


<b>Woodland Property Name</b>	Blackwell Forest, Chapel Lane, Blackfield, Southampton, SO45 1YX		
<b>Unique Reference</b>			
<b>Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (ten years)</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b>	2021	<b>To:</b> 2031
<b>Five Year Review Date</b>	2026		

## Approval Criteria – FC Office Use Only


The UKFS states that a management plan should:

<b>UKFS</b>	<b>Approval Criteria</b>	<b>FC Approval &amp; Notes</b>	
State the objectives of management, and how sustainable forest management is to be achieved	Have objectives of management been stated? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2)		
Provide a means to communicate forest proposals and engage interested parties	Have work proposals been communicated in the management strategy (section 6) and felling & restock table (section 8) and potential interested parties identified in Section 7		
Serve as an agreed statement of intent against which implementation can be checked and monitored	Has a five year review period been stated below and achievements recorded in section 3		
<b>Approving Officer Name</b>		<b>Plan approved</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### To Maximise Functionality

- Connect to the internet;
- Enable macros when 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 it 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 (enable macros first).

## 1. Property Details

Name	Benjamin Dudley Smith & Stacy Clair Smith	Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tenant <input type="checkbox"/>
Email		Contact Number	
Address	50 Saxon Road, Blackfield, Southampton, Hampshire, SO45 1WY		
Agent Name (if applicable)			
Contact Number		Email	
County		Nearest Town	
Grid Reference 	SU 4408/0157	Local Authority	New Forest District Council
Management Plan Area (Hectares)	0.7		
List the maps associated with this management plan	Map 1 – Location, Map 2 to 7 Constraints, Map 8 Management Sections		
Do you intend to apply for a felling licence with this management plan?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <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 and how you envisage it will be in the future.

### 2.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

The woodland will be managed in a way that will maintain and enhance biodiversity. It will be used for educational purposes for local people and provide a low-key recreational resource for the woodland owner and family, friends and local people.

The envisaged woodland structure will be as follows: -

Canopy will consist of a mix of oak, beech, birch, willow. But where appropriate the introduction of other suitable species will eventually complement or replace the

present dominant oak canopy. Species to be introduced will include hornbeam, alder, wild cherry, crab apple, yew, sessile oak, wild service tree and small leaved lime. These trees will be planted in suitable areas to add diversity to the understory and eventually the canopy. Also, a small number of naturally occurring oak and ash regeneration will be nurtured to eventual add to the understory/canopy especially where existing oaks have either blown over or died.

The shrub layer will consist predominantly of hazel but with the occasional holly, rowan, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder-rose, elderberry etc. Additional native shrubs will be planted to add diversity to the shrub layer especially along the western boundary and will include hawthorn, guelder-rose, alder buckthorn, field maple, broom. It may be necessary to thin out denser patches of holly to enable a more diverse shrub layer/field layer.

The field layer ideally will consist of at least some of the typical W10 woodland species including bluebells, primroses, bramble, enchanters nightshade, ferns, grasses, mosses and lichens. However, in places the woodland floor (typical W10c) is dominated by ivy which may require some form of management (strimming) in order to allow colonisation of vascular plants especially where flowering plants are scarce.

All hazel will be coppiced in year 1 and/or year 2 of this management plan, in order to regenerate. At present the hazel is too big/tall and in places has begun to blow over. It will continue to be coppiced every 5 – 10 years.

All non-native species (rhododendron/laurel/bamboo) will continue to be managed, where and when necessary, in order to maintain the woodland clear of these species.

A Woodland schools area (camp) will be established in the North end of management section **1** for the purpose of providing woodland crafts training to small groups of people from local schools/groups/scouts etc.

Also, a small open area will be maintained, within management section **3**, for personal (family/friends) use and for organised social gatherings of local neighbours.

## 2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management, and how sustainable forest management is to be achieved. Objectives are a set of specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)</b>
1	Removal of all non-native tree/shrub species (rhododendron, laurel) including any regeneration from these two species.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
2	Where necessary open out the canopy/understory to enable the hazel and ground vegetation to flourish.
3	Coppice all hazel on a 7-10 year rotation in order to promote vigorous re-growth and in the process supply small timber produce e.g. pea and bean sticks.
4	Remove small area of bamboo from either side of the water course.
5	Establish small woodland school area to provide woodland skills learning for small groups of children at the north end of management section 1.
6	Maintain a small open area in the south/eastern end of the woodland for personal recreational use for family and friends. And to provide for social gatherings with local people within management section 3
7	Where necessary install suitable nesting/roosting features e.g. bird, bat boxes.
8	Maintain suitable quantities of standing/fallen deadwood as per Table 2, page 8 of Forestry Commission Practice Guide 'Managing Deadwood in Forest and Woodlands'.
9	Utilise suitable cut material from cut rhododendron/laurel/hazel and occasional windblown trees for personal firewood use without depleting deadwood resource.
10	Undertake species monitoring especially for bats, breeding birds.
11	Fell one mature oak tree every year with the intention of using the timber for craft projects that generate income for the woodland.

### 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.

Objective	Achievement
1. Remove all non-native tree/shrub species (rhododendron, laurel) including all regeneration.	
2. Open out the canopy to enable hazel and ground vegetation to flourish.	
3. Coppice all hazel on a 7-10 year rotation.	
4. Remove small area of bamboo sp from either side of the water course.	
5. Establish small woodland schools area to provide woodland skills learning for small groups of 6-10 children.	

6. Maintain a small open area in the south/eastern end of the woodland for personal recreational use.	
7. Where necessary install suitable nesting/roosting features e.g. bird, bat boxes.	
8. Maintain suitable quantities of standing/fallen deadwood.	
9. Utilise suitable cut material from cut rhododendron/laurel/hazel and occasional windblown trees for personal firewood use.	
10. Undertake species monitoring especially for bats, breeding birds.	
11. Fell one mature oak tree every year with the intention of using the timber for craft projects that generate income for the woodland.	

## 4. Woodland Survey

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland and its location, including any statutory constraints: designations, European Protected Species etc. Woodland information for your property can be found on the ['Magic'](#) website or the Forestry Commission [Land Information Search](#).

### **Brief description of the woodland property**

The woodland is outside of the New Forest National Park (NFNP) separated by a small stream which forms the western edge boundary of the woodland. Although the NFNP is designated a SSSI/SAC and although the boundary is outside the woodland, the SSSI impact zone includes the woodland area.

The Forestry Commission England 'New Forest Inclosures Forest Plan, appendix 7, Open Habitat Restoration 2019-2029' shows the FC land to be pasture woodland/riverine woodland linking into dry heath.

This woodland is native lowland mixed deciduous woodland (NVC W10, sub community c) consisting predominantly of oak, birch, beech forming the canopy and an understory of hazel, holly, hawthorn, willow, guelder-rose, yew. Holly tends to be the dominate in places.

The woodland has not been managed in the last 30 years. This has resulted in mature

rhododendron/laurel being the most dominant shrub layer over 50 to 60% of the woodland area. Also, young regeneration from these two species occurs throughout the woodland.

Management Area 1 - at the lowest point of the woodland, there is a spring fed stream running through the site.

Management area 2 - this area is very wet and has natural springs percolating up through the soil. In these wetter areas the understory is susceptible to windblow and this has impacted not only some oak and willow. The hazel, which due to lack of management has become too tall and have begun to blow over.

Management area 3 - there is no public access to this area but there is a small amount of recreational activity as there is a vegetable patch and small orchard of cooking apples and pears.

It is proposed to fell all the larger rhododendron/laurel and treat the cut stumps with suitable herbicide. Where possible all regeneration will be pulled up by hand and any recurring regen (which is too deep rooted to pull up) will be spot sprayed using suitable herbicide.

## 5. Woodland Protection

This section allows you to consider the potential threats facing your woodland(s). Where relevant, under the following headings, describe any potential threats and as informed by both the likelihood of presence and potential impact, communicate any required management response. This could, for example, be providing information in relation to putting in place a plan, monitoring or direct action.

### Plant Health

Evidence of occasional oaks having died and/or blown over, possibly due to waterlogged roots. Remaining oaks appear to be relatively stable.

### Deer

Occasional muntjac deer are known to pass through the woodland but any impact is low. Damage will be monitored especially once the hazel has been coppiced. If necessary, protection to the young growth will be protected using brush laid over the cut stools.

### Grey Squirrels

Grey squirrels are present but do not pose a threat to the woodland. Occasional control will be undertaken.

### Livestock and Other Mammals

Boundary fencing will be maintained, as per the woodland deeds, to prevent commoners stock from entering the woodland.

### Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc)

No threats envisaged as large machinery will not be used on site.

**Environmental (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc)**

Windblow has occurred in the past and without appropriate management will continue. With the removal of the rhododendron/laurel it is envisaged that oak, ash, birch regeneration and the planting of hornbeam, alder etc will eventually provide suitable canopy trees.

**Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)**

Adding such species as hornbeam, alder and ash will eventually help to diversify/replace the existing oak canopy.

	lack of tree species diversity
	Medium

## 6. Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features and issues identified within the previous sections of the plan. The information provided should be succinct.

Mgt Objective/Feature	Outline Work Prescriptions/Operations	Year
1. Remove all non-native tree/shrub species (rhododendron, laurel) including all regeneration.	All larger rhododendron and laurel will be cut and suitable herbicide (Glyphosate Pro-bioactive) will be applied to the stump. The remaining brash will be used to form a dead hedge along the western boundary. Larger material will be utilised for firewood.	2020-2025
2. Open out the canopy to enable hazel and ground vegetation to flourish.	Willows that have collapsed due to their size will be coppiced. Areas where holly is reducing light to reach the woodland floor will be thinned out and the occasional oak which has become unstable will be felled to enable more light to the woodland floor.	
3. Coppice all hazel in order to promote vigorous re-growth and in the process supply small timber produce e.g. pea and bean sticks.	Coppice all the hazel within year 1-2 of this plan. Once coppiced the stools will be re-coppiced on a 5 to 10 year rotation.	
4. Remove small area of bamboo from either side of the water course.	At present much of this bamboo is 3 metres tall and will require cutting to ground level. Once this has been done the area will be cleared (except for any native shrubs e.g. guelder-rose) to enable strimming of young regrowth to weaken the plants. This will be repeated for two years before spot spraying with Glyphosate Pro-bioactive. Environment Agency licence will be required.	



<p>5. Establish small woodland schools area to provide woodland skills learning for small groups of 6-10 children.</p>	<p>Create a sheltered area suitable for all weather conditions to accommodate small groups of children.</p>	
<p>6. Maintain a small open area in the south/eastern end of the woodland for personal recreational use for family and friends. And to provide for social gatherings with local people.</p>	<p>Open area previously used for the siting of a caravan (which has been removed) will be developed and maintained to provide grassy area for camp fires, seating area, firewood store and tool lockup.</p>	
<p>7. Where necessary install suitable nesting/roosting features e.g. bird, bat boxes.</p>	<p>Tawny owls have in the past breed in the woodland. Installing a nest box may increase owls success to breed. Assess the need for other boxes for birds/bats.</p>	
<p>8. Maintain suitable quantities of standing/fallen deadwood as per Table 2, page 8 of Forestry Commission Practice Guide 'Managing Deadwood in Forest and Woodlands'.</p>	<p>Where it's safe to do so, suitable quantities of standing deadwood will be left in situ, as will fallen deadwood. The brash dead hedge which includes some larger pieces of rhododendron/laurel/oak/beechn will also be left to provide important deadwood material.</p>	
<p>9. Utilise suitable cut material from cut rhododendron/laurel/hazel and occasional windblown trees for personal firewood use without depleting deadwood resource.</p>	<p>Initially, while re-establishing woodland management, suitable quantities of firewood and deadwood for wildlife will be available. However, in order to maintain a supply of deadwood for wildlife the firewood material will become reduced.</p>	
<p>10. Undertake species monitoring/recording especially for bats, breeding birds and mammals.</p>	<p>Monitor woodland for bat activity using bat detector. Compile list of breeding birds using breeding bird census methodology. Record mammal species using the woodland by casual observation and the use of trail camera. Produce a list of trees/shrubs/flowers/grasses etc present within the woodland. This could be done via the woodland school groups.</p>	



11. Fell one mature oak tree every year with the intention of using the timber for craft projects that generate income for the woodland.	An assessment on the health of each of the oaks has been carried out and it is my intention to begin by felling the trees that are showing the most signs of weakness, damage or disease.	
--	---	--

