

Woodland Management Plan

Woodland name		Coleorton Wood	
Woodland Management Plan case reference		30544	
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland			Yes
Plan author name		Angus Hancock Cameron Forest & Garden Ltd	

For FC Use only:			
Plan Period <i>(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)</i>	Approval Date:		Approved until:
Five Year Review Date			

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision
1	September 2018	Draft	Five Year Review

UK Forestry Standard 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.

UKFS management plan criteria		Minimum approval requirements	Author check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	<p>Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, and environmental objectives will be achieved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan objectives are stated. Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes
2	<p>Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.</p>	<p>Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) Sect. 2.</p> <p>Management intentions should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (Sect. 4) Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (Sect. 5). Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in Sect. 7. 	Yes
3	<p>Identification of designations within and surrounding the site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes
4	<p>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS requirements.</p> <p>Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context. Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (Sect. 4). Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). 	Yes
5	<p>Consultation: Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement is in line with current FC guidance and recorded in Sect. 7. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. 	Yes
6	<p>Plan Update and Review: Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan. Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective. 	Yes

Section 1: Property Details

<u>Woodland Property Name</u>		Coleorton Wood	
Owner	Coleorton Parish Council C/o Mr A. Hogsden, Clerk to the Parish Council, 45, Zion Hill, Peggs Green, Coleorton, Leicestershire LE67 8JP		
Email	parishclerk@coleorton.org.uk	Contact Number	07917 000034
Agent	Angus Hancock Cameron Forest & Garden Ltd, 69, Tamworth Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2PX		
Email	angus.hancock@cameronforestandgarden.co.uk	Contact Number	01530 563269
County	Leicestershire	<u>Local Authority</u>	North West Leicestershire DC
Grid Reference	SK399164	Single Business Identifier	119299488
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		6.0 ha	
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?		Yes	
You have listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan?		1. Compartment Plan 2. Features Plan 3. Five Year Work Plan	
Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?		Felling Licence	Yes
		Thinning Licence	Yes

You declare that there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?	Yes
You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available?	Yes

Section 2: Vision and Objectives

2.1 Vision

To develop a structurally diverse mixed woodland with high amenity and biodiversity value for the enjoyment of the residents of Coleorton and other visitors.

2.2 Management Objectives

Objectives

1. To enhance and maintain the ride network and other access provision for visitors.
2. To enhance and maintain the biodiversity value of the wood.
3. To provide opportunities for local people to become involved in the wood's management through practical conservation work.
4. To realise the wood's potential as a resource for recreational and social use by families, local residents and groups, including its use for organised events, in order to develop a sense of community.
5. To ensure that through a combination of voluntary work, grant support and timber income that the management of the wood does not become an undue financial burden to the Parish Council.

Section 3: Plan Review – Achievements

A Management Plan for Coleorton Wood was first drawn up in early 2013 following the transfer of ownership of the site from Leicestershire County Council.

Grant applications for funding to support the Management Plan's programme of work were made to the Forestry Commission and secured in the form of English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) Woodland Improvement Grants (WIGs) for Public Access and Woodland Birds. These grants included support for public access improvements such as seating and for woodland management works including first thinning, ride edge coppicing, hedge restoration and ride management.

With the exception of the first thinning, the majority of the work was undertaken by the then newly formed Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group. The Group has continued to undertake management work, such as ride edge coppicing and dealing with fallen trees, beyond the end of the grant schemes in 2016.

Objectives	Achievement
<p>1. To enhance and maintain the ride network and other access provision for visitors.</p>	<p>The wood's grass ride network is mown regularly as part of the Parish Council's wider public open space management regime.</p> <p>The ride edges are managed under an annual programme of rotational coppicing undertaken by the Volunteer Group on an 8 year cycle. The ride network has been amended to re-route a path away from the eastern edge of the wood close to the neighbouring residential property for the benefit of both neighbours and visitors alike.</p> <p>Old fencing, and wooden car park edge bollards were removed as part of the EWGS WIG contracts (2013-16) and seating and picnic benches were introduced, along with stoning of kissing gate entrances from the car park.</p> <p>A roadside sign has been installed to direct visitors to Coleorton Wood from Moor Lane.</p>
<p>2. To enhance and maintain the biodiversity value of the wood.</p>	<p>A first thinning of the wood was undertaken in 2014 by contractors. This was at a thinning intensity of 30% in order to benefit target woodland bird species under the WIG. The thinning favoured the best stems of all species in order to retain the breadth of species diversity originally planted.</p> <p>Thinning has been successful in promoting the crown development of retained stems, notably oak, and in the encouragement of natural regeneration with ash, birch, cherry and alder starting to appear.</p> <p>Biodiversity has also been enhanced by the coppicing of ride edge shrub species, providing structural diversity, in conjunction with alteration of the ride mowing regime to leave some margins of longer, uncut vegetation.</p> <p>Hedges have been brought into management through the laying of the ride edge and southern boundary hedges to Compartment 1a and the coppicing and re-planting of the northern boundary hedge to Compartment 1b.</p> <p>The pond to the northern boundary of Compartment</p>

	1a was restored prior to 2013 and has been managed by the cutting of bankside vegetation on the southern bank to maintain light levels and control bramble spread. However, the pond dries up in summer months and attempts to maintain water levels have proven unsuccessful.
3. To provide opportunities for local people to become involved in the wood's management through practical conservation work.	The Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group (established in 2010) has provided the vehicle for local people to become involved in practical conservation work. It meets up to four times per month at either of the two woodland sites for which it has taken on practical management responsibility and also undertakes other tasks within the parish. The Group has been successful in securing grant funding from the National Forest Company for training and equipment needs, most notably in chainsaw use, which has enabled it to tackle a wider range of management tasks. The Group also has its own website: www.cnlvg.weebly.com
4. To realise the wood's potential as a resource for recreational and social use by families, local residents and groups, including its use for organised events, in order to develop a sense of community.	The main recreational use of the site is by local dogwalkers. The Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group again provides the main focus for other site uses through its regular working parties and occasional fundraising events, such as the annual plant sale. A bird feeding station was established during the early part of the Plan period at the edge of the car park as an additional attraction for visitors. However, it suffered from both squirrel damage and vandalism and has now been removed. The wood is used occasionally by the Viscount Beaumont Primary School for forest school activities.
5. To ensure that through a combination of voluntary work, grant support and timber income that the management of the wood does not become an undue financial burden to the Parish Council.	This objective has largely been achieved over the first five years of the wood's active management through the input of volunteer time. Direct financial support has come through the EWGS WIG funds (2013-16) and through the sale of in excess of 145 tonnes of timber extracted as part of the first thinning operation, which recovered approximately 30% of the contractor cost of the work.

Section 4: Woodland Survey

4.1 Description

Coleorton Wood lies at the end of Pitt Lane to the south-west of the village of Coleorton in an area known as Coleorton Moor. The wood sits in a small brook valley and as such is not prominent in the local landscape being largely hidden from surrounding roads.

The wood was planted in 1991 by Leicestershire County Council as one of the first new plantings in the National Forest, sponsored by The Leicester Mercury's 'Woody Tree' campaign and by The Royal Mail through employee contributions, as well as donations from other local businesses.

It was planted on the site of the former Coleorton Colliery (known locally as the 'Bug & Wink' Colliery), which produced coal from 1875 until 1933. The site was returned to agricultural use after demolition in 1975 and the two mine shafts capped and sealed. As a result, prior to planting, the majority of the site was fertilised and ripped to alleviate compaction and to promote root penetration of the layer of demolition rubble and colliery spoil below the thin topsoil. The only exception to this was an area named as Post Office Wood (Compartment 1b), which was planted on agricultural soils, in a field to the west of the brook course.

The wood was managed through the establishment phase by Leicestershire County Council before ownership was transferred to Coleorton Parish Council in January 2012. Prior to transfer and under the guidance of the County Council Ranger Service, the Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group was formed to assist in the practical management of both Coleorton and New Lount Woods. The Group has undertaken a range of practical conservation work at the wood, including ride edge coppicing, pond restoration, hedgelaying and path maintenance, as well as the monitoring of wildlife populations and organisation of community events. The Volunteer Group meets on a regular basis and will continue to be the main vehicle for the future management of the wood, in conjunction with the use of contractors for any larger, silvicultural operations.

Coleorton Wood is a young plantation designed primarily for public access and wildlife conservation. The design achieves this through the comprehensive network of grass rides, which allows for a variety of circular walks within the wood and which has the benefit of extensive ride side shrub planting providing abundant wood edge habitat.

Permissive public access is enhanced by the links to the public footpath network, notably to the north of the wood and by the wood's own car park at the entrance from Pitt Lane. This facility attracts visitors, notably dog-walkers from further afield, but the main community served by the wood is Coleorton itself and interest amongst local residents is high, with awareness and involvement being generated through the Parish Council and the Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group.

The wood is divided into two Compartments, as shown on Map 1: Compartment Plan and its original planting plan is attached as Appendix 3.

Compartment 1a was planted primarily as amenity woodland with in excess of 30 different species, planted in intimate mixtures of small species groups and with extensive shrub edge planting to the ride sides.

Tree growth has been good despite the site's history of land reclamation and a first thinning was undertaken across the whole wood in 2014. Thinning has helped to promote crown development of retained stems, notably oak, which is often of good form and reasonable vigour throughout and offers the best potential as the main long term component of the wood. However, the intention is to retain as much of the original range of species as possible as part of the wood's amenity value and interest for the visitor. Thinning has also encouraged the development of natural regeneration of some broadleaf species, notably birch, cherry, alder and ash. Regeneration of ash however, although prolific, has been affected by the onset of ash dieback disease, which is also apparent in a significant number of the originally planted stems.

An eight year cycle of ride edge shrub coppicing was established in 2013 and the majority of the rides in Compartment 1a have now been cut over once. Re-growth of coppice has been vigorous and is again causing a narrowing and 'tunnelling' of rides with wet, muddy pinch points after five years of the cycle.

Compartment 1b was planted exclusively with European larch (*Larix decidua*) and English oak (*Quercus robur*), as a contrasting and more traditional forestry mix on the better, agricultural soils, with the larch designed to act as a nurse to the long term oak crop. The larch has performed exceptionally well reaching top heights of up to 19m and dbh in excess of 40cm with an average in the range of 25-30cm. However, this vigour has been to the detriment of the oak, which prior to intervention in 2014 had become overtopped and had started to die back or develop poor form. First thinning has alleviated this with remaining oak stems responding well to halo thinning, although the number of remaining stems is now below 10% of the compartment population.

The vigour of the larch has also increased its susceptibility to windthrow which has been evident both pre- and post-thinning with stems being lost each winter and up to 40 stems in single storm events. The combined result is that the original objective of producing quality oak and larch timber has already been significantly compromised.

4.2 Information

Feature	Within Woodland	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland	Note No.
Biodiversity- Designations				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	No		No	
Special Area of Conservation	No		No	
Tree Preservation Order	No		No	
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other:	Yes		No	1,2
Notes:				
1. National Forest 2. Coleorton Wood is designated as one of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields, which is a network of 2012 permanently protected outdoor recreational spaces created to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.				

Feature	Within Woodland	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species				
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes	All	Bat survey conducted in 2015 recorded Soprano Pipistrelle, Common Pipistrelle and possibly Daubenton's bat species. See Appendix 1 (Surveys)
Dormouse		No		
Great Crested Newt		No		
Otter		No		
Sand Lizard		No		
Smooth Snake		No		
Natterjack Toad		No		
Biodiversity - Priority Species				
Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	No	All	Woodland Bird Records for 2012 are attached to this Plan as Appendix 1 (Surveys).
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		No		
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		Possible		No survey records exist
Plants		No		
Fungi/Lichens		Yes	All	Leicestershire Fungi Study Group has

				recorded over 60 species, with 10 being rare to the area and 2 being new County records. The majority are associated with fallen deadwood. Records are attached as Appendix 1 (Surveys).
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes			See Survey records for 2014 (Appendix 1).
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	Possible			No survey records exist
Other (please Specify):	No			
Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments	No			
Unscheduled Monuments	No			
Registered Parks and Gardens	No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	No			
Listed Buildings	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes	1a	2	Capped mine shafts. The wood is planted on the site of the former Coleorton Colliery and forms part of the village heritage trail.
Landscape				
National Character Area				
National Park	No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
People				
CROW Access	No			
Public Rights of Way	No			Public footpaths adjoin the northern boundary of the wood but do not provide direct access which is only available from Pitt Lane.
Other Access Provision	Yes	All		The wood is open for permissive access and is served by the car park at the end of Pitt Lane, which is open daily between 8.30am-4pm.
Public Involvement	Yes			The wood is owned and managed by the Parish Council with the majority of practical tasks being undertaken by the Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group.

Visitor Information	Yes	1a		Information and Notice boards in the car park.
Public Recreation Facilities	Yes	1a	2	An open grass glade is designated as a recreation area and includes picnic tables for visitors.
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes			Work parties are organised and run by the Volunteer Group, providing experience and informal training in practical conservation work.
Anti-social Behaviour	No			
Other:	No			
<u>Water</u>				
Watercourses	Yes	1a,1b	2	A small, seasonal brook forms the boundary between Cpts 1a and 1b.
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	1a	2	
Other (please Specify):	No			

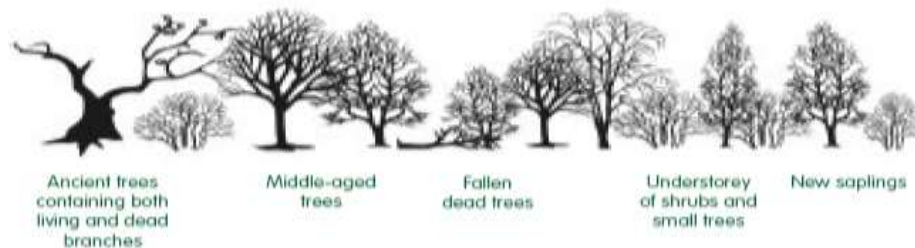
4.3 Habitat Types

Feature	Within Woodland	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	No			
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed woodland	Yes	All		
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
Other:	No			
Non Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	No			
Lowland meadows	No			
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			
Reed bed	No			
Wood pasture	No			
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			
Unimproved grassland	No			
Peat lands	No			
Wetland habitats	No			
Other:	No			

4.4 Structure

Woodland Type	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes
Mixed plantation	100%	Even	The wood has extensive planted ride edge shrub zones, which are in a cycle of coppice management to provide diversity of structure.

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



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity



Section 5: Woodland Protection

5.1 Risk Matrix

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

Impact	High	Plan for Action	Action	Action
	Medium	Monitor	Plan for Action	Action
	Low	Monitor	Monitor	Plan for Action
		Low	Medium	High
Likelihood of Presence				

5.2 [Plant Health](#)

Threat:	Ash Dieback (Chalara)
Likelihood of presence:	High (Present)
Impact:	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Ash Dieback is a wind borne disease caused by a fungus <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> and is invariably fatal, especially to young ash trees. There is at present no known cure for this disease other than natural resistance.</p> <p>The disease has been found extensively within the National Forest and is established at Coleorton Wood, where it is most notable in young natural regeneration causing mortality. The originally planted ash in all areas of the wood is affected with between 30-50% of trees in stands displaying symptoms. The majority of trees with symptoms are at present displaying only leaf curl and limited dieback in the crowns, although it is likely that this may herald more rapid future decline.</p> <p>Ash is one of the main species planted at Coleorton Wood, although it is just one of over 30 species in total. It is unlikely that the disease will remove ash entirely from the wood, although in the short-medium term it may become necessary to remove diseased stands either through thinning or by small-scale selective felling to allow for enrichment planting with replacement</p>

	species. Earlier intervention may be necessary where diseased trees pose a tree safety hazard to visitors.
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Threat:	Red Band Needle Blight
Likelihood of presence:	High
Impact:	Low-Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Red Band Needle Blight (RBNB) is caused by the <i>Dothistroma septosporum</i> fungus and causes premature defoliation of the tree which can spread year on year, causing stagnation and reducing timber growth in direct relation to the reduction in crown foliage. Ultimately the disease can lead to tree mortality.</p> <p>Corsican Pine is the main conifer species planted in Compartment 1a and has shown some symptoms of the disease, although this appears to have been alleviated by first thinning, which has improved airflow through previously overstocked stands.</p>

