

Woodland Management Plan

Woodland or Property Name	Kendal Woodlands		
Case Reference			
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland			✓
Plan author name	Jamie Chaplin-Brice		

For FC Use only

Plan Period (ten years)	Approval Date:	To:
Five Year Review Date		

Revision No	Date	status	Reason for Revision
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UKFS Management Planning Criteria

Approval of this plan will be considered against the following UKFS criteria, prior to submission review your plan against the criteria using the check list below.

No	UKFS Management Plan Criteria	Minimum Approval Requirements	Applicant Check
1	<p>Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, and environmental objectives will be achieved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	✓
2	<p>Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.</p>	<p>Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) Sect. 2. Management intentions should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (Sect. 4) • Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (Sect. 5). • Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in Sect. 7. 	✓
3	<p>Identification of designations within and surrounding the site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	✓
4	<p>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS requirements. Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context. Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). • Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (Sect. 4). • Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). 	✓
5	<p>Consultation: Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder engagement is in line with current FC guidance and recorded in Sect. 7. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. • Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. 	✓
6	<p>Plan Update and Review: Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan. • Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective. 	✓

1. Property Details

Woodland Property Name		Kendal Woodlands SLDC	
Name	Graham Nicholson	I am the: owner	
email	g.nicholson@southlakeland.gov.uk	Contact Number	01539 793349
Agent Name (if applicable)		Jamie Chaplin-Brice	
email	jamie@cumbriawoodlands.co.uk	Contact Number	07974446106
County	Cumbria	Local Authority	South Lakeland District Council
Grid Reference	SD 50959 92807	Single Business Identifier	110498607
Management Plan Area (Hectares)		143.08 ha	
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this plan?		yes	
List the maps associated with this management plan		Opportunities and Constraints, Felling Maps	
Do you intend to use the information within the management plan and associated plan of operations to apply for the following		Felling Licence: no Thinning Licence: yes Woodland Regeneration Grant: no	
You declare that there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?		yes	
You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available?		yes	

2. Vision and Objectives

To develop your long term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland(s) and how you envisage it will be in the future. This covers the duration of the plan and beyond.

2.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

The long term vision for the Kendal woodlands is to maintain a safe, biodiverse woodland environment for the benefit of the general public. Protection of the woodlands through management and operations combined with monitoring will ensure a healthy woodland structure for each of the woodlands, while maintaining species diversity. A considerate and sensitive approach will be adopted, keeping in mind the local community, neighbouring properties, the local limestone formations and the neighbouring landscapes of the nearby Lake District National Park.

2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management demonstrating how sustainable forest management is to be achieved. Objectives are a set of specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision.

No	Objectives
1	Keeping all woodland areas safe, for the recreation and benefit of the public.
2	Improving the structure of woodlands, to maintain species diversity and vary the age class within the woodlands.
3	Improving species diversity to mitigate against existing or new tree health issues.
4	Encouraging woodland regeneration.
5	Improving habitat for flora and fauna.
6	Protect and maintain historic features and other features of local interest.

3. Plan Review - Achievements

Use this section to identify achievements made against previous plan objectives. This section should be completed at the 5 year review and could be informed through monitoring activities undertaken.

Objectives	Achievements
It is known that Serpentine Wood had a management plan from 2004-2009, and another plan prior to that.	At Serpentine Woods, Kendal Conservation Volunteers has helped to achieve some of the objectives within the earlier plan, including maintaining paths, clearing scrub and moss from historical features, maintaining the nature and alphabet trails. Little work has been undertaken with regard to the restructuring suggested in the plan, however where large trees have blown, this has had a similar outcome in a couple of areas.
It appears that Little Wood, Coffin Wood and Serpentine Wood all had a thinning licence under EWGS (English Woodland Grant Scheme) from 2001 - 2005.	While thinning may have taken place, there is little evidence for this now in the woodlands and no known records to back this up.

4. Woodland Survey

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland and its location, including any statutory constraints i.e. designations.

4.1 Description

Brief description of the woodland property

The South Lakeland District Council owned woodlands within the Kendal area include Prickly Fell, Somervell Wood, Bluebell Wood, Serpentine Wood, Coffin Wood and Little Wood.

All are in or around residential or parkland areas and offer amenity to the residents of Kendal. The woodlands vary in composition, with some newly planted woodland creation sites as well as areas of long established woodland. Below is a brief description of each individual woodland.

Prickly Fell - Prickly Fell is a small woodland of around 0.7 hectares. The woodland is flanked by a road to the east, with retaining walls against the steep ground, rising to the west. Several of the trees are mature and heavily shading the woodland and neighbouring properties. The species are diverse and the age class is varied. Ivy is prolific throughout the woodland. Access is best from the west of the woodland.

