

LAND TO THE NORTH OF NORTON ROAD, THURSTON IP31 3QH

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (WMP).

for



Ecology
Archaeology
Arboriculture
Landscape Architecture



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Property Details	3
2.	Vision and Objectives	3
3.	Management Objectives	3
4.	Woodland Survey	5
4.1	The woodland Survey	5
4.2	Woodland description	5
4.3	History of management	6
4.4	Woodland characteristics	7
4.5	Statutory information	7
4.6	Habitat types	7
4.7	Woodland structure	7
5.	Woodland Protection	9
5.1	Risk matrix	9
5.2	Plant Health	9
5.3	Deer	9
5.4	Grey Squirrels	9
5.5	Livestock and other mammals	10
5.6	Water and soil	10
5.7	Environmental	10
5.8	Climate change resilience	10
6.	Additional hazards	12
7.	Management Strategy	12
8.	Silvicultural systems	12
8.1	Tree removals	13
8.2	New Planting	13
8.3	Other operations	13
	Appendix 1 - Woodland Management Plan (PRI24109-04A).	14

1. Property Details

Woodland Property Name		Lady Greene's Plantation and The Copse.	
County	Suffolk	Local Authority	Mid-Suffolk DC
Grid Reference	TL 9249 6581 centre of site	Single Business Identifier	n/a
Management Plan Areas (Hectares)		1.4 ha and 1.1 ha	

2. Vision and Objectives

2.1 The following vision states the overall direction of management for the woodland and how we envisage it will be in the future, for both the life of this plan and beyond.

Maintain and sustain the woodland in terms of biodiversity and maintenance of native broadleaf tree and hedgerow species, public amenity, and landscape. Improve the woodland through good forestry practice and silviculture, improving access to facilitate public activities and promote continuous cover in the areas of woodland under active management. Ensuring that the site is maintained as a diverse and healthy woodland habitat in perpetuity.

3. Management Objectives

3.1 The following objectives state how sustainable woodland management will be achieved. Management objectives are specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long-term vision, they encompass environmental and social considerations within the scope of the plan.

No.	Objectives
1	Maintain the current core native species including oak, field maple, hornbeam, cherry, willow, blackthorn, hawthorn and hazels for amenity and non-economic reasons.
2	Improve the access to the woodland by creating suitable access points from the development side of the site to provide public access to the entire woodland and facilitate small scale woodland management/maintenance operations.
3	Undertake a tree safety survey of trees and create a zoning plan for categorising levels of access and repeat survey every two years.

No.	Objectives
4	Selective removal of ash trees infected with Ash Die-back over the term of this ten-year management plan as identified within the tree safety inspection undertaken at 2-year intervals to discharge the landowner's duty of care.
5	Pollard overmature weeping willow trees and other edge trees around the pond.
6	Clear larger fallen trees or manage standing deadwood and dead trees as monoliths/wildlife features.
7	Remove redundant tree tubes, stakes, and ties of all previously planted trees.
8	Remove old wire fencing, pheasant pens, feeders, and other debris in the woodlands.

4.1 Woodland Survey

4.1.1 The following section encompasses detailed woodland survey information including any statutory constraints and woodland resource characteristics. All trees and groups of trees have been plotted by hand and should not be scaled from.

4.1.2 It is recommended that a tree safety survey be undertaken every 2 years in areas of the woodlands proposed for public access. This survey should be commensurate with levels of risk involved and categorized based on usage.

4.2 Description of the woodland in the landscape

4.2.1 The two woodland blocks form part of a larger woodland mosaic providing continuous cover with the larger woodlands on land belonging to Barton Place Farms to the north. The woodlands to the north appear to be in a similar derelict/un-maintained condition with areas of fallen trees.

4.3 History of management

4.3.1 Both woodland blocks are comprised of mixed broadleaf woodland with a smaller coniferous element including Scots pine and cypress. From aerial imagery it appears that both woodlands were planted circa.2002 and have incorporated existing features such as a field drain, veteran trees, and a pond.

4.4 Woodland characteristics

4.4.1 The following details the woodland resource characteristics including species composition, age structure, stocking density and potential timber quality and yield.

Wood Compartment: Lady Greene's Plantation (1.4 ha).
Species Composition: Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus Robur</i>), common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), wild cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>), hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>), English elm (<i>Ulmus procera</i>), Lawson cypress (<i>x chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>), Scots pine (<i>pinus sylvestris</i>), Lime (<i>Tilia sp.</i>), Larch (<i>Larix decidua</i>), hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>).
Age Structure: Tends to be uniform throughout the woodland block but varies to mature oaks in the eastern section. One high amenity value oak of notable size and age with some early veteran characteristics on north-eastern edge by meadow.
Stocking: Stocking density is fair at an average of 3m spacing equalling approx. 1100ha. Where plantings have failed, re-stocking with 1.2m tree tubes has been implemented in the past. Standard trees are occasionally present and tend to be veteran remnants that will be retained to maintain the character of the woodland and some species diversification within these compartments.
Timber Quality and Yield: Timber quality is low due to age and quantity is unlikely to exceed wood chip value, and due to the size of the woodland economic returns from thinning would be low.

Woodland/compartment: The Copse (1.1 ha).
Species Composition: Canopy is Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), white poplar (<i>Populus alba</i>), white willow (<i>Salix alba</i>), Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) and wild cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>). With lesser elements of mixed broadleaf sub-canopy comprising field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>), hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) and elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>).
Age Structure: Semi-mature. Canopy is largely even aged due to lack of thinning (excluding mature oak to eastern end of woodland).
Stocking: Average. Stocking remains good. Canopy is closed in places and needs thinning/selective felling to encourage canopy regeneration, age, and species diversification.
Timber Quality and Yield: Timber quality is low due to age and lack of management and is unlikely to provide anything other than low grade firewood. Any returns from timber sales in this woodland is unlikely to be an economic consideration.

4.5 Statutory Information

4.5.1 The following section identifies features present within the woodland or adjacent to the woodland where its presence will inform management.

Feature		Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)
Site of Special Scientific Interest		No	-	-
Special Area of Conservation		No	-	-
Tree Preservation Order		No	-	-
Conservation Area		No	-	-
Special Protection Area		No	-	-
Ramsar Site		No	-	-
National Nature Reserve		No	-	-
Local Nature Reserve		No	-	-
<u>Schedule 1 Birds</u>	Species:	No	-	-
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		No	-	-
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		No	-	-
Plants		No	-	-
Fungi/Lichens		No	-	-
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)		No	-	-
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)		No	-	-

National Park	No	-	-
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No	-	-
CROW Access	No	-	-
Public Rights of Way (any)	No	-	-
Public Involvement	No	-	-
Visitor Information	No	-	-
Public Recreation Facilities	No	-	-
Provision of Learning Opportunities	No	-	-
Watercourses	No	-	-
Lakes	No	-	-
Ponds	Yes	1	-

4.6 Habitat Types

4.6.1 The following table lists the habitat types within the woodland that will inform future management decisions. This information is a record of habitat as a baseline to future management where we will hope to achieve and maintain a diverse structure of habitat, species, and age of trees, appropriate to the context of the woodland.

4.6.2 Both woodland blocks have been included in the Forestry Commission Nation Forest Inventory for broadleaf woodland 2020 and identified in the Inventory of deciduous woodland (England).

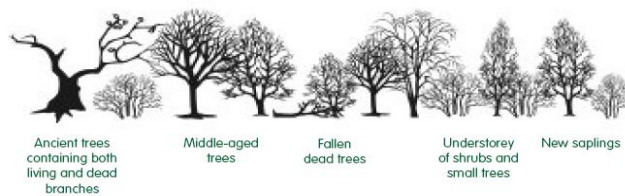
Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	No	-	-	-
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No	-	-	-
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No	-	-	-
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No	-	-	-
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes	1 & 2	-	Mixed broadleaf present within these areas
Wet woodland	No	-	-	-
Wood-pasture and parkland	No	-	-	-

4.7 Structure

4.7.1 This section provides a snapshot of the current woodland structure across the entire holding. It is essential to ensure woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin, and open space provides a range of benefits for both the biodiversity of the woodland and its resilience. As an example, the diagrams below show both uneven and even aged woodland:

Woodland Type (Broadleaf, Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Percentage of Management Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e., understory or natural regeneration present)
Mixed broadleaf	90%	Uneven	Mature canopy
Coniferous woodland	5%	Even	Intimate mix
Veteran trees	5%	Uneven	Edge/boundary trees

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



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity



5. Woodland Protection

Woodlands in England face a range of threats; this section considers the potential threats and constraints facing the woodland. It uses a standard risk assessment process as shown below to consider any potential threat and whether there is a need to take action to protect the woodland.

5.1 Risk matrix

5.1.1 The matrix below was used to score any perceived risks associated with the woodland. The matrix also indicates the Forestry Commission recommended level of action to take to help manage the threat.

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

5.2 Plant Health

Threat (e.g., Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> etc)	Ash Die-back- High
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (including protection measures)	Regular thinning out of ash and species diversification when re-planting gaps.

5.3 Deer

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (including protection measures)	Muntjac are present on site but their impact on the trees is negligible.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (including protection measures)	No crops currently at the vulnerable stage, although one tree has extensive bark stripping. Establish control measures as necessary to any new or vulnerable crops.

5.5 Livestock and other mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Rabbit
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (including protection measures)	Control. Protect vulnerable crops where required with either tubes or fencing.

5.6 Water and soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Pollution, Acidification of Water etc)	Pollution
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (including protection measures)	Employ standard control measures especially adjacent to the pond.

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Fire
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (including protection measures)	Deter fires, camping etc.
Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Windthrow
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (including protection measures)	Active silviculture/clear fallen trees.

5.8 Climate change resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Uniform Structure
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (including protection measures)	Active silviculture to improve age and species diversity.

6. Additional hazards and constraints

6.1 The following section lists any additional hazards or constraints that will impact future woodland management:

Public Access: There are currently no existing access points from the development to the west, 1 access point has been proposed to enable public access into the area between the two woodlands via the existing central meadow area.

Public rights of way: There are no public rights of way within the woodland. However, when public access is permitted, pedestrians will typically create their own routes by line of sight if not directed by adequate signage, gates etc.

Ground conditions: The soil is heavy throughout the site and will be challenging during wet conditions. Any access tracks are likely to degrade quickly with use and ground compaction will be a consideration during management operations.

Undergrowth: Some areas of bramble and other annual tall ruderals.

Current Interest: Pheasant, Partridge and Muntjac deer were observed within the woodlands though no longer used for sporting reasons. Remains of pheasant rearing pens and barbed wire can be found particularly in the southern woodland and should be removed before access is created.

7. Management Strategy

7.1 This section is a statement of intent, setting out how it is intended to achieve the management objectives listed in Section 2. It also considers how any important features identified in previous sections will be managed.

Management Objectives	Management Intention
Maintain a mixed broadleaf species mix to ensure continuous cover.	Over the course of the 10-year management regime maintain an average density of 1,110 stems/per/hectare by restocking native mixed broadleaf whips in tubes.
Ash die-back	Remove the trees infected with ash die-back in the worst condition over the course of the 10-year management in accordance with recommendations in the Tree Safety Inspection. (Please note: - if more than 5 cubic metres of timber is proposed for felling within 1 calendar quarter a felling licence will be needed from the Forestry Commission). Exemptions to this requirement include evidence supplied in a report from a qualified arboriculturist or forester that he trees should be removed within 1 month due to safety reasons.
Tree safety	Tree Safety inspection every 2 years zoning areas of risk from high to low based on footfall numbers. Commencing in Year 1.
Woodland maintenance	Clear fallen trees and stack timber in piles away from woodland edges. Branch wood to be chipped back into woodland and spread evenly on woodland floor. Pollard neglected willows around pond to simplify future management and prolong the retention of the mature willow.

8. Silvicultural Systems

The follow lists the silvicultural systems that will be employed within this management plan:

8.1 Tree removals

Tree removal
Only dead, dying, and diseased trees will be removed as and when identified by the tree safety survey undertaken at 2- year intervals. This approach maintains a minimal intervention approach to management of the woodland while replacing removed trees to maintain continuous cover.

8.2 New Planting

New Planting and establishment
Any areas of low regeneration will be supplemented by a planting of oak and mixed broadleaves to maintain approx.1,100 s/p/h. Oak will form the main crop with mixed broadleaves throughout.

8.3 Other operations

Access Improvement. Improve access to the woodland (see Landscape Management and ecology). This will enable future access and egress throughout the woodlands to all areas.
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Invasive Species Control. Not currently applicable, but monitoring for invasive species such as rhododendron, cherry laurel, giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, and Himalayan balsam etc. should be carried out on a regular basis.
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Appendix 1 - Woodland Management Plan (PRI24109-04A).

See plan appended.



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