5.3 [Deer](#)

Likelihood of presence:	Muntjac (High)
Impact:	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Muntjac populations in the area are significant and it is likely that deer are frequent visitors to the wood, although the relatively small size of the site and frequent disturbance by dog walkers mitigate against a resident, breeding population. This is supported by the lack of any obvious signs or impact of browsing on the coppiced shrubs at ride edges.</p> <p>It is unlikely that deer numbers will prove problematic and that control is therefore considered unnecessary. However, any enrichment planting or re-stocking should be protected by individual tree shelters to a minimum height of 75cm to protect against browsing by this species.</p>

5.4 [Grey Squirrels](#)

Likelihood of presence:	High (Present)
Impact:	Low-Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Squirrel damage is evident to some of the most susceptible species including field maple and willow as well as to some oak. Overall, damage is at a low level and has remained so during the first five year Plan period. However, a bird feeding station established in the early part of the first Plan period, had to be withdrawn from the wood partly because of squirrel damage to feeders.</p> <p>The wood remains at a vulnerable age to squirrel damage which may increase at any time and requires constant monitoring. Consideration should be given to early control if damage levels increase.</p> <p>Control by trapping may be difficult in a wood where permissive public access is provided. However, the daytime opening and closing times for the site allow for the possibility of discrete culling by airgun shooting at bait stations whilst the wood is closed to the public. A reinstatement of the bird feeding station may provide an opportunity for such control, which can be undertaken by trained BASC members as part of an approved national approach to squirrel control.</p>

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat:	Rabbit & Hare
Likelihood of presence:	High (Present)
Impact:	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Rabbit and hare are both seen in and around the wood and there is a rabbit warren established in the western boundary hedgeline of Compartment 1b.</p> <p>There is some evidence of browsing of natural regeneration (notably ash) and coppice regrowth by these species although overall damage is not significant and has remained at a low level during the first five year Plan period.</p>

	Control is not considered necessary at present, although constant monitoring of browsing damage is required. Any enrichment planting or re-stocking should be protected by individual tree shelters to a minimum height of 75cm to protect against browsing by these species.
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5.6 Water & Soil

Threat:	None
Likelihood of presence:	
Impact:	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.7 Environmental

Threat :	Windthrow
Likelihood of presence:	High (Present)
Impact:	High
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>Windthrow poses a significant environmental threat to the wood, most notably to Compartment 1b (Post Office Wood) where larch stems are lost every year. Windthrow to this part of the wood has been occurring for a number of years, pre-dating Parish Council ownership being evident both pre- and post-thinning in 2014 with as many as forty stems having been lost in single storm events. Windthrow has also been evident amongst pine stands to the southern end of Compartment 1a but at a much lower level.</p> <p>Coleorton Wood is not exposed by way of altitude or aspect, and it is considered that the windthrow reflects the rapid growth of larch in Compartment 1b in fertile agricultural soils exacerbated by a lack of early intervention to thin. In Compartment 1a, windthrow is once again likely to be related to soils, but in this area, reflects the reclaimed and thin topsoils on which this part of the wood is planted.</p> <p>The continual loss of larch stems in Compartment 1b needs to be addressed by management intervention in the next five year Plan period, acknowledging that the original commercial timber production objectives for this</p>

	<p>part of the wood have been significantly compromised. Consideration should therefore be given to planning for a clear fell and re-stocking of this area following the next significant windthrow event.</p> <p>Careful planning needs to be given to the choice of species for re-stocking, with windfirm species selected purely for this attribute in planting at the southern and south-western end of the compartment.</p> <p>In Compartment 1a, thinning of pine stands may require intervention on a little and often basis and at more frequent intervals than the surrounding broadleaf stands, in order to reduce future susceptibility to wind damage.</p>
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5.8 Social

Threat:	Trespass/Fly-tipping
Likelihood of presence:	Medium
Impact:	Medium-High
Response (inc protection measures)	The location of Coleorton Wood at the end of Pitt Lane and its surfaced car park make it a potentially attractive for trespass by travellers or to fly-tippers, although there have been no recorded instances of either threat in the first five year Plan period. This is considered to be a reflection of the security afforded by the gating of the entrance to the car park and the daily locking of the gate to prevent access outside of daylight hours.

5.9 Economic

Threat:	None
Likelihood of presence:	
Impact:	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat:	Uniform Structure
Likelihood of presence:	High (Present)
Impact :	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	<p>As a recent plantation, it is inevitable that the woodland is even-aged and lacks structural diversity at this stage.</p> <p>The first thinning undertaken in 2014 and the ongoing cycle of ride edge shrub coppicing is already starting to introduce some structural diversity and encourage the development of natural regeneration and understorey development.</p> <p>The management strategy for the next five year Plan period (see section 6 below) will continue this approach in Compartment 1a.</p> <p>The proposed clear felling and re-stocking of Compartment 1b in response to windthrow damage will have a more immediate effect by introducing a second age class to the wood approximately 30 years after its original planting. Enrichment planting undertaken following any selective felling of diseased ash stands will also achieve a similar result.</p>

Section 6: Management Strategy

Management Objective	Management Intention
<p>1. To enhance and maintain the ride network and other access provision for visitors.</p>	<p>The wood's entrance furniture and seating has been upgraded and enhanced during the first five year Plan period and this will continue to be maintained at the present level of provision. However, consideration will be given to the replacement of the site's existing interpretation board in the car park at the entrance to the wood, in order to provide visitors with an improved site plan and information on the wood's history and management.</p> <p>Access provision will be monitored to ensure that it remains safe for visitors. Safety inspections will include assessment of tree safety hazards, as well as inspection of furniture and the removal of the remaining rabbit fencing between Compartments 1a and 1b as it fails.</p> <p>The grass ride network will continue to be managed through a combination of mowing and coppicing to maintain permissive access for visitors.</p> <p>The existing ride edge shrub coppicing programme will be revised to introduce a greater variety of structure into this edge zone in order to avoid equal re-growth of shrubs on both sides of the ride creating a tunnel effect that lessens the internal landscape interest of the wood. To this end, alternate sections of shrubs will be coppiced on either side of a ride, using natural breaks or changes in direction as switching points at which to change sides for cutting. This will ensure that rides are not narrowed by growth from both sides. In addition, where shrub edge zones are deeper, coppicing will be irregular with the retention of some uncut stools away from the immediate ride edge to allow these to grow on for two or three times the length of the cycle in order to provide greater structural diversity. At the same time, the coppice cycle will be reduced from eight years in length to five, in order to keep re-growth at a size that is both useful for coppice craft products and that will allow for ease of re-cutting by volunteers using handtools.</p> <p>In addition, consideration will be given grubbing out of suckering rootstocks such as dogwood, where the spread of this growth is narrowing rides and creating wet and muddy pinch points. The maintenance of wide and easily navigable grass paths for visitors is considered an important factor in avoiding a proliferation of desire lines away from the ride network that reduce the amount of undisturbed areas for wildlife in a small wood.</p>
<p>2. To enhance and maintain the biodiversity value of the wood.</p>	<p>The ride edge coppicing of shrubs will also be a key aspect of maintaining the biodiversity value of the wood, with the new cutting pattern offering greater diversity of habitat for wildlife.</p>

