Forestry Commission England

Rev: January 2024

Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:		
Woodland or Property name	**TOLL WOOD**	
Woodland Management Plan case reference	**1678**	
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland		**Yes**
Plan author name	**NIGEL HERIZ-SMITH**	

For FC Use only:				
Plan Period *(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)*	**Approval Date:**	**21/05/2024**	**Approved until:**	**21/05/2034**
Five Year Review Date	**21/05/2029**			

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision

Template user support:

The functionality in this version of the management plan template has been downgraded to ensure compatibility with Word 2003. This document is not protected and as such rows can be added & deleted or copied and pasted from tables where needed.

Forestry Commission England

UK Forestry Standard 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.

	UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Author check ☑
1	**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.	• Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.	Yes
2	**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.	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: • 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***.	Yes
3	**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.	• Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations.	Yes
4	**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.	• 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).	Yes
5	**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.	• 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.	Yes
6	**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.	• 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.	Yes

Section 1: Property Details

Woodland Property Name		TOLL WOOD, LYSNTED	
Name	MARTIN AND GILL SWAINSON	OWNER	
Email	martinswainson4@gmail.com	Contact Numbers	01795521761 07966191779
Agent Name (if applicable)		NIGEL HERIZ-SMITH	
Email	nigel@herizsmith.plus.com	Contact Number	01795522842 07563737089
County	KENT	Local Authority	SWALE
Grid Reference	TQ 94604 60639 (Centroid for Holding/SBI/RPA); TQ 94755 60675 (Centroid Toll Wood) RPA Parcel ID: TQ9460 7364	Single Business Identifier	200732225
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		3.46 Ha (Ancient Woodland Inventory) **3.74 Ha** (RPA Parcel ID: TQ9460 7364) [4.42 Ha *including* the chalk grassland and 'apron' on western edge]	
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?		Yes.	
You have listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan?		Appendix 2 – Species Distribution (Transects and Boundary) Appendix 3 – 1:1,250 scale – Toll Wood in the setting of the larger holding.	
Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?		Felling Licence	Yes
		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. Website publication.	

Section 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). (*Suggest 300 words max*)

Toll Wood is in the Ancient Woodland Inventory [https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/a14064ca50e242c4a92d020764a6d9df/explore?location=51.311854%2C0.793068%2C16.68]. The Forestry Commission characterises this woodland as: (a) Priority Habitat (deciduous woodland); (b) Ancient and semi-natural woodland; (c) Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CS HT) Biodiversity - Woodland Improvement. High Spatial Priority; (d) CS HT Biodiversity - Priority Habitat Proximity - Ancient Woodland. [https://www.forestergis.com/Apps/MapBrowser/]

The Vision: To preserve, rejuvenate and restore to health this native mixed deciduous woodland for future generations. We have conducted a perimeter survey and several transects. So far, we have identifed eighteen native species with only one outlier species (English walnut) restricted to the enclosed woodland meadow. The intimate deciduous mix and its endurance over time reflects the wood's status as a "sporting woodland" (19th century Auction) for game.

Toll Wood has suffered badly from many decades of neglect, leading to congestion of the canopy and unsustainable competition for resources (nutrients and water) that the new owners want to address. For long-term management, this woodland and its associated enclosed meadow will be placed into a Charitable Trust. This is a major undertaking that will rely heavily on funding assistance to succeed. Thinning will take place only to maintain and enhance the overall health and diversity of the wood and its enclosed meadow.

Note: This complex mix of deciduous trees is ***not suited*** to "felling" in the sense of single-species or wholesale commercial clearance.

Priorities include: "Halo thinning" the canopy to relieve congestion, initially by removing several mature sycamore over 20 years of age (capable of setting seed); Thinning younger sycamore throughout to ease light, nutrient and water competition at the woodland floor; Promote the native tree mix and rebalance the understory and floor where ancient woodland indicator vascular species are present in numbers; Restore and improve biodiversity throughout the complex topography and species-mix in woodland and enclosed meadow. Promote succession-planted trees drawing on candidates identified in *Appendix 4*; Improve resilience of the woodland by selecting succession planting species (e.g. to meet climate change and/or respond to disease).

A **Plan of Operations** defined in terms of compartments that will be cycled annually for attention - guided by precautionary principles of intervention to protect and promote mammal and invertebrate populations (See Appendix 5).

There is no Public Right of Way (PROW) in this private woodland - the owners are creating an Incorporated Charitable Trust to manage access to the woodland, inviting expert individuals, relevant organisations and local community interest groups, for example, our primary school.

To understand and access available funding and resources.
A complementary vision of the owners is to secure the future of a number of ancient and veteran trees in the adjacent 'parkland'. These important trees are protected by TPOs but will require regular monitoring and occasional bough reduction/removal for the health of the trees and safety. There is no public access, which minimises risks, but sheep are grazed across the whole holding except Toll Wood and its enclosed meadow. See *Appendix 1 (History and Setting)*.
Biodiversity: As far as possible, thinned tree stems and boughs will be retained within the woodland to promote wider ecology of critically important mycelia and hyphae, flora, fauna/wildlife and invertebrates. Such felled timber may be used for creative purposes to support educational and group engagement (e.g. seating, signposting features and restricted access areas). Larger trees identified as 'out of place' or invasive may be ring-barked to retain their dead structure and open up opportunities for wider diversity for birds and invertebrates. Ring-barked trees may also have branches lopped to limit mechanical loading as the stumps mature and decay.
There will be continuous monitoring and a comprehensive review at five years following approval of this WMP (e.g. 2028/9), The WMP and supporting documentation will be published to the website (www.tollwood.org.uk).

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 (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Site security and protection. Renewal of the entire boundary fencing to protect against future fly-tipping and uncontrolled human and domestic animal access. *[Note: there is no public right of way (PROW) but see Objective 2 concerning controlled access and public engagement]*. Fencing with abutting land will allow free movement of wildlife. Total Parcel Perimeter: 1,075m. RPA Capital Grant Funding agreed in July 2023.
2	Establish a Toll Wood Management Trust: - (a) Research: To engage with and through other organisations and experts. A progressive programme of research and exploration of woodland features, flora and fauna, and the preservation of the critically important mycelia and hyphae associated with ancient woodlands. This approach also applies to the restoration of the enclosