

<u>Woodland Property Name</u>	Newton Beck Wood	
Unique Reference		
Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (ten years)	Approval Date: June 2015	To: June 2025
Five Year Review Date		

Approval Criteria – FC Office Use Only

The UKFS states that a management plan should:

UKFS	Approval Criteria	FC Approval & Notes	
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		
Approving Officer Name	Andy Bennett	Plan approved	Yes <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	Lancaster City Council	Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tenant
Email	hryan@lancaster.gov.uk	Contact Number	01524 582822
Address	White Lund Depot, White Lund Road, Morecambe, LA3 3DT		
Agent Name (if applicable)	Paul Bullimore		
Contact Number	07884 657844	Email	lwp@cf-trust.org
County	Lancashire	Nearest Town	Lancaster
Grid Reference 	SD 487 639	Local Authority	Lancaster City Council
Management Plan Area (Hectares)	6.5 Ha		
List the maps associated with this management plan	Map 1 Compartment map Map 2 BHS cpt map Map 3 BHS site map		
Do you intend to apply for a felling licence with this management plan?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No <input 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).

Sustainably manage the wood to protect and enhance the ecological, landscape and recreation value of the site.
 Ensure continued, safe, informal public access to the woodland.
 Encourage and support community use and involvement in the management of the site.

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.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Implement work programme to protect and enhance the semi natural species rich grassland found in the open spaces through control of scrub encroachment and sward management.
2	Manage the woodland using continuous cover forestry techniques and traditional coppice regimes to ensure long term resilience taking into account pest and disease and climate change factors by maintaining and developing age and species diversity. Emphasis will be on native species without excluding non-native where appropriate.
3	Provide informal public access the site though maintenance and sympathetic improvement of the footpath network. Minimise anti-social and ecologically damaging behaviour.
4	Ensure all management is compatible with the management guidance provided by the Lancashire Biological Heritage Sites project team.
5	Fund works from external grants and the use of volunteer labour.
6	Enable current and potential users to understand and appreciate the natural processes occurring in the woods

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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

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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 

Summary

The woodland lies on the northern edge of Lancaster adjacent to residential estates to the south, farmland to the east and a golf course to the north. The Lancaster Canal is to the west of the wood. Newton Beck flows through the site. The wood is in part semi natural and in part plantation dating from the 1992. There is informal public access and it is well used by local people. The site is designated a BHS.

Ecology

BHS

The whole woodland is designated as a County Biological Heritage Site (BHS), a non-statutory designation, primarily due to the presence of semi-natural species-rich grassland. Swamp/fen habitat alongside the brook, the semi-natural woodland in the south and the scattered scrub and trees across the valley add to the wildlife value. The intimate mosaic of habitats provide good feeding, sheltering, roosting and breeding opportunities for invertebrates, small mammals and birds. Please refer to the BHS site assessment and management recommendations (Appx. 1) dated 28th June 2010 for full details.

There are no statutory designations affecting the woods.

Woodland structure

It is predominately mature and semi-mature trees and woodland shrubs. The northern part is mainly of plantation origin whereas the southern part is more semi natural in character. There is a range of ages of trees and some natural regeneration. There are areas of hazel coppice planted in 1992 which have never been cut. Other species include: ash, oak, common alder, poplar, willow, hazel, rowan, birch, willow, elder, hawthorn, blackthorn aspen, sweet chestnut, Norway maple, lime, sycamore. On the edge of the open areas scrub (mainly bramble and blackthorn) are encroaching onto the grasslands.

Recreation

The proximity to the urban population make this woodland very important for public recreation and is regularly used, evidenced by the well established network of paths. Dog walking is a popular use and local residents appreciate it for the wildlife it harbours. A network of informal and sometimes formal paths provide access for the public and, as designated public open space for the community, this aspect must be maintained. Infrastructure such as the footbridge over the beck below the allotment site is now unsafe and work needs to be done to address the problem urgently. There is a history of unauthorised motor cycle use on site although currently at a low level.