	<p>This will be further enhanced by the development of a sympathetic mowing regime allowing for retention of unmown edges to the central grass strip and a development to a mix of two and three zone ride management.</p> <p>The first thinning of the wood in 2014 increased light levels to the woodland floor, promoting natural regeneration of some broadleaf species and the greater development of understorey. Further thinning will be necessary in Compartment 1a during this Plan period, although at a much lighter intensity and primarily amongst the conifer stands. This thinning will be undertaken on a selective basis and 'little and often' with the objective of improving the crown development and windfirmness of softwoods and gradually opening up around selected oak stems or pockets of natural regeneration.</p> <p>Selective thinning will also be necessary in this Plan period to remove diseased ash affected by dieback (<i>H. fraxineus</i>). This might be the removal of individual trees for reasons of tree safety or discrete stands where the felling can provide the opportunity for enrichment planting with alternative species in canopy openings. The choice of species for any such re-stocking should aim to maintain the breadth of species as envisaged in the original design for the wood.</p> <p>Premature felling is also required in Compartment 1b in response to the impact that windthrow has had and continues to have on this stand of larch. Here, the intention will be to plan for a clear fell of the compartment following the next significant storm damage. This will allow the remaining larch stems to be harvested by a contractor in order to realise their timber value rather than trees gradually being lost. Income from the sale of the timber will be used to offset the costs of brash clearance and ground preparation to allow for re-stocking.</p> <p>The felling required to address both disease and windthrow issues, although premature, will provide some biodiversity benefits. Re-stocking will immediately provide a second age class to the wood and a distinctly different structure and habitat during the establishment period for Compartment 1b. Species choice should again reflect the original intention of diversity and for an element of commercial timber production from this area of the wood. To this end, re-stocking of the main body of the compartment should comprise oak at traditionally closer spacings (1-1.5m centres) with stock selected from known seed stands of good timber form and provenance. This will be need to be tempered by the selection of windfirm species such as sycamore and beech for the southern and south-western edges.</p> <p>Biodiversity value will be maintained by the continued management of other habitats within the wood. Further work will be undertaken to the pond in Compartment 1a, to try and improve management of water levels in order</p>
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	<p>to avoid the pond drying out completely. Standing and fallen deadwood will be retained wherever safe to do so and the recently laid hedges will be allowed to grow out further in order to provide denser wood edge habitat.</p>
<p>3. To provide opportunities for local people to become involved in the wood's management through practical conservation work.</p>	<p>The Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group has provided the vehicle through which local people have become involved in the wood's management and as such the Group is of critical importance to the achievement of this objective and indeed to the present management of the site.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Group will continue in this enabling role during the next five year Plan period and will be supported by the Parish Council. The proposed work programme will continue to offer opportunities for the volunteers to be engaged in practical conservation, mainly through the continuing coppice cycle for ride edges. The reduction in the length of this cycle and the initiation of the second round of coppicing should ensure that the coppice stems are of a smaller size enabling the majority of this work to be tackled by handtools. The harvesting of hazel coppice rods from stools now brought into management may open up further opportunities for engagement in rural crafts.</p> <p>Whilst contractors will be required to undertake the felling in Compartment 1b, light thinning elsewhere in the wood is considered within the range of skills now possessed by the Group. Re-stocking and enrichment planting with the subsequent maintenance required during the establishment phase could also be undertaken by volunteers. The Group also has the opportunity to take on the ride mowing for the site using Parish Council equipment, which will allow for more timely and sensitive management of the grass rides.</p> <p>Consideration will also be given to the potential role of volunteers in surveying flora and fauna and it may be appropriate to engage with specialist groups such as Butterfly Conservation in order to extend the range of learning opportunities.</p>
<p>4. To realise the wood's potential as a resource for recreational and social use by families, local residents and groups, including its use for organised events, in order to develop a sense of community.</p>	<p>The Volunteer Group has been the main enabler and organiser for community-led use of the wood. Consideration will be given during this second five year Plan period as to how to widen the scope of community involvement and the wood's resource.</p> <p>Future opportunities might include the provision of a Tree Trail to interpret the wide range of species in the wood; a firewood auction to sell off timber from woodland management or craft courses to utilise harvested coppice products.</p> <p>In addition, the Parish council is committed to the re-instatement of the bird feeding station once issues with damage are resolved. Nestbox provision, once extensive across the wood, might also be re-introduced.</p>