Somervell Wood - This is a woodland creation site on Aikrigg Hill, to the south of Kendal Castle. The woodland was created as a millennium wood around the year 2000 with support from Russel Armer LTD and the Forestry Commission. The trees are growing well, indeed many have now had their tubes removed. Access is good by foot, but poor by vehicle. There are overhead power lines which bisect the woodland, beneath these there is an area of scrub planting. There are a couple of mature ash trees at the woodland edge.

Bluebell Wood - Bluebell wood is a wood of two halves. The northern area is a woodland creation site, from the year 2000. This consists of mainly ash, cherry, oak, lime and birch. All are growing very well, with ash regeneration naturally. An area of bramble occupies some of the open ground. The southern area of the woodland is primarily a full canopy of mature oak, with occasional ash and elm. The shrub layer is very good, also with sycamore and hazel present, with occasional english elm. Fenced off to the east of the woodland is the Oxenholme-Windermere railway.

Serpentine Wood - Serpentine wood feels most like a park out of all the woodlands. It is entirely wooded with occasional open spaces such as "the gymnasium", a circular area built in Edwardian times. It is home to a nature trail and an alphabet trail, several benches, buildings and numerous paths. The ground is very steep in places, with slippery paths due to dense layers of beech leaves on limestone. The tree species are varied, including beech, ash, horse chestnut and sycamore. Occasional oak and cherry are also present. The structure is diverse by both age and species, with some of the trees expected to be over 100 years old. The woodland is exposed to wind in places, indeed recent storms have brought a few trees and branches down. An area of serpentine wood called Dog Kennel Wood is leased to Kendal Conservation Volunteers (KCV). The lower area of Serpentine Wood is known for its ferns, with KCV recently restoring the George Whitwell fern garden.

Coffin Wood - This woodland is now a rarity in the English landscape - around one third of the mature trees are elm, mostly looking fit and well. While not great in size, these trees form a major component in the canopy, along with ash and sycamore, with beech at the woodland edges. Interestingly, elm was traditionally used to make coffins, amongst other things - is there a connection here? The woodland is fairly even aged and was apparently last thinned between 2001 and 2006.

Little Wood - This is predominantly a mature beech and sycamore woodland, with occasional ash and elm. Holly, hawthorn, elm and goat willow are present in the understorey, although all are fairly scarce throughout the woodland as a whole. The woodland has been home to a reservoir/pipeline at some stage, although this is now redundant. Fencing/walling is in poor condition. Access is good thanks to a nearby public footpath and track from the golf course, by which the woodland is surrounded. A handful of sheds/buildings butt onto the boundaries, presumably in use by the golf course. The woodland would benefit from a thin, to enable the understory to develop. Along with Coffin Wood, thinning operations apparently last took place between 2001 and 2006.

4.2 Information

Use this section to identify features that are both present in your woodland(s) and where required, on land adjacent to your woodland. It may be useful to identify known features on an accompanying map. Woodland information for your property can be found on the Magic website or the Forestry Commission Land Information Search.

Biodiversity - Designations

Feature	within	Cpts	adjnt	Map No	Notes
Site of Special Scientific Interest	no		no		
Special Area of Conservation	no		no		
Tree Protection Order	no		no		
Special Protection Area	no		no		
Ramsar Site	no		no		
National Nature Reserve	no		no		
Local Nature Reserve	no		no		
other:	no		no		

Biodiversity - European Protected Species

Feature	within	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Bat	no			
Dormouse	no			
Great Crested Newt	no			
Otter	no			
Sand Lizard	no			
Smooth Snake	no			
Natterjack Toad	no			

Biodiversity - Priority Species

Feature	within	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Schedule 1 birds	no	13	3	While no schedule 1 birds are known to be present, much of the area in particular near Coffin Wood and Little Wood is a CS targeting area for Snipe, Lapwing Curlew and the Tree Sparrow.
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten, etc.)	no			
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)	no			
Plants	no			
Fungi/Lichens	no			

Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	no			
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	no			
other: Badger	yes	13	3	A badger set is noted as being present within Coffin Wood, Longitude 54.329641 Latitude -2.764196

Historic Environment

Feature	within	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Scheduled Monuments	no			
Unscheduled Monuments	no			
Scheduled Landscapes	no			
Registered Parks and Gardens	no			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	yes	8,9,10,11,12,13	1,2,3	There are various boundary and veteran trees throughout the more mature woodlands. In the woodland creation sites, these are rare.
other:	no			

Landscapes

Feature	within	Cpts	Map No	Notes
National Character Area	no			
National Park	no			Kendal is near to the Lake District National Park
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	no			
other: Town/Village Green	yes	11,12,13	3	Serpentine Wood, Little Wood and Coffin Wood are understood to be part of a registered town green.

People

Feature	within	Cpts	Map No	Notes
CROW access	no			
Public Rights of Way (any)	yes		13	There is a public footpath adjacent to Coffin Wood, Little Wood and Serpentine Wood - town green status - effectively the right of way to wander as they please
Other Access Provision	yes			All woodland areas have an element of public access; while often informal, it appears they are used by dog-walkers, runners, interest and volunteer groups along with various other users.
Public Involvement	yes	13	3	Kendal Conservation Volunteers host meetings at Dog Kennel Wood, which adjoins Serpentine Wood
Visitor Information	yes	9,13	2,3	Visitor information is available in some woodlands.
Public Recreation Facilities	no			
Provision of Learning Opportunities	no			

Anti-social Behaviour	no			
other:	yes			

Water

Feature	within	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Watercourses	no			
Lakes	no			
Ponds	no			
other:	no			

4.3 Habitat Types

This section is to consider the habitat types within your woodland(s) that might impact/inform your management decisions. Larger non-wooded areas within your woodland should be classified according to broad habitat type where relevant this information should also help inform your management decisions. Woodlands should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context of the woodland.

Woodland Habitat Types

Feature	within	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	no			
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	no			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	no			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	no			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	yes			All of the woodland areas are priority habitat deciduous woodland, with the exception of the woodland creation sites at Bluebell Wood and Somervell Wood.
Upland mixed ash woods	no			
Upland Oakwood	no			
Wet woodland	no			
Wood-pasture and parkland	no			
other	no			

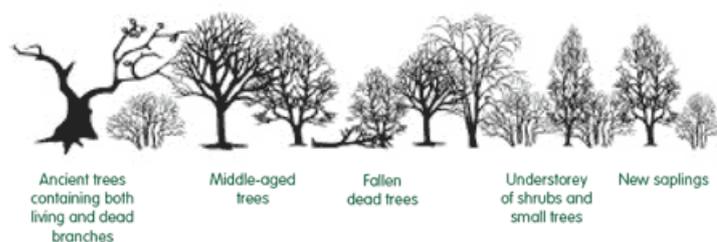
Non Woodland Habitat Types

Feature	within	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Blanket bog	no			
Fenland	no			
Lowland calcareous grassland	no			
Lowland dry acid grassland	no			
Lowland heath land	no			
Lowland meadows	no			
Lowland raised bog	no			
Rush pasture	no			
Reed bed	no			
Wood pasture	no			
Upland hay meadows	no			
Upland heath land	no			
Unimproved grassland	no			
Peat lands	no			
Wetland habitats	no			
other	no			

4.4 Structure

This section should provide a snapshot of the current structure of your woodland as a whole. A full inventory for your woodland(s) can be included in the separate Plan of Operations spreadsheet. Ensuring woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space will provide a range of benefits for the biodiversity of the woodland and its resilience. The diagrams below show an example of both uneven and even aged woodland.

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



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity



Woodland Type	% of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes
Native Broadleaves	85	Even Aged	Most of the woodland areas are fairly even aged, be it new planting such as Bluebell Wood or mature woodland such as Little Wood. There are occasionally old trees nearby or at the woodland edges.
Native Broadleaves	10	Uneven Aged	The main exception to even aged woodland is within Serpentine wood which has a slightly greater difference in structure. This is part thanks to clearings where trees have blown over and historically thinning has taken place. Such clearings now have an understorey of natural regeneration.
Native Broadleaves	5	Uneven Aged	Prickly Fell is also uneven aged, but has a full canopy for the majority of the woodland, except for a clearing in the middle.

5. Woodland Protection

Woodlands in England face a range of threats; this section allows you to consider the potential threats that could be facing your woodland(s). Using the simple Risk Assessment process below woodland owners and managers can consider any potential threats to their woodland(s) and whether there is a need to take action to protect their woodlands.

5.2 Risk Matrix

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

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

5.2 Plant Health

threat	Likelihood of presence	impact	result	response
Ash dieback (Chalara Fraxinea)	high	high	action	Ash is present within all the woodlands, often as a major component. Ash dieback has been noted in some of the woodlands, but it is almost certain to be present in all. Monitoring ash throughout the woodlands is essential. Restructuring and thinning work may be necessary for both safety reasons and to improve structure to let other trees establish. Keeping some ash is desirable, in particular mature trees where the chance of recovery is greater than with young trees. Healthy ash should be retained.

5.3 Deer

Likelihood of presence	impact	result	response
low	low	monitor	Deer presence has not been noted within any of the woodlands. Should natural regeneration be desired or required, then action may be needed to protect young trees.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence	impact	result	response
medium	low	monitor	Grey squirrels are known to be present in the woodland, but not affecting the trees in any great way at present.