There is an existing community group based on the adjacent housing areas which has developed community orchards adjacent to the woods. This group have a keen interest in the wood and could form the nucleus of a "Friends Of Newton Beck Woods"

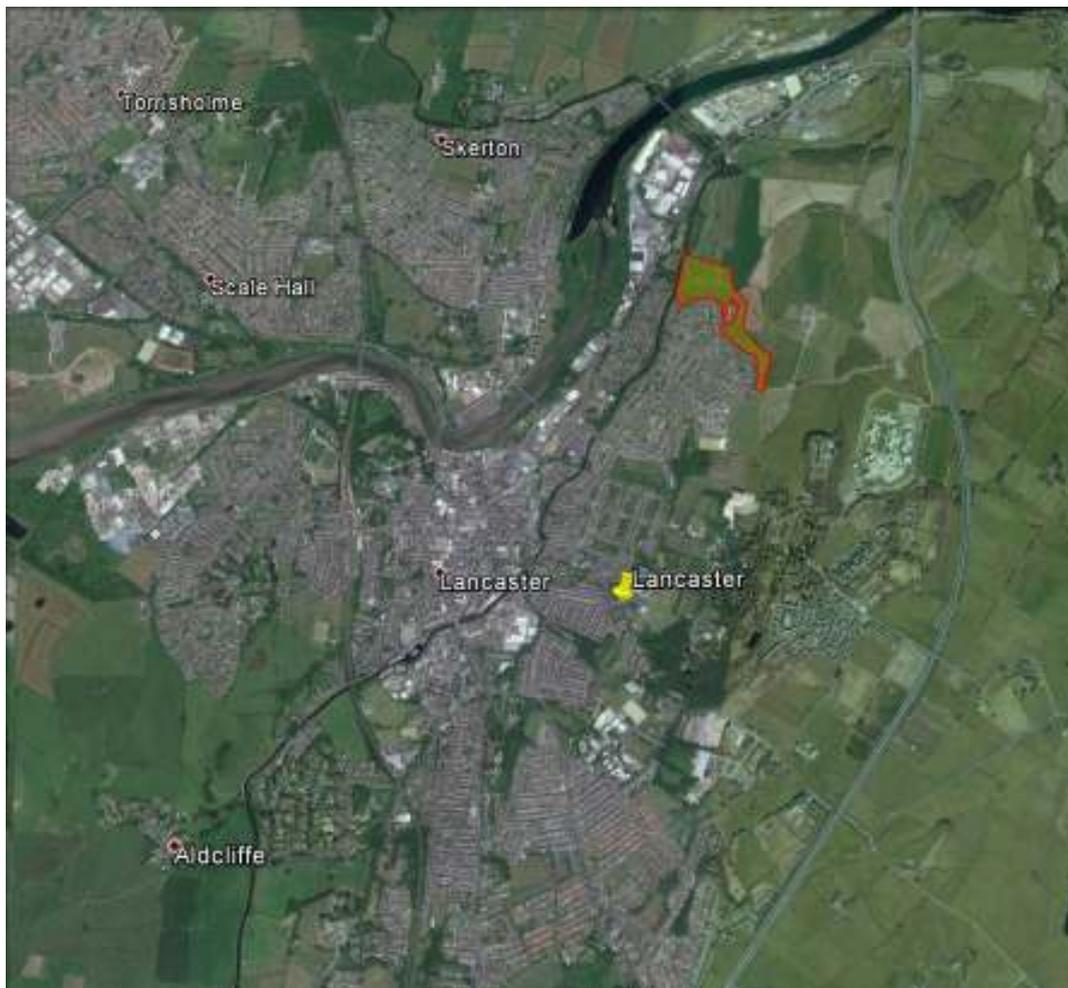
group.

History

The southern part of the wood is in a small clough and is semi-natural in character. It has probably always had some sort of tree cover on it. The Northern part is part planted and part secondary woodland. Planting took place in 1992/3 as part of a joint venture between Lancaster City Council as owners and Lancashire County Council's Countryside Service. At that time some of the more formal path network was established but some of this has now fallen into disrepair.

Setting

The woodland is on the northern edge of the city between the Ridge estate, built in the 1960's, a golf course to the north and open farmland to the east. The Lancaster Canal bounds the western side to the woodland in the north. It provides a buffer between the urban areas and the farmed/managed landscape beyond. See aerial photo below.



Hydrology

The woodland is formed along the Newton Beck which flows initially south to north and then east to west leaving the site via a culvert under the Lancaster Canal. The

waterway is the responsibility of Lancaster City Council engineering department who periodically clear the beck and culvert to prevent obstruction to the water flow. Woodland management can enhance the ecological value of the water through careful manipulation of the streamside vegetation. A small seasonal pond exists at the north end of the site.

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

Ash dieback could cause the premature loss of a significant element of the woodland. The woodland should be regularly monitored to identify any infection and current Forestry Commission guidance followed. Other tree pests and diseases could occur and professionals involved in the management and maintenance of the wood will monitor for signs of problems. Volunteers can also be trained up to monitor tree health and report any suspicious signs.

