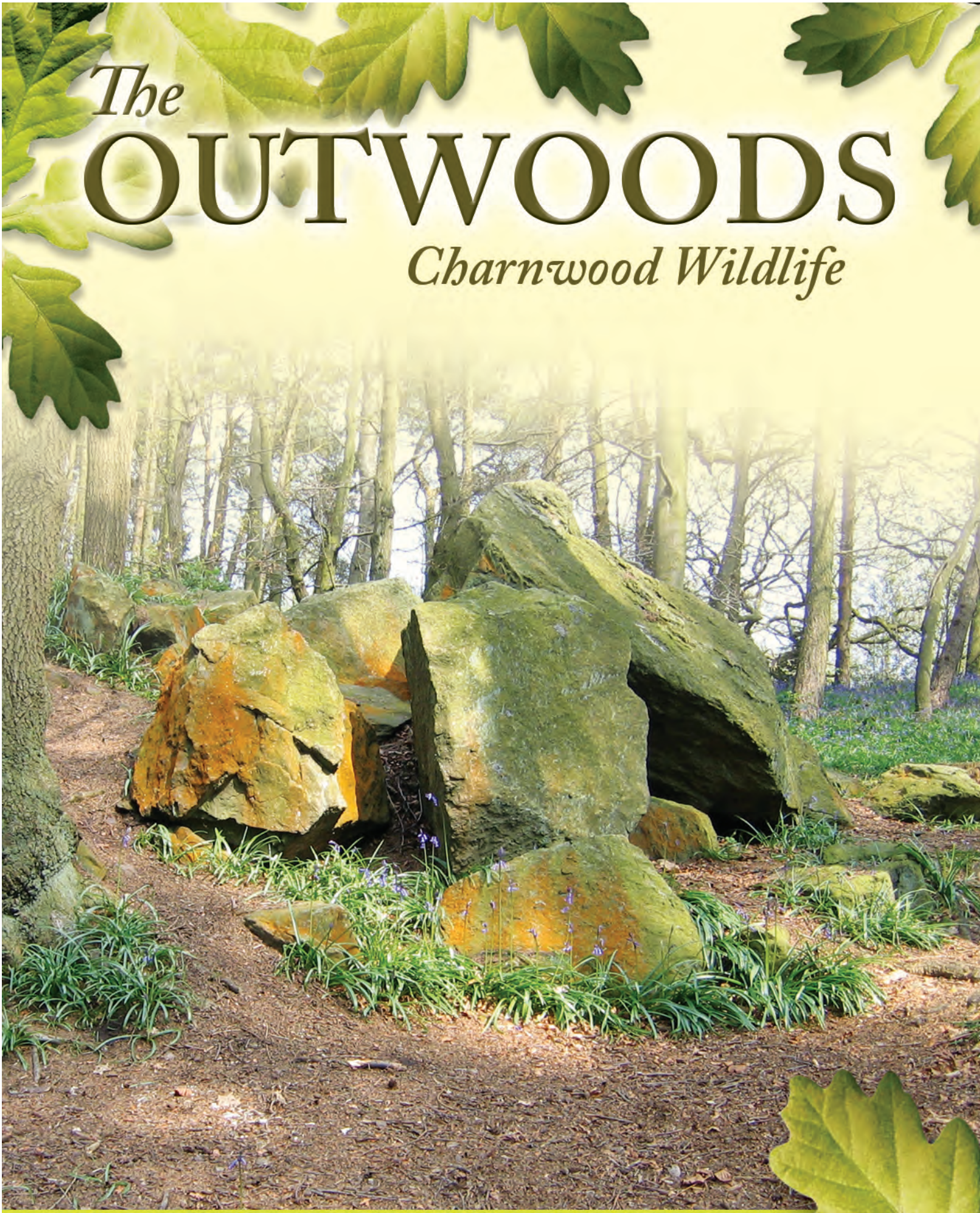
The OUTWOODS

Charnwood Wildlife

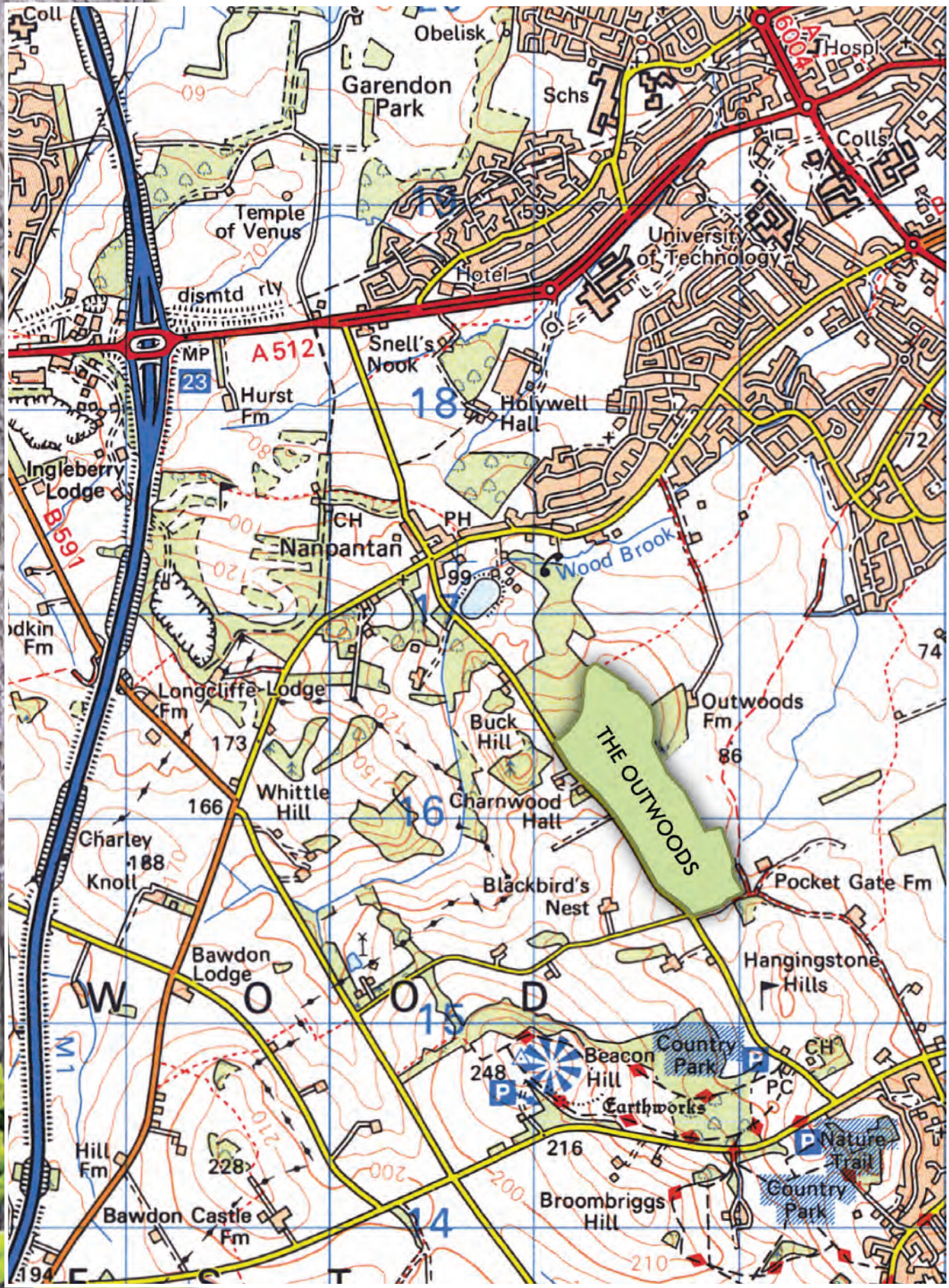


Charnwood
Leading in Leicestershire

MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013 - 2018

Aerial view of Outwoods

Map 1



OUTWOODS CONTENTS PAGE

Appendices

1. FOREWORD

The people of Charnwood have good reason to be grateful to Alan Moss and George Bowler. It was through the generosity of these two local benefactors that the Outwoods came into public ownership, and as a result thousands of local people have had an opportunity to enjoy the peace and beauty of this very special place.

Despite their many competing interests, visitors to the Outwoods continue to report high levels of satisfaction with the way the woods are managed. We are proud of the high esteem in which the Outwoods is held, and the special place it has in the hearts of local people.

We believe that above all else the Outwoods is valued for its informal, natural appearance and we will continue to protect its rich ecological and geological heritage whilst at the same time striving to improve facilities wherever appropriate.

This management plan sets out the policies and procedures in operation at the Outwoods, and our vision for its future development. We trust that through the hard work and commitment of our staff, and volunteers, the Outwoods will continue to enchant and delight generations to come.

Cllr. Jonathan Morgan
Chair
Outwoods Management Committie

Cllr. Hilary Fryer
Lead Member cleansing and open spaces

2. INTRODUCTION

This Management Plan has been written in order to develop a vision for the direction, development and management of the Outwoods, to ensure its sustainable management and to protect and enhance its ecological value.

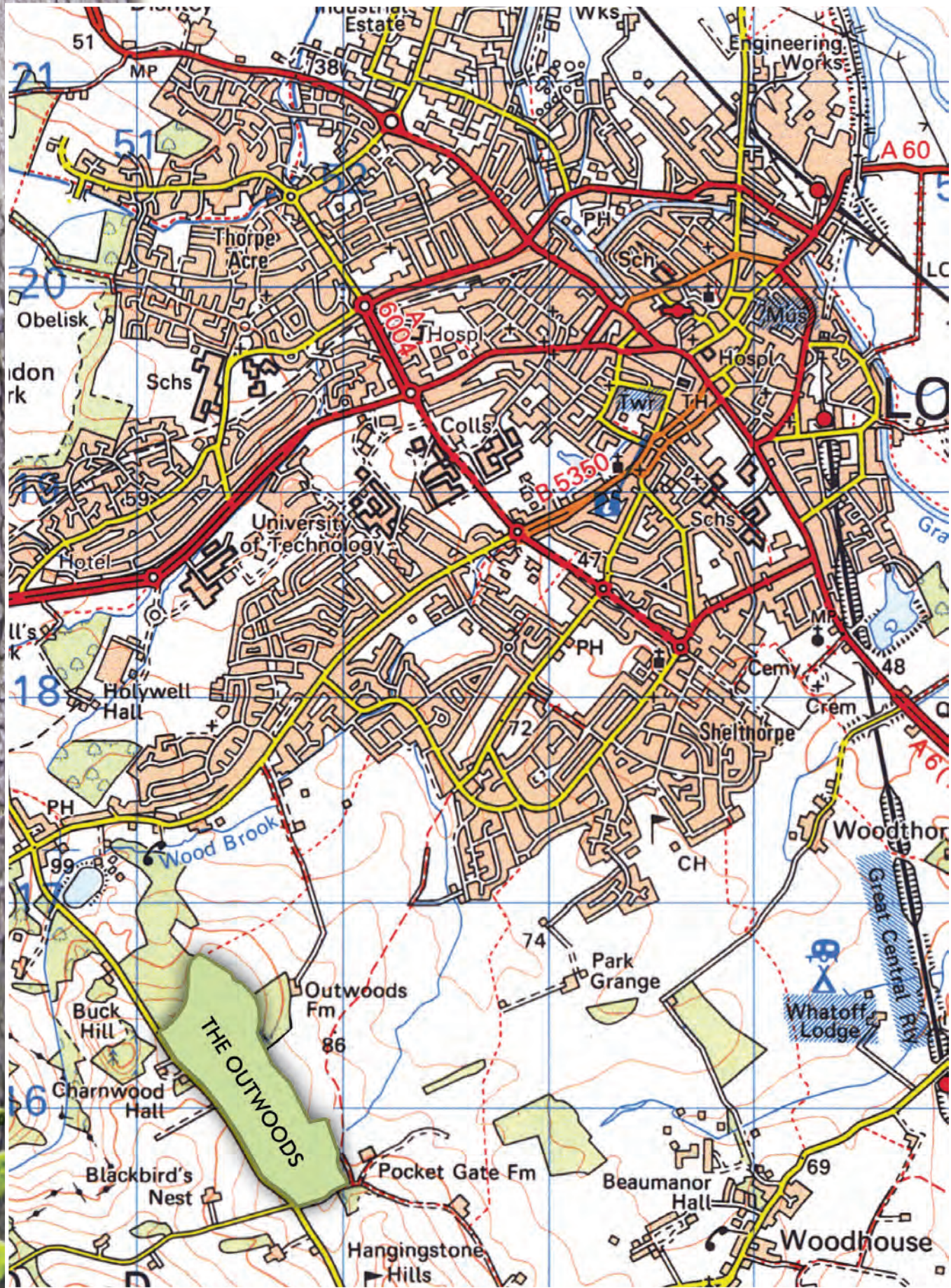
The Plan relates to the Outwoods and Bluebell Wood SSSI (collectively known as the Outwoods), a 45ha ancient woodland site situated 2 miles west of Loughborough in the Charnwood Forest area of Leicestershire. The plan has been developed by Charnwood Borough Council's Green Spaces Team in consultation with the Outwoods Management Committee, Natural England, site visitors and other stakeholders (Appendix 1). The plan was adopted by the Outwoods Management Committee on 5th June 2013, and revised in August 2015 as part of an interim review.

This current Management Plan, which covers the period 2013 – 2018, builds on the 1996 Outwoods Management Plan compiled by Charnwood Wildlife Project and the 2007 management plan compiled by Charnwood Borough Council's Green Spaces team. The focus of the 1996 document was primarily ecological, and whilst continuing to concentrate on habitat management issues, the 2007 – 2012 and the 2013 - 2018 plans also seek to address wider issues of public access and involvement and to articulate a shared vision for the development of the Outwoods.

A visitors/stakeholder survey was carried out during January 2012 in order to assess the public's opinion of existing facilities and determine their development priorities. The findings of the survey, along with the views of other stakeholders have been used to inform the vision contained in this document.

The Operational Objectives contained within this management plan will be constantly monitored to ensure that they are being met; management aims will be reviewed in year 3/4 in order to inform future planning.

Map 2



Map 3


Footpath Network
Scale - 1 : 5000
PB
B
E
P
Entrance
Parking
Toilets
Benches
Picnic Benches
Designated Footpath
Surfaced Paths
Shelter
Bird Feeding Station

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1 Site Details

3.1.1 Location

Coordinates: 451500, 316000.

the Outwoods are situated in the north-eastern part of Charnwood Forest, 2 miles west of Loughborough (grid ref. SK514149, see Map 1). The woods occupy the eastern escarpment of the Charnwood Forest, forming a prominent landscape feature above the town (Map 2).

3.1.2 Area

44.6ha (110 acres).

3.1.3 Management

The management of the Outwoods is the responsibility of the Outwoods Management Committee. The Committee can be contacted via Charnwood Borough Council, Southfields, Southfields Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

3.1.4 Scheduled Status

the Outwoods is a scheduled Site of Special Scientific Interest (Notificationattached - see Appendix 2). Consents are required from Natural England foroperations which may affect the quality of the SSSI.

3.1.5 Public Access

There is free pedestrian access over most of the site including a designated footpath along its northern boundary.

3.1.6 Tenure

The Outwoods is wholly owned by Charnwood Borough Council. It was acquired by the former Loughborough Corporation and passed to the Borough Council on 1st April 1974. The woods were conveyed to the Corporation in three phases:

Area 1 (Appendix 3) was conveyed to the Corporation in 1946 by Deed of Gift. The donor was Mr Alan Moss of Park Farm Nanpantan. At the same time the Corporation entered into a Deed of Trust setting up a committee to manage and administer the Outwoods in accordance with the Deed of Trust.

Area 2 was purchased from the Beaumanor Estate in 1947. The money to purchase this area was donated by Mr George Harry Bowler, who wished the land to be held in trust along with that donated by Mr Alan Moss.

Area 3 was sold to the Corporation by Mr Moss in 1950. This area was never made the subject of a formal Deed of Trust but is administered by the Management Committee along with the other parts of the Outwoods.

3.2 Legal Constraints and Policy Context

A number of legal constraints, local and national landscape designations and planning policies affect the development and management of the Outwoods.

3.2.1 Wildlife and Countryside Act

Because of its important ecological and geological features, Natural England has designated the Outwoods (along with Hangingstone golf course and Beacon Hill Country Park) as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Any management or development operations carried out within the site must therefore be approved by Natural England. a list of operations which Natural England consider might damage the scientific value of the site are listed in Appendix 4.

3.2.2 Deed of Trust

In accordance with the Deed of Trust drawn up between the Loughborough Corporation and Mr Alan Moss, a Management Committee was formed to oversee the management of the Outwoods. This Committee is made up of elected members of the Council and nominees from the local community.

The following obligations fall on the Management Committee:

1 The property to be preserved in perpetuity as a public open space by the Borough upon Trust.

2 Proceeds from the sale of timber to be paid to the Management Committee firstly for the management of the Outwoods. Any surplus monies to be used towards any purpose which may benefit or improve the Outwoods. An insufficiency of money for the management of the Outwoods to be made good by the Borough, the amount to be determined by the Borough Council.

3 To keep the Outwoods unbuilt upon except structures necessary for the management of the Outwoods.

4 To preserve the natural aspect, features, state of rural beauty and plant life of the Outwoods.

The Management Committee has the power:

1 To thin, crop and replant the wood in accordance with approved methods of forestry under the direction of some competent person.

2 To drain and improve the Outwoods as necessary for the enjoyment of visitors subject to clause 4 above.

3 To maintain the existing pathways.

4 To make and maintain new pathways but only to the extent that they will be used by persons on foot.

5 To plant timber, or other trees and shrubs for the purpose of shelter or ornament and lay down turf.

6 To make temporary enclosures for the protection of any trees, plantation, shrubs, turf, gorse or heather.

7 To control ground game and vermin to prevent damage to the wood.

8 To encourage and preserve wild bird life in the Outwoods.

9 To make bylaws and regulations for the protection of the Outwoods.

10 To take any legal and other proceedings for the protection of the Outwoods.

11 To regulate access by the public to any portion of the Outwoods as necessary for management purposes.

3.2.3 Deed of Gift

As a result of the deed of gift made between Loughborough Corporation and Mr Alan Moss the following obligations fall upon the Borough Council:

1 The property to be preserved in perpetuity as a public open space.
2 The footpath to be used only as footways.
3 Access to bicycles, horses and all other vehicles (except invalid carriages and vehicles required for management purposes) to be prohibited and prevented by the erection of suitable notices, fences, barriers, gates and posts. The acquisition of a right of way by anyone except on foot to be prevented.
4 To maintain boundary walls, hedges and fences contiguous with the vendor's property.

the Outwoods was conveyed to the Loughborough Corporation in two parts, the following obligation falling upon the Borough Council as a result of the 1947 Conveyance:

1 The vendor reserves any easement of right of light, air or otherwise which would restrict the use of any adjoining land for building or any other purpose.
2 The owners and occupiers of Pocket Gate Cottage have the right to take water from the spring marked (Appendix 5) and to inspect, clean and repair the tank, filters and pipes used in supply of the water.
3 There are also three general clauses stating that the land is held subject to any rights under any planning scheme, any public rights of way or any right of easement and any liability to repair boundary walls and bridges, roads etc.

The following obligations fall upon the Borough Council as a result of the 1950 Conveyance:

1 To erect and maintain three suitable notices at points 'A' and 'B' (Appendix 5) warning persons against trespassing on adjoining land.
2 To preserve the land in perpetuity as an open space.
3 The land is held subject to rights described in an earlier Conveyance which are the same as the rights described above.

3.2.4 Forestry Act 1967

A felling licence is required from the Forestry Commission if more than 5 cubic metres of timber is felled in any one calendar quarter (2 cubic metres ifthe timber is sold).

3.2.5 Rights of Way

There is a public footpath which follows the northern boundary of theOutwoods (Appendix 5).

3.2.6 Rights of Easement

There is a right of easement granted to Leicestershire County Council along the route of a gravity sewer running from Charnwood Hall (Appendix 5).

3.2.7 Borough of Charnwood Local Plan 1991 – 2006 (Policy saved by direction of the Secretary of State Sept 2007)

Located within the Charnwood Forest area of Leicestershire, the Outwoods forms part of a landscape of sufficient quality to merit designation as Particularly Attractive Countryside. Within this area development is permitted only where it would not:

"Detract from the essentially undeveloped rural character of the landscape, damage natural features and landform or diminish the visual amenities afforded by important viewpoints" (Borough of Charnwood Local Plan 6.31).

The Outwoods also forms part of the eastern boundary of the National Forest. Within the National Forest area planning policies are applied to:

"Enhance and diversify the landscape, enrich natural habitats, improve recreation and public access, and foster the aims of rural diversification in a manner compatible with the special landscape character of the area" (Borough of Charnwood Local Plan 6.33).

3.2.8 Charnwood Borough Council Open Spaces Strategy

Charnwood Borough Council's Corporate Plan aims to provide a range of sports, leisure and cultural activities. The plan includes the following polices:

Volunteers helping to rebuild bondary stone wall

(a) To work with partners and local communities to improve access to, and quality of, natural and semi-natural green spaces and to manage them effectively.

(b) To seek to protect natural and semi-natural green spaces including the use of statutory and non-statutory designation status (such as Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site) where appropriate.

(c) To actively encourage the use of volunteers in the effective management of these sites

(d) To raise awareness and increase appropriate recreational use to enable all sections of the community to use and enjoy these areas, commensurate to the retention of their biodiversity interest.

(e) Seek to maintain Green Flag Status for the Outwoods.

3.2.9 Bylaws

The bylaws which were adopted in 1946 relate to the use of the wood by the public rather than the management of the woods (Appendix 6).

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

Rock outcrops are evident throughout the site

4.1 Geology

The unique character of the Outwoods, and Charnwood Forest in general, is determined by the Precambrian rock that underlies the area. These rocks were formed some 600 million years ago and are some of the oldest in Britain. Because they are hard and resistant to weathering the rocks frequently form craggy outcrops.

Most of the Outwoods stands on Precambrian rock of the Maplewell series (British Geological Survey 1976 and 1982). These outcrop in several places, the largest crags being in the northern part of the woods. Rare impression fossils have been found in the Outwoods, which are of international importance in the study of early life forms.

Lower down the slopes from the Precambrian outcrops, particularly in the southern part of the wood, are deposits of gravelly material laid down in the Ice Ages.

The south-eastern section of the wood is underlain by Keuper Marls which are younger rocks of the Triassic age. These are covered by glacial deposits of boulder clay and, in the area by the stream, alluvial deposits.

4.2 Soils

Although there is no detailed soil map of the Outwoods, the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983) shows the area to be covered by soils from the Claverley Soil Association. Within the Association, Iveshead Series soils are found on the brows of hills and steep slopes where bare rock is common. They are shallow, acid, loamy soils; very stony and well drained. On the lower slopes are found Claverley Series soils. These are also acid soils with coarse, loamy topsoil containing large stones over a loamy but only slowly permeable subsoil. These soils are usually seasonally waterlogged.

In the lowest lying Pocketgate area of the Outwoods the soils may be of the Clifton and Salop Series. These are similar to the soils of the Claverley Series but of a finer texture, less stony and also only slowly permeable and hence prone to water logging.

4.3 Habitats

4.3.1 Woodland

The main habitat within the Outwoods is woodland, which can be divided into two broad types - plantation and semi-natural woodland - divisions that reflect the site's recent history.

Between 1900 and 1945 much of the Outwoods was clear felled, with the land being either replanted or left to regenerate naturally. As a result approximately half of the woodland is conifer or mixed plantation while the remaining half is semi-natural woodland.

4.3.2 Plantations

The older plantations are mainly European larch with beech and/or sycamore. The younger plantations are largely Scots pine and Norway spruce. Because of the dense shade created by the conifers the ground flora in these areas is sparse.

In 1983 the plantation in compartment 2 (Appendix 7) was clear felled and replanted with a variety of native and non-native broadleaved trees. Natural regeneration has also taken place in this area with birch, ash, oak and sycamore occurring throughout the compartment. In many places the birch and sycamore have overtopped the planted trees. Where there are open areas in this compartment, the ground flora is dominated by sedges and rushes.

Compartment 12 (Appendix 7) was clear felled in 1992/3 and replanted with sessile oak grown from acorns collected in the Outwoods; there is also considerable birch regeneration in this area.

In addition, part of compartment 6 (Appendix 7) was subject to severe wind-throw in 1993 following thinning.

Small scale thinning and felling of conifers in compartments 1, 6, 7, 9 and 11 has been taking place since 2003 under an agreement with Natural England. Where conifers have been removed they have been replaced by sessile oak of local origin. Larch trees in compartment 7 are now in danger of collapse, and resources are being sought to clear fell and replant the compartment.

4.3.3 Semi-natural woodland

Three of the woodland types within the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) can be found within the Outwoods.

Planting using natural trees of local provenance

The most extensive of these NVC types is W10, oak/birch woodland. Because of the extensive felling that has taken place in the past, these areas are dominated by young birch and oak with rowan frequent throughout. The ground flora in these areas is dominated by brambles or bracken with bluebells and creeping soft-grass frequently found beneath the bramble layer. The oak is mainly sessile with some pedunculate and some hybrids of the two. In the northern section of the wood are two areas of mature oak/birch wood (compartments 4 and 5).

National Vegetation Classification type W16 (lowland oak-birch woodland with bilberry) is present in small fragments associated with the rocky outcrops throughout the woodland. The best examples of this type of woodland can be found in the areas on the south-western edge of the wood which escaped felling (compartment 10). This area is dominated by mature sessile oak with a ground flora dominated by wavy hair-grass.

The south-eastern part of the wood is wet alder and alder/sycamore woodland, probably NVC type W7. The ground flora of the wetter alder areas includes yellow archangel, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, remote

sedge and large bittercress. In the alder/sycamore areas the ground flora is dominated by bramble with wood anemone and broad buckler fern. Two small sections in this area have been clear-felled (compartments 13a and 13b). Compartment 13a was partially replanted with ash and alder and compartment 13b was replanted with groups of sessile oak.

4.3.4 Bracken

Scattered throughout the semi-natural woodland areas are open glades dominated by bracken with a few oak and birch Trees. Bluebells and creeping soft-grass are frequent and there are also patches of rosebay willowherb. Some areas, notably compartment 2, have been planted with groups of specimen trees, mainly non-native broadleaves such as beech, whitebeam and maples.

4.4 Flora

Noteworthy species present include common cow-wheat, which can be found under the mature oaks in the south west corner of the wood. This species is declining within the Outwoods but is abundant along the adjacent road verge. Yellow loosestrife can be found in the marshy Pocketgate area of the woods. Both these species are rare in Leicestershire, occurring at only a few locations.

Because the Outwoods are situated on hard, acidic rock (unusual in the Midlands) a number of plant species present are almost entirely confined to the Charnwood Forest Area within Leicestershire. These include sessile oak, green-ribbed sedge, heath rush and pill sedge.

4.5 Fauna

There are many species of birds breeding within the Outwoods and in the past woodcock and tree pipits, identified as rare and threatened in the draft Leicestershire Red Data Book, have been recorded, though there have been no reported sightings of these birds for several years. A pair of buzzards regularly nest in a small stand of conifer trees adjacent to the Outwoods, where they have successfully reared young.

NVC type W10 Oak / Birch woodland

There are several badger sets in the north-eastern part of the wood, which have statutory protection. There are also a small number of rabbits and greysquirrels in the woods and visitors have reported seeing muntjac deer on thesite. Stoats and weasels have also been seen in the woods.

A survey carried out in the Outwoods by RebeccaFaulkner from Nottingham University (2012) identified 239 Ledidoptera species(moths and butterflies). This included 202 macromoth species, 72 micromoth species and 16 butterfly species (Appendix 8). Incidental to the Ledidoptera survey a further 26 species of insect were also identified. Anumber of uncommon moth species were found during the survey includingone, Harpella Forficella, which has only been recorded in Britain on thre eother occasions. In addition several nationally notable species of invertebrate are known to occur on the spring lines of Buck Hill just to the west of the Outwoods, and it is possible that they also exist along the spring zones within the Outwoods.

4.6 Fungi

The Outwoods has been identified as an important habitat for fungi and the Leicestershire and Rutland Fungi Study Group regularly conduct guided 'Fungal Forays' through the Outwoods which are open to the public to attend. A detailed survey of the Outwoods that was carried out by the

Stinkhorn - One of over 80 species of Fungi found during a recent survey.

Leicestershire and Rutland Fungi Study Group in October 2012 found 80 species of fungi (Appendix 9) including many specimens common to Charnwood Forest, though no red book species were found.

4.7 Cultural Context

Recreational Use

The Outwoods were given to the Borough to be preserved in perpetuity as public open space, and are popular with visitors from Loughborough and further afield. As well as the formal path network, there is an extensive network of smaller, informal footpaths within the Outwoods which have been created by the public.

4.7.1 A visitor survey carried out in 2012 (Appendix 10) indicates that approximately 89% of visitors travelling to the Outwoods do so by car while 11% walk or jog. Over 70% of visitors live within 5 miles of the Outwoods, while 14% of visitors travel over 10 miles to reach the site. Over 60% of the people visiting the Outwoods do so on a regular basis (more than once a month) with most visits lasting for less than 2 hours (68%). Over half of the visitors surveyed said they came to exercise or walk the dog (58%), while most of the others came to enjoy the woods, their wildlife and the peace and quiet. Visitors particularly valued the 'natural', informal appearance of the woods.

4.7.2 As well as attracting casual visitors the Outwoods are regularly used for group activities including corporate events, conservation volunteering, rock climbing, walking and orienteering. Because of its close proximity to Loughborough University, the Outwoods attracts a significant number of runners who use the woods for training. A number of guided walks led by Charnwood Borough Council staff also take place each year.

5. MANAGEMENT

5.1 Vision

The Outwoods are important not just as an amenity for local people but also as a unique geological and ecological resource, and so conserving the natural heritage features of the site is the primary management objective. Most visitors value the Outwoods for its informal, "natural" appearance and, whilst wanting to see facilities improved, express a strong desire to see the existing character of the area maintained. Management of the site must therefore seek to balance the needs of visitors with the need to protect and enhance important habitat features and safeguard the informal character of the site.

Our vision for the Outwoods is to protect the site's valuable habitats, geological features and aesthetic appeal whilst at the same time developing and maintaining first class visitor facilities.

5.2 Management Structure

Although the Outwoods has no formal "Friends of Group", the Outwoods Management Committee was created to represent the views of the local community and park users. The Management Committee consists of 5 local residents and 8 district councillors. The Outwoods Management Committee is responsible for strategic decisions regarding the management of the site. The Management Committee's business meetings are open to members of the public to attend, and on two occasions each year these meetings are preceded by a site visit which users of the Outwoods are invited to attend. These site visits, which are advertised on the Outwoods' notice board and on the Charnwood Borough Council website, offer visitors an opportunity to question members of the Management Committee and to pass on their comments or concerns.

5.2.2 Day to day management of the Outwoods is the responsibility of the Council's Open Spaces Contractor, Quadron Services Ltd. Working in conjunction with the Council's Senior Green Spaces Officer, these duties include:

A significant number of runners use the outwoods for training.

1 Organising work schedules
2 Awarding contracts and supervising contractors
3 Organising volunteer work programmes
4 Liaising with statutory bodies
5 Monitoring and updating the Outwoods Management Plan

Representatives from the Borough Council and Quadron Services Ltd report directly to the Outwoods Management Committee on the management and development of the site.

5.2.3 Day to day operations at the Outwoods are carried out by the Ranger Service. These operations include:

1 Minor tree thinning and felling operations
2 Clearing dangerous or fallen trees from footpaths
3 Tree propagation
4 Control of rhododendron and sycamore re-growth
5 Maintenance of paths, signs, gates, walls, styles and fencing
6 Charcoal production
7 Litter collection
8 Organising the work of volunteers
9 Guided Walks

The Ranger Service is managed by Quadron Services Ltd as part of the Council's Management of Open Spaces Contract

5.2.4 Large-scale works are carried out by contractors. This work includes major felling operations, path construction and car park and buildings maintenance.

5.2.5 In addition work is also carried out by conservation volunteers and employees of local organisations engaged in community volunteering events. The work carried out by these groups includes planting trees, clearing rhododendron and sycamore, producing charcoal, repairing walls, paths and fences, and tree thinning. Students from a local agricultural college and training organisation also help with the management of the site as a part of their studies, (for management structure see Appendix 11).

5.3 Resources

The Deed of Trust, which was drawn up between Mr Alan Moss and the Borough of Loughborough, made the following funding provisions:

Proceeds from the sale of timber to be paid to the Management Committee firstly for the management of the Outwoods. Any surplus monies to be used towards any purpose which may benefit or improve the Outwoods. An insufficiency of money for the management of the Outwoods to be made good by the Borough, the amount to be determined by the Borough Council.

In practice the sale of timber has generated little income in previous years and is unlikely to do so in the future without incresing the current scale of programmed works. As a result the management and development of the Outwoods has been funded by Charnwood Borough Council and by occasional grants from other bodies for specific environmental projects. However, the Management Committee is currently investigating the possibility of introducing car parking charges at the Outwoods. A recent monitoring exercise indicated that up to 60,000 vehicles use the car park each year. Any income raised from car parking charges would be used to offset the cost of maintaining the Outwoods, with any extra revenue being used to improve the site.

5.3.1 Between 2005/2008 £50,000 of capital funding was made available for the improvement of site infrastructure including paths, buldings & fencing

5.3.2 In addition to the time spent at the site by Council staff and contractors, 304 volunteer workdays also took place at the Outwoods during the 2011/2012 financial year. This is equivalent to having one extra fulltime and one part-time member of staff (scale 1, spine point 7) and represents the equivalent of an extra £19,796 of income for the Outwoods. In addition, students from a local training company visited the Outwoods on ten occasions during 11/12 to carry out tree thinning operations as part of their NPTC chainsaw competence courses. As well as carrying out thinning operations on behalf of the Management Committee, the company also sponsor the Outwoods bird feeding station.

5.3.3 The Outwoods Management Committee regularly receives requests from members of the public wishing to purchase commemorative benches for the Outwoods. In the 2005/2006 financial year five commemorative benches were donated representing a donation to the Outwoods of £2,937.50. Currently the Outwoods has its full complement of benches.

5.4 Access

There are 5 main access points into the Outwoods. The most popular access route is via the car park but there are also access points via gates and stiles in the North-west, North-east and South-west corners of the site and along its eastern edge. In addition to these formal access points there are a number of informal access points along the northern boundary of the Outwoods where the site adjoins Jubilee Woods. Jubilee Woods comprises ten hectares of mixed woodland with rocky outcrops which was presented to Leicestershire County Council in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

5.4.1 There is no public transport directly to the Outwoods, however, it is possible to travel to Woodhouse Eaves by bus from Leicester or Loughborough (service number 54, & 123) and walk to the Outwoods along Brook Road.

There is a designated disabled parking space in the Outwoods car park and the toilet has disabled facilities.

5.4.2 None of the visitors questioned during the 2012 Outwoods survey considered themselves to be disabled. The number of self-declared disabled people in the UK is 6.8 million, which represents 15% of the population (8% of whom use a wheelchair).

The under-representation of disabled people amongst those visiting the Outwoods may in part be due to the nature of the terrain (steepness of paths, etc). This issue was addressed, to an extent, in 2008 through the creation of a short, circular, easy access path into the wood from the car park where the gradient is at its least steep (Approximately 1 in 10). This easy access path is used by older and less able visitors and is suitable for pushchairs.

A bird feeding station has been incorporated into the walk to provide interest. However, because the land slopes steeply downhill from the car park (an average gradient of approximately 1 in 5), it would be difficult for a wheelchair user to explore the wider woods. In 2010 two all terrain mobility scooters were therefore procured by the Council to allow disabled people to access the whole of the Outwoods. One of these scooters was sponsored by a local charitable trust (the Cope Memorial Trust); the other was funded directly by Charnwood Borough Council. These scooters have been a great success and have generated considerable media interest, being the first of their kind in the area. The scooters are free to use and can be booked through the Council's Southfield Offices.

5.4.3 The visitors survey carried out in 2005 indicated that less than 3% Outwoods visitors came from British Minority Ethnic Communities (BME), which compares with BME populations of 35% in Leicester and 8% in Loughborough (the two closest urban centres). As a result of these findings, local BME groups were contacted in order to asses their level of interest in sites like the Outwoods. Many BME community members were ignorant of the existence of the Outwoods (and other Country Parks in the area), but expressed a desire to visit the site once they received information about it. A number of barriers to access were however identified during this consultation process including transport issues and a perception that country parks and other countryside attractions were all privately owned.

In order to address issues of under representation by BME community members amongst visitors to the Outwoods, and other similar sites, the Accessing Nature in Charnwood Project was established. The aim of the project is to increase the communities' sense of ownership of, involvement in and enjoyment of local natural places and green spaces. The Accessing Nature in Charnwood project received £100,000 from the Big Lottery Fund to appoint a full time officer who is working with priority neighbourhood communities and others to deliver a range of outcomes. Funding for the project comes to an end in September 2013 but the Council will continue to support the project through its Ranger Service.

5.4.3 There are Sheffield cycle racks in the car park for the use of visitors, but because of the environmentally sensitive nature of the Outwoods cycling

is prohibited within the woods themselves. Off road cycling facilities are however available at the nearby Beacon Hill Country Park, directions to which are displayed in the Outwoods' car park.

5.4.4 Open access exists over most of the Outwoods. However, an area adjoining the car park is closed to visitors in order to provide a refuge for wildlife and to encourage the regeneration of native oak woodland.

5.5 Ecological Issues

A number of significant changes have taken place in the Outwoods over the last 60 years both as a result of natural processes and public usage. The extensive felling that took place 50 – 60 years ago has left few mature trees, and the planting of conifer trees has reduced the extent of wildlife habitat. Invasive tree and shrub species, particularly sycamore and rhododendron, have spread at the expense of native wildlife and open aspects of the wood are gradually being lost as young trees mature. Extensive usage of the Outwoods by members of the public has resulted in paths becoming eroded and areas of undisturbed vegetation becoming smaller. A Management Strategy has been produced which sets out aims, objectives and rationale for the ecological management of the Outwoods (Appendix 12) and which informs day-to-day management operations.

5.5.1 In line with the aims and objectives of the Outwoods' Ecological Strategy a management agreement was entered into with English Nature (now Natural England) in 2002 (Appendix 13) which sought to address the problems of invasive andnon-native vegetation. This management agreement has resulted in a significant reduction in the rhododendron and sycamore population andsome thinning of the conifer plantations. Following felling, rhododendron and sycamore stumps are treated with glyphosate or ammonium sulphamate in accordance with advice from Natural England. The success ofthis treatment has been limited however, and there is considerable regrowthof sycamore and rhododendron. A programme of retreatment has beenincluded in the current Five Year Work Programme (Appendix 15). Glyphosate has also been used to treat Japanese knotweed (see Outwoods Pesticide Policy Appendix 14). In areas where felling of non-native conifers,sycamore and rhododendron has taken place replanting is being carried outusing trees of local provenance. These trees are grown at the Outwoods ina peat-free medium. No peat is used in any of the operations carried out at the Outwoods.

5.5.2 Over the past 50 years the number of people visiting the Outwoods has increased considerably, leading to greater problems of disturbance, vegetation loss and erosion. In 2005 a path network was identified which is maintained in a passable condition throughout the year. Two signed routes have also been created and a leaflet produced for first-time visitors and those visitors who are unfamiliar with the site. This network of well maintained paths has resulted in a reduction in erosion across the site.

5.6 Health, Safety and Security

Inspections of the site, facilities and equipment are regularly carried out toensure that a safe and secure environment is provided for the people who work at or visit the Outwoods.

5.6.1 Daily patrols of the Outwoods are carried out by the Ranger Service which involve an inspection of the main paths and entrances to ensure there are no obvious hazards.

Obvious faults with benches, boardwalks, gates, stiles, fences, litter-bins and drystone wall are identified during routine management operations, but a more detailed inspection is carried out annually by the Ranger Service and any necessary repairs added to work schedules.

5.6.2 Trees along paths and in other high use areas (high risk zone – see appendix 16) are inspected as part of the Council's ongoing tree stock survey which is being carried out by an independent arboricultural consultancy.

Trees in medium and low risk zones are inspected by the Ranger Service. Remedial tree works are carried out by suitably qualified staff or contractors. A small number of trees in the woods have been affected by Acute Oak Decline (AOD) and monitoring for further cases of the disease is bein gcarried out by contractors and by the Ranger Service. Where there is evidence of AOD, or other tree diseases, steps will be taken to control their spread.

5.6.3 the Outwoods are heavily used by dog walkers. Outwoods' users' surveys conducted in 1995 and 2005 indicated that about a quarter of visitors came to the Outwoods to exercise their dogs. By 2012 however this figure had risen to 58%. As a result of concerns regarding dog fouling, a Borough wide campaign to address the issues was launched by the Council in 2012. The "Don't Muck Around" campaign focused on three sites, including the Outwoods, where dog fouling problems were known to exist. Initial surveys of fouling incidents were carried out to provide baseline information. This was followed by an educational campaign using the media, onsite educational material and enforcement visits by Street Wardens. As a result of the campaign dog fouling incidents at the Outwoods fell by 76%. Where incidents of dog fouling are identified on paths or heavily used areas they are removed by the Ranger Service.

In order to keep incidents of dog fouling to a minimum, periodic visits are made to the Outwoods by the Borough Council's dog warden who talks to dog walkers and reminds them of their responsibility to clean up after their dogs.

5.6.4 Obvious problems with the toilets are identified by the Ranger staff who visit daily. Random inspections are undertaken by the Council's Contract officers to ensure standards are maintaned.

5.6.5 The Ranger Service is responsible for the inspection and maintenance of tools and equipment used in the management of the woods and for seeking specialist advice where necessary. The John Deer 'Gator' (All Terrain Vehicle) is leased from Go Plant who are responsible for its servicing and maintenance. Other tools are serviced and maintained by the Ranger Service where appropriate (hand tools) or by the maintenance fitter based in the Council's Contract and Public Services Department (power tools).

5.6.6 COSHH assessments are carried out by Quadron Services Ltd on all substances for which this is required and copies kept on file.

5.6.7 A survey of visitors showed a high level of concern over the safety of the entrance to the car park, which is on the brow of a hill. As a result of these concerns new signs were erected informing motorists that they are approaching the entrance to the Outwoods.

5.6.8 If a Ranger considers that the Outwoods should be closed for safety reasons (high winds, fire risk etc) they are responsible for contacting the Council to advise of their concerns. If a decision is taken to close the Outwoods a Ranger will shut the car park gates, put up notices at the entrances advising visitors that the Outwoods are closed and, if safe to do so, patrol the woods asking any visitor on site to leave.

5.6.9 A number of power tools that are used at the Outwoods are liable to assessment under EC Directive 2002/44/EC (Hand -Arm Vibrations). A risk analysis has been prepared based on the level of exposure to hand-arm vibration represented by these power tools, and a monthly health monitoring system put in place for members of staff (primarily the Ranger Service) who may be exposed to hand-arm vibration as a result of their use.

5.6.10 Assessments are completed for all operations carried out at the Outwoods which involve a level of risk. Contractors are responsible for completing risk assessments for operations that they

are carrying out, and the supervising officer completes risk assessments for volunteer tasks. Riskassessments for operations carried out by the Rangers, who work alone much of the time, are completed in conjunction the lone-working policy.

5.6.11 The results of the survey carried out in 2012 showed that 76% of visitors to the Outwoods felt very safe when visiting the woods alone, 24% felt quite safe and 0% felt unsafe. There are no records of anyone having been attacked in the Outwoods, and incidents of vandalism and graffiti are rare. The presence on the site of the Rangers and the rural location of the Outwoods helps tocreate a feeling of safety. The site is also well used by members of the public. The notice board in the car park recommends that in case of medical emergency, criminal activity or fire, visitors contact the emergency services in the first instance, but also gives a contact number for the Ranger service. An out-of-hours contact number to report other problems (fallen trees etc) is also given. All members of the Ranger Service have received First Aid At Work training.

The nature of the site means that it is not always possible to keep clear site lines, but these are kept as clear as possible along the main paths.

5.7 Sustainability

As a planning authority, major employer, land and property owner and provider of services, Charnwood Borough Council recognises that it has considerable responsibilities towards the local environment. The Council's Environmental Policy (Appendix 18) includes a commitment to adopt a sustainable purchasing policy, reduce energy use and increase the use of renewable energy sources and develop procedures that minimise waste.

5.7.1 Where waste is produced as a result of forestry operations, or by visitors to the Outwoods, steps are taken to re-use or recycle these waste products wherever possible. The felling of non-native and invasive tree and shrub species (in accordance with the Outwoods' Ecological Strategy)

Volunteers helping to clear Rhododendron invasion

results in the production of a large quantity of brash and timber each year. Under the terms of the Management Agreement with English Nature between 25% and 75% of the timber produced should be removed from the site and the brash chipped, burned or placed in brash piles to provide habitats for wildlife. Because of the nature of the terrain, and therefore extraction costs, timber companies are not interested in buying this timber as a standing crop; it is therefore felled and stacked within the wood where it is offered for sale to timber companies or used to manufacture charcoal. Because it is produced and sold locally this charcoal has a smaller carbon footprint than imported charcoal. Outwoods charcoal is sold in local shops and to visitors to the woods. Because it is produced and packaged in the Outwoods the charcoal has little time to absorb water, unlike imported charcoal much of which arrives in Britain by ship. For this reason the charcoal burns hotter than most commercially available charcoal and has become very popular with the local public. The heating and hot water system at the Outwoods Lodge also utilises firewood produced as a waste product during forestry operations. Timber not extracted is left in habitat piles to increase the dead wood component of the woodland. Brash is either left in habitat piles or chipped or, where this is not possible, burnt at designated fire sites.

5.7.2 As well as timber that is produced as a result of the ecological management practices carried out at the Outwoods, a number of trees are felled each year for health and safety reasons. Where timber is of a suitable quality it is used for making fence posts, seats, interpretation boards and other products for use within the woods.

5.7.3 In order to allow visitors to separate their waste for recycling, bins are available in the car park for glass, plastic and tins. Waste materials collected in this way are recycled through the Council's Green Bag scheme.

5.7.4 The use of pesticides has an impact on biodiversity, and the national Agenda 21 initiative has identified a reduction in the use of pesticides as a means of achieving a more environmentally sustainable approach to landscape maintenance. Because of the ecologically sensitive nature of the Outwoods, closely monitoring the use of pesticides is particularly important.

the Outwoods Pesticides Policy (Appendix 14) sets out where and when pesticides should be used and how they should be stored.

5.7.5 The use of peat in horticulture has been recognised as having a significant impact on the natural habitats from which it is taken. For this reason peat, peat based products or plants grown utilising peat-based products are not used at the Outwoods. Trees and shrubs planted at the Outwoods are grown on the site in leaf mould, using seed of local origin.

5.7.6 There is a growing awareness that local authorities need to take sustainability issues into account when purchasing materials, equipment and services. All new benches purchased for the Outwoods are made from FSC timber, prefereably from UK markets. It is also desirable to utilise as much of the timber resource as possible from within the wood to use for products such as signposts, bins, information boards etc. All other purchases, including office supplies used by the Council, are made in accordance with the Council's Environmental Policy (appendix 18).

5.7.7 Although the extent and precise effects of Global Warming are unclear, computer models estimated that wind speeds could increase by 2% to 3% as a result of an already observed rise in ocean temperatures. Because of its shallow soils and exposed location the Outwoods is particularly vulnerable to wind-throw, especially the mature conifer plantations in compartments 1, 6, 7 and 9. These plantations, which are predominantly of European larch, are of a uniform age and size with little in the way of understory and some losses have already resulted, particularly in compartment 6. For this reason it is particularly important to continue with the thinning and gradual felling of conifer plantations (although this may result in plantations becoming more vulnerable to wind throw in the short term) and replanting with mixed broadleaf species. During storms and high winds there will be an increased risk to visitors from falling trees, and a policy for closing the woods in the event of high winds has been put in place (See 5.7.8).

As well as increased wind speeds, global warming has also been linked with lower levels of rainfall and higher rates of evaporation during the summer

month exposing trees to drought stress. Of Britain's two native oak species pedunculate oaks, which grow in more humid areas, are the most sensitive to drought stress. Sessile oaks however require drier soils with better drainage and are therefore less susceptible to decline as a result of drought. The oak trees that grow in the Outwoods are sessile, and should therefore cope better with drier conditions.

Although summer rainfall is likely to decline as a result of global warming winter rainfall levels are predicted to rise by up to 40%. Sessile oaks do not cope well with waterlogged conditions and are therefore liable to be subject to greater levels of stress, resulting in an increased susceptibility to disease and decline. This is likely to be most problematic in the poorly drained areas of the Outwoods particularly compartments 12 and 13. These compartments already have fewer oak trees as a proportion of the canopy cover than other parts of the Outwood, and here alder and ash are more numerate. If there is a decline in the oaks in compartments 12 and 13 as a result of winter water logging natural regeneration of alder should be encouraged rather than replanting with oak.

Other potential changes resulting from global warming (such as an increase in pests and diseases and a longer growing seasons) are likely to have consequences for the Outwoods and its management. At present the nature of these changes are unclear and it is therefore important to monitor any changes resulting from global warming and adjusting management practices accordingly.

5.8 Consultation

Outwoods user surveys were carried out in 1995, 2005, 2012 (appendix 10). These surveys show a high level of satisfaction with the overall appearance of the Outwoods and the facilities provided. Where suggestions for improvements have been made these have been acted upon wherever reasonable and affordable, and the findings of the surveys are used as a basis for capital spending priorities.

5.8.1 Capital improvements that have been made as a result of suggestions by visitors include:

- New entrance signs
- Improved interpretation material
- Signed routes with leaflet
- Path improvement work

5.8.2 The views of park users are represented by the Outwoods Management Committee, which is made up of local residents and elected members of Charnwood Borough Council. Visitors are able to pass on their comments and concerns regarding the Outwoods to members of the Management Committee during site visits which take place prior to business meetings (which are open to the public to attend). Comments can also be made via Charnwood Borough Council's website, or by writing to the Committee via the Borough Council. The information boards in the Outwoods car park also give a contact telephone number that visitors can use to pass on their comments. The events programme, particularly the regular conservation volunteer projects, also give those involved with the management of the Outwoods an opportunity to comment on the management of the site.

6.0 PROMOTION AND MARKETING

The Outwoods is a well-used facility, which is popular with the local community. Information about the Outwoods is available on Charnwood Borough Council's website and a number of events are held each year which are publicised through the Borough Council's events listings and receive extensive coverage in the local media. Previous events held at the Outwoods have included themed guided walks (bluebell walks, fungal forays, seasonal walks), storytelling events and conservation projects (appendix 22). Corporate volunteering events also take place; these are organised in partnership with Leicestershire Cares (a local voluntary sector organisation). The Outwoods is now the only facility of its kind in the area where a charge is not levied for car parking (Beacon Hill, Bradgate Park, Broombrigs Farm and Swithland Woods charge between £2.50 - £6.00 depending on the length of stay.

Evidence suggests that as a result of this, and the improved signage, the Outwoods are attracting greater numbers of visitors, particularly dog walkers. Extra use by dog walkers results in great disturbance to ground nesting birds and other wildlife. The Outwoods Management Committee is currently considering the introduction of charging for use of the car park in an attempt to encourage dog walkers to vary the location of their walks.

6.1 Equality Issues

Because of the ecologically sensitive nature of the Outwoods, excessive visitor numbers would have a detrimental effect on its flora and fauna, so a balance has to be struck between visitor numbers and safeguarding the ecological value and natural appearance of the site. For this reason a major promotional campaign aimed at greatly increasing visitor numbers would not be appropriate. However the Accessing Nature in Charnwood initiative and the acquisition of the Trampers (all terrain mobility scooters) has helped to encourage a wider range of visitors to the Outwoods.

6.1.1 Discussions with learning disability groups indicate that few people from these groups are aware of the existence of, or have used, the Outwoods. In order to try to address this under representation the Access to Nature Officer has worked with groups representing people with learning difficulties to arrange supported visits for their clients. This work will be continued by the Ranger service, and expanded to include conservation volunteer tasks for people with learning difficulties (see appendix 20 – Marketing Strategy).

6.1.3 The 2005 survey of Outwoods visitors indicated that many visitors were concerned that there were no directional signs within the woods. When asked about priorities for investment, 44% of those who responded to the question said they would like to see signage in the woods to prevent visitors getting lost. The survey also found that 7% of those questioned were visiting the Outwoods for the first time, and therefore had little knowledge of the area.

In order to help first time visitors to get the most out of their visit to the Outwoods, and to prevent visitors getting lost, two signed routes were created. These routes have been discreetly marked with small coloured arrows on wooden posts at intervals along the path. A leaflet has been

produced which includes a map showing the routes of the marked walks along with information on the natural history of the Outwoods (appendix 21). These leaflets are available from the visitor information point in the car park.

6.2 Education

The Outwoods offers an opportunity for adults and children to learn more about woodland ecology and management. In order to facilitate informal learning, information boards giving details of the history and the management of the Outwoods have been provided at each of the entrances. An information board in the north east corner of the Outwoods, adjacent to a prominent rock outcrop, gives details of Charnwoods unique geology. There is also an information board sited close to the bird feeding station, giving information on some of the wild birds that can be seen in the woods. An information board by the charcoal kiln gives information on charcoal making.

As well as these opportunities for informal learning a number of themed, guided walks are held each year. Topics covered by walk leaders include:

- Fungi
- Trees
- Bluebells
- Ecological management

The conservation volunteering events, which are regularly held at the Outwoods, also offer an opportunity for learning to take place. As well as being taught practical conservation skills, conservationvolunteers learn about the Outwoods, how they are managed and why they are important. Many of the people who volunteer, visit the Outwoods onother occasions with their families and friends to show off the work that they have been doing and in this way pass what they have learned about nature conservation to others. These people also act as ambassadors for the Outwoods explaining to others why work which may seem destructive, such as the removal of rhododendron, is important.

The Ranger Service regularly takes placement students from Brooksby Agricultural College and the two Community Colleges in Loughborough. Students from Brooksby College also visit the Outwoods and carry out woodland operations as part of their training.

7.0 Monitoring and Reviewing

The Outwoods Management Plan forms a practical and accessible tool for the management of the site. As well as a shared vision for the future direction of the Outwoods, the plan sets out timetables for management operations against which progress can be monitored. The Senior Green Spaces Officer will have overall responsibility for the collection and interpretation of all monitoring information, and for reviewing the plan on an ongoing basis in conjuction with Quadron Services Ltd. An annual assessment of progress made against targets identified in the plan will take place in August/September each year, which will include recommendations made by Green Flag judges. A report will then be submitted to the Outwoods Management Committee. Management aims and objectives will be reviewed in year 3/4 and a further 5 year plan drawn up.

8.0 Contact Details

Charnwood Borough Council:	*01509 634976* *Southfield Road, Loughborough, LE11 2TR*
Quadrton Services Ltd:	*01509 634976* Derby Road Depot*, Loughborough,* LE11 5FJ
Outwoods	*Woodhouse Lane* *Nanpantan* *Loughborough* *LE11 3YG*

Appendix 1

OUTWOODS STAKEHOLDERS

The Outwoods are important to a wide variety of groups and individuals for many different reasons. Some, like members of the Outwoods Management Committee and Charnwood Borough Council's Green Spaces Team, are involved in the management of the Outwoods. Other organisations, like Natural England, the Leicestershire and Rutland Fungal Study Group and the Loughborough Naturalists club have a specialised ecological interest in the Outwoods. Some groups, like the Leicestershire Orienteering Club, Charnwood Leisure Services and Beaumanor Hall outdoor pursuits centre value the Outwoods as a recreational facility, as do the many runners from Loughborough University and Wellbeck College who regularly use the Outwoods for training. For many years the Quorn Hunt traversed the woods when out hunting. Groups like TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) and the Leicester and Charnwood Conservation Volunteer groups regularly visit the Outwoods to help with nature conservation projects as do individuals from the local area. Many local and national companies also undertake conservation projects at the Outwoods as part of their corporate responsibility programmes. Many of these corporate programmes are organised in conjunction with Leicestershire Cares, a local not for profit organisation established to encourage corporate engagement with the local community. Companies that have carried out environmental team building events at the Outwoods include:

- Walkers Crisps
- 3M Health Care
- Loughborough University
- East Midlands Airport

As well as the many groups and organisations that are involved in the life of the Outwoods, many families and individuals also feel they have an interest in the future of the site. For some people this is a material interest in the form of a commemorative bench that they have donated in memory of a loved one (there are 30 commemorative benches in all). For other people the interest is emotional, charged with childhood memories and fond

associations. Visitors to the Outwoods come from far and near and recently an article appeared in a Sydney newspaper advising its readers that the best place in England to see bluebells was the Outwoods in Leicestershire.

In creating this current management plan we have consulted widely and, as far as possible, considered the needs of all our visitors and stakeholders. We continue to have regular contact with all these groups and individuals and are grateful to them for their interest in the Outwoods, their concern for its protection and their help with its management.

Appendix 2

Site of Special Scientific Interest

COUNTY: LEICESTERSHIRE

SITE NAME: BEACON HILL, HANGINGSTONE & OUTWOODS

DISTRICT: CHARNWOOD

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Local Planning Authority: CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 512147, SK 523152

Area: 140.8 (ha.) 348.00 (ac.)

SK: 512165

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000: 129 1:10,000: SK 51 NW, SK 51 SW

Date Notified: (Under 1949 Act): 1956 Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified: (Under 1981 Act): 1987 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Beacon Hill is managed by Leicestershire County Council as a public open space. Parts of the Outwoods are also open to the public.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

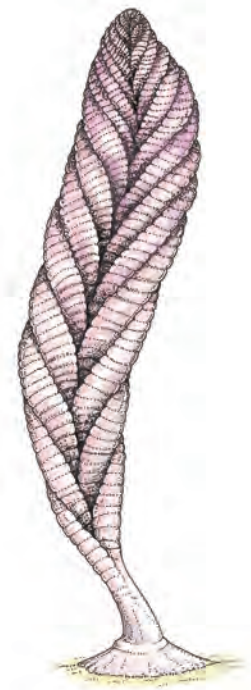
Beacon Hill and Outwoods provide some of the best habitat in Leicestershire for breeding birds. the Outwoods support one of the most interesting stands of ancient semi natural alder woodland in the County. The Hangingstone Hills and Outwoods area includes some important geological exposures that have yielded coelenterate impression fossils unique in the British Isles and of world-wide significance in the study of early life forms.

Biology: Beacon Hill supports a succession of semi-natural habitats ranging from acidic grassland around the rocky outcrops at the summit, down through bracken Pteridium aquilinum covered slopes into areas of secondary oak Quercus robur and birch Betula pendula woodland.

A pond at the eastern end of Beacon Hill feeds a small stream. Associated

marshy ground supports bog moss Sphagnum spp., marsh pennywort Hydrocotyle vulgaris and *violet Viola* palustris all of which are scarce in Leicestershire. A second pond on the hill is one of only three known breeding sites in the County for the palmate newt Triturus helveticus. Such habitat diversity makes the hill attractive to a wide variety of breeding birds including tree pipit, grasshopper warbler, redstart, cuckoo, green woodpecker, lesser spotted woodpecker, whitethroat and tawny owl. Hangingstone golf course supports a similar range of habitats but the areas of close mown acidic grassland are more extensive and heather Calluna vulgaris occurs in places. The area supports a high density of badger setts. Although much altered by recent replanting the Outwoods retain many of the plants characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland on dry acidic soils, including common cow-wheat Melampyrum pratense. A large stand of coppice grown alder Alnus glutinosa and ash Fraxinus excelsior occupies the wet ground in the north of the wood. The shrub layer here contains redcurrant Ribes rubrum and guelder-rose Viburnum opulus. The ground flora is diverse and includes pendulous sedge Carex pendula, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage Chrysosplenium oppositofolium, water avens Geum rivale, bluebell Hyacinthoides non-scripta, yellow archangel Lamiastrum galeobdolon and ramsons Allium ursinum. Another breeding site of the palmate newt is located in this area. the Outwoods support a variety of breeding birds including tawny owl, nuthatch, redstart and three species of woodpecker.

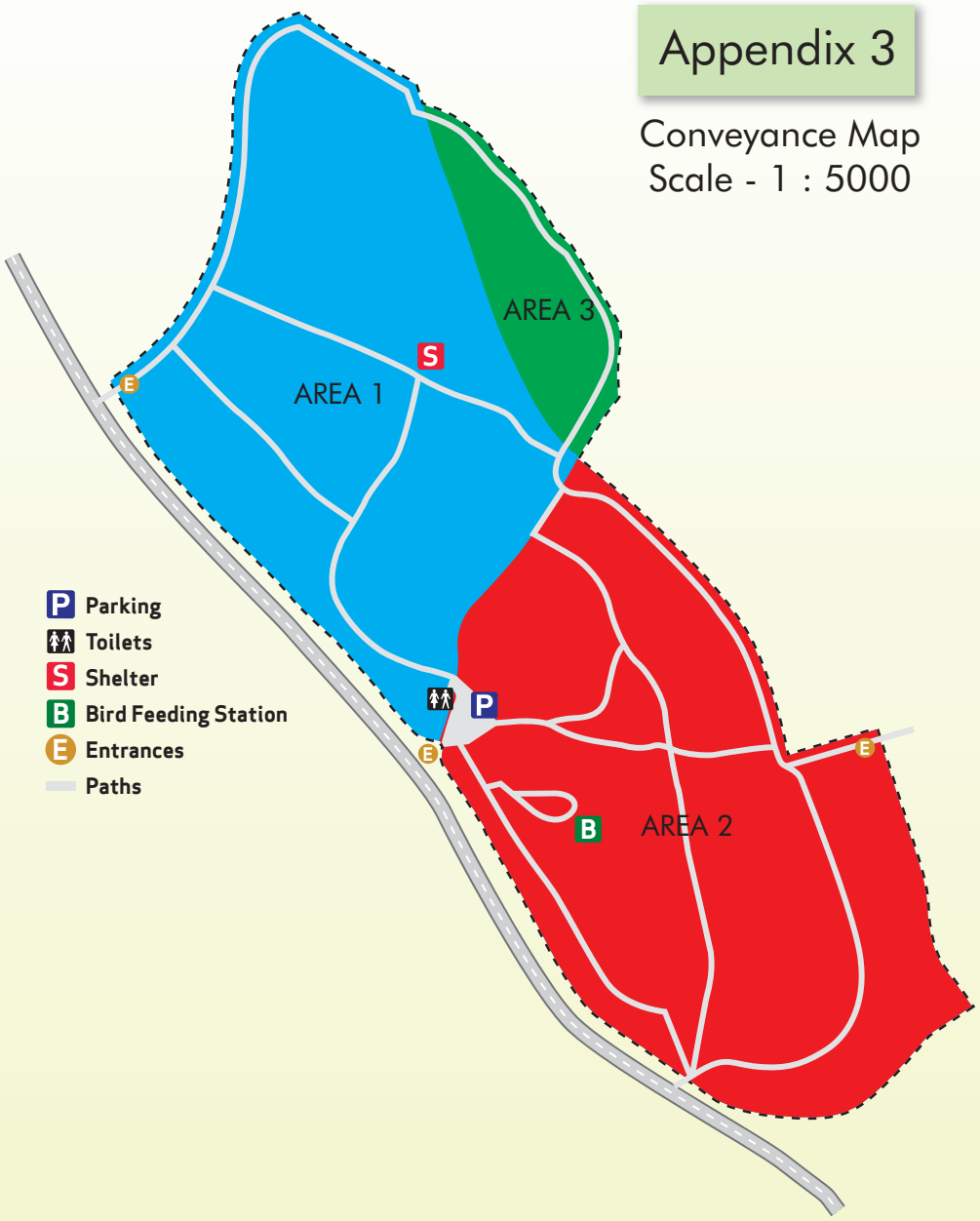
Geology: The Hangingstone Hills – Outwoods area includes a type section for the Hanging Rocks Conglomerate Member of the Brand Hill formation and exposures of the volcaniclastic Hallgate Member of the Maplewell Group (Charnian Supergroup). The latter have yielded the best examples of the late Precambrian fossils for which the Charnian sequence is framed. Exposures in North Quarry, Hangingstone contain the first British Precambrian metazoan fossils to be discovered and studied. The forms present are Charnia masoni, (frondose), Charniodiscus concentricus and a variety of discoidal impression fossils.



The crags in Outwoods contain complex impression fossils of probable coelenterate origin, namely ovoid medusoid jellyfish in strong relief. The only specimen of arthropod-like Pseudovendia charnwoodensis was also found here. The complex structure of the “medusoids” is uniquely exhibited at this locality. As fossils found at Hangingstone and Outwoods are closely comparable with those found in Newfoundland, Russia and South Australia, the site is of great importance in the study of Precambrian palaeontology.

Appendix - 3

Area Map



Appendix - 4

Operations likely to damage the special interest

Site name: Beacon Hill, Hangingstone & Outwoods, Leicestershire

Ref. No. Type of Operation

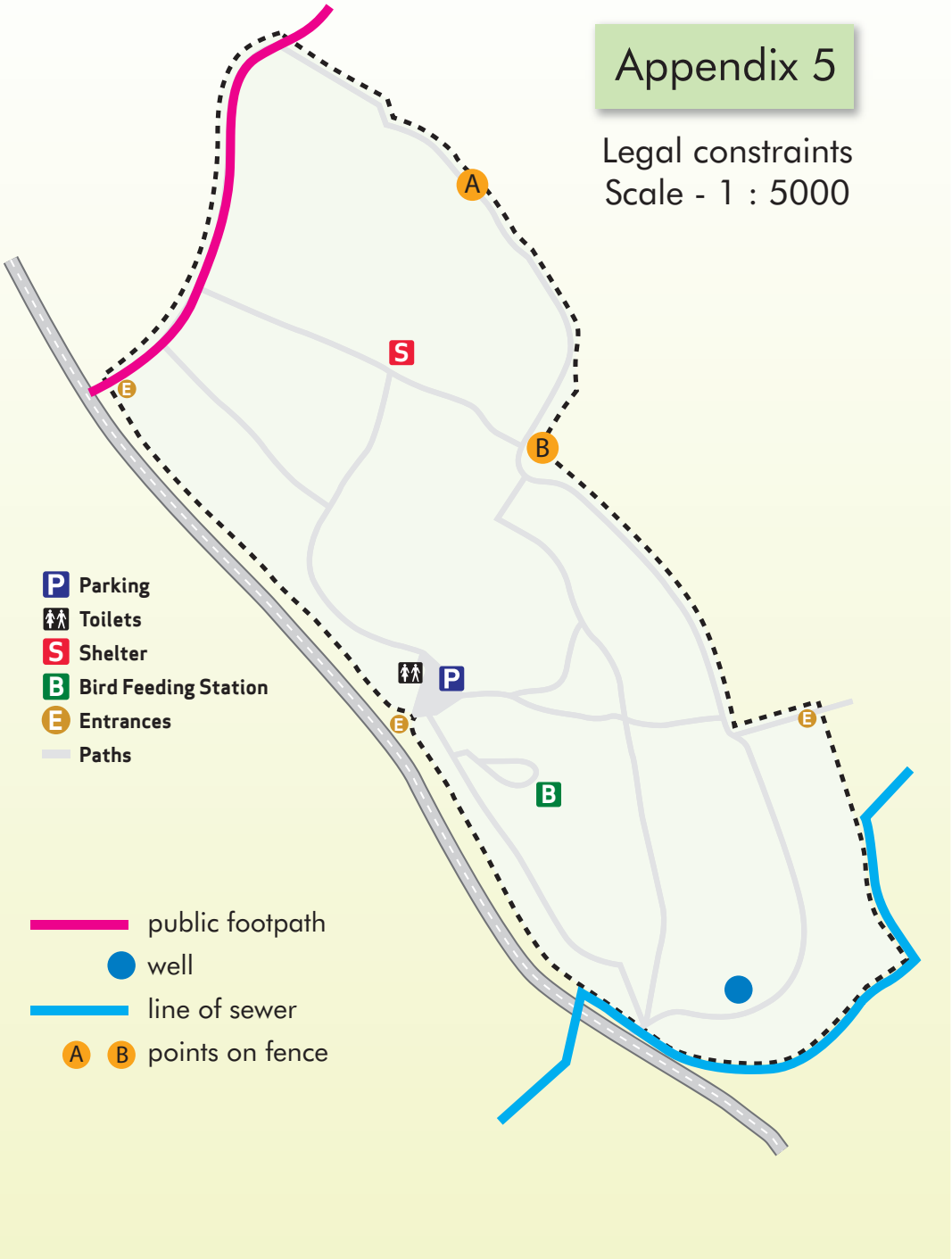
1 Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
2 The introduction of grazing and changes in the grazing regime (including type of stock or intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing).
3 The introduction of stock feeding and changes in stock feeding practice.
4 Mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation and changes in the mowing or cutting regime, including hay making to silage and cessation.
5 Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.
6 Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers).
7 Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8 Burning and changes in the pattern or frequency of burning.
9 The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animal*, plant or seed.
10 The killing or removal of any wild animal*, including pest control.
11 The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf-mould and turf.
12 Tree and/or woodland management.
13a Drainage (including moor-gripping and the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
13b Modification of the structure of watercourses (eg streams, springs, ditches, drains), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading and dredging.
13c Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
14 The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).
15 Infilling of ditches, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
16a The introduction of freshwater fishery production and/or management including sporting, fishing and angling.
20 Extraction of minerals, including peat, sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil, and spoil.

21 Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22 Storage of materials on or against rock-faces and outcrops.
23 Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
24 Modification of natural or man-made features including clearance of boulders, large stones, loose rock or scree and battering, buttressing or grading or seeding rockfaces, outcrops or cuttings, infilling of pits and quarries.
25 Removal of geological specimens, including rock samples, minerals and fossils.
26 Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
27 Recreation or other activities likely to damage features of interest.
28 Introduction of game or waterfowl management and changes in game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.

* ‘animal’ includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate. + including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood, changes in species composition, cessation of management.

Appendix 5

Rights of Way and Easement Map



Appendix 6

Byelaws

Made by the Outwoods Managing Committee under the Town Garden Protection Act, 1863, applied by s.15 (3), of the Open Spaces Act, 1906, at the Regulation of "The Outwoods", in the Borough of Loughborough.

1). In the construction of the byelaws "the committee" means the Outwoods Managing Committee appointed by a Deed of Trust dated the Sixth day of June, 1946, made between Alan Moss, Esq., J.P., and the Mayor Alderman and Burgesses of the Borough of Loughborough in the county of Leicester and the "Outwoods" means the land thereby entrusted to the committee, and the lands adjoining for the time being under control of the committee.

"Unauthorised person" means any person except –
a) A person for the time being duly authorised by the committee in writing for any purposes in connection with the management, maintenance or administration of the Outwoods.
b) A person acting in the legal exercise of some right, in over or affecting the Outwoods, or
c) A person duly authorised by a person entitled so to act as a foresaid.

2). No unauthorised person shall enter or quit the Outwoods otherwise than through some one of the gates, wickets, passages, steps or openings appointed by the committee as the authorised means of entrance to or egress from the Outwoods.

3). No authorised person shall climb any tree in the Outwoods.

4). Where the committee set apart a sanitary convenience for the use of one sex, as indicated by a Notice affixed or set up in a conspicuous position near to such sanitary convenience, a person of the opposite sex shall not improperly enter or use such sanitary convenience.

5). No unauthorised person shall dig, cut or take turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance on or from the woods, or dig up or remove, cut fell or wilfully or negligently injure any gorse, heather, timber, or other tree, shrub, brushwood, flower or other plant growing thereon.

6). No person shall light any fire, or place or throw or let fall any lighted matches any substance or thing, in, among or near to the fern, bracken, heather, furze, bushes, or trees in the “Outwoods”, so as to be likely to cause damage by fire to anything growing there.

7). No unauthorised person shall in the Outwoods fire or discharge any firearm or to the danger of any other person therein throw or discharge any missiles.

8). No unauthorised person shall deposit in the Outwoods or in any pond or stream therein, any wood, stone, road sand, materials for the repair of the roads, or any drug use rubbish or other offensive matter, or leave or scatter about the Outwoods any bottles, egg shells, orange peel, tins, waste paper or other litter.*

** NOTE – it is particularly objectionable and dangerous to leave bottles, tins and broken glass in the Outwoods, as these may cause fire in hot weather, any may injure children or animals who tread on them.*

9). No unauthorised person shall injure, deface or otherwise tamper with any hydrant or other fire fighting appliances provided or maintained by the Committee in the Outwoods, nor use the same except for the purpose of fighting an outbreak of fire.

10). No unauthorised person shall injure, deface or remove any building, structure, shelter, commemoration stone, seat, gate, fence, implement, notice board or other things put up or maintain by the committee in the Outwoods or deface any rock, tree or turf by cutting or otherwise writing or marking words or marks thereon.

11). No unauthorised person shall post or paint any bill, placard, advertisement or notice on any hedge, wall, enclosure, tree, fence, rock, building, seat, notice board or any other erection in the Outwoods.

12). No unauthorised person shall catch or kill any bird or animal, or set any trap, net, or line, or lay any snare for birds or animals, or take, injure, or destroy any birds eggs or nests, or shoot or chase or drive game or other animals or fish in any waters in the Outwoods or use the Outwoods for the purpose of fishing in any waters adjacent thereto.

13). No person shall cause or suffer any dog belonging to him or in his charge to enter or remain in the Outwoods unless such dog can be and continue to be under proper control and be effectively restrained from causing annoyance to any person and from worrying or disturbing any animal.

14). No person shall bathe in any lake or pond that may be made or constructed or in any stream in the Outwoods, or use the Outwoods for bathing in any lake, pond or stream adjacent to the Outwoods.

15). No unauthorised person shall enter the Outwoods otherwise on foot or draw, drive or propel across or over or place upon any part of the Outwoods any carriage, cart, caravan, truck motor car, cycle or other vehicle, or permit to enter the Outwoods any horse, cattle, sheep or other animal except dogs as a foresaid.

16). Where by notices exhibited in the Outwoods the committee set apart any parts of the Outwoods for specific purposes, no unauthorised person shall resort to assemble with other persons on or attempt to occupy any such part.

17). No unauthorised person shall erect or permit to remain in the Outwoods any building, shed, tent or other structure.

18). No unauthorised person shall place in the Outwoods any show, exhibition, swing, roundabout, organ or other like thing.

19). No unauthorised person shall on any part of the Outwoods hawk or sell or expose or offer for sale or hire any article or thing.

20). No person shall play or take part in any game in the Outwoods in such place or in such fashion as to cause danger or annoyance to others.

21). No unauthorised person shall hold any meeting or assembly in the Outwoods.

22). No person shall in the Outwoods use any indecent or obscene language to the annoyance of any person in the Outwoods, or behave in an indecent or offensive manner.

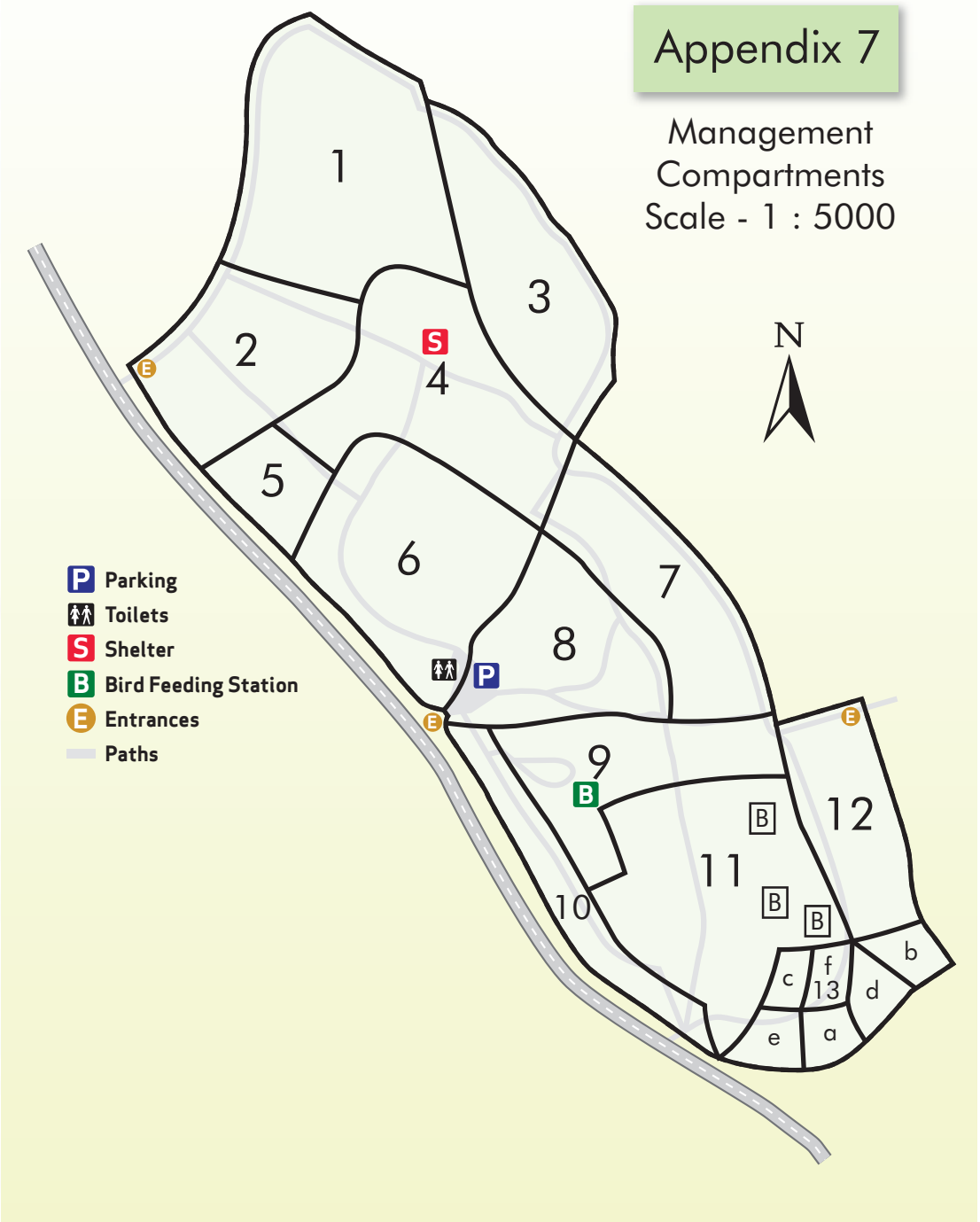
23). Every person who shall offend against any of the foregoing Byelaws shall be liable for such offence to a penalty of £5.

Provided nevertheless, that the Justices or Court before whom any complaint may be made or any proceedings may be taken in respect of any such offence, may, if they think fit, adjudge the payment, as a penalty, of any sum less than the full amount of the penalty imposed by this Byelaw.

24). Nothing in or done under any of the provisions of the foregoing Byelaws shall in any respect prejudice or injuriously affect the rights of any person acting legally by virtue of some estate, right or interest in, over or affecting the Outwoods.

Appendix 7

Compartment Map



Appendix 8

Lepidopera species summer 2012

Scientific Name	Common Name
Eriocrania subpurpurella	
Hepialus humuli	Ghost Moth
Hepialus sylvina	Orange Swift
Hepialus hecta	Gold Swift
Hepialus lupulinus	Common Swift
Hepialus fusconebulosa	Map-winged Swift
Ectoedemia occultella	
Ectoedemia subbimaculella	
Stigmella aurella	
Stigmella tityrella	
Stigmella microtheriella	
Tischeria ekebladella	
Emmetia marginea	
Nematopogon swammerdamella	
Nematopogon schwarziellus	
Nemophora degeerella	
Adela reaumurella	
Psyche casta	
Phyllonorycter harrisella	
Phyllonorycter messaniella	
Phyllonorycter sorbi	
Phyllonorycter maestingella	
Phyllonorycter coryli	Nut Leaf Blister Moth
Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella	
Phyllonorycter nicellii	
Phyllonorycter geniculella	
Argyresthia brockeella	
Argyresthia goedartella	
Argyresthia conjugella	Apple Fruit Moth
Yponomeuta evonymella	Bird-cherry Ermine
Zelleria hepariella	
Pseudoswammerdamia combinella	
Ypsolopha ustella	
Batia lunaris	

Esperia sulphurella	
Diurnea fagella	
Agonopterix heracliana	
Agonopterix alstromeriana	
Metzneria lappella	
Parachronistis albiceps	
Anarsia spartiella	
Blastobasis decolorella	
Mompha conturbatella	
Blastodacna hellerella	
Pandemis cerasana	Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix
Pandemis cinnamomeana	
Pandemis heparana	Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix
Archips podana	Large Fruit-tree Tortrix
Ptycholomoides aeriferanus	
Clepsis consimilana	
Epagoge grotiana	
Capua vulgana	
Pseudargyrotoza conwagana	
Eulia ministrana	
Tortricodes alternella	
Eana incanana	
Aleimma loeflingiana	
Tortrix viridana	Green Oak Tortrix
Acleris forsskaleana	
Acleris comariana	Strawberry Tortrix
Acleris rhombana	Rhomboid Tortrix
Acleris ferrugana	
Celypha lacunana	
Apotomis turbidana	
Ancylis achatana	
Epinotia bilunana	
Gypsonoma dealbana	
Epiblema uddmanniana	Bramble Shoot Moth
Eucosma cana	
Chrysoteuchia culmella	
Acentria ephemerella	Water Veneer

Scoparia ambigualis	
Dipleurina lacustrata	
Eurrhypara hortulata	Small Magpie
Udea olivalis	
Pleuroptya ruralis	Mother of Pearl
Hypsopygia costalis	Gold Triangle
Trachycera advenella	
Thymelicus lineola	Essex Skipper
Ochlodes venata	Large Skipper
Gonepteryx rhamni	The Brimstone
Pieris brassicae	Large White
Pieris rapae	Small White
Pieris napi sabellicae	Green-veined White
Anthocharis cardamines	Orange-tip
Neozephyrus quercus	Purple Hairstreak
Celastrina argiolus	Holly Blue
Vanessa atalanta	Red Admiral
Aglais urticae	Small Tortoiseshell
Inachis io	The Peacock
Polygonia c-album	The Comma
Pararge aegeria tircis	Speckled Wood
Pyronia tithonus	The Gatekeeper
Maniola jurtina insularis	Meadow Brown
Euthrix potatoria	The Drinker
Watsonalla binaria	Oak Hook-tip
Drepana falcataria falcataria	Pebble Hook-tip
Cilix glaucata	Chinese Character
Thyatira batis	Peach Blossom
Habrosyne pyritoides	Buff Arches
Ochropacha duplaris	Common Lutestring
Achlya flavicornis galbanus	Yellow Horned
Alsophila aescularia	March Moth
Pseudoterpna pruinata atropunctaria	Grass Emerald
Geometra papilionaria	Large Emerald
Hemithea aestivaria	Common Emerald
Jodis lactearia	Little Emerald
Cyclophora punctaria	Maiden's Blush

Idaea biselataSmall	Fan-footed Wave
Idaea dimidiata	Single-dotted Wave
Idaea aversata	Riband Wave
Xanthorhoe designata	Flame Carpet
Xanthorhoe ferrugata	Dark-barred Twin-spot
Carpet	
Xanthorhoe quadrifasiata	Large Twin-spot Carpet
Xanthorhoe montanata montanata	Silver-ground Carpet
Xanthorhoe fluctuata fluctuata	Garden Carpet
Scotopteryx chenopodiata	Shaded Broad-bar
Epirrhoe alternata alternata	Common Carpet
Anticlea badiata	Shoulder Stripe
Anticlea derivata	The Streamer
Mesoleuca albicillata	Beautiful Carpet
Cosmorhoe ocellata	Purple Bar
Eulithis populata	Northern Spinach
Eulithis pyraliata	Barred Straw
Ecliptopera silaceata	Small Phoenix
Chloroclysta citrata citrata	Dark Marbled Carpet
Chloroclysta truncata	Common Marbled Carpet
Cidaria fulvata	Barred Yellow
Plemyria rubiginata rubiginata	Blue-bordered Carpet
Thera firmata	Pine Carpet
Thera obeliscata	Grey Pine Carpet
Electrophaes corylata	Broken-barred Carpet
Colostygia multistrigaria	Mottled Grey
Colostygia pectinataria	Green Carpet
Hydriomena furcata	July Highflyer
Hydriomena impluviata	May Highflyer
Perizoma affinitata	The Rivulet
Perizoma alchemillata	Small Rivulet
Perizoma flavofasciata	Sandy Carpet
Eupithecia pulchellata pulchellata	Foxglove Pug
Eupithecia exiguata exiguata	Mottled Pug
Eupithecia trisignaria	Triple-spotted Pug
Eupithecia assimilata	Currant Pug
Eupithecia vulgata vulgata	Common Pug

Eupithecia subfuscata	Grey Pug
Eupithecia icterata	Tawny Speckled Pug
Eupithecia abbreviata	Brindled Pug
Eupithecia tantillaria	Dwarf Pug
Chloroclystis v-ata	The V-Pug
Pasiphila rectangulata	Green Pug
Gymnoscelis rufifasciata	Double-striped Pug
Euchoeca nebulata	Dingy Shell
Hydrelia flammeolaria	Small Yellow Wave
Acasis viretata	Yellow-barred Brindle
Abraxas grossulariata	The Magpie
Lomaspilis marginata	Clouded Border
Macaria liturata	Tawny-barred Angle
Petrophora chlorosata	Brown Silver-line
Plagodis dolabraria	Scorched Wing
Opisthograptis luteolata	Brimstone Moth
Apeira syringaria	Lilac Beauty
Ennomos alniaria	Canary-shouldered Thorn
Ennomos fuscantaria	Dusky Thorn
Selenia dentaria	Early Thorn
Selenia lunularia	Lunar Thorn
Selenia tetralunaria	Purple Thorn
Odontopera bidentata	Scalloped Hazel
Crocallis elinguaria	Scalloped Oak
Ourapteryx sambucaria	Swallow-tailed Moth
Apocheima pilosaria	Pale Brindled Beauty
Lycia hirtaria	Brindled Beauty
Biston strataria	Oak Beauty
Biston betularia	Peppered Moth
Menophra abruptaria	Waved Umber
Peribatodes rhomboidaria	Willow Beauty
Alcis repandata repandata	Mottled Beauty
Ectropis bistortata	The Engrailed
Ectropis crepuscularia	Small Engrailed
Aethalura punctulata	Grey Birch
Bupalus piniaria	Bordered White
Cabera pusaria	Common White Wave
Cabera exanthemata	Common Wave

Lomographa temerata	Clouded Silver
Campaea margaritata	Light Emerald
Mimas tiliae	Lime Hawk-moth
Laothoe populi	Poplar Hawk-moth
Deilephila porcellus	Small Elephant Hawk-moth
Phalera bucephala	Buff-tip
Notodonta dromedarius	Iron Prominent
Notodonta ziczac	Pebble Prominent
Pheosia gnoma	Lesser Swallow Prominent
Pheosia tremula	Swallow Prominent
Ptilodon capucina	Coxcomb Prominent
Pterostoma palpina	Pale Prominent
Drymonia dodonaea	Marbled Brown
Drymonia ruficornis	Lunar Marbled Brown
Orgyia antiqua	The Vapourer
Calliteara pudibunda	Pale Tussock
Euproctis similis	Yellow-tail
Nudaria mundana	Muslin Footman
Eilema lurideola	Common Footman
Spilosoma lubricipeda	White Ermine
Spilosoma luteum	Buff Ermine
Nola cucullatella	Short-cloaked Moth
Agrotis segetum	Turnip Moth
Agrotis exclamationis	Heart & Dart
Agrotis ipsilon	Dark Sword-grass
Agrotis puta puta	Shuttle-shaped Dart
Axylia putris	The Flame
Ochropleura plecta	Flame Shoulder
Noctua pronuba	Large Yellow Underwing
Noctua comes	Lesser Yellow Underwing
Noctua fimbriata	Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing
Noctua janthe	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing
Paradiarsia glareosa	Autumnal Rustic
Lycophotia porphyrea	True Lover's Knot
Diarsia mendica	Ingrailed Clay
Diarsia brunnea	Purple Clay
Diarsia rubi	Small Square-spot

Xestia c-nigrum	Setaceous Hebrew
Character	
Xestia ditrapezium	Triple-spotted Clay
Xestia triangulum	Double Square-spot
Xestia baja	Dotted Clay
Xestia xanthographa	Square-spot Rustic
Cerastis rubricosa	Red Chestnut
Polia nebulosa	Grey Arches
Melanchra persicariae	Dot Moth
Lacanobia thalassina	Pale-shouldered Brocade
Lacanobia oleracea	Bright-line Brown-eye
Melanchra pisi	Broom Moth
Cerapteryx graminis	Antler Moth
Orthosia cruda	Small Quaker
Orthosia cerasi	Common Quaker
Orthosia incerta	Clouded Drab
Orthosia munda	Twin-spotted Quaker
Orthosia gothica	Hebrew Character
Mythimna ferrago	The Clay
Mythimna impura	Smoky Wainscot
Mythimna pallens	Common Wainscot
Brachylomia viminalis	Minor Shoulder-knot
Xylocampa areola	Early Grey
Dryobotodes eremita	Brindled Green
Eupsilia transversa	The Satellite
Conistra vaccinii	The Chestnut
Agrochola helvola	Flounced Chestnut
Agrochola litura	Brown-spot Pinion
Parastichtis suspecta	The Suspected
Atethmia centrago	Centre-barred Sallow
Omphaloscelis lunosa	Lunar Underwing
Xanthia togata	Pink-barred Sallow
Xanthia icteritia	The Sallow
Acronicta psi	Grey Dagger
Acronicta tridens/psi	Dark / Grey Dagger
Cryphia domestica	Marbled Beauty
Amphipyra pyramidea	Copper Underwing
Amphipyra tragopoginis	Mouse Moth

Rusina ferruginea	Brown Rustic
Euplexia lucipara	Small Angle Shades
Phlogophora meticulosa	Angle Shades
Parastichtis ypsillon	Dingy Shears
Cosmia trapezina	The Dun-bar
Apamea monoglypha	Dark Arches
Apamea lithoxylaea	Light Arches
Apamea crenata	Clouded-bordered Brindle
Apamea sordens	Rustic Shoulder-knot
Apamea scolopacina	Slender Brindle
Oligia strigilis	Marbled Minor
Oligia fasciuncula	Middle-barred Minor
Mesoligia furuncula	Cloaked Minor
Mesapamea secalis	Common Rustic
Photedes minima	Small Dotted Buff
Luperina testacea	Flounced Rustic
Hoplodrina alsines	The Uncertain
Hoplodrina blanda	The Rustic
Caradrina morpheus	Mottled Rustic
Protodeltote pygarga	Marbled White Spot
Pseudoips prasinana britannica	Green Silver-lines
Nycteola revayana	Oak Nycteoline
Diachrysia chrysitis	Burnished Brass
Autographa gamma	Silver Y
Autographa pulchrina	Beautiful Golden Y
Autographa jota	Plain Golden Y
Abrostola tripartita	The Spectacle
Lygephila pastinum	The Blackneck
Scoliopteryx libatrix	The Herald
Laspeyria flexula	Beautiful Hook-tip
Rivula sericealis	Straw Dot
Hypena proboscidalis	The Snout
Zanclognatha tarsipennalis	The Fan-foot
Herminia grisealis	Small Fan-foot

Other insect species summer 2012

Scientific Name	Common Name
Aphodius rufipes	Aphodius rufipes
Achaius oratorius	white knee ich wasp
Anatis ocellata	eyed ladybird
Aphrophora alni	Alder Spittlebug
Arhopalus rusticus	Longhorn beetle
Bombus lucorum	White tailed bumble bee
Carabus violaceus	Violet ground beetle
Chrysoperla carnea	Green lacewing
Coccinella septempunctata	7 spot ladybird
Coelichneumon deliratorius	Ichneumon wasp
Elasmostethus interstinctus	Birch shield bug
Glomeris marginata	Pill Millipede
Halyzia sedecimguttata	Orange ladybird
Malthinus seriepunctatus	Soldier Beetle
Melolontha melolontha	Cock- chafer
Nicrophorus humator	Black sexton beetle
Nicrophorus investigator	Nicrophorus investigator
Nicrophorus vespilloides	Common sexton beetle
Palomena prasina	Shield bug
Panorpa communis	Scorpion Fly
Pentatoma rufipes	Forest Bug
Pterostichus niger	Ground beetle
Rhagium mordax	Longhorn beetle
Stenagostus rhombeus	Click beetle
Vespa crabro Hornet	
Volucella pellucens	Pellucid Fly

Appendix 9

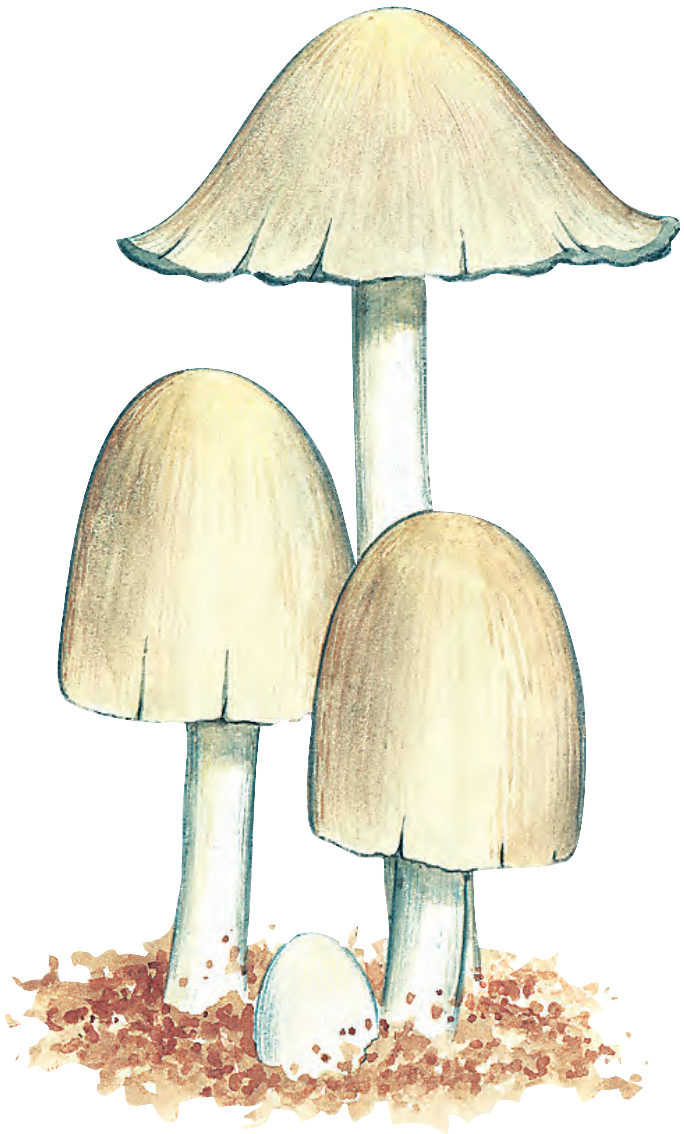
Leicestershire Fungi Study Group
List of Fungi for Outwoods, SK/515159
25th Oct 2012

Recorded by Richard Iliffe

Amanita fulva	Tawny Grisette	Soil with birch
Amanita muscaria	Fly Agaric	Soil with birch
Amanita rubescens	Blusher	Soil with birch & spruce
Amanita spissa var. excelsa	Grey Spotted Amanita	Soil
Amanita submembranacea		Soil with birch
Amylostereum chailletii		Sawn conifer log
Ascocoryne sarcoides	Purple Jellydisc	Fallen birch trunk
Bjerkandera adusta	Smoky Bracket	Fallen trunks of birch & conifers
Boletus badius	Bay Bolete	Soil with birch & oak
Boletus chrysenteron	Red Cracking Bolete	Soil with oak & birch
Calocera cornea	Small Stagshorn	Fallen conifer trunk
Calocera pallidopsathulata	Pale Stagshorn	Fallen wood
Calocera viscosa	Yellow Stagshorn	Conifer Stump
Chondrostereum purpureum	Silver Leaf Fungus	Fallen birch trunk
Claviceps militaris	Scarlet Soldier	Pupa
Clitocybe clavipes	Club Foot	Litter
Clitocybe ditopa	Mealy Frosted Funnel	Conifer litter
Clitocybe metachroa		Litter
Clitocybe nebularis	Clouded Funnel	Soil with birch
Collybia butyracea	Butter Cap	Litter
Collybia confluens	Clustered Toughshank	Litter with birch
Collybia fusipes	Spindle Toughshank	Stump
Collybia peronata	Wood Woolly Foot	Litter
Coniophora puteana	Wet Rot Fungus	Base of birch tree
Coprinus lagopus	Haresfoot Inkcap	
Coprinus micaceus	Glistening Inkcap	Around stump
Cortinarius hemitrichus	Frosty Webcap	Soil with birch
Cortinarius umbrinolens		Soil with birch
Crepidotus variabilis	Variable Oysterling	Fallen birch twig
Cylindrobasidium evolvens		Fallen birch twig

Daedaleopsis confragosa	Blushing Bracket	Fallen birch branch
Entoloma rhodopolium	Wood Pinkgill	Soil with birch
Fomes fomentarius	Tinder Fungus	Fallen birch trunk
Gymnopilus penetrans	Common Rustgill	Fallen conifer wood
Hebeloma crustuliniforme	Poisonpie	Soil with birch
Hebeloma mesophaeum	Veiled Poisonpie	Soil with birch
Helvella lacunosa	Elfin Saddle	Soil with birch
Heterobasidion annosum	Root Rot Fungus	Stump
Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca	False Chanterelle	Conifer log
Hyphodontia pallidula		Fallen birch wood
Hypholoma fasciculare	Sulphur Tuft	Stump
Hypocrea lactea		Base of birch tree
Inocybe splendens var. phaeoleuca (needs confirming)		Soil with birch
Laccaria amethystina	Amethyst Deceiver	Soil with oak
Laccaria laccata	Deceiver	Litter
Lactarius tabidus	Birch Milkcap	Soil with birch
Lactarius turpis	Ugly Milkcap	Soil with birch
Melanoleuca cognata	Spring Cavalier	Soil with birch
Mycena adscendens	Frosty Bonnet	Bark of fallen larch wood
Mycena amicta		Larch litter
Mycena arcangeliana	Angel's Bonnet	Fallen twig
Mycena epipterygia	Yellowleg Bonnet	Litter
Mycena filopes	Iodine Bonnet	Litter
Mycena galericulata	Common Bonnet	Stump
Mycena galopus	Milking Bonnet	Litter
Mycena galopus var. nigra	Dark Milking Bonnet	Litter
Mycena inclinata	Clustered Bonnet	Stump
Mycena speirea	Bark Bonnet	Bark of felled hardwood
Nectria cinnabarina (both stages)	Coral Spot	Fallen birch wood
Paxillus involutus	Brown Rollrim	Soil with birch
Phallus impudicus	Stinkhorn	Litter
Pholiota squarrosa	Shaggy Scalycap	Base of ash tree
Piptoporus betulinus	Birch Bracket	Dead birch tree
Postia caesia	Conifer Blueing Bracket	Sawn conifer log
Psathyrella spadiceogrisea	Spring Brittlestem	Litter
Rhopographus filicinus	Bracken Map	Dead bracken rhachis
Russula betularum		Soil with birch

Russula nitida	Purple Swamp Brittlegill	Soil with birch
Russula ochroleuca	Ochre Brittlegill	Soil with birch & spruce
Russula parazurea	Powdery Brittlegill	Soil with oak
Schizopora paradoxa	Split Porecrust	Fallen oak branch
Scleroderma citrinum	Common Earthball	Soil with birch & oak
Spinellus fusiger	Bonnet Mould	On Mycena epipterygia
Stereum gausapatum	Bleeding Oak Crust	Stump
Stereum hirsutum	Hairy Curtain Crust	Fallen birch wood
Stereum rugosum	Bleeding Broadleaf Crust	Fallen chestnut branch
Stereum sanguinolentum	Bleeding Conifer Crust	Felled larch trunk
Thelephora terrestris	Earth Fan	Soil with birch
Xylaria hypoxylon	Candlesnuff Fungus	Stump
Xylaria polymorpha	Dead Man's Fingers	Stump



Appendix 10

Outwoods Visitors Survey 2012 – Results

Figures in brackets represent results from 2005 survey.

Personal Information:

Male = 38% (49%) _____ Female = 62% (51%)

Which of the following age categories do you fit into?

Under16 = 6% (11%) 16 – 25 = 9% (10%) 26 – 35 = 26% (18%) 36 – 50 =26% (25%) 51 – 65 = 20% (31%) Over 65 = 13% (5%)

How would you describe your ethnic origin?

White = 91.2% Black or Black British = 5% (0%) Mixed = 2% (0%) _Asian orBritish Asian = 2% (2.8%)

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes = 0% (3%) No = 100% (97%)

Patterns of Use:

How often do you visit the Outwoods?

More than once a week = 46% (19%)

Less than once a week but more than once a month = 20% (33%)

Less than once a month but more than twice a year = 34% (41%)

First Visit = 0% (7%)

How long does an average visit to the Outwoods last?

0 –1 hour = 36% (40%_) 1 – 2 hours = 32% (44%) 2 - 3 hours = 28%(11%) Over 3 hours = 4% (5%)

How far do you travel to visit the Outwoods?

0 - 3 miles = 36% (30%)_ 3 - 5 miles = 36% (32%) 5 - 10 miles = 14%(19%)_

More than 10 miles = 14% (19%)

How do you get to the Outwoods?

Car = 89% (80%)__ Cycle = 0% (3%) Walk = 11% (7%)

Motivation for Visit:

Do you walk a dog in the Outwoods?

Yes = 58% (21%) No = 42% (79%)

Visitor Facilities:

How would you describe the quality of the interpretation material?

Excellent = 33% (2%) Good = 49% (39%) Adequate = 13% (28%) _Poor =2.5% (23%)_ Very Poor = 0% (1%) _ Never looked at it = 2.5% (7%)

How would you describe the quality of the paths?

Excellent = 23% (5%) Good = 63% (62%) Adequate = 14% (22%)Poor = 0% (11%_) Very Poor = 5% (0%) _

How would you describe the quality of the toilets?

Excellent = 10% (15%)_ Good = 46% (48%) Adequate = 34% (30%)Poor = 10% (7%) _Very Poor = 0% (0%) _

How would you describe the quality of the car park?

Excellent = 24% (15%)_ Good = 57% (62%) Adequate = 14% (23%)Poor = 0% (0%) __Very Poor = 0% (0%) _

How would you describe the quality of the entrances?

Excellent = 21% (4%)_ Good = 57% (40%) Adequate = 17% (16%)Poor = 5% (39%) Very Poor = 0% (0%)

How would you describe the general appearance of the Outwoods?

Excellent = 71% (40%) Good = 29% (56%) Adequate = 0% (3%) _Poor = 0% (1%)__ Very Poor = 0% (0%)

Concerns:

How safe do you feel when visiting the Outwoods?

Very safe = 76% (84%_) Quite safe = 24% (15%) unsafe = 0% (1%__)

Have you any concerns/dislikes regarding the Outwoods and the way in which it's managed?

The following comments were made:

4 visitors commented were concerned about risks associated with thepresence of the Quorn Hunt in the woods (the Hunt were in the woodsduring one of the survey days.)

3 visitors where concerned about dog fouling in the woods.

2 visitors said that more should be done to remove conifers from the wood.

2 visitors where concerned about the state of the toilets.

2 visitors had encountered cyclists in the wood.

Appendix 11

Outwoods Management Structure

Outwoods Management Committee – responsible for strategic management decisions (in accordance with Outwoods Deed of Trust).

Current Membership:

Councillors

- Cllr K Harris
- Cllr H Fryer
- Cllr C Harris
- Cllr J Morgan
- Cllr R Campsall
- Cllr J Poland
- Cllr R Jukes
- Cllr M Smidowicz

Local Residents

- Mrs J Nutt
- Mrs P Bailey
- Mr R Thomas
- Mr R Smith
- Colonel R Martin

(the Outwoods Management Committee can be contacted through Charnwood Borough Council).

Quadron Services Ltd - responsible for the day-to-day management of the Outwoods

Tony Jones – Contracts Manager

Nicola Clarke - Horticualtural Development Manager

Ciaran Fern - Head Ranger

Charnwood Borough Council - responsible for the monitoring of site management

Neil Greenhalgh – Head of Environmental Services

Sarah Ritchie – Contracts Manager

Senior Green Spaces Officer

Appendix 12

Outwoods Ecological Strategy

This strategy describes the current situation in regard to ecological issues at the Outwoods and identifies the aims, objectives and rationale for management operations.

Ecological Issues

A number of significant changes have taken place in the Outwoods over the last 60 years both as a result of natural processes and public usage. The extensive felling that took place 50 – 60 years ago has left few mature trees, and the planting of conifer trees has reduced the extent of wildlife habitat. Invasive tree and shrub species, particularly sycamore and rhododendron, have spread at the expense of native wildlife and open aspects of the wood are gradually being lost as young trees mature. Extensive usage of the Outwoods by members of the public has resulted in paths becoming eroded and areas of undisturbed vegetation becoming smaller.

Management Aims

The Management Aims describe what we seek to achieve in terms of the ecological management of the Outwoods.

Management Objectives and Prescriptions

The management objectives describe what activities should to be undertaken to achieve the overall ecological aims. Each is accompanied by a rationale, which explains why that activity is necessary and how it relates to the overall policy, as well as a prescription which describes how that objective is to be carried out. The objectives are grouped into three categories: habitat and species management; visitor services, interpretation and education; and estate services and infrastructure.

1. Habitat and Species Management

AIM: To conserve and enhance high forest woodland communities for the benefit of wildlife and as a site for quiet, informal recreation.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: To Control and Reduce the Extent of Sycamore

Compartments: 2-5, 7, 8, 11, 13

Rationale:

Sycamore is a highly invasive alien species detrimental to the wildlife value of the Outwoods. To conserve the present ecological value of unaffected areas it is necessary to prevent this species from invading. Reducing the extent of sycamore in areas where it is presently endemic will enhance the wildlife value of the woods. Priority for removal must be given to areas of higher conservation value i.e. the semi-natural areas. Compartment 13, a particularly sensitive area, has been sub-divided to minimise the impact of Sycamore removal. This species re-grows readily from stumps so the problem is not eliminated by felling.

Prescription:

Fell Sycamore October – February. Chemically treat stumps on felling or remove. Treat any re-growth the following summer with systemic herbicide.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: To Control and Reduce the Extent of Rhododendron

Compartments: All compartments

Rationale:

Rhododendron is a highly invasive alien species detrimental to the wildlife value of the Outwoods. To conserve the present value of unaffected areas it is necessary to prevent this species from spreading. Reducing its extent will enhance the wildlife value of the woods. Ideally, from a nature conservation viewpoint, eradication of all Rhododendron would be desirable. However, flowering rhododendron is attractive so, provided the necessary resources are made available for controlling its spread, some clumps of Rhododendron should be retained for amenity reasons in specific limited areas of lesser

nature conservation interest. Rhododendron has greatest amenity value along the edges of rides and glades where there is more light enabling it to flower and where it can be seen by the public. It is proposed that some rhododendron should be left in these areas but, as the shrub transition is valuable habitat, rhododendron should form no more than 20% of the shrub edge.

Prescription:

Fell Rhododendron October – February. Remove stumps or treat re-growth in August of the following year (i.e. approximately 18 months later) with Glyphosate. All brash must be disposed of as Rhododendron can root from the branches.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: To Thin Conifer Plantations

Compartment: All

Rationale:

Regular thinning of the plantations will open up the closed canopy and encourage more growth of native species, thus enhancing the wildlife value of these areas. It will also ensure a higher quality final timber product and maximise the financial return on felling to be used for other management.

Prescription:

Thin plantations October – February inclusive. Favour retention of native broadleaved trees.

OBJECTIVES 1.4: To Fell Plantations

Compartments: 1, 6, 7, 9, 11

Rationale:

Felling of the plantations will enable the extent of semi-natural woodland to be increased thus enhancing the wildlife and amenity value. Trees should fell in small blocks over a period of years to minimise disturbance and reduce the visual impact. However, the state of the remaining plantation area in

compartment 6 makes this impossible: this area should be clear felled. Felling the plantations close to their rotational length will maximise the financial return to be used for other management.

Prescription:

Fell plantations October – February inclusive. Treat conifer stumps with urea on felling. Treat Sycamore stumps on felling to prevent re-growth. Any Sycamore re-growth should be treated in the following summer with systemic herbicide.

OBJECTIVES 1.5: To Create and Maintain a System of Rides and Glades

Compartments: All compartments where appropriate

Rationale:

Rides and glades are an important subsidiary habitat within the Outwoods and are on the decline. To conserve this habitat it is necessary to create a permanent ride and glade system. As established rides and glades generally retain more wildlife interests than similar newly created ones existing open areas should be retained. Where glades are linked by rides they are more useful to wildlife than when isolated from other open areas, so this should be encouraged.

Where new rides and glades are created this should be done in areas of low wildlife value e.g. conifer plantations. Where felling has taken place consideration should be given to retaining the area as an open glade. Where vegetation has been removed from the edge of paths consideration should be given to maintaining the path as a ride.

Prescription:

Following removal of trees and shrubs during October – February inclusive, consideration should be given to the retention of the open space as part of a ride and glade system. Basic ride design: central path 1.5m wide, on each side of path 2m of mown grass and 3m scrub bank. For diversity rides should not be straight edged, width to be varied and occasional tree left to cast some shade.

OBJECTIVE 1.6: To Increase the Dead Wood Resources

Compartments: All

Rationale:

Dead wood is an extremely valuable wildlife habitat in woodlands and is uncommon in the Outwoods. Increasing the amount of dead wood, particularly standing dead wood, will enhance the wildlife value of the site.

Prescription:

To leave all standing or fallen trees, shrubs, and branches in situ where this does not pose a hazard to the public. Following felling operations retain a proportion of the timber and brash in habitat piles.

OBJECTIVE 1.7: To Increase the Number of Mature and Over-Mature Trees

Compartments: All

Rationale:

Mature and over-mature trees represent a valuable wildlife habitat but are uncommon within the Outwoods due of the extent of felling in recent decades. Increasing the number of mature and over-mature trees would considerably enhance the wildlife value the woods.

Prescription:

To leave all natives trees in semi-natural areas to mature where they do not pose a hazard to staff or visitors.

OBJECTIVE 1.8: To Increase the Extent of Oak Woodland

Compartments: 1, 6, 7, 9, 11

Rationale:

Increasing the extent of semi-natural woodland would considerably enhance the wildlife and amenity value of the woods. Natural regeneration is preferable from a wildlife point of view because it conserves local genetic strains and provides a greater range of habitats. Some planting is however

required where there is no local seed source, or visitors are likely to become concerned by the extent of felling.

Prescription:

Following felling operations restocking should consist of a mixture of planting of local provenance stock and natural regeneration. Sessile Oak to be planted October – February in blocks of approximately 10 at a maximum spacing of 3m, with 25m spacing between the blocks. Stock for planting to be grown on from acorns collected in the wood in order to conserve local genetic varieties. The base of the planted trees to be kept free of vegetation for a radius of 50cm until the trees are established (approximately 3 years). Bracken and Bramble to be controlled to permit natural regeneration. Natural regeneration to be controlled by removing regenerating alien species

OBJECTIVE 1.9: To Replace Recently Planted Alien Species

Compartments: 3, 4, 11, 13

Rationale:

Planted alien species detract from the wildlife value of the woods. Replacement of these trees with native Oaks will enhance the ecological value of the Outwoods, attracting more wildlife, which in turn will benefit visitors.

Prescription:

Remove planted trees in October – February inclusive and replace with Outwoods origin Oaks.

OBJECTIVE 1.10: To Protect Badgers and their Setts.

Compartments: All

Rationale:

Badgers are a protected species subject to illegal persecution.

Prescription:

Maintain fencing around badger setts. Do not carry out major management works within area of badger setts.

OBJECTIVE 1.11: To Enhance the Alder Woodland

Compartment: 13

Rationale:

This area represents one of the highest quality wildlife areas within the woodlands. The wet nature of the ground makes it prone to damage by trampling. The difference between this area and similar area at the north end of the woods demonstrates the damage caused by disturbance. The wildlife value of this area could be considerably enhanced by closing it to the public.

Prescription:

Close footpaths through compartments 13.

2. Visitor Services, Interpretation and Education

AIM: To provide high-class visitor facilities which will contribute to the protection, enhancement and understanding of important habitats and wildlife.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: To Provide and Maintain a High Quality Primary Footpath Network

Compartments: All

Rationale:

The current level of public use in the Outwoods is causing deterioration in the environment through erosion, multiplication and expansion of the existing paths. This damage can be negated by providing high quality, clearly defined footpaths. This will greatly enhance the value of the woods to visitors and also increase the wildlife value by reducing damage. The proposed network should incorporate the majority of the popular routes.

Prescription:

Primary routes to be identified, levelled and surfaced to width of 1.5m. Surface to be slightly cambered to shed water. Quarry waste from Charnwood area to be used to blend landscape. Limestone, pea gravel, washed gravel and road chippings are not suitable. The surfacing material must be well compacted. Quarry waste is of variable size but should contain a lot of fine sediment to bind it. Surfacing layer to be at least 100mm thick. If stone does not bind well use 25mm layer 'fines' to form surface. It may be necessary to use a sub-layer of geotextile or hardcore in wet areas. Where appropriate drainage pipes or French drains can be incorporated into the footpaths. Surfaced paths must be allowed to naturalise i.e. there should be no spraying to keep them open.

Water to be kept off the paths using drains and cut offs. Path side drains to be at least 2.5m apart to allow access by vehicles in an emergency or for management purposes. Larger drains crossing path should be culverted (minimum diameter 225mm) or bridged. Culverts / bridges at least 2.5m wide to allow vehicle access.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: To Provide and Maintain a Network of Secondary Routes

Compartments: 1 – 5, 9 – 11

Rationale:

Some visitors prefer to use quieter footpaths of a more informal nature. A system of secondary footpaths would cater for this need.

Prescription:

Secondary routes to be identified and kept clear of overhanging vegetation to a width of 2.5m.

OBJECTIVE 2.3: To Maintain The Information Boards

Rationale:

The provision of information about the woods, using sign-boards, enhances public enjoyment and appreciation of the woods. The need for improved information boards was identified as a result of visitor surveys carried out in 1995 and 2005.

Prescription:

Maintain permanent information boards at principle entrances to the woods.

OBJECTIVE 2.4: To Provide Public Information on Major Management Operations

Rationale:

The sight of major management works in the woods can cause alarm to members of the public if they do not understand what is happening and why it is happening. Information can alleviate these concerns. A greater understanding of what is happening in a wood can often enhance enjoyment of a visit to the wood.

Prescription:

Before major management operations, a press release should be issued and information provided on the notice board in the car park to explain what the work involves and why it is being carried out.

OBJECTIVE 2.5: To Prepare an Information Leaflet and Guided Routes for Visitors to the Outwoods.

Rationale:

A survey of visitors carried out in 2005 found that 7% of those questioned were visiting the Outwoods for the first time, and therefore had little knowledge of the area. In order to help first time visitors to get the most out of their visit, and to prevent visitors getting lost, signed routes and an information leaflet should be created.

Prescription:

Create two signed routes of differing lengths which are discreetly marked with small coloured arrows on wooden posts at intervals along paths. Produce a leaflet that includes a map showing the marked routes, and gives information about the woods. This leaflet should be made available to visitors at the information point in the car park.

OBJECTIVE 2.6: To Remove Litter

Rationale:

Litter is unsightly and detracts from people's enjoyment of the woods. Removal of litter will enhance visits to the Outwoods.

Prescription:

Remove litter from the woods as and when required.

OBJECTIVE 2.7: To Carry Out Safety Work on the Trees

Rationale:

Charnwood Borough Council has a duty of care towards staff and visitors.

Prescription:

Regular tree inspections to be carried out by suitably qualified members of staff and remedial work to be undertaken where necessary.

3. Estate Services and Infrastructure

AIM: To safeguard vegetation and habitats

OBJECTIVE 3.1: To Control Access to the Woods in Order to Conserve Areas of Importance to Wildlife.

Rationale:

Access to the woods should be to restricted to official entrances in order to prevent damage occurring to important habitats, particularly those in compartment 13.

Prescription:

Carry out repairs to the boundary walls and fences as necessary.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: To Maintain and Improve Access Points

Rationale:

Access points to the wood are required for vehicles for management

purposes and in emergencies. Regulated access points for pedestrians are required to ensure sufficient access to visitors without detracting from the wood's quiet environment.

Prescription:

Enlarge vehicle access in compartment 10 and set back from road in order to allow access to emergency vehicles. Carry out maintenance on other access point as and when required.

Appendix 13

ENGLISH NATURE
Annex 1
Management Plan

The Outwoods

Part of Beacon Hill, Hangingstone & Outwoods Site of Special Interest

1. Introduction

This is the Management Plan referred to in the Agreement and is to be read in conjunction with the Agreement. The purpose of the Plan is to describe the nature conservation importance of the land, how the condition of the land is to be maintained or enhanced and the positive management measures to be undertaken.

It is not its purpose to describe what must not be done on the land; that is covered by the Agreement. Any variations or amendments to this Plan will only be effective if they are agreed in writing between the parties, signed by both parties and attached to this Plan, but will thereafter be treated as part of this plan.

This Plan applies to the land described in the Agreement.

2. Nature Conservation Importance

2.1 Importance of site

The Outwoods forms part of Beacon Hill, Hangingstone and Outwoods Site of Special Scientific Interest. The SSSI was first notified in 1956 under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 but was re-notified in 1987 under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Outwoods were included because it holds important geological outcrops, stands of ancient semi-natural alder woodland, breeding bird communities, a breeding site of palmate newt and plants characteristics of ancient semi-natural woodland on dry acidic soils.

2.2 Importance of the land

The Outwoods consists of an area of semi-natural woodland modified in part by re-planting but yet supports a ground of flora typical of Charnwood. The Hangingstone and Outwoods area also includes nationally important geological exposures noted for their specimens of prehistoric plaint remains. Although altered by recent planting, the Outwoods retain many ancient semi-natural woodland plants and is breeding site for the palmate newt.

The wood has two characteristics types of woodland. The first is a distinctly wetter, neutral woodland and the second a more acidic, drier woodland. The former is associated with a number of watercourses draining a shallow valley and is characterised by alder and downy birch with ash, aspen and the occasional oak. The main shrubs are hazel, hawthorn, holly, and crab apple. Pendulous sedge, meadowsweet, wood anemone, yellow archangel, dog's mercury, greater woodrush and wood melick are some species of the rich ground flora layer. An impressive amount of standing and fallen deadwood has developed to benefit a richer invertebrate fauna.

The acidic type of woodland occurs along the ridge on the eastern edge of the wood. The native composition of the wood has been heavily altered by felling and replanting with exotic species such as beech, rhododendron, sycamore and conifers. Sessile oak, pedunculate oak, birch and rowan are the main trees that survive along with a ground flora of bramble, bracken, wavy hair grass and wood sage. In some areas bluebell and greater woodrush also occur. Notable plants include common cow-wheat, a county rarity.

3. Management Objectives

3.1 Description of 'Favourable Condition' on the Land

All SSSIs need to be managed so that their nature conservation features are in 'favourable condition'. In many cases, this means that sites need to be restored over a period of several years to achieve favourable condition and thereafter managed to maintain favourable condition. With regards to this case, the Outwoods is currently considered to be in a phase of restoration and this will continue beyond the period of this management plan.

The currently assessed condition of the Outwoods is based on the objective to maintain the broad-leaved semi-natural woodland and the exposure/scientific interest of the Earth heritage features, in favourable condition. To help Charnwood Borough Council understand what current management is aiming to achieve in the long term, favourable condition of the Outwoods is expressed in terms of the following attributes and targets:

3.1.1 Area

- No loss of ancient woodland area
- No decline in the area of woodland that is considered to be semi-natural

3.1.2 Natural Processes & Structural Development

- Some dead wood (at least 3-5 trees/ha) left lying in any clear-fell; dead trees left standing where practical; 2-3 native trees per ha left to grow to over-maturity in managed areas.
- Mature stands to have understorey of at least 20% and canopy cover of at least 60%.

3.1.3 Regeneration

- No saplings of non-native trees (including beech and Scot's pine) and shrubs >5 years old.
- Where natural regeneration by native species is not sufficient to maintain stands, tree and shrub planting to be undertaken with only local province stock.
- Re-stocked/natural regeneration areas with closed canopy within 15 years.
- Browsing damage found on not more than 10% of new growth/regrowth.

3.1.4 Composition

- Cover of non-native trees (including beech and Scot's pine) and shrubs no more than 5% in canopy, shrub and ground layers.
- No significant change (.10% of area) to woodland composition/structure attributed to unnatural external factors (e.g. pollution) or introduced fauna (deer) over a five year period.
- Oak present in canopy over at least 60% of ancient woodland.
- Alder present in canopy over at least 10% of ancient woodland.

3.1.5 Quality Indicators

- At least 90% of the Earth heritage features remain exposed/unobscured (measured against the estimate extent of exposure when the site was first designated).
- At least 80% of woodland areas referable to relevant NVC communities (W7, W10 and W16).
- Breeding sites of palmate newt maintained.
- Populations of breeding birds notably tawny owl, nuthatch, redstart and woodpeckers maintained.
- Populations of common cow-wheat Melampyrum pratense, pendulous sedge Carex pendula, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage Chrysosplenium oppositofolium, water avens Geum rivale, bluebell Hyacinthoides non-scripta, yellow archangel Lamiastum galeobdolon and ramsons Allium ursium, maintained.

4. Positive Management

To help achieve the restoration of favourable condition, the land will be managed according to the prescriptions and targets outlined in the following clauses (based on section 7.1.1 to 7.1.11 of the Outwoods Management Plan dated November 2002) and on the basis that up to approximately 10% of non-native trees be removed during the five year period covered by the Plan:

4.1 Control and Reduce the Extent of Sycamore

4.1.1 Prescription

Fell mature and semi-mature sycamore trees during October – February. At least 25% but no more than 75% of the timber and brash should be removed from site. Chemically treat stumps after felling. Treat regrowth during following summer (and in subsequent years if necessary) with an appropriate systematic herbicide. Remove small sycamore sapling and small trees by digging /pulling up saplings by their roots.

4.1.2 Prescription

The current approximate extent of sycamore within the Outwoods is illustrated in appendices 1a and 1b. By 2007, seed-bearing sycamore will

be restricted to compartment 7 and the south-eastern edge of compartment4 (see appendix 1c). Within compartment 4, 86 seed-bearing sycamoretrees will be removed. In compartment 7, six small cleared areas will havebe created by felling 150 sycamore tress and a further 100 sycamore treeswill be felled between the new clearings. In total, this work will involve the felling of at least 500 of the 660 sycamore trees currently at seed-bearingage in the Outwoods. By 2007 all the young sycamore trees and saplings will have been removed from compartments 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Work to remove the young sycamore from compartments1, 3, 4 and 7 willhave begun during this time.

4.2 Control the Spread of Rhododendron

4.2.1 Prescription

Remove rhododendron during October – February. Small stumps will be removed using hand tools; however, larger stumps will be left in situ and treated with an appropriate systematic herbicide to prevent regrowth. All thebrash will be burnt on site at a restricted number of locations. These locations will be identified in the summer prior to the work being undertaken. This will help to minimise the impact on native woodland ground flora. Where rhododendron is to be retained for amenity reasons, bushes will be managed to prevent lateral spread by trimming each individual plant to notmore than two metres from its central stem.

4.2.2 Target

The current approximate extent of rhododendron within the Outwoods is depicted in appendix 2a, however, it has been agreed that rhododendron with the retained for amenity reasons within the areas highlighted in appendix 2b. By 2007, the extent of rhododendron within the Outwoods willbe reduced to the areas shown in appendix 2c.