5.5 Livestock

threat	Likelihood of presence	impact	result	response
Rabbit	low	high	plan for action	No rabbits were noted at the time of survey, however but continued monitoring/action may be necessary to ensure that natural regeneration is successful.

5.6 Water & Soil

threat	Likelihood of presence	impact	result	response
Soil Erosion	low	low	monitor	The soils are quite thin in places, particularly in the limestone areas. As such, retention of soils is significant given that they are essential for woodlands to survive long term. Low impact operations and extraction will lessen the threat of soil erosion.

5.7 Environmental

threat	Likelihood of presence	impact	result	response
Invasive Species	low	low	monitor	Given the proximity of the woodlands to domestic gardens, invasive species is something to monitor and act upon if necessary. Cherry Laurel is known to be present within Serpentine Wood, this could be cut back.

5.8 Social

threat	Likelihood of presence	impact	result	response
Anti-social Behaviour	low	low	monitor	It has been known for mountain bikers to use the woods at Serpentine Woods, while the land is public access and cycling should not be encouraged, an element of respect is desirable from all those enjoying the woodlands.
Anti-social Behaviour	low	low	monitor	Litter/tipping was noted in a couple of woodlands. If persistent, prevention of this is desirable.

5.9 Economic

threat	Likelihood of presence	impact	result	response
operational costs	high	medium	action	Operational costs are likely to be high, in particular for risk and tree safety work. This is primarily due to access and the steepness of sites. Sale of byproducts and timber may help to subsidise operations.

5.10 Climate

threat	Likelihood of presence	impact	result	response
Uniform Structure	medium	medium	plan for action	The woodland areas are generally fairly small and have often been planted at the same point in time. While this isn't a problem in the short term, having a diverse species mix with a diverse age class offers more options, should the need for a change in management arise.

Lack of tree species Diversity	medium	medium	plan for action	<p>Given the threat of ash dieback and probable change in woodland canopies as a consequence, it may be worth considering the preparation of diverse native saplings to improve the species composition. In particular this is noteworthy at Serpentine wood and Bluebell Wood where ash is currently a major component in both. New species could include those desirable in the understory such as dogwoods, guelder rose, field maple, elder and holly. Cherry, chestnuts and elm could also be encouraged. Aside from the threat to ash, the woodlands are fairly diverse and so while the threat to ash is high, the overall threat to the woodland is lower.</p>
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6. Management Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features identified within the previous sections of the plan. A detailed work programme by sub-compartment can be added to the Plan of Operations.

Management Obj/Feature	Management Intention
Keeping all woodland areas safe, for the recreation and benefit of the public.	Monitoring older and veteran trees for safety is important, acting where necessary to limit risk.
Improving the structure of woodlands, to maintain species diversity and vary the age class within the woodlands.	Gently thin all woodland areas to encourage age and species diversity, this will ensure a more resilient woodland in the long term. While timber production is not a priority for the owner, use of product for timber and woodfuel should be considered where possible.
Improving species diversity to mitigate against existing or new tree health issues.	Management such as thinning must consider tree species. For example, when thinning ash, other species could be favoured. Healthy ash trees should ideally be retained.
Encouraging woodland regeneration.	Ensuring correct woodland management so that young trees can grow to form part of the woodland canopy.
Improving habitat for flora and fauna.	Retaining deadwood from operations.
Protect and maintain historic features and other features of local interest	Manage vegetation around features of interest, for example in Serpentine Wood. This may also include branches of trees overhanging paths, walls etc. This may include maintenance and repairs to boundaries, paths etc.

7. Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to the guidance document for further information. Use this section to identify people or organisations with an interest in your woodland and also to record any engagement that you have undertaken, relative to activities identified within the plan.

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
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8. Monitoring

Indicators of progress/success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Other management activities could also be considered within this monitoring section. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

Management Objective / Activities	Indicator of Progress / Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Keeping all woodland areas safe, for the recreation and benefit of the public.	The public remain safe and enjoy the woodlands	Tree Safety Surveys	Ongoing	SLDC	
Improving the structure of woodlands, to maintain species diversity and vary the age class within the woodlands.	Each woodland being diverse, with young trees establishing and older trees being retained.	Survey	At the plan review (5 years)	SLDC	
Improving species diversity to mitigate against existing or new tree health issues.	A diverse woodland with numerous species.	Survey	At the plan review (5 years)	SLDC	
Encouraging woodland regeneration.	Young trees becoming established in the canopy.	Survey	At the plan review (5 years)	SLDC	

Improving habitat for flora and fauna.	Retaining some deadwood in each woodland	Survey	At the plan review (5 years)	SLDC	
Protect and maintain historic features and other features of local interest	Historic features remain	Survey	At the plan review (5 years)	SLDC	

FC Approval - FC Office use only

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