

BOOTH WOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021-2026



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SECTION 1: Introduction, Background & Strategic Context

1.1 Introduction

Booth Wood is a small dominantly broadleaf woodland with pinus sp. Stands, owned by Charnwood Borough Council and situated on the western outskirts of Loughborough. The woodland sits as a small pocket on the eastern edge of the intensely farmed Garendon Park estate. To the north are school playing fields and to the south and east is a residential estate.

The site is popular with local residents and local schoolchildren, with the neighbouring Ashmount School delivering Forest School sessions to their students daily during term time.

The woodlands wildlife value is important but lower than could be expected due to public pressure and anti-social behaviour causing damage and disturbance. There is little evidence of management of the flora. Measures are required for environmental enhancement for wildlife as well as improving public access and reducing anti-social behaviour.

Booth Wood has been identified as a priority area for improvement and the Management Plan has been prepared in order to set out the vision, objectives and priorities for the management of the site in consultation with the local community.

1.2 Purpose of the Management Plan

This plan has been developed to outline the aims and objectives in relation to the protection, enhancement and management of the site.

Its purpose is to balance the priorities, policies and pressures that apply to the site and to establish a timescale for putting the objectives into practice. The production of this document allows the contribution that the site makes to the local community to be measured and balanced with key objectives such as nature conservation.

The aim of the management plan is to provide guidance for a 5 year period. The management plan is not intended to be inflexible. It will be appropriately adapted to accommodate new information, altering circumstances, pressures, trends and processes whenever they arise. The plan also allows for public input and is designed

to be the basis for discussion for the future direction of management undertaken on the site.

1.3 Management Structure for the site

Booth Wood is managed by the Environmental Services section, part of the Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Directorate within Charnwood Borough Council.

In 2014 the Council outsourced its management of open spaces and Ranger Service function to an external provider, Quadron Services Ltd (now known as *idverde*). The majority of maintenance operations on site are managed by *idverde* as part of the Management of Open Spaces contract. However, waste management is undertaken by the Council's waste and re-cycling management company as part of the Environmental Services contract.

The day to day running of both contracts is the responsibility of the Council's Contracts team (see Figure 3).

1.4 Relevant Strategies and Policies

1.4.1 National Context

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

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2018

The National Planning Policy Framework (revised) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. It replaces previous guidance in Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes. At its heart is a presumption in favour of

sustainable development, which promotes development that improves economic, social and environmental outcomes. Paragraph 96 states that ‘access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. Planning policies need to be based on robust and up to date assessments of the need for open spaces, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses), and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision are needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate’.

The NPPF provides protection of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings including playing fields, with some specific policy exceptions. Provision is also made for the designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans. This allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

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

National Planning Practice Guidance includes ***open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and the new Local Green Space designation***.

This guidance (2014) contains the requirement for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. It recommends that authorities and developers refer to Sport England’s guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities and consult Local Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields.

Planning Practice Guidance on ***Health and Wellbeing*** (2017) outlines a range of issues that could be considered through the plan-making and decision-making processes, in respect of health and healthcare infrastructure. It includes the

consideration of opportunities for healthy lifestyles e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity, and promotes access to healthier food, high quality open spaces, green infrastructure and opportunities for play, sport and recreation.

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

The Value of Public Open Space

CABE Space (part of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) published a report in 2014 to highlight how public space is a vital part of everyday urban life and that a high-quality public environment can have a significant impact on the economic, health and social life of urban centres, large or small, and cities in the UK.

1.4.2 Local & Regional Context

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

The Open Spaces Strategy is integral to the Council's overall policy framework and plays an important role in the policies of other local stakeholders. The following sets out key local policy information for Charnwood.

Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020

The Borough Council's Corporate Plan sets out the Council's priorities and objectives until 2020. It sets out how the Council will make the borough a better place to live, work and visit. It has three key themes – People, Place and Service and contains pledges to make Charnwood:

- a safer, more secure and caring environment;

- a borough with a strong, diverse economy;
- and a place served by a Council which puts customers at the heart of everything it does.

Through the Corporate Plans aim of creating a strong and lasting economy the Council will ensure that growth in homes and infrastructure benefits residents through improved community facilities. It also supports action to protect the environment for future generations.

Through 'every resident matters' the Council will encourage healthy lifestyles through physical activity programmes and the provision of sports facilities and green spaces.

The Corporate Plan supports the Council's ambition to deliver excellent Services and listen and communicate with residents and act on concerns.

The Charnwood Local Plan, Core Strategy 2015

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

The new Local Plan (up to 2036) will replace the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan 2004. The Core Strategy is the first of the new development plan documents that will make up the Charnwood Local Plan. It is supported by other documents as referred to in the Core Strategy and set out in the Local Development Scheme.

Until the whole new Local Plan has been prepared, the Core Strategy should be read alongside the saved policies from the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan (2004).

The Strategy provides the vision, objectives and strategic policies for delivering growth for Charnwood. It will help shape and consider major developments, deliver infrastructure, and influence economic investment decisions. It will play a significant part in delivering homes and jobs, regenerating the borough's towns and protecting the countryside, environment and heritage.

The Core Strategy reflects the Government's requirements as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Strategy has been developed within these requirements to support and deliver the Council's Corporate Plan and supporting

strategies for Charnwood, particularly the Sustainable Community Strategy and Regeneration Strategy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) and Playing Pitch Strategy (2018)

In 2017 the Borough Council commissioned an update of the 2010 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study. Two reports have been produced – The Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) and the Playing Pitch Strategy (2018). These documents update and build upon the 2010 Study, having regard to changes in national policy guidance and analysis of local needs and priorities.

The Open Spaces Assessment Study (2017) assesses the provision of eight established typologies of Open Space, including Natural & Semi-natural Green Space.

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

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

The Charnwood Landscape Character Assessment (2012)

The Charnwood Landscape Assessment provides a structured evaluation of the landscape of the borough including a landscape strategy with guidelines for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of the character of the landscape, which

will inform development management decisions and development of plans for the future of the borough.

Booth Wood falls within the Soar Valley landscape character and a number of landscape management recommendations are given which are relevant to the site. Of particular relevance are the following recommendations:

- Maintain the current balance between the urban and rural character of the Soar Valley.
- Promote the good management of trees such as the pollarding of riverside willows and replace aging trees for the next generation of trees to provide continuity of habitat resource.
- Where safety allows, retain dead wood for invertebrates.

Charnwood Borough Council Tree Policy

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

1.5 Statutory Designations and Site Constraints

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the principle legislative instrument for the protection of habitats and species in the United Kingdom. The Act prohibits actions that may harm or endanger specified species of conservation concern.

Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000

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

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

This item of legislation places a duty on all public authorities in England and Wales to have regard, in the exercise of their functions, to the purpose of conserving

biodiversity, including restoring or enhancing a population or habitat. A key purpose of this duty is to embed consideration of biodiversity as an integral part of policy and decision making throughout the public sector.

Local Wildlife Sites

Booth Wood is listed as a Local Wildlife Site. Local Wildlife Sites are the most important places for wildlife together with legally protected areas such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The previous term of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is no longer used, to fit in with the latest national guidance such as PPS9, DEFRA's guidance on Local Sites, and the Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Biodiversity Strategy.

Local Nature Reserve

An application is currently being made to Natural England to formally designate Booth Wood as a Local Nature Reserve.

Charnwood Borough Council Management of Open Spaces Contract

Within the MOS contract Booth Wood is designated as a 'Natural & Semi Natural' site.

Public Rights of Way (PROWs)

No designated public rights of way exist on the site;

Byelaws

The site is not currently covered by any official Council Byelaws.

SECTION 2: Site Description & Evaluation

2.1 General Information

2.1.1 Site Statistics

Name of site	Booth Wood
Address	Rowbank Way, Loughborough. LE11 4WD
Location	Garendon Ward, Loughborough
Central grid reference	SK 5082 1933
Size of Site (hectares)	4.13
Site Management	Contracts Section, Environmental Services, Charnwood Borough Council
Designations	Local Wildlife Site (LWS) Natural & Semi Natural Site typology – MOS Contract

2.1.2 Location & Context

This Local Wildlife Site is situated 1.75 miles west of Loughborough Town Centre, penned in by houses on its southern and eastern edges, large school playing fields to the north and bolted onto a large farming estate at its western sleeve, lies the 4.13 ha woodland of Booth Wood.

The woodland is surrounded by mortised post and rail fence, which is in a dilapidated condition, with 5 pedestrian access points, one at each corner and additional access between the northern corners. A field gate provides access for authorised vehicles to the central ride from Obelisk Way which is a footpath running up its western and northern edges, the gate being situated at the mid-point of the western edge. There is a further vehicular restrictive access gate from the Rowbank Way entrance point of Obelisk Way at the south-west corner of the wood.

The ride runs from west to east from the field gate and ends before the woodland meets its neighbouring Garendon Estate. Due to this eastern neighbour, there is a

large expanse of green surroundings, with the fields adjacent to mature trees likely to provide excellent hunting for owls.

2.1.3 Ownership

Booth Wood is owned by Charnwood Borough Council (CBC), acquired in 1975.

2.1.4 History/Past Usage

Booth Wood has strong similarities to areas of woodland on the nearby Garendon Park estate, and is particularly similar to the wood known as Home Covert which is still used for game rearing. There is a park pale bank and ditch to the west side of the wood which is an old feature of many parks, built to contain deer within the parkland.

2.1.5 Legal Constraints

There are no legal constraints on the site.

2.2 Physical Information

2.2.1 Geology

Booth Wood is fairly typical of a Charnwood Forest woodland. The landscape is formed principally of ancient volcanic rocks, which include some of the oldest rocks found in England. This area of Triassic rocks is made up mudstone, limestone and sandstone. The rocky outcrops, which are common in this area, are the remnants of an ancient mountain range, formed through volcanic eruptions between 650-540 million years ago.

2.2.2 Topography

Booth Wood stands at roughly 67m above sea level at its highest point on the northern edge and gently slopes downwards to approximately 50m above sea level towards the south.

2.2.3 Soils

There are no detailed soil maps available for the area. The most detailed soil map available is the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

The soils of the area consist mainly of two types: the Flint Association and the Worcester Association. The parent material is till or head derived mainly from Triassic mudstone. This soil has dense slowly permeable subsoil usually with a degree of waterlogging. The first 60cm depth is described as slightly to moderately stony clay loam, between 60cms depth and 100cms after which the soil becomes a stony clay. The Worcester Association is dominated by reddish clayey soils developed in Permo-Triassic mudstone and clay shale. The topsoil consists of dark brown stoneless or very slightly stoney clay loam or clay with a subsoil of silty clay or clay. This soil type is usually seasonally waterlogged. This soil type is extensive throughout the Midlands.

There is a distinctive difference from the north and south sides of the ride, indicating a change in soil types. Bracken dominates the ground floor of the north, whereas bramble dominates the southern side, indicating more acidic conditions to the north.

2.3 Habitats and Biodiversity

2.3.1 Overview

This section summarises the most significant animals and plants recorded from the site.

Recent survey work commenced across the site during June and July 2018, following a prolonged period of time where surveys were either not recorded or were undertaken on a more informal basis. It is expected that this section will be further developed over the life of the management plan.

There is a limited degree of species diversity within the woodland with a total of 8 (including 3 non-native) canopy tree species. The shrub layer and ground flora also demonstrate a limited degree of species diversity. All nearby woodland areas (for example Gorse Covert, Home Covert and Bailey's Plantation) demonstrate a greater degree of species diversity.

A small number of trees have been planted in the wood in recent years, increasing species diversity to a limited degree.

The Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (2016-26): Space for Wildlife identifies 20 Priority Habitats and 15 Priority Species. The relevant habitats/priorities for Booth Wood are mature trees as a habitat and wood vetch as a species.

2.3.2 Flora

There are no species in Booth Wood that are considered to be nationally rare, or rare to Leicestershire. The wood does have some more common indicator species such as Dogs Mercury and Wood Anemone. Whilst bluebells have been recorded, these are now mostly replaced or hybridised with the invasive Spanish bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*), there were also crocuses within the woodland, which are also non-indigenous.

Further recorded species during a brief survey in 2018 were:

- Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non scripta*)
- Spanish bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanicus*)
- Red campion (*Silene dioica*)
- Cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)
- Fig buttercup (*Ficaria verna*)
- Greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*)

2.3.3 Key Habitats

Trees/scrub

Canopy

The oldest oaks in Booth Wood are the oaks along the eastern boundary. Figure 5 shows historical maps, with a deciduous woodland present in 1884 but mainly coniferous in 1915. However, the eastern fringe continues to be deciduous and the oaks present today represent these original surviving oaks. By 1915 the wood had been largely felled and replaced with conifers. The wood appears to have been planted in more recent years following the war, with oak and ash as many examples

are of a similar age. Today the wood reflects its past with old oaks to the east and a mix of conifer, ash and oak throughout. There has been a ride left unplanted and this may well have been an historic bridleway dating back to when the site was a part of the Garendon Estate and probably used for hunting parties. That or it was put in simply to assist with extraction of conifers.

The canopy is dominated by mature sessile oak (*Quercus patraea*) with more examples in the north, closed and even aged. There is some regeneration, but with the density of bracken and bramble on the ground layer, regeneration is difficult, particularly under the dense blanket of bracken on the northern side of the wood.

There is a considerable number of silver birch (*Betula pendula*) as these are a pioneer species and fast growing, they will have less difficulty breaking through the density of the bracken carpet.

On the southern edge of the wood, the canopy is dominated by Larch (*Larix decidua*) and Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) that were planted at the same time as the rest of the wood. These have very little value within woodlands.

Throughout the wood there are examples of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) which currently show no signs of Chalara ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). This will benefit from close monitoring.

Understorey

In the northern section of the wood there are some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) stands which are overgrown, with the Holly becoming dense in areas.

At the western edge, there is a planted row of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). This line is broken through natural failure or anti-social behaviour but may still benefit from being laid to form a natural barrier around the site.

2.3.4 Fauna

Birds

The site supports a variety of bird species associated with woodlands and residential gardens which surround the site. These include birds such as; Blackbird (*Turdus*

merula), Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) and Greater Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*). A list of fauna will be developed over the lifetime of the current management plan as further monitoring takes place.

Of particular note are those species listed on the UK BAP List of Species of Conservation Concern. Of these the Song Thrush is included as a UK Priority Species.

Mammals

Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) are frequently seen across site. Other mammals recorded are fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), mice (*Mus sp.*) and rats (*Rattus sp.*). There is a large active badger sett centrally located in the northern part of the wood along with a series of latrines and visible badger tracks in the undergrowth.



Badgers (*Meles meles*) are protected by law under the Protection of Badger's Act 1992. Although no official records exist it is also highly likely that Bats (*Chiroptera sp.*) – in particular the Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) bat – regularly use the site. Some of the trees surrounding the site may also lend themselves as potential roosting sites. Bat surveys and further investigations will be made together with pre-felling surveys in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust guidelines.

Invertebrates

Limited data is available on invertebrate species present across the site and further surveys are required.

Butterflies/Moths

- Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)
- Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)
- Peacock (*Aglais io*)
- Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)
- Speckled Wood (*Parage aegeria*)

2.4 Cultural Value

2.4.1 Recreational Use and Community

Booth Wood is managed by Charnwood Borough Council for wildlife and public enjoyment. The wood is an important local recreation area particularly for those people living in adjacent and nearby roads. Two main groups of people use the wood; walkers (mostly dog walkers) and children. Members of the public walking dogs generally take a circular route through the adjacent open space network and down the central ride of the wood. Children use the wood to play in, often making dens and penetrating denser areas of the wood.

There are 2 Forest School groups currently using the site, Ashmount being a school for pupils between the ages of 4 and 19 with a range of special educational needs. A group of up to 15 students carry out activities in the wood daily during term time for up to 2 hours. Wild Willows is a Forest School set up for home schooled children and runs every Friday during term time.

Work days with the Green Gym which have been led on site by idverde's Ranger Service, have proved very popular.

2.4.2. Site Infrastructure

Footpaths

Dividing the northern and southern halves of the wood is a main ride. This was likely created after the Great War to extract the pine sp. planted during this time for 'quick' timber.

It is important that the site can be enjoyed by the public, whilst discouraging use of other parts of the site so that they can be retained as quiet areas for wildlife. A network of informal paths provides partial access around the site, many linking to the ride. The site is accessible from various points.

It is important that the site can be enjoyed by the public, whilst discouraging use of other parts of the site so that they can be retained as quiet areas for wildlife. A selection of these informal paths should become bark paths to encourage use of these, whilst allowing the bracken to grow to block other routes until these are established.



Signage

There are two standard Charnwood Borough Council interpretation signs at the site entrance on Rowbank Way, and further up the same path.



Litter Bins

There are no litter bins at Booth Wood.

Fences

There is a mortice post and rail timber fence running almost the entire perimeter of Booth Wood. The fence is likely to have been erected in the mid 1990's as part of management by Charnwood Borough Council. The fence is in a dilapidated state with sections missing. The fence now serves little purpose and is being replaced by scrub regrowth. This gives a far more natural look to the wood and so the fence will not be replaced. As sections deteriorate, they will be tidied up and the existing fence left neat.

2.5 Evaluation & Recommendations

Size

Booth Wood is a relatively small area of woodland dominated by broadleaved species. The site covers 4.13 hectares and is smaller than most other blocks of woodland in the Charnwood area. Within the context of the urban fringe of Loughborough, however, it is of significant size; being the largest wood within the urban fringe.

Naturalness

It is probable that many of the trees were planted during the time the wood formed part of the Garendon Park Estate. The presence of non-native species supports this theory. The wood has become nutrient enriched due to the cyclic life of the bracken and bramble and in part due to the current dumping of garden rubbish from neighbouring properties on the southern boundary.

Rarity

Deciduous woodlands are no longer common place in Leicestershire and a degree of rarity value can be awarded for this reason. The Leicestershire Museums Ecology Unit assessed the wood in the 1980's and classified the southern section of the wood as being of ecological value at Parish Level. However, comparison of this wood with other woods in the area reveals that it is of lower ecological value than most and is not a woodland type of any great rarity. There are no uncommon or rare species known to exist within the wood, all known species are common in Leicestershire and elsewhere.

Fragility

Generally the wood is of low ecological value, but a further decline in its status is likely if current trends continue. The ecology of the wood is under pressure from the number of people who use it. The ground flora in the wood is very poor, but could suffer further decline. It is important that management should be undertaken to improve the current status of the wood and reduce the above pressures in selected areas.

Typicalness

This wood is not of special ecological value and does not in any respect represent a good or typical example of a woodland type. Its importance lies in its value as an informal recreation area for local people and the fact that it provides a haven for wildlife in a largely built environment.

Management of trees and understorey

There are a number of factors which present limitations concerning the management to be undertaken in Booth Wood. It is important that any management work (in particular any felling) does not detract from the biodiversity and visual importance of the wood. The raised position of the wood on the northern side increases the risk of wind-blow occurring, especially after thinning. To reduce the risk of wind-blow, thinning cannot be undertaken in the whole wood in one year. It may also be necessary to retain wind firm species in order to protect the more vulnerable species or specimens. In addition to this any felling requirements need to take the active badger setts into consideration. Where work is to be carried out close to the sett, licences to undertake the necessary work will need to be obtained from Natural England.

The relatively small size of the wood is a limiting factor as management cannot be undertaken on a large and/or economic scale, without detriment to its value to the local community and wildlife as a landscape feature. Management work will have to be undertaken over a number of years. The ideal conditions for creating glades and increasing the age range of trees through planting can only be achieved on a minimalistic scale with these limitations. This management plan, therefore aims to provide a compromise between idealistic woodland management and what can be

achieved with minimum felling. The above constraints indicate that management of the wood should concentrate on recreating a 'wildwood' structure i.e. a wood with a wide age range of trees in all areas.

Regeneration of species is poor at present due to the blanket of bracken on the ground floor; therefore some tree planting may be necessary alongside the management of the growing bracken. Thinning of the canopy will be required in order to provide sufficient light for the young trees. This thinning will take into account the wind firmness of the species compared with adjacent trees.

Habitat and species diversity in the wood can be increased by maintaining the scrub fringe, by laying hedges and also by creating a few small glades. To allow tree planting the dominance of bracken in the ground layer will have to be reduced. Control will be concentrated in those areas to be planted.

For management purposes the wood can be divided into 7 compartments, see Figure 6.

Compartment 1

This compartment is largely made up of a mature oak, ash and birch in the canopy. There are several stands of mature hazel which has been coppiced in the distant past.

Towards the western edge of the compartment, where Booth Wood meets the band of mature and semi-mature planting on the verge of the Garendon Estate, there is a band of scrub comprising of wych elm, elder, hazel, holly and field maple. As the compartment sweeps eastwards, there are dense patches of holly with silver birch and semi-mature and mature oak forming a canopy.

Towards the south of the canopy there are a large number of ash saplings from the mature ash in this area which is surrounded by further wych elm, hazel and field maple. This should be allowed to regenerate naturally.

In the centre of the canopy there are 2 examples of red oak (*Quercus rubra*).

The main aim of the proposed management in this compartment is to increase the age range of trees, species and the habitat diversity of the compartment, creating a wildwood structure. This in turn should help improve the visual quality of the woodland and result in reduced human disturbance in some areas.

The broad management objectives of this compartment are:

- Allow ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) to regenerate naturally (there are still restrictions on planting following the outbreak of *Chalara fraxinea*)
- Fell all conifers.
- Fell any trees considered to be dangerous or poor specimens (favouring removal of conifers), leaving a proportion of the trunk and other dead wood lying on the ground.
- Allow dead wood to stand if appropriate
- Thin holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) by 30%
- Patches of bracken be removed to allow natural regeneration of saplings as well as to increase floral biodiversity.
- Coppicing shrub species on a 5 year cycle.
- Remove red oak saplings.

Compartment 2

This is the largest compartment in the woodland. The canopy is dominated by even aged silver birch (*Betula pendula*) with occasional semi-mature oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and wild cherry (*Prunus avium*).

There is sparse understorey with the occasional holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and little regeneration due to the dense bracken on the ground floor. Also on the ground floor, Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) have replaced the native species in this compartment.

There are many mature birch that have suffered wind-throw which has left a good amount of high standing deadwood.

There is a large badger's sett in the north-western area which will require consideration when managing this compartment to minimise disturbance.

The main aim of the proposed management in this compartment is to increase the age range of trees, species and the habitat diversity of the compartment, creating a wildwood structure. This in turn should help improve the visual quality of the woodland and result in reduced human disturbance in some areas.

The broad management objectives of this compartment are:

- Glade creation with the eventual replanting of the area with the suggested mix of:
 - Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) 25%
 - English oak (*Quercus robur*) 25%
 - Silver birch (*Betula pendula*) 10%
 - Field maple (*Acer campestre*) 10%
 - Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) 10%
 - Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) 10%
 - Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) 10%
- Patches of bracken be removed where planting of saplings takes place to allow growth of the saplings as well as to increase biodiversity.
- Coppicing shrub species on a 5 year cycle.
- Encroaching scrub/herbs should be cut once a year for the first 3 years after planting, then coppiced on a 3-4 year cycle.
- Allow ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) to regenerate naturally (there are still restrictions on planting following the outbreak of *Chalara fraxinea*).
- Fell any trees considered to be dangerous or poor specimens (favouring removal of Pine sp.), leaving a proportion of the trunk and other dead wood lying on the ground.
- Allow dead wood to stand if appropriate.
- Plantings to be maintained by clearing any encroaching vegetation on an annual basis in the first 3 years or until the saplings overgrow surrounding vegetation.
- Minimise disturbance to the resident badger population wherever possible. Felling requirements need to take the badger setts into consideration. Where

work is to be carried out close to any of the setts, licences to undertake the necessary work will be obtained from Natural England.

- Remove silver birch from around young oaks to promote growth.
- Remove broken fencing and lay hedge on north edge of woodland.
- Uproot positively identified Spanish bluebells.
- Plant native bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) once invasive species eradicated.
- Phased removal of conifers.

Compartment 3 (A&B)

This compartment is home to the most mature sessile oak (*Quercus patraea*) in the woodland. These are likely the surviving members of the wood's origins within the Garendon Estate. Following the eastern edge and towards the south of this compartment, there are several mature ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), larch (*Larix decidua*) and Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*).

In this compartment there is, as with the rest of the woodland, a poor understorey, though the eastern and northern boundaries of this compartment contain an almost uninterrupted row of 80 % hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), 8% elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and 8% Wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) with the remaining 4% being made up of Field maple (*Acer campestre*).

The sparse understorey within the compartment is a spattering of holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and young Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*).

The ground layer is densely populated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) with stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), herb bennet (*Geum urbanicum*), wood dock (*Rumex sanguineus*), Cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) at the path edges. There is a scattering of ash saplings on the ground floor which should be allowed to regenerate naturally and monitored due to the current position on Chalara.

The main aim of the proposed management in this compartment is to increase the age range of trees, species and the habitat diversity of the compartment, creating a wildwood structure. This in turn should help improve the visual quality of the woodland and result in reduced human disturbance in some areas.

Broad management of this compartment should be to:

- reduce the bramble coverage on the ground floor as this is suppressing biodiversity-leave several large (10m dia) designated pockets of bramble for wildlife coverage and food source for birds.
- remove the fencing as it becomes compromised and lay the hedge-fill gaps by planting hawthorn.
- Develop an understorey through planting shrub species of:
 - Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) 40%
 - Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) 20%
 - Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) 20%
 - Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) 20%
- Allow natural regeneration of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and other native species.
- Coppicing shrub species on a 5 year cycle.

Compartment 4

This compartment is dominated by mature ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with a less even mix of Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), Silver birch (*Betula pendula*), Larch (*Larix decidua*) and Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestica*).

The shrub layer contains dense patches of holly (*Ilex aquilolium*) and occasional stools of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) and beech saplings (*Fagus sylvatica*) along with a few examples of Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*).

The ground flora has poor biodiversity due to the densely populated bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) suppressing the growth of further plant species. There is also stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), herb bennet (*Geum urbanicum*),

wood dock (*Rumex sanguineus*), Cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) at the path edges.

The main aim of the proposed management in this compartment is to increase the age range of trees, species and the habitat diversity of the compartment, creating a wildwood structure. This in turn should help improve the visual quality of the woodland and result in reduced human disturbance in some areas.

The broad management objectives of this compartment are:

- Remove conifers leaving a proportion of dead wood lying with the eventual replanting of the area with the suggested mix of:
 - Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) 25%
 - English oak (*Quercus robur*) 25%
 - Silver birch (*Betula pendula*) 10%
 - Field maple (*Acer campestre*) 10%
 - Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) 10%
 - Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) 10%
 - Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) 10%
- Patches of bramble be removed where planting of saplings takes place to allow growth of the saplings as well as to increase biodiversity.
- Coppicing shrub species on a 5 year cycle.
- Encroaching scrub/herbs should be cut once a year for the first 3 years after planting, then coppiced on a 3-4 year cycle.
- Allow ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) to regenerate naturally (there are still restrictions on planting following the outbreak of *Chalara fraxinea*).
- Fell any trees considered to be dangerous or poor specimens (favouring removal of conifers), leaving a proportion of the trunk and other dead wood lying on the ground.
- Allow dead wood to stand if appropriate.
- Thin holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) by 30%.
- Maintain the scrub fringe to the wood on the eastern perimeter (after conifer removal) by coppicing shrub species.

- Plantings to be maintained by clearing any encroaching vegetation on an annual basis in the first 3 years or until the saplings overgrow surrounding vegetation.

Compartment 5

This compartment is dominated in the southern region by even age stands of mature sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvatica*) and European larch (*Larix decidua*). To the north, Silver birch (*Betula pendula*) becomes dominant with infrequent semi-mature oak.

There is a poor shrub layer with examples of holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), field maple (*Acer Campestre*), wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), norway maple saplings (*Acer platinoides*) and beech saplings (*Fagus sylvatica*).

Regeneration is mainly holly, silver birch, rowan, Norway maple and wych elm.

A ground flora is densely populated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) with stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), herb bennet (*Geum urbanicum*), wood dock (*Rumex sanguineus*), Cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) at the path edges.

The main aim of the proposed management in this compartment is to increase the age range of trees, species and the habitat diversity of the compartment, creating a wildwood structure. This in turn should help improve the visual quality of the woodland and result in reduced human disturbance in some areas.

The broad management objectives of this compartment are:

- Remove conifers leaving a proportion of dead wood lying with the eventual replanting of the area with the suggested mix of:
 - Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) 25%
 - English oak (*Quercus robur*) 25%
 - Silver birch (*Betula pendula*) 10%
 - Field maple (*Acer campestre*) 10%

- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) 10%
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) 10%
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) 10%
- Patches of bramble be removed where planting of saplings takes place to allow growth of the saplings as well as to increase biodiversity.
- Coppicing shrub species on a 5 year cycle.
- Encroaching scrub/herbs should be cut once a year for the first 3 years after planting, then coppiced on a 3-4 year cycle.
- Allow ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) to regenerate naturally (there are still restrictions on planting following the outbreak of *Chalara fraxinea*).
- Fell any trees considered to be dangerous or poor specimens (favouring removal of conifers), leaving a proportion of the trunk and other dead wood lying on the ground.
- Allow dead wood to stand if appropriate.
- Remove garden rubbish which has been dumped along the southern perimeter of the wood and erect a notice to discourage dumping.

Compartment 6

This compartment has a dominant canopy of mature ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with scattered conifer sp. including Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestica*) and contains some examples of mature sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*).

A shrub layer consisting of ash saplings, field maple (*Acer Campestre*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), english elm (*Ulmus minor var. vulgaris*), silver birch saplings (*Betula pendula*) hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Norway maple saplings (*Acer platinoides*), beech saplings (*Fagus sylvatica*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) occur in the compartment, some of which have been planted in 2011 by the Loughborough Lions.

A ground flora is densely populated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) with stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), herb bennet (*Geum urbanicum*), wood dock (*Rumex sanguineus*), Cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) at the path edges. It is probable that the wood was planted during the period it formed part of the Garendon Estate.

Dumping of garden rubbish is causing some problems and resulting in alien introductions, particularly in the wood edge. Nutrient enrichment of the soil, probably originating from the use of the wood for game rearing, is being exacerbated by the dumping of garden rubbish. Stinging nettles in particular, thrive in these conditions as does elder and a number of the other plants mentioned above. The dominance of these plants has reduced species diversity in the ground flora still further.

The main aim of the proposed management in this compartment is to increase the age range of trees, species and the habitat diversity of the compartment, creating a wildwood structure. This in turn should help improve the visual quality of the woodland and result in reduced human disturbance in some areas.

The broad management objectives of this compartment are:

- To remove large and medium sized conifers throughout the compartment, leaving a proportion of dead wood.
- Coppicing shrub species on a 5 year cycle.
- Plant shrubs coppiced areas where appropriate
Suggested shrub mix:
 - Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) 40%
 - Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) 20%
 - Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) 10%
 - Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) 10%
 - Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) 10%
- Patches of bramble to be removed where planting of saplings takes place to allow growth of the saplings and to increase biodiversity.
- Encroaching scrub/herbs should be cut once a year for the first 3 years after planting, then coppiced on a 3-4 year cycle.
- Allow ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) to regenerate naturally (there are still restrictions on planting following the outbreak of *Chalara fraxinea*).
- Fell any trees considered to be dangerous or poor specimens (favouring removal of conifers), leaving a proportion of the trunk and other dead wood lying on the ground.
- Allow dead wood to stand if appropriate.

- Remove garden rubbish which has been dumped along the southern perimeter of the wood and erect a notice to discourage dumping.

Compartment 7-Main Ride

The main ride splits the wood into the north and south sections, travelling from east to west. To the north, in compartments 4, 5 and 6, the soil is more acidic indicated by the dominance of bracken. To the south of the ride, in compartments 1, 2 and 3, bramble dominates the ground floor. The ride was likely introduced in the early 20th century after the planting of conifers for access for extraction.

In previous years, the ride was likely to have been flailed as there has been only minimal tree regeneration which is less than 20 years old. Therefore, the ride is clearly defined and with some clearance of young trees, the ride can again be flailed with machinery.

There has been occasional gentle management in recent years to uproot bramble and trim back the bracken by the Ranger Service and local conservation volunteers which has increased biodiversity along the ride and allow the native bluebells and other wildflowers such as Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Cow parsley (*anthriscus sylvestris*), Dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*), and Red campion (*Silene dioica*). The Spanish bluebell is also present on the eastern side of the ride.

Suggested management of this compartment is:

- Remove tree species within 5m of the centre of the main path on each side.
- Flail 4m on each side of the ride on first year of management and then each side on alternate years.
- Use strimmer/brush-cutter to create scallops along flailed edge to attract butterflies.
- Uproot positively identified Spanish bluebells.
- Plant native bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) once invasive species eradicated.

Cultural Issues

The site is very well used generally for quiet recreation. Use of the site by dog walkers does not appear to cause too much disturbance to wildlife as dogs are generally kept under control. In general the public have open access to the greater proportion of the site, but a small reduction in the number of paths in the wood would help to discourage access through the scrub plantings. This could be achieved by leaving some felled conifers over paths to be closed. This would not be detrimental to the informal recreation potential of the wood.

An updated interpretation board on the history of the site and the wildlife it supports would enhance the public appreciation of the site, particularly those residents who do not live in the immediate vicinity.

SECTION 3: VISION

The following vision for Booth Wood has been agreed:

Manage the site for informal recreation, and improve the ecological value of the wood through appropriate management.

SECTION 4: MANAGEMENT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Aims and Objectives of Management

Based on the above site based information and its evaluation, together with the Borough Council, regional and national policy, the aims and objectives for Booth Wood are set out below (Section 4 contains detailed annual maintenance works and annual work programmes which flow from these).

Aim 1 Recreation and Access

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

Objectives:

- To consult on the number of paths within the woods and to ensure that all primary paths are maintained.
- To provide a new interpretation board at the footpath entrance to the site and consider further interpretation signs around the site.

- To provide regular patrol and monitoring of the site by idverde's Ranger Service.
- To undertake a risk assessment of all trees on the site, footpaths and access routes every five years. Associated remedial work will be undertaken as identified.
- To respond positively and quickly to public complaints and enquiries, and ensure that the Council's public complaints and feedback procedure is adhered to as appropriate, particularly with regards to anti-social behaviour within the wood.

Aim 2 Biodiversity

To conserve and encourage the semi-natural characteristics of the site and its associated wildlife in accordance with the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans, maintaining or increasing populations of Key Species, and the extent and quality of Key Habitats.

Objectives:

- To work within the constraints and limitations of Booth Wood to create a wildwood.
- Maximise the potential for increasing biodiversity across the site.
- To encourage the predominately semi-natural vegetation communities present during all habitat management, in turn benefitting associated flora and fauna.
- To implement as appropriate specific management to maintain or increase populations of the UK Priority Species and LBAP Species associated with the site.
- To retain standing and fallen dead wood wherever possible, promoting associated fungi, invertebrates, hole-nesting birds and bats.
- To maintain and protect the resident badger population on the site.
- To maintain and protect the sites "Local Wildlife Site" status.
- To monitor the effects of all habitat management whenever possible, reviewing and revising management strategies as appropriate.
- To carry out a programme of flora and fauna surveys to improve knowledge and feed into the management planning process.
- To propose designation of the site as a Local Nature Reserve to afford further

protection as a community wildlife site.

Aim 3 Arboricultural Management

Ensure the appropriate management of all trees and scrub.

Objectives:

- To minimise the landscape impact of coppicing and other arboricultural works.
- To manage coppiced areas to ensure they do not become overgrown and subject to failure.
- To employ operational methods which avoid excessive disturbance to the site.
- To ensure all works comply with the Council's Tree Policy.
- To ensure all works around the badger setts are undertaken with the appropriate licences from Natural England and that minimum disruption is caused to the resident badger population.
- Ensure that trees identified as hazardous are removed safely and in a controlled Manner.
- Leave a proportion of felled wood lying and dead wood standing to increase
- Undertake small plantings of native broadleaves where appropriate.

Aim 4 Ground Flora Management

Increase species and habitat diversity in the ground flora and shrub layers by increasing light levels and creating a scrub fringe to the wood.

Aim 5 Landscape

To maintain and protect the landscape value of the site.

Objectives:

- To ensure all operations and management proposed is sympathetic to the important visual amenity provided by Booth Wood.
- To protect and maintain the wood and its visual amenity for residents and the local community.
- Establish links with the management of the neighbouring Garendon Estate and aim to enhance the area as a whole.

Aim 6 Grounds Maintenance

To encourage high quality maintenance of the area.

Objectives:

- To maintain the site on an annual basis in accordance with the agreed maintenance plan and MOS contract with idverde.

Aim 7 Community Involvement and Participation in Site Management

To encourage community involvement in the management of the site.

Objectives:

- To consult and involve the local community, specialist interest and stakeholder groups during the implementation of the management plan.
- To continue to support interested parties in the local community and strengthen partnerships where possible.
- To encourage opportunities for joint working and improvement wherever possible.
- To facilitate an annual forum with local residents to inform and improve management of the site and its facilities.
- To regularly monitor perceptions of the site and its management, and take on board associated recommendations as appropriate.
- To increase volunteer involvement in the site's management through an annual programme developed by the Ranger Service and other partners.
- To continue to encourage the local community and other site visitors to report any concerns or problems at the site, acting as the "eyes and ears" of the Council.
- To support local naturalists and the wider community who visit and record the nature conservation interest of the site.

Aim 8 Maximising Resources and Revenue Generation

To maximise income generation to offset expenditure for capital items.

Objectives:

- To maximise sources of internal and external funding and other resources in partnership with stakeholders to fund capital improvements.

- To maintain and manage the site as an example of sustainability in action, by ensuring that the social and environmental impact of all operations are considered alongside the economic.

SECTION 5: MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Annual Maintenance Programme

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TIMING	RESPONSIBILITY
Infrastructure			
Post and rail fence	Remove dilapidated sections	Ongoing as required	Idverde Rangers
Site signage	Clean, repair or replace	Ongoing as required	Idverde Rangers
Safety	Check access and security	Once per week	Idverde Rangers
Grounds Maintenance			
Woodland ride	Flail central path, (2m).	Annually	Idverde
Woodland ride	Flail one side of path up to 4m.	Annually	Idverde
Paths	Strim path edges	April-August	Idverde Rangers
Shrubs/hedges	Cut back vegetation from footpath Coppice selected scrub on a cycle in accordance with the management plan	September-March	Idverde Rangers
Patrols	Patrol the site and report on issues e.g. vandalism, graffiti	Once per week	Idverde Rangers
Arboriculture			

General	Safety works following storm damage	Ongoing as required	Charnwood Borough Council/idverde
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5.2 Annual Management Work Programme (Years 1-5)

Key: CBC Charnwood Borough Council, IDV idverde

YEAR 1 April 2021 to March 2022

Tree and Shrub Management

1. Undertake necessary tree works in line with instructions from Charnwood Borough Council.
Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)
2. Remove selected conifers in compartment 5.
Winter (CBC/IDV)
3. Selective birch thinning in compartment 2 leaving area of glade.
Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)
4. Coppice shrub sp. in compartment 1 & 6.
5. Remove dilapidated fence and plant hedge in gaps in SE of compartment 3B.
Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)
6. Remove tree sp. from compartment 7.
Summer (IDV Rangers)
7. Flail one side of main ride.
Late summer (IDV)
8. Strim ride edges into scallops.
After flail (IDV Rangers)

Biodiversity

9. Selective removal of brambles.
Early Summer (IDV)
10. Monitor and record flora and fauna on site.
Summer/Autumn (IDV Rangers)

Community Involvement

11. Hold Ranger led community work days.
As required/requested – Minimum one event per annum (IDV Rangers)
12. Engage with local Bat group to undertake Bat survey.

Summer/Autumn (IDV Rangers)

13. Hold annual forum with residents and interested parties to review the management plan.

Spring (ALL)

YEAR 2 – April 2022 to March 2023

Recreation and Access

1. Consider installation of new interpretation signs for the site (additional funding required).

Summer (CBC/IDV)

2. Ensure footpaths are accessible by keeping 2m clear of growing vegetation. Keep informal paths clear of vegetation.

Summer (IDV Rangers)

Tree and Shrub Management

3. Undertake necessary tree work in line with instructions from Charnwood Borough Council.

Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)

4. Remove selected pine sp. in compartments 1 and 2.

Winter (CBC/IDV)

5. Selective thinning of birch in compartment 2.

Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)

6. Coppice shrub sp. in compartment 3

7. Remove dilapidated fence and plant hedge in gaps in NE of compartment 3A.

Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)

8. Ensure other side of main ride is flailed.

Late summer (IDV)

9. Strim ride edges into scallops.

After flail (IDV Rangers)

Biodiversity

10. Carry out flora and fauna survey of site.

Spring/Summer/Autumn (CBC/IDV Rangers)

Community Involvement

11. Hold Ranger led community work days.

As required/requested – Minimum one event per annum. (IDV Rangers)

12. Contact local Bat group for Bat walk.

Summer/Autumn (IDV Rangers)

13. Hold annual forum with residents and interested parties to review management plan.

Spring (ALL)

YEAR 3 – April 2023 to March 2024

Recreation and Access

1. Ensure footpaths are accessible by keeping 2m clear of growing vegetation.

Keep informal paths clear of vegetation.

Summer (IDV Rangers)

2. Ensure other side of main ride is flailed.

Late summer (IDV)

3. Trim ride edges into scallops.

After flail (IDV Rangers)

Tree and Shrub Management

4. Undertake necessary tree work in line with instructions from Charnwood Borough Council.

Winter (CBC/IDV)

5. Remove selected pine sp. in compartment 3.

Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)

6. Remove dilapidated fence and plant hedge in gaps in compartment 2.

Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)

7. Selective thinning of birch in compartment 1 and 4.

Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)

8. Coppice shrub sp. in compartment 5.

Biodiversity

9. Carry out flora and fauna survey of site.

Spring/Summer/Autumn (CBC/IDV Rangers)

Community Involvement

10. Hold Ranger led community work days.

As required/requested – Minimum one event per annum. (IDV Rangers)

11. Hold annual forum with residents and interested parties to review management plan.

Spring (ALL)

YEAR 4 – April 2024 to March 2025

Recreation and Access

1. Ensure footpaths are accessible by keeping 2m clear of growing vegetation.
Keep informal paths clear of vegetation.
Summer (IDV Rangers)
2. Ensure other side of main ride is flailed.
Late summer (IDV)
3. Strim ride edges into scallops.
After flail (IDV Rangers)

Tree and Shrub Management

4. Undertake necessary tree work in line with instructions from Charnwood Borough Council.
Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)
5. Coppice hazel in compartment 1.
Autumn/Winter (IDV Rangers)
6. Remove selected pine sp. in compartment 5.
7. Thin birch in compartment 1 (prior to planting)
8. Plant woodland mix in compartments 1 and 2.
9. Maintain glade in compartment 2.
Late Summer (IDV Rangers)

Biodiversity

10. Review survey data and undertake further works as recommended.
Ongoing (CBC/IDV Rangers)

Community Involvement

11. Hold Ranger led community work days.
As required/requested – Minimum one event per annum. (IDV Rangers)
12. Hold annual forum with residents and interested parties to review management plan.
Spring (ALL)

YEAR 5 – April 2025 to May 2026

Recreation and Access

1. Ensure footpaths are accessible by keeping 2m clear of growing vegetation.
Keep informal footpaths clear of vegetation.
Summer (IDV Rangers)
2. Flail other side of ride.
3. Scallop edges of north side of ride.

Tree and Shrub Management

4. Undertake necessary tree work in line with instructions from Charnwood Borough Council.
Autumn/Winter (CBC/IDV)
5. Thin selected birch in compartment 1.
6. Coppice shrub species in compartment 5.
Autumn/Winter (IDV Rangers)
7. Plant selected woodland mix in compartment 4.
8. Maintain glade in compartment 2.
Late Summer (IDV Rangers)

Biodiversity

9. Update and review survey data and undertake further works as recommended.
Ongoing (CBC/IDV Rangers)

Community Involvement

10. Hold Ranger led community work days.
As required/requested – Minimum one event per annum. (IDV Rangers)
11. Hold annual forum with residents and interested parties to review management plan. Spring (ALL)

SECTION 6: MONITORING AND REVIEW

6.1 Monitoring

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

Habitat Management

A “before” and “after” photographic record will be kept during all major management works, particularly the pollarding/coppicing programmes.

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

Health and Safety

The safety of trees and structures within the site will be assessed as outlined in the site maintenance programme. Routine visits will inevitably identify unpredictable issues and concerns that need addressing as they arise, such as litter, vandalism, the unrecorded presence of new species of importance etc. This information will be fed into the LAGAN customer management system and maintenance and management work programme as appropriate.

6.2 Review

This Management Plan forms an active agenda for *idverde* and Charnwood Borough Council to implement appropriate management techniques and methods to ensure the continued maintenance of Booth Wood.

The plan is not intended to be inflexible. It will be appropriately adapted to accommodate any new information, altering circumstances, pressures, trends and processes whenever they arise.

Progress will be kept under active review throughout the course of each year of implementation via regular monitoring at meetings and discussions, both with the MOS contractor, *idverde*, and with stakeholders.

The progress of the plan will be reviewed at the beginning of each successive financial year to accommodate any changes to the Council budgets. As part of the review process an annual forum with residents and other stakeholders will be held to review management and discuss ongoing issues and projects. Adjustments will be made to the coming year's work programme as required. Overall, this approach will ensure that the site and the benefits it provides continue to meet users and residents needs whilst ensuring protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of the sites wildlife resources.

The development of the plan will be fully reviewed at the end of the current five-year period in 2026.

Glossary of Terms

Canopy	Collectively, the mass of branches and foliage formed by the crowns of trees
Coppicing	The periodic felling of broadleaved trees and shrubs to ground level, every 8 to 25 years. These are then allowed to re-grow forming many stems called poles. This process can be repeated many times and prolongs the life of the tree or shrub.
Definitive footpaths and bridleways	Statutory public rights of way.
Favoured tree	Selected for retention during thinning and given favourable treatment by the removal of competing vegetation.
MOS	The Management of Open Spaces contract is the current mechanism for site management across the Borough and is delivered by idverde.
Natural regeneration	Trees which have developed from natural seeding i.e. they have not been planted.
Native species	Those tree and shrub species, which have colonised Britain by natural means i.e. without the intervention of man. Species introduced (non-native) by man include sycamore and sweet chestnut
Rotation	The length of time between planned operations e.g. pollarding on an 8 year rotation, or cycle.
Thinning	The removal at certain stages of growth, of a proportion of trees from a stand. For example, to allow the remainder more growing space, to

	favour a particular species mix, or to maintain or encourage a diverse ground vegetation.
Windthrow	The blowing down of trees by the wind.

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Figure 1 Site Location Map



Figure 1 shows map of Loughborough. The location of the Booth Wood site.

Figure 2 Site Boundary Map

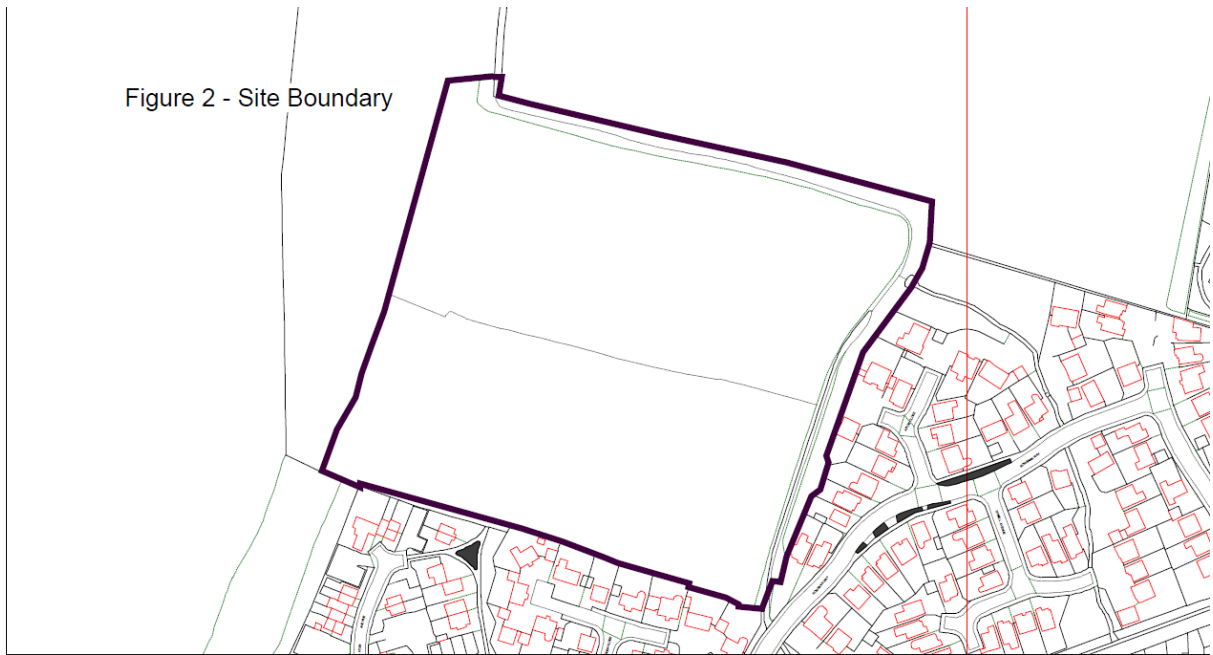


Figure 2 shows the boundary of the Booth Wood site.

Figure 3 Management Structure

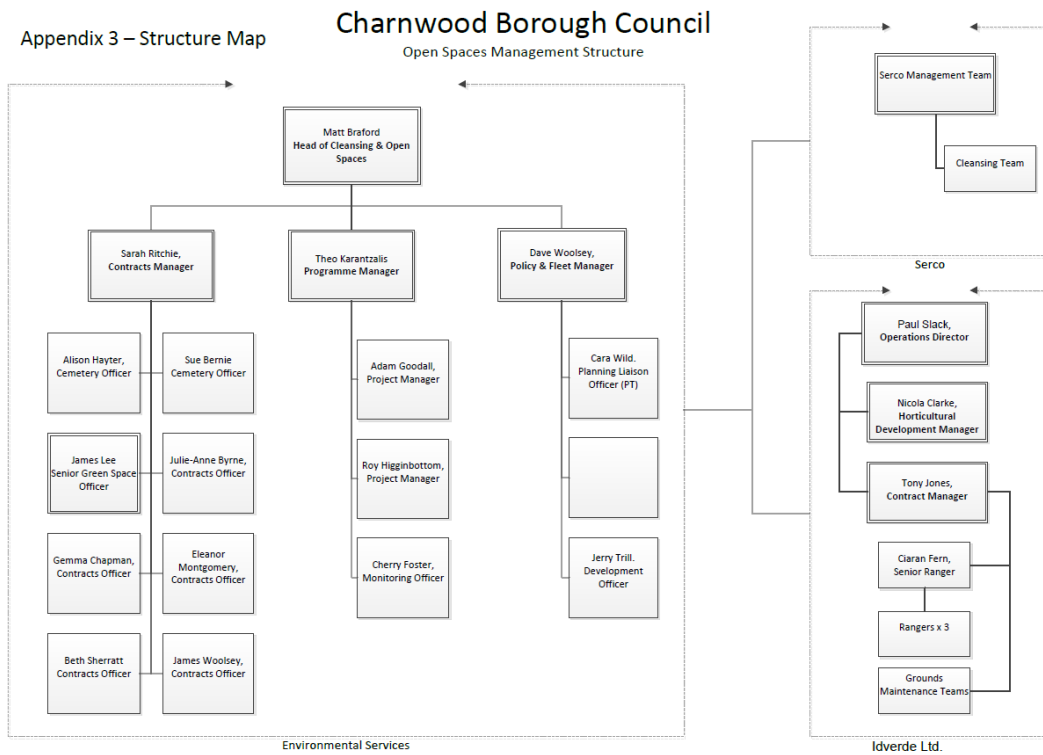


Figure 3 shows the Open Spaces Management structure including the Council, Idverde and Serco.

Figure 4 Local Wildlife Site Boundary Map

Figure 4 - Local Wildlife Site (LWS) Boundary

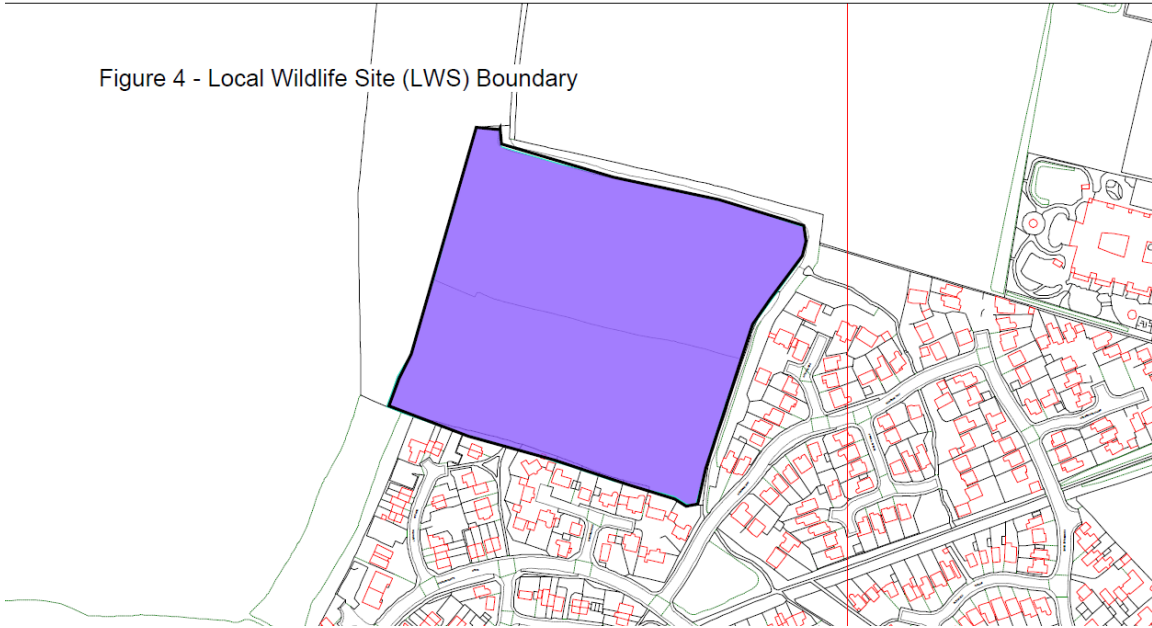


Figure 4 shows the boundary to the Local Wildlife Site

Figure 5 Historical Maps

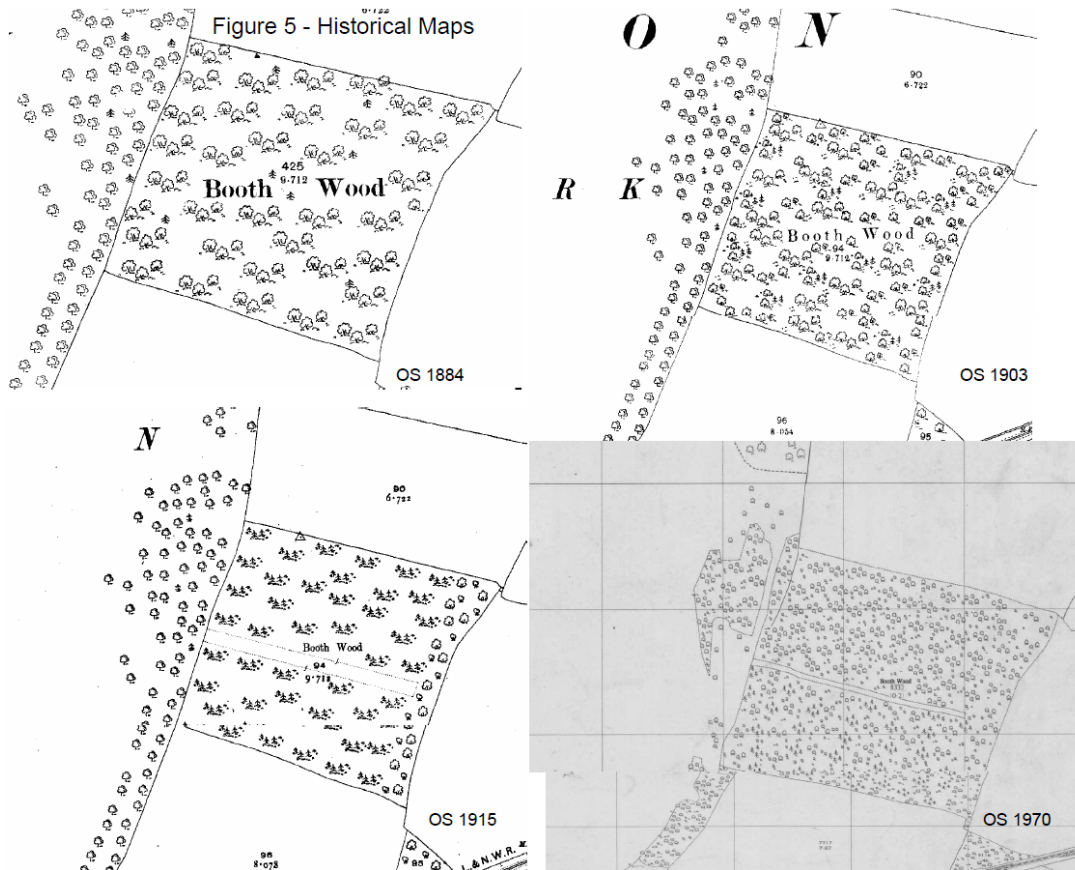


Figure 5 shows historical maps of the site

Figure 6 Compartment Map

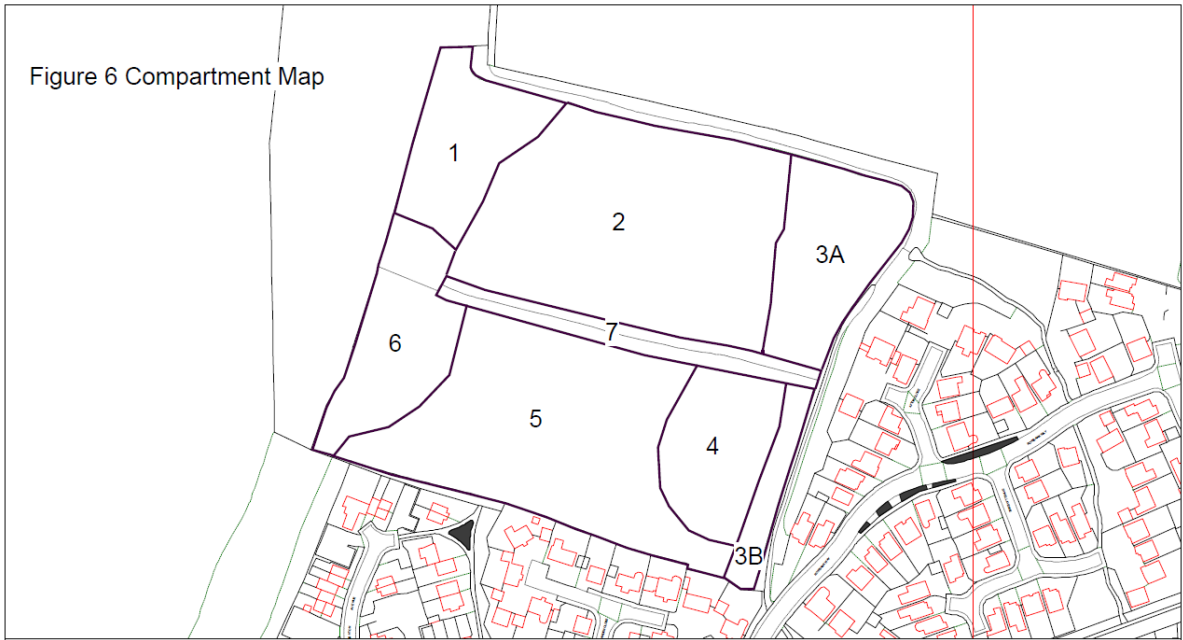


Figure 6 shows the different compartment areas of the Booth Wood site

Figure 7 Woodland Types

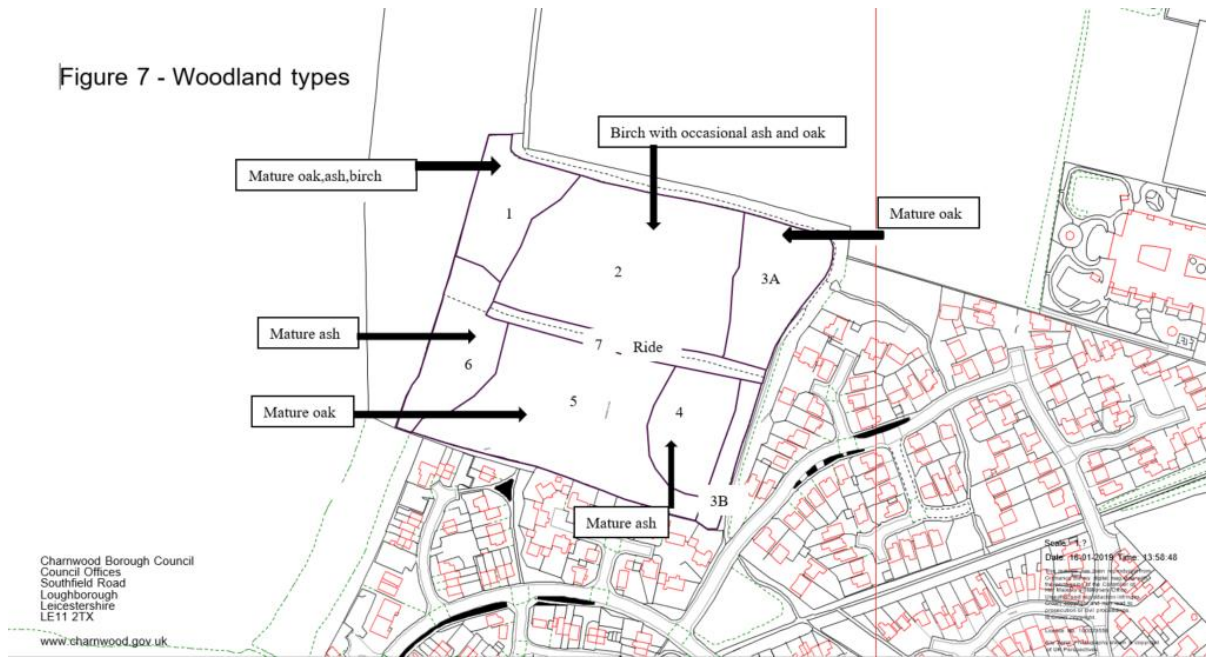


Figure 7 shows the different woodland types in each compartment of the site.

Figure 8 Concept Map

Figure 8 - Concept Map

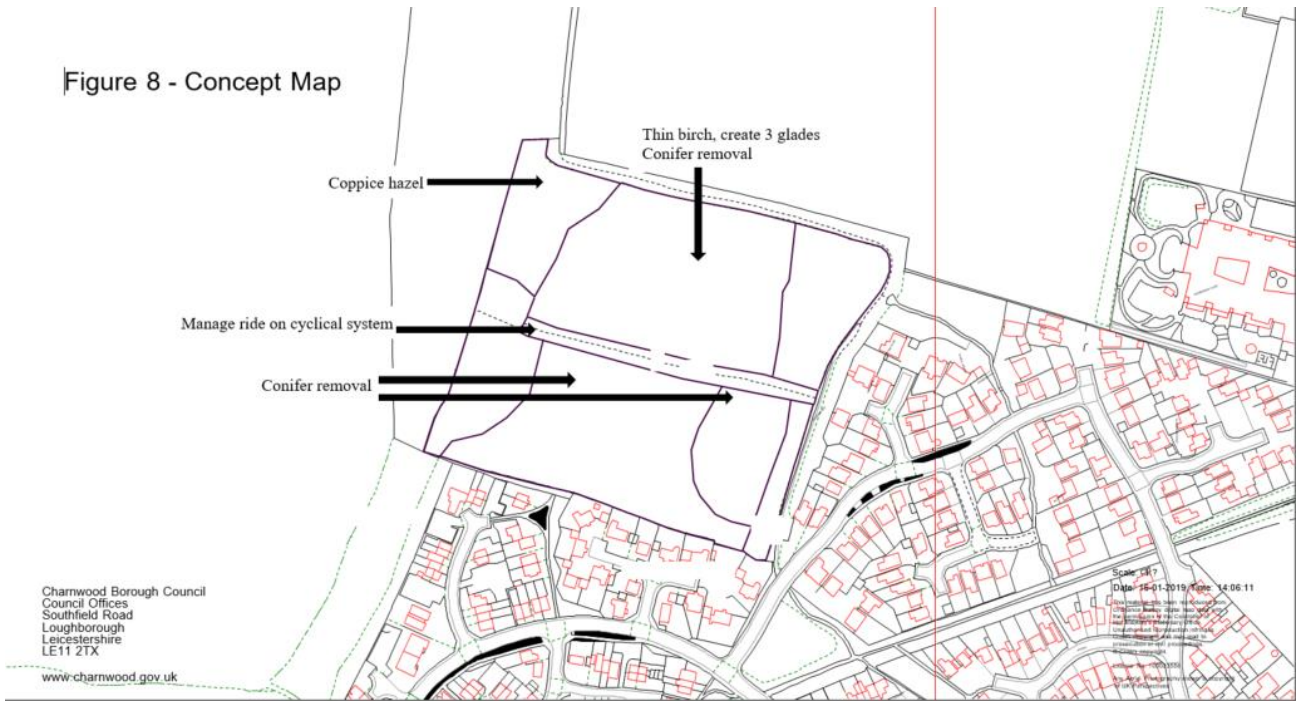


Figure 8 shows the concept map for the site

Appendix 1: Species List

Plant Species Recorded on Site

Canopy Species	
Common Name	Latin Name
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Common Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
English Elm	<i>Ulmus minor var. vulgaris</i>
European Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Pendunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>

Shrub Species	
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crateagus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Wych Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>

Plants	
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Dogs Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Fig buttercup	<i>Ficaria verna</i>
Greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>
Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
Herb Bennet	<i>Geum urbanicum</i>
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Lords and Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Male Fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
Spanish Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>
Stinging Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Stinking Iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>
White Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemerosa</i>

Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>
Wood millet	<i>Milium effusum</i>

Notable Birds Recorded on Site	
Common Name	Latin Name
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
Collard Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Long Tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>

Mammals Recorded on Site	
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>
European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>
Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>
Rat	<i>Rattus sp</i>

Invertebrates Recorded on Site	
Butterflies	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Orange tipped	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Parage aegeria</i>

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