<p>5. To ensure that through a combination of voluntary work, grant support and timber income that the management of the wood does not become an undue financial burden to the Parish Council.</p>	<p>The work undertaken by the Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group will continue to be critical in ensuring that the overall costs of woodland ownership and management to the Parish Council are not a financial burden.</p> <p>However, opportunities for future grant support are likely to be more limited in the next five year Plan period given the demise of the Forestry Commission's EWGS and its replacement by Countryside Stewardship (CS). Coleorton Wood will not qualify for CS funding because of its lack of conservation designation and its small size.</p> <p>Consideration will be given therefore to application to the National Forest Company's Woodland Management Grant, although this grant requires application on an annual basis and ongoing work such as ride side coppicing is unlikely to score highly enough to attract consistent funding in its own right.</p> <p>Timber income is anticipated from the felling of Compartment 1b, but this is unlikely to do more than cover the costs of its harvesting and extraction and the ground preparation necessary for re-stocking. This work will therefore be at a net cost to the Parish Council.</p>
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Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Management Plan (revision)	Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group	September 2018	October 2018	Comments and aspirations for the Group/Coleorton Wood.	Adopted into revised Plan to ensure that proposals and scale of work programme is acceptable to the C&NLVG.
Management Plan (revision)	Coleorton Parish	October 2018			Revised Plan to be posted on Parish website to enable viewing and comment during FC consultation period.
Management Plan (revised)	National Forest Company				To be provided with approved revised Plan for information and in support of any grant applications.
Management Plan (revised)	Leicestershire CC				To be provided with approved revised Plan for information and in support of any grant applications.
Management Plan (revised)	North West Leicestershire DC				To be provided with approved revised Plan for information and in support of any grant applications.

Section 8: Monitoring

Management Objective	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
To enhance and maintain the ride network and other access provision for visitors.	Well-managed rides accessible all year round.	Visual Photographic record	Ongoing	Parish Council	Feedback into programme for mowing and coppicing of ride edges
	Well-maintained access furniture, signage and seating	Feedback from visitors.	Annual safety inspection	C&NLVG/Agent	Feedback into planning for repair or replacement
To enhance and maintain the biodiversity value of the wood.	Increased structural diversity of habitat	Visual Photographic record	Annual	Agent	Feedback into Management Plan
	Increased wildlife populations	Surveys of flora and fauna	Annual	C&NLVG/external groups/local community	
To provide opportunities for local people to become involved in the wood's management through practical conservation work.	Increased volunteer time	Record of volunteer hours/volunteer numbers Feedback from volunteers	Annual	C&NLVG	Feedback into Management Plan
To realise the wood's potential as a resource for recreational and social use by families, local residents and groups, including its use for organised events,	Events held at the wood New facilities (eg interpretation or educational provision)	Number of events/ new facilities. Feedback from visitors/local community Increased visitor numbers	Annual	Parish Council C&NLVG	Feedback into Management Plan

in order to develop a sense of community.					
To ensure that through a combination of voluntary work, grant support and timber income that the management of the wood does not become an undue financial burden to the Parish Council.	Management costs at break even or within budget.	Budget setting Income and expenditure records	Annual	Parish Council	Feedback into planning work and grant applications
Disease control	N/A	Visual inspection	Annual	Agent/C&NLVG	Feedback into timing of thinning or selective felling proposals.
Grey squirrel damage	Reduction in damage Reduction in population	Visual inspection Reduction in sightings	Ongoing	Agent/C&NLVG	Feedback into instigation of control measures.
Windthrow	N/A	Visual inspection after storm events.	Ongoing	Agent/C&NLVG	To action remedial tree safety issues. Feedback into timing of felling proposals.

UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Achieved	Review notes
<p>Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, environmental objectives will be achieved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes/No	
<p>Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.</p>	<p>Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in Sect. 2.</p> <p>Management intentions should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant features and issues identified in the woodland survey (Sect. 4). • Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (Sect. 5). • Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement are documented in Sect. 7. 	Yes/No	
<p>Identification of designations within and surrounding the woodland site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account is taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes/No	
<p>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). • Current diversity (structure, species, age 	Yes/No	

<p>assessed and any necessary changes made to meet UKFS requirements.</p> <p>Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.</p> <p>Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.</p>	<p>structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (Sect. 4).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). 		
<p>Consultation:</p> <p>Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder consultation is in line with current FC guidance, and recorded in Sect. 7. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. • Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. 	Yes/No	
<p>Plan update and review:</p> <p>Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan • Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success identified per management objective 	Yes/No	

<p>Approved in Principle</p> <p><i>This means the FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements.</i></p> <p>a) You can use it to support a CS-HT or other grant application.</p> <p>b) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.</p>	<p>Name (WO or FM):</p>	<p>Date:</p>
<p>Approved</p> <p><i>This means FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements, and we have also approved a felling licence for any tree felling in the plan (where required).</i></p>	<p>Name (AO, WO or FM):</p>	<p>Date:</p>