## 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.

<b>Work Proposal</b>	<b>Individual/ Organisation</b>	<b>Date Contacted</b>	<b>Date feedback received</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Action</b>
Work done within SSSI impact zone.	Natural England				
Treating area of bamboo if herbicide is used	Environment Agency				
Continually liaising with the Tree Officer as woodland has TPO on it.	New Forest District Council				In discussion with Tree Officer in relation to TPO.
Friendly discussions with many neighbours over proposed management.	Neighbours with land adjoining the proposal site				Discussed woodland management with many neighbours. Had it not been for Covid restriction it was intended to hold an open woodland/BB Q for local people.
	Fire and Rescue Service				Had site meeting with fire service last year (2020)
Continually	Fawley Parish				In discussion

liaising with the Councillors in relation to applications for consent under TPO	Council				with the Councillors in relation to TPO
Fencing and hedge planting on boundary with New Forest National Park	Verderers of the New Forest				In discussion with the Verderers about the position and species of trees to be planted on the boundary with the National Park

## 8. DisplayText

Should you wish to associate a felling licence with your management plan please complete the table below. Set out your felling intentions by identifying individual species where they comprise more than 20% of the volume to be felled. Individual species at or below 20% need to be grouped as MB (mixed broadleaf) and/or MC (mixed conifer).

Cpt(s)	Sub Cpt	Felling Type	Species	Area of Felling (ha)	Est Volume M <sup>3</sup> (Bdlv/Con)	Pref Fell Year	Restock Species	Restock Area (ha)	% of Total Restock Area	Map No	TPO	Designation
1	1a, 1b	CF	BE, MB, JL, MC	1.3	100/200	16/17	OK/BI/BE/WCH	1.3	100	1	No	No

## 9. Monitoring

Indicators of success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Use the below section to identify when and how monitoring is to be carried out. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

<b>Management Objective</b>	<b>Indicator of Success</b>	<b>Method of Assessment</b>	<b>Frequency of Assessment</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Assessment Results</b>
1. Remove all non-native tree/shrub species (rhododendron, laurel) including all regeneration.	No non native trees within the woodland.	Visual survey	Annually	Woodland Owner	
2. Open out the canopy to enable hazel and ground vegetation to flourish.	Diverse herb layer throughout woodland	Visual survey	Annually	Woodland Owner	
3. Coppice all hazel in order to promote vigorous re-growth and in the process supply small timber produce e.g. pea and bean sticks.	Maintenance of health of every hazel tree on the site	Visual survey	Annually	Woodland Owner	
4. Remove small area of bamboo from either side of the water course.	No bamboo within the woodland	Visual survey	Annually	Woodland Owner	
5. Establish small woodland schools area to provide woodland skills learning for small groups of 6-10	Regular classes being held within the woodland	Checking level of bookings via website	Monthly	Woodland Owner	

children.					
6. Maintain a small open area in the south/eastern end of the woodland for personal recreational use for family and friends. And to provide for social gatherings with local people.	Management of small area of grass for recreation and maintaining health of area and safety for children.	Visual survey	Annually	Woodland owner	
7. Where necessary install suitable nesting/roosting features e.g. bird, bat boxes.	Use of nest boxed by birds and bats	Visual survey	Annually	Woodland owner	
8. Maintain suitable quantities of standing/fallen deadwood as per Table 2, page 8 of Forestry Commission Practice Guide 'Managing Deadwood in Forest and Woodlands'.	Leaving deadwood on trees that are not a danger to the public or the children using the woodland school	Visual survey	Annually	Woodland owner and arboriculture experts	
9. Utilise suitable cut material from cut rhododendron/ laurel/hazel and occasional windblown trees for personal firewood	Maintaining large portion of deadwood on site and only taking the minimum for personal	Maintaining minimum stock of firewood at home	Annually	Woodland owner	

use without depleting deadwood resource.	use.				
10.Undertake species monitoring/recording especially for bats, breeding birds and mammals.	Maintenance of record of animal species seen throughout the year and attempting to increase animals use of the site each year.	Use of cctv cameras throughout site to record activity of animals and keep a log of all activity that has been seen	Annually	Woodland Owner	
11.Fell one mature oak tree every year with the intention of using the timber for craft projects that generate income for the woodland.	Safe felling of oak trees before they are blown over.	Maintenance of record of each tree on the site and any works that are carried out	Annually	Woodland Owner	