woodland plan, and various elements that need covering by the plan.	
Advice on SSSI management	Natural England	Jan 2017	March 2017	Need to gain consent for various operations. Advice on management objectives.	

Add Box



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
Phased removal of all coniferous plantations as identified in the PAWS survey.	One block of conifers to be clearfelled each year.	Visual. Fixed point photography will be established to record vegetation changes.	Yearly	Charnwood Borough Council	
Replanting of coniferous areas with native species.	One area of felled conifers to be planted each year.	Visual. Regard must be given to any natural regeneration that occurs.	Yearly	Charnwood Borough Council	
Establish rides in some previously coniferous areas.	Ride planned in conjunction with planting, where appropriate.	Visual. Rides established in larger block felling. Fixed point photography will be established to record	Yearly	Charnwood Borough Council	



Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
	vegetation changes.				
Continue phased removal of large, seeding sycamores and removal of saplings.	Decrease in amount of sycamore present.	Visual. Target sycamore when doing any thinning works.	Yearly	Charnwood Borough Council	
Continue phased removal of rhododendron.	Decrease in amount of rhododendron present.	Visual. Target areas of rhododendron each year.	Yearly	Charnwood Borough Council	
Continue thinning of birch dominated areas to favour regeneration and improve structural diversity.	Birch dominated areas targeted and thinned each year.	Visual.	Yearly	Charnwood Borough Council	
Continue to maintain footpath network.	Primary paths to be assessed and repaired when required.	Visual	Yearly	Charnwood Borough Council	
Improve infrastructure - orientation panels, wheelchair friendly benches, waymarkers and free leaflet.	New infrastructure installed.	Visual	Yearly	Charnwood Borough council	
Continue to maintain water courses - clearing of channels and drainage under pathways.	One key water course to be cleared each year.	Visual	Yearly	Charnwood Borough Council	



Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Phased programme of drystone walling - local heritage feature.	Two gaps to be made good each year on eastern boundary.	Visual	Yearly	Charnwood Borough Council	
Monitor geological interest - liaise with NE regarding possible vegetation clearance from key outcrops.	No obvious deterioration in outcrops and geological resource.	Visual	Yearly	Charnwood Borough Council	
Add Box					



FC Approval – FC Office Use Only

UKFS Management Plan Criteria	Approval Criteria	Yes	No	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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Approving Officer Name		Plan approved		<input type="checkbox"/>