Deer

Deer do inhabit the wood but due to the location and regular public access the impact appears to be relatively low. Protection measures will be required to ensure any new planting or natural regeneration required survives. Deer control measures are inappropriate.

Grey Squirrels

Grey squirrels live in the woods and are appreciated by users of the wood. Damage levels appear to be low and control measures would be inappropriate.

Livestock and Other Mammals

Livestock is not an issue here

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

The southern end of the wood is in a small clough and soil erosion could be an issue if the site were opened up extensively. The free flow of the beck must be maintained at all times and any woodland works will have to have regards for this important aspect of the site. At the northern end of the site is a seasonal pond which needs to be managed to maintain its ecological value.

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

Areas of Newton Beck Wood adjacent to the beck are wet and swampy but these are of ecological importance and need to be maintained as wet areas.

Wind and fire are low risk factors and, provided good forestry practice is used in the management, should not pose any problems.

Some ecologically important open areas are at risk of harm from encroachment of trees and shrubs. The BHS guidance should be applied.

Japanese Knotweed is present in the southern part of the wood. Lancaster City Council do appear to have done some chemical control but further treatments are needed to

eradicate this very damaging plant.
Monitor motor cycle use and take action as appropriate.

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

Part of the wood is relatively young and of plantation origin. The older sections to the south have a range of tree species and variety of ages. Maintaining and improving species and age diversity will be a key element of management. When planting or restocking consideration must be given to using non-native species such as sweet chestnut to improve resilience.

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.

Where pertinent these work prescriptions are taken from the Lancashire BHS site assessment and management recommendations dated March 2011. All management must be carried out with full consultation with the BHS ecologists. All works will be subject to availability of funding and/or volunteer involvement.

Mgt Objective/Feature	Outline Work Prescriptions/Operations	Year
Tall swamp/fen community	Maintain mosaic of open tall swamp habitat with scattered scrub/trees. Monitor and remove trees/brambles to maintain as required	Annually
Scrub	Maintain scrub margins between woodland and grassland. Scattered scrub is ecologically most valuable	Annually
Grasslands	Manage to restore botanical diversity. Prevent encroachment by trees/scrub. Cut grassland in 2 year rotation and remove cuttings.	Annually
Secondary and plantation woodland	Where canopy is dense thin to allow more light to the ground to increase understorey and ground flora Areas of hazel can be coppiced on an appropriate cycle to improve wildlife habitats and provide small quantities of firewood and greenwood products for local use.	Annual programme of small scale work.
Japanese Knotweed	Eradicate by herbicide treatment	Years 1-5
Semi Natural woodland	Monitor, maintain and enhance deadwood habitats. Install bird and bat boxes.	Annually
Footpath network	Keep paths clear of overhanging vegetation Repair/replace footbridge	Annually Year 2
Litter and rubbish	In partnership with the City Council	On going.

	volunteers can carry out clearance of the long standing rubbish on the surface and help keep on top of the routine accumulations of litter.	
Public access and interpretation	Consider use of low key signage and interpretation to encourage learning and understanding of the woodland environment. Positively engage with people misusing the site to minimise damage.	

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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.

Individual/ Organisation	Date Contact ed	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Lancaster City Council	Feb 15	Mar 15	Supportive	
Lancaster Green Spaces Forum			Supportive	
Lancashire County Council BHS team	Feb 15	Mar 15	Supportive of management which will secure future of woodland and help protect BHS interest	
Lancashire County Council Heritage Records officer	25/11/14	28/11/14	No significant heritage constraints	
Forestry Commission	2/2/15	13/4/15	Support	
Local Residents via posters in and around wood.	April 2015	May 2015	Only one response commenting on litter in woodland to the west of the canal not part of this plan	

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8. Felling & Restocking

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 ³ (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
1		T	MB	0.5	5	15-19						
1		FC	Hazel	1.0	30	15-19						
2		T	MB	1.0	5	15-19						
2		FC	Hazel	0.5	5	15-19						

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.

Management Objective	Indicator of Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Improve quality of flora on grassland	Range of species	Ecological walkover assessment in spring	Annually	Volunteer	
Increase ground flora in all woodlands areas	Number of species and plants	Ecological walkover assessment in spring	Annually	Volunteer	
Operational monitoring	All work carried out correctly	Short informal report	Annually	Owner/agent	

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