4.3 Small Scale Felling and Thinning of Conifers

4.3.1 Prescription

Thin and fell conifers within compartments 9 and 11 during October – February inclusive. Felling operations should involve the removal of at least 50% but no more than 75% of the cordwood, with the remaining timber

stacked in two metre lengths onsite. Sycamore and rhododendron will be removed prior to felling an area.

4.3.2 Target

The extent of conifers within the Outwoods is outlined in appendix 3. By 2007, five small cleared areas will be created in compartments 9 and 11. This will involve the felling of approximately 125 conifer trees.

4.4 Increase the Dead Wood Resource

4.4.1 Prescription

Leave all standing or fallen trees, shrubs and branches in the situ where it does not pose a hazard to public health. Following felling operations within the wood between 25% and 75% of the timber and brash should be left lying in situ. The remaining timber will be removed from site.

4.5 Increase the Number of Mature and Over-Mature Trees

4.5.1 Prescription

Leave native trees (i.e. oak, birch, ash and alder) to mature where they do not pose a hazard to human health or do not conflict with the conservation objectives of the SSSI.

4.6 Increase the Extent of Oak Woodland

4.6.1 Prescription

Restock small clearings created within compartment 7 with native sessile oaks planted at a maximum spacing of three metres during October – February. Stock for planting will be grown from acorns collected in Outwoods in order to conserve local genetic varieties. The planted trees will be kept free of vegetation for radius of 50cm until the trees are established (approximately 3 years).

4.7 Replace Other Non-Native Species

4.7.1 Prescription

Lift or fell ornamental maple trees in October – February inclusive and

replace with sessile oaks of Outwoods origin. Remove seedling and sapling beech and sweet chestnut at the same time as seedling and sapling sycamores. The patch of laurel that is to be retained will be managed in the future to prevent its lateral spread by cutting each individual plant no more than three meters from its central stem. The Japanese knotweed should be treated with three applications of an appropriate herbicide (Glyphosate) between May and September (see guidelines). The resultant dead stems must be burnt. Treatment may need to be continued over a number of years.

4.7.2 Target

By 2007, the two Norway maple trees in compartment 13 and the twelve ornamental maples in compartment 11 will be removed. The small patch of Japanese knotweed will be eradicated. All young beech and sweet chestnut saplings will be removed alongside the clearance of young sycamore. The area of laurel within compartment 11 will be maintained at the approximate location shown in appendix 2b.

4.8 Protect the Badgers in the Wood

4.8.1 Rationale

Badgers and their setts are legally protected and should not be disturbed.

4.8.2 Prescription

Maintain fencing around badger setts. No major management works to take place within sett unless appropriately licensed.

Appendix 14

Outwoods Pesticide Policy

Introduction

Pesticides are a key component in green space management. Combined with mechanical methods, herbicides represent a solution to the control and eradication of unwanted/damaging plant species.

As part of the National Agenda 21 initiative a reduction in the use of pesticides has been recognised as a means of achieving a more environmentally sustainable approach to landscape maintenance.

Background

Because of its ecological and geological significance the Outwoods have been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Under SSSI regulations the application of pesticides is classed as an operation for which it is necessary to gain prior consent from English Nature.

the Outwoods is currently the subject of a Wildlife Enhancement Scheme Management Agreement with English Nature under which we are required to remove invasive sycamore and rhododendron. Under the terms of this agreement we are also required to treat any sycamore or rhododendron stumps or regrowth with an appropriate herbicide. Following advice from English Nature it was agreed that the most environmentally benign chemicals to use would be glyphosate or ammonium sulphamate.

Policy

• The use of pesticides within the Outwoods will be restricted to the treatment of stumps and re-growth of invasive non-native species where the environmental benefits outweigh any potential disadvantages of using pesticides.

• Only those pesticides that have been approved for use on the site by English Nature will be used.

• Staff or contractors applying pesticides must hold appropriate NPTC competences (or an equivalent qualification).

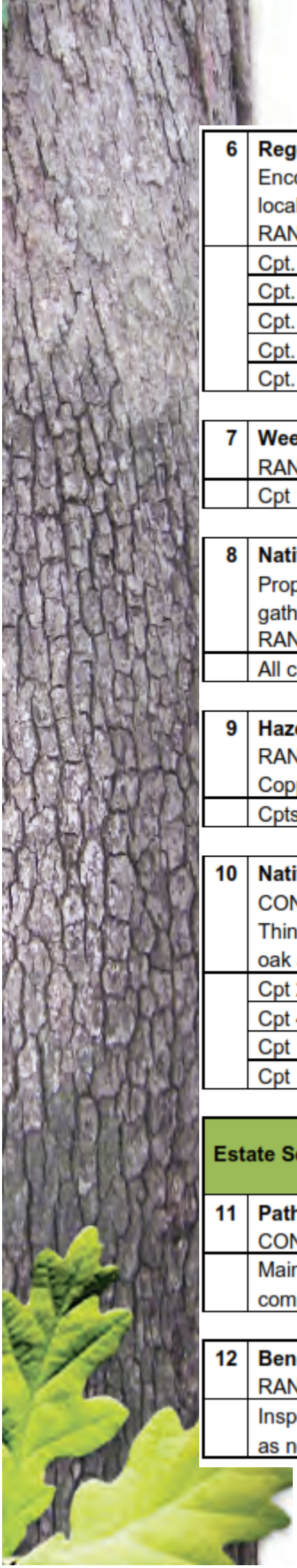
- Pesticides must be stored and applied in accordance with all appropriate legislation including:

- Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1988,
- Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985
- Control Of Pesticides Regulations 1986.

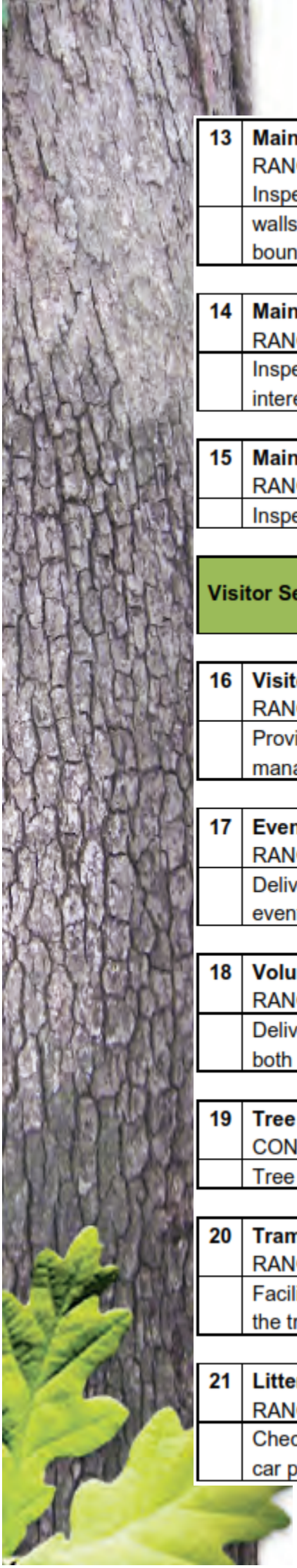
Appendix 15

Outwoods 5 Year Work Programme 2013 - 2018

Habitat and Species Management		13 /14	14 /15	15 /16	16 /17	17 /18
1	**Fell sycamore trees & treat stumps** CONTRACTORS & RANGER SERVICE					
	Cpts. 1, 2 & 3					
	Cpts. 4, 5, 6 & 7					
	Cpts. 8, 9 & 10					
	Cpts. 11, 12 & 13					
2	***Remove young sycamore and saplings*** VOLUNTEERS					
	Cpts. 1, 2 & 3					
	Cpts. 4, 5 & 6					
	Cpts. 8, 9 & 10					
	Cpts. 11, 12 & 13					
3	**Rhododendron control** Fell rhododendron and treat stumps RANGER SERVICSE / VOLUNTEERS					
	Cpts. 3 & 4					
	Cpts. 7, 8, 9 & 10					
	Cpt. 11					
3b	**Cut/treat regrowth from previous works** RANGER SERVICE					
	Cpts. 8, 9					
	Cpt. 11					
	Cpts. 3, 4					
	Cpts. 7 & 10					
4	**Thinning/coppicing of holly** RANGER SERVICE/VOLUNTEERS					
	Cpts. 4 ,5, 6 & 7					
5	**Selective Felling of Conifers** To create small clearings <0.5ha through group felling CONTRACTORS & RANGER SERVICE					
	Cpt. 1					
	Cpt. 6					
	Cpt. 7					
	Cpt. 9					
	Cpt. 11					



6	**Regeneration of felled areas** Encourage natural regeneration and/or plant locally native oak/other species RANGER SERVICE / VOLUNTEERS					
	Cpt. 1					
	Cpt. 6					
	Cpt. 7					
	Cpt. 9					
	Cpt. 11					
7	**Weed control around planted trees** RANGER SERVICE / VOLUNTEERS					
	Cpt 1, 6, 9 & 11					
8	**Native woodland creation** Propogate oak/native species from seed gathered on site RANGER SERVICE / VOLUNTEERS					
	All cpts					
9	**Hazel coppicing** RANGER SERVICE / VOLUNTEERS Coppice hazel stools on a 7 year cycle					
	Cpts 1,3 & 4					
10	**Native woodland thinnng** CONTRACTORS & RANGER SERVICE Thin birch dominated areas by 50% to favor oak and diversify age structure					
	Cpt 2,5					
	Cpt 4,6					
	Cpt 11					
	Cpt 12					
Estate Services and Infrastructure		**13 /14**	**14 /15**	**15 /16**	**16 /17**	**17 /18**
11	**Path Surfacing & maintenance** CONTRACTORS & RANGER SERVICE					
	Maintain surfaced path network in all compartments to high standard					
12	**Bench maintenance** RANGER SERVICE					
	Inspect and repair as required, all benches as necessary in all compartments					



13	**Maintain Boundaries** RANGER SERVICE / VOLUNTEERS Inspect and repair as required, all stone					
	walls, post and rail fences and other boundary structures					
14	**Maintain access points** RANGER SERVICE / VOLUNTEERS					
	Inspect annually. Treat gates, stiles, posts, interepretation boards, notices as required					
15	**Maintain shelter** RANGER SERVICE					
	Inspect and repair as required					
	Visitor Services, Interpretation & Education	**13 /14**	**14 /15**	**15 /16**	**16 /17**	**17 /18**
16	**Visitor enagement** RANGER SERVICE					
	Provide public information on major management operations					
17	**Events** RANGER SERVICE					
	Deliver programme of guided walks and events for members of public					
18	**Volunteer Events** RANGER SERVICE					
	Deliver programme of volunteer tasks for both corporate and individual volunteers					
19	**Tree Risk** CONTRACTORS / RANGER SERVICE					
	Tree Safety works in high risk areas					
20	**Tramper scheme** RANGER SERVICE					
	Facilitate the day-to-day management of the tramper scheme					
21	**Litter & waste removal** RANGER SERVICE					
	Check and empty all bins daily. Litter pick car park and main paths daily.					

Appendix 16

Outwoods' Tree Risk Assessment Policy

Introduction

Charnwood Borough Council has a statutory duty to ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken to guarantee the safety of the Outwoods' staff and visitors. There is therefore a need to inspect trees in or near public places or adjacent to buildings or working areas to assess whether they represent a risk to life or property, and to take remedial action as appropriate.

Need for Risk Evaluation

Like all living organisms trees are subject to decline, and can be damaged physically or invaded by pathogenic organisms. As trees deteriorate they are increasingly likely to shed limbs or fall in strong winds and the potential to cause harm increases. This risk assessment policy sets out the minimum standards of inspection, competence and record keeping necessary for trees in the Outwoods.

Value of Ancient, Dead and Decaying Trees

Ancient, dead and decaying trees are often beautiful and uniquely valuable as habitat for wildlife. Standing dead wood is a particularly important element of woodland ecology. Therefore, however poor the physical condition of a tree, remedial action is only necessary where there is a clearly perceptible risk to life or property.

Risk and Zoning

Risk is related to the location of the tree. It reflects the intensity of use of the area surrounding the tree and the proximity of the tree to buildings or other structures. For a programme of tree inspection to be manageable, most resources need to be directed to areas where there is potentially most risk to people and property. This has been done by designating each part of the Outwoods to one of three Risk Zones.

High Risk areas are those that are close to main public areas (car park, shelter, benches, picnic area, bird feeding station), buildings, major footpaths, entrances etc. High-risk areas have been marked in red on the Tree Risk Zone Map.

Medium Risk areas are those that are close to informal footpaths in regular but not intensive public use and quieter open areas of the Outwoods. Medium risk areas are marked in orange on the Tree Risk Zone Map.

Low Risk areas are those that are away from paths or only lightly used. Low risk areas are marked in green on the Tree Risk Zone Map.

These zones will be kept under review as the level of risk may change overtime. For example, if an event is held involving a large group of people in a medium risk zone its status will change to high risk for the duration of the event; new facilities or activities may involve more permanent changes to patterns of public usage and hence necessitate a review of the designated risk zone.

Hazard

The degree of hazard associated with a tree relates to the condition of the tree. Disease, decay, dead wood and physical damage will contribute to a tree's hazard potential. In order to assess the potential hazard represented by an individual tree regular inspections, carried out by suitably qualified staff, need to take place.

The table below sets out the management approach that has been adopted for trees in each of the three Risk Zones.

Risk Zone	*Frequency of Inspection*	*Inspection*
High Risk Zone	* An nually or following particularly severe weather conditions (storm, prolonged drought etc.)	Rapid but careful search for dead wood or defects in the crown and around the base of the tree.
Medium Risk Zone	At least every two years	Rapid but careful search for dead wood clear defects or damage.
Low Risk Zone	During routine visits	No formal inspection, just observation and awareness of general condition of t he trees during visits to carry out other operations.

* Where tree in the High Risk Zone are showing signs of decline, but have been retained, they should be re-inspected at least every six months and following severe weather conditions.

Once a hazardous tree has been identified the degree of risk that it poses is calculated by combining a score for the risk zone in which the tree has been placed, with its impact potential (the damage it could cause if it falls or sheds limbs) and probability of its failure (how likely the tree is to fall or shed limbs). This results in an overall Risk Score, which is used to priorities tree works.

Recording Inspections

Trees that appear to be sound during formal inspections require no documentary record of their condition. Any omission from the record therefore implies that the tree has been judged to represent a negligible hazard

If immediate remedial action is required the area should be closed off until the work is completed. In all cases a date by which remedial action should be carried out calculated; this date is based on the level of risk.

Competence

Staff undertaking tree inspections should have some experience of tree work and must have received a minimum of one day's training in the recognition of tree defects.

Staff determining the appropriate remedial action must have good basic forestry or arboricultural experience and must have received at least 4 days training in tree management at a recognized educational institute.

Remedial Works

A suitably qualified member of staff or in the case of more complex work, the Council's tree works contractor, will carry out remedial works.

Appendix 17

Outwoods Lone Working Policy.

Introduction

It is often necessary for members of staff at the Outwoods to work alone using tools and equipment, and carrying out operations, which could be deemed to involve a degree of risk.

Charnwood Borough Council's Lone Working Policy states that:

Lone working in itself is not necessarily a high-risk activity but the risk to the individual lone worker may be increased, either by the work itself, the equipment used or the lack of on-hand support should something go wrong. Significant risks should be assessed prior to lone work being sanctioned and any additional controls required to enhance the safety of an individual must be brought to their attention.

In accordance with this policy it is necessary to assess the level of risk associated with each operation undertaken at the Outwoods by a lone worker, and implement any necessary measures to reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

Policy

For each work operation carried out at the Outwoods a risk assessment is completed. The risk assessment combines the likelihood of an adverse event occurring with the severity of the damage/injury that may result. From the combination of these two factors a risk rating is calculated for each element of the operation. This risk rating will result in each operation being categorised as representing a high, medium or low risk.

Where an element of an operation represents a low risk of damage or injury it can be carried out in the normal course of work activities by the lone worker without reference to his/her manager.

Where a medium level of risk of damage or injury is identified with a particular element of an operation the lone worker should inform his/her manager, or other designated member of staff, by phone that they are about

to undertake such an operation. The lone worker should state where the operation is being carried out and approximately how long the operation is expected to take. The lone worker should then inform the designated member of staff when the operation has been completed. If the designated member of staff has not been contacted by the lone worker after this time has elapsed, they should attempt to contact the lone worker to ensure that all is well. If the lone worker can't be contacted by phone a physical search should be carried out involving at least two members of staff. The police should be informed if this procedure produces no results.

Where a high level of risk of damage or injury is identified that can't be reduced to an acceptable level the lone worker should not undertake the operation without the presence of another, suitably trained person.

If a member of staff is working alone he/she must make contact with his/her manager or other designated member of staff at the end of the shift irrespective of the type of operation they have been carrying out. If a member of staff who is working alone fails to make contact at the end of a shift the manager/designated member of staff should instigate the procedures outlined above for medium risk operations.

Appendix 18

CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Charnwood

Leading in Leicestershire

Environmental Policy

CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Charnwood Borough Council is committed to the achievement of outstanding environmental performance and sustainable development of Charnwood's natural and built environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

We are striving to ensure every aspect of our business incorporates the principles of sustainability. This means we will strive for sustainability in our roles as a planning and enforcement authority, major employer, land and property owner, provider of services, a significant purchaser within the local economy, leading grant-maker and facilitator of community initiatives.

Charnwood Borough Council recognises that managing the environmental impact of operations is essential. As a signatory to Climate Local the Council is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. As a key partner in Charnwood Together the Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy the Council works with partners supports the vision of Charnwood Together to an 'improved quality of life for everyone living and working in Charnwood'.

We recognise that local authorities have a responsibility to adhere to the guiding principles of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy – live within environmental limits, ensure a strong and healthy society, achieve a sustainable economy, promote good governance and use sound science responsibly. This means that we will respect the planet's resources, take a precautionary and polluter pays approach to preserve the environment for future generation, incentivise resource efficiency, use sound scientific evidence to inform our policies where available and work with stakeholders to achieve these aims.

Charnwood Borough Council makes the following commitments both in respect of its own activities and, where appropriate, in its influence over the wider community:

1. To reduce our demand for natural resources and energy, to improve efficiency and to increase reliance on greener and renewable energy sources

2. To seek to minimise the waste produced from council activities, to recycle and to support the implementation of the Zero Waste Strategy

3. To continuously improve the sustainable management of our buildings, estates and transport reducing the emission of air pollutants and greenhouse gases

4. To be mindful of the impacts of climate change of the delivery of our services and increase the resilience of our services to impacts such as flooding and heatwaves

5. To prevent environmental harm or pollution incidents at all sites by ensuring our working practices comply with all relevant legislation

6. To ensure that all staff are aware of our environmental standards and shared responsibilities and encourage improvement in our supply chains and partnership networks

7. Through wider policies to protect and enhance the biodiversity of Charnwood

8. Through wider policies support the conservation and enhancement of Charnwood's built and natural environment

9. Through wider policies to ensure high quality of new development through good design in Charnwood

10. To maintain continuous improvement by reviewing corporate policies and strategies to ensure integration of sustainable development principles and practices

To meet the commitments, Charnwood Borough Council will:

• Use this policy as a framework for setting objectives and targets for environmental improvement

• Operate a procurement and contracting policy that conforms to these objectives

•Operate effective management of environmental impacts

• Communicate the requirements of this policy to all employees, suppliers and partners

• Make this policy publicly available and keep the public informed of its environmental performance

Appendix 19

Recent Events in the Outwoods

A series of events are held at the Outwoods each year. Some of these events are educational (such as guided walks and students from local colleges undertaking formal studies), while others (such as orienteering) are recreational. Some events, such as the conservation volunteer programme, involve elements of both.

Events organised by Charnwood Borough Council's Recreational Services are publicised through the local media (press and radio), through the Council's various publications and through its website and on the Outwoods notice board.

As well as events organised by Charnwood Borough Council's Leisure Services, the Outwoods also plays host to various activities arranged by other organisations. In the past these events have included sponsored walks, rock climbing, Forest School sessions, orienteering competitions, shelter design events, a Druid wedding, trail hunting and a variety of ecological studies.

The following list which gives a flavour of some of the events recently held at the Outwoods:

Fire Side Tales – an evening of storytelling featuring tales from around the world.

Conservation Singles Event – an opportunity for single people to make new friends whilst helping to look after wildlife (organised as part of National Love Parks Week).

3M4GOOD – Six days of nature conservation volunteering by staff from local pharmaceutical company 3M.

Carol Concert – Free Carol Concert with mince pies and mulled wine

Geocaching – Geocaching event for children

Fungal Survey – Conducted by the Leicestershire and Rutland Fungus Study Group.

Forest School Sessions – Learning opportunities for children in a woodland setting.

the Outwoods has benefited from a great deal of publicity generated by these, and other events. Press releases, prepared in consultation with Charnwood Borough Council's Communications Team, are regularly sent to the local press, radio and television. This has resulted in a high level of positive coverage for the Outwoods (see below).

Doing the 'business' at Outwoods

BUSINESS people, including, accountants, solicitors and engineers in Loughborough will be swapping their desks for the outdoors after volunteering for a hard day's graft during Environmental Action Week.

Grant Thornton, accountants, Severn Trent Water, engineers, and Harvey Ingram, solicitors, have all volunteered already to carry out work at the Outwoods.

The project has been organised by Leicestershire Cares which is a charity working to encourage volunteering among employees.

The purpose of it is to get as many volunteers out over the course of a week to make an environmental difference.

Projects Leicestershire Cares have organised will include tree felling, coppicing at sites such as The Outwoods and Aylestone Meadows, as well as projects that involve painting murals on school walls, and doing changing room type activities for community groups.

"We are calling on all employees to get behind a county wide campaign to make our environment cleaner, more diverse and accessible and to help improve wildlife habitats," said a spokesman for the charity.

"We have a variety of challenges, which include gardening, cleaning out local rivers, creating walkways and paths, creating murals and for you active volunteers out there we have some hard core digging and sweat breaking challenges.

"We would like to raise the awareness on this important issue whilst being able to make a huge impact on the environment."

For more information contact Leicestershire Cares on 0116 222 4012 or email vrathour@leicestermercury.co.uk

Tales under the trees

LOUGHBOROUGH'S Outwoods plays host to a special event today (Friday) when a group of storytellers meet beneath the trees to regale visitors with stories of high adventure and daring do from around the world.

Starting at 7.30pm, the evening will feature African storyteller Kwaku Ampomah, stories from South Asia with Tara and stories from Europe with Simon Unsworth.

The event is free, but anyone wishing to attend should contact Mark Graham on 01509 634976 to book a place.

PICTURE: 622557-00 / DARREN CRESSWEL

CONCENTRATION: Conservation volunteers are busy restoring dry-stone walls at The Outwoods, near Nanpantan

Volunteers try out the ancient art of dry-stone walling

Mercury 26/4/05

VOLUNTEERS have been restoring fallen dry-stone walls at a beauty spot.

More than a dozen members of Charnwood Conservation Volunteers went to work at The Outwoods, near Nanpantan.

They repaired 20 metres of collapsed walling with the help of experts.

Charnwood Borough Council's wildlife development officer Mark Graham, said the walls were being knocked over by walkers who jump over them to take shortcuts through woodland. Other walls had tumbled over the years.

He said the rebuilt walls were now much as they would have looked in the Iron Age.

Mr Graham added: "Dry-stone walls are an important feature of the Charnwood Forest landscape. As well as marking boundaries and keeping stock from wandering they can also be important for wildlife.

The wall's nooks and crannies can be used by lizards, toads, slowworms, voles, shrews an field mice and provide nestin sites for robins and redstarts."

The volunteers meet once fortnight.

Their next task is path build ing in Loughborough rector wildlife gardens, in Steepl Row, on May 8.

To take part, call 01509 634976.

The volunteers include Lee Broadhead, Karen Hunt, Julie Twells, Gemma Nixon, Sarah Walker, Laura Bent and Graham Clapperton. AHDSC-8864.TH36

Opening up the trails at Outwoods

A NEW circular trail has been created at the Outwoods near Loughborough to give its many thousands of visitors each year an easy access route for a walk in the woods.

The labouring work for the trail has been carried out by a team of 75 volunteers from 3M Health Care, who between them spent seven days at the reserve preparing the footings, wheelbarrowing stones and finishing the smooth surface, as well as helping to clear invasive vegetation.

The trail now allows parents with children in pushchairs, the less able or older visitors the chance to experience the colour and atmosphere of the ancient woodland throughout the year.

It includes a bird feeding station, which was also constructed by the 3M volunteers.

David Snartt of the Outwoods Management Committee said the 200-metre trail opened up the reserve to those who otherwise found it difficult to get around the wood.

"This is a great enhancement for the reserve and will make it even more popular for visitors," he said. "We are very grateful to the 3M volunteers for all their hard work in making it possible."

The volunteers were taking part in the 3M 4Good programme, which gives every permanent employee the chance to do a day's voluntary work on company time.

Among those laying the path on the first day at the Outwoods was the company's e-marketing and communications manager Pip Chesters.

She said: "It was a bit daunting when we arrived to find 20 tonnes of aggregate waiting to be made into a trail, but it spurred us into action and we got it done in time.

"The Outwoods is such a beautiful place and we were very pleased to be able to help make it more accessible for all the local community."

Working in the woods

MEMBERS of Loughborough's Student Union Community Action gave a helping hand to mother nature recently when, aided by the Faraday Hall Buffalos, they carried out some conservation work at The Outwoods. The two groups helped to remove some aging Sycamore's that were said to be strangling other nearby wildlife. AT06.4144.MO10

CLEAR OUT: Mark Vyner and Jo Simister, from Grant Thornton Accountants, are volunteering to get rid of overgrown rhododendrons in the Outwoods

ALIEN INVASION

THE ROMANS DID IT. NOW RABBITS AND RHODODENDRONS ARE DOING IT. INVADING, THAT IS. **SARAH STAPLES** REPORTS

Ah, the English countryside. Rabbits hop around fields like a scene from Watership Down, the breeze blows in the branches of a sycamore while the subtle scent of rhododendrons carries on the wind.

In a tree, that most English of birds, the ring-necked parakeet, an exotic flash of colour against the swaying autumnal oranges and golds of the leaves, squawks loudly.

Ring-necked parakeets, you might be thinking a little smugly, aren't natives to the English countryside. Which is true; but then neither are rabbits, sycamore trees and rhododendrons.

What all four have in common is that they are all introduced species, not naturally found in the British Isles, and in some cases they are putting our native flora and fauna on nature's At Risk register.

This is something conservation officer Mark Graham knows all about.

Over the next two days, he and a team of volunteers will be clearing rhododendrons from the Outwoods, near Loughborough.

It's an ancient woodland, dating back well over 600 years, which in spring is carpeted with bluebells. Or at least, that's the way it should be, but the Outwoods harbours an uninvited guest.

"The trouble is rhododendrons tend to take over," said Mark. "Because they are not native to this country, there are not many things that eat them and there's no fungi or bacteria to kill them, either.

"Because of that, they gradually push out native flora. There are lots of bluebells in these woods, but they get pushed out too."

Even birds rarely find them an attractive place to make their nests.

"The odd fox might curl up in them, but there is very little wildlife value in them," said Mark, from Charnwood Wildlife Project.

Rhododendrons aren't the only invaders at the Outwoods.

During the First and Second World War, oak trees were felled as part of the war effort. When the woods were re-planted, sycamores were included.

"It's not clear when sycamores were introduced to this country, but I think it was the Romans. They also have very little wildlife value," says Mark.

"An oak will support 500 different types of plant and animals. The sycamore will support seven."

All this, he adds, knocks the delicate food chain; fewer insects means less food for birds, which in turn leads to their chicks not surviving.

It's the rapid pace of change which causes concern to conservationists.

"In a natural woodland, there is a balance between the different things that grow there because they all have their own niche," says Mark.

"There is an argument that says that over time, say 5,000 or 10,000 years, things evolve.

"The trouble is that we have caused changes to happen so quickly that the rest of our wildlife can't cope with it.

"In 70 years, we have changed this from being a woodland that was oak, hazel and birch into conifers and sycamores.

"One species can adapt over several hundred years, but change like that is too rapid."

Mark's volunteers, who are hacking down rhododendrons and burning them as part of Environmental Action Week which runs until Sunday, are helping turn back the clock.

"It's possible in a wood like this to return it to natural woodland, but it's a huge project," says Mark.

■ To volunteer on projects to clear rhododendrons or sycamores, call the Charnwood Wildlife Project on 01509 634976.

Other organisations which can provide information on similar schemes include Environ, 0116 222 4232; the BTCV, 01530 277 855; Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, 0116 272 0444; and Leicestershire Cares 0116 222 4012.

PARAKEETS AND PESKY RABBITS

INTRODUCED: Rabbits

RING-NECKED PARAKEETS: This species is turning up in the wild more frequently, the RSPCA says.

The birds, originally from southern Asia, can adapt to our cooler climes.

RABBITS: What did the Romans do for us? Well, they gave us rabbits, which they used for meat and fur.

They feed on grass and leaves, but eat bark if food is scarce.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED: This favourite of British gardeners has now spread into the wild.

It spreads quickly and is very invasive, killing off native plants.

AMERICAN SIGNAL CRAYFISH: The native white-clawed crayfish has had a stronghold in Leicestershire, but is declining since the bigger American crayfish was introduced.

TOMORROW CONSUMER: THESE TOYS WILL FLY – SIX OF THE LIKELY CHRISTMAS BIG SELLERS

IN AS NATURAL A STATE AS POSSIBLE

Work will save The Outwoods

I WOULD like to correct a factual inaccuracy that appeared in your Voice Box column in last week's *Echo*. The Outwoods are not, as your contributor seems to believe, owned or managed by Leicestershire County Council, or subject to the same tree management policy as Jubilee Woods.

The Outwoods were left to the Borough of Charnwood by Allan Moss and George Bowler, and are managed by a committee consisting of Borough Councillors and local residents.

Although the Outwoods stands on an ancient woodland site, most of the original oak woodland was felled during WW I and II, prior to the woods passing into the council's ownership (the area to the south of the car park, along Woodhouse lane, contains one of the few remaining examples of the original oak woodland).

Following this extensive felling some areas of the wood where left to regenerate naturally while others were replanted with conifers.

As well as having little wildlife value these conifer stands are now reaching maturity and need to be replaced before they blow over.

As a result, and in consultation with English Nature, we have for a number of years been gradually removing conifers and replacing them with oaks grown from local acorns.

We are also, again in consultation with English Nature, removing those invasive species such as sycamore that are threatening to take over the woodland and destroy its character.

Far from this management being in conflict with the wishes of the former "guardians of the land" Allan Moss and George Bowler made provision in their Deeds of Gift for the woods and shrubberies and trees to be: "thinned, cropped and replanted from time to time in accordance with the most approved methods of forestry under the direction of such competent persons as should from time to time be appointed for the purpose.

It is the aim of the Outwoods Management Committee to keep the woods in as natural a state as possible, whilst also ensuring that they are accessible to the many visitors who come to enjoy them.

In keeping with good forestry, trees, which for one reason or another are inappropriate, are being gradually removed and replaced with more appropriate species.

For those who are concerned that woodland management is a modern phenomenon that threatens our woodland heritage it is worth remembering that all this country's woodlands have been managed more or less intensively for hundreds of years and have indeed evolved in the way they have because of this management.

We are currently conducting a survey to ascertain visitors' views on how the Outwoods should be cared for.

If any of your readers would like to take part survey forms can be downloaded from Charnwood Borough Council's website or, if they call 01509 634976, a survey form can be sent out to them.

Councillor David Snartt
Acting Chair
Outwoods Management Committee

PICTURE: ALISTAIR LANGHAM/156593

TAKE A BREAK: Mayor Mike Jones and his wife, Marj, lay on mince pies for volunteers at The Outwoods

Project puts new life into ancient woods

VOLUNTEERS have been planting new trees at a piece of ancient woodland.

More than 200 saplings were planted at The Outwoods, near Loughborough, at the weekend.

The planting marked the end of National Tree Week and involved nearly 20 volunteers, including Mayor of Charnwood Coun Mike Jones.

Outwoods warden Colin McIntyre said: "Our aim was to restore some of the local species of trees to The Outwoods. After the Second World War a lot of the trees here were felled for timber.

"In their place were planted larches and sycamores basically as a crop. But these trees are not ideal for sustaining the local wildlife in what is now a reserve.

"The trees we have been planting are Charnwood saplings grown from our own acorns. They will be ideally suited to the conditions here These trees are slow growers so i could take up to 20 years for them t mature, but when they do it will b great for the overall environmen here."

Coun Jones and his wife Mar served mince pies to the conserva tionists. He said: "The weather wa not great, but everybody worke very hard to improve what is a wor derful asset."

Find a little love down in the wood

DRESSED TO I

Anyone who goes down to the woods this weekend will be in for a big surprise.

by **CHRISTIAN DEZELU**

Candelabras, violinists and romantic picnics have been set up in the Outwoods, Loughborough, for courting conservationists.

Singletons with a keen interest in the environment are being invited to meet like-minded people to carry out conservation work tomorrow.

Organisers of Charnwood Borough Council's Love in the Woods event hope love will blossom.

A council spokeswoman said: "It isn't exactly like speed dating on logs. We are not expecting people to turn up in ball gowns but, straight away, people will have something in common, such as an interest in the environment and the outdoors.

"Work will include putting up fences to stop visitors disturbing a badger sett and some dry-stone walling but there will be plenty of opportunities to chat to new faces during a free barbecue.

"Picnic tables will be adorned with candelabras, while a violinist will be playing romantic music to set the tone.

"It is a lovely idea, and quite a few people have already signed up for it. People can just turn up on the day. It could turn the woods into a very different place."

Love in the Woods runs from 10am to 3.30pm in the 110-acre Outwoods site.

A similar event was run by Leicester green charity Environ in 2004 at Knighton Spinney, Leicester.

Borough council cabinet member for leisure and environment Councillor Sandie Gough said: "This is an excellent opportunity for single folk to meet new people in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere and make a difference to the local environment in the process.

"This event will offer people the opportunity to do something for the whole community, contributing to a cleaner, greener Charnwood."

The Outwoods is a site of special scientific interest, which was donated to the people of Loughborough by Allan Moss and George Harry Bowler shortly after the Second World War.

Charnwood Wildlife Conservation volunteers meet once a fortnight, usually on a Sunday, to carry out tasks in the Outwoods but this is the first event of its kind to be held in the borough.

REPAIR: WILDLIFE TEAM RESTORES BEAUTY SPOT

PICTURE: ALISTAIR LANGHAM/157926-0

CHOP, CHOP: Louise Forsdyke and colleagues from Severn Trent Water clean up in the Outwoods

Forest spruced up by 30 volunteers

A 30-strong team of volunteers spent two days carrying out vital restoration work at a popular beauty spot in the heart of Charnwood Forest.

by **DAN MARTIN**

Parts of the Outwoods, near Loughborough, have fallen into disrepair and become overgrown.

The state of the site prompted Charnwood Borough Council wildlife officers to join forces with Severn Trent Water staff to clear up much of the woodland and make repairs.

Wildlife officer Mark Graham said: "The Outwoods is one of the most important woodlands in the county and has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest because tained to the standards visitors want it and it is rare for us to get such a such a large group of people coming forward to help.

"Effectively, we have got 60 days worth of very important work out of them.

"If we'd had to pay contractors to do what the volunteers have been doing it would have cost us a fortune."

Volunteers split into groups to repair pathways worn down by cyclists and walkers, mend metres of collapsed dry stone wall and clear litter and invasive plants such as rhododendron and sycamores.

Severn Trent Water design technician Richard Bradshaw was among the volunteers.

time, getting to know our colleagues better."

Charnwood Borough Council is keen to improve facilities at the Outwoods in a bid to secure Government-backed Green Flag status for the parkland by 2007.

Councillor Jack Moore, chairman of the Outwoods management committee, said: "We are all eager to see the area improved as an amenity and we are looking at Green Flag status. To get that we have to do some very specific things such as put in particular kinds of paths.

"What we are wary of is that the Outwoods may start to look like a modern Alton Towers attraction, rather than the wild and historic woodland people love. We need to find a balance."

Any other firms which would like take part in volunteer work at the twoods are asked to call Mark aham on 01509 634976.

Bluebell Wood praise

FROM the Outwoods to the Outback, it seems one of Charnwood's top scenic attractions has proven to be popular down under!

While visiting Australia, former Charnwood mayor Coun Jack Moore couldn't believe his eyes while scanning a magazine.

For on the 'questions and answer' page someone was requesting where in Britain would they be best to find a Bluebell Wood?

And the answer? Well it couldn't have been any other than the Outwoods and Bluebell Woods Forest in Loughborough!

Stories under the trees

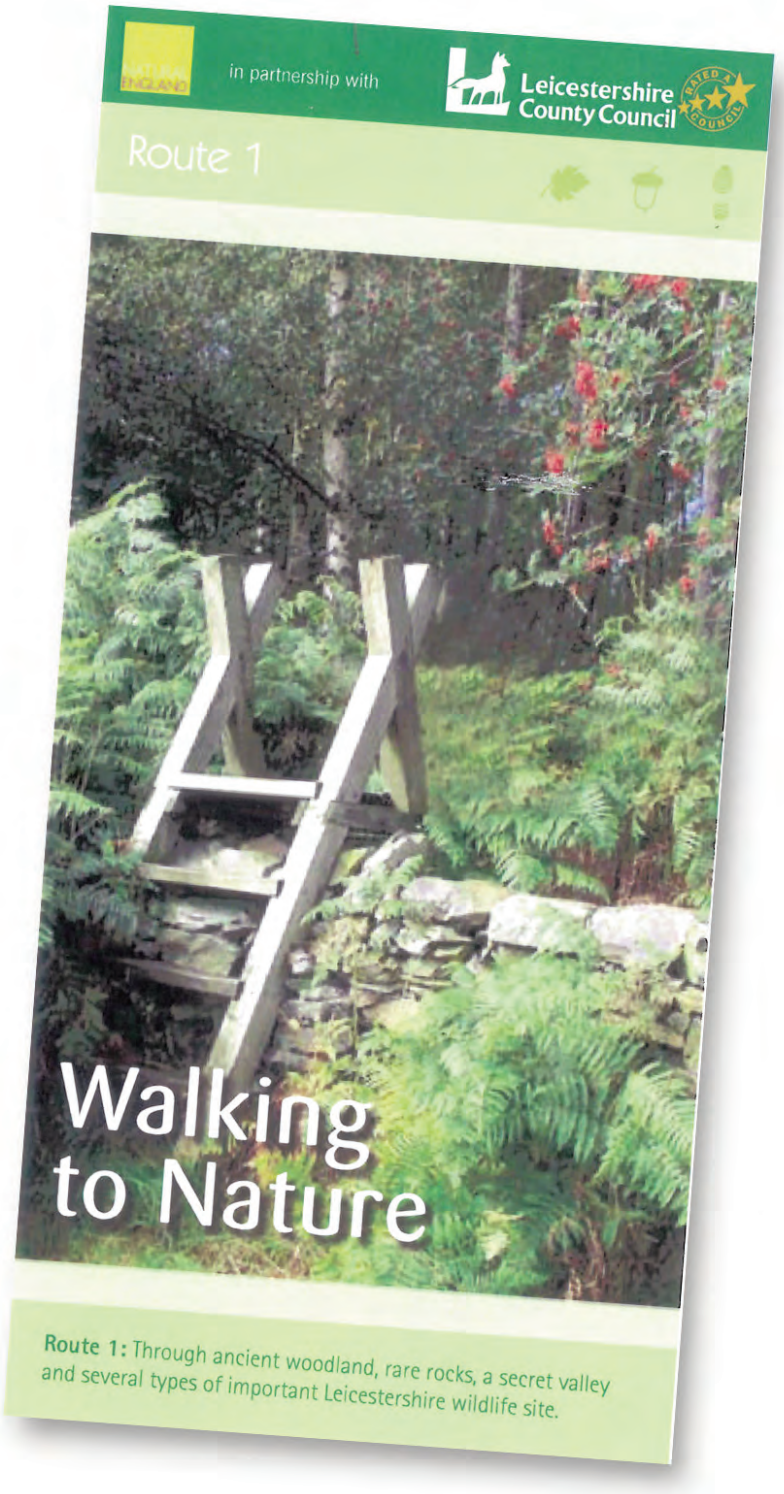
STEFAN Allen was one of the guest storytellers during a special event at Loughborough Outwood's. The evening under the trees features tales from around the world including Africa and Asia. ATDSC-1166.MO38

Outwoods Marketing Strategy 2013 - 2018

	Marketing and Promotion	13 /14	14 /15	15 /16	16 /17	17 /18
1	**Guided Walks Programme** RANGER SERVICE Deliver a minimum of four organised walks/talks					
	Bluebell Walk - early May					
	Trees of the Outwoods - Summer					
	Ecology and site management - late summer					
	Fungi - Oct/Nov					
2	**Events Programme** RANGER SERVICE					
	Organise and implement a series of community events at the Outwoods					
3	**Community Engagement** RANGERS					
	Involve people with learning difficulties in volunteering and engagement opportunities at the Outwoods					
3b	**Community Engagement** RANGERS					
	Promote volunteering opportunities at the Outwoods through regular task days which will appear to a wide cross-section of the community					
3c	**Community Engagement** RANGERS / CBC					
	Promote the Outwoods through approriate use of media					
	CBC website to hold details of regular volunteer days					
	Promote site within local media					
	Promote site within social media e.g. Facebook					
	Promote self guided leaflet					

Appendix 21

Walks in and around the Outwoods



A copy of this document can be obtained from the web site below:
http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/community_services environment_and_heritage/paths/walks_to_nature_charnwood.htm

Walking to Nature, Rights of Way
Community Services Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire, LE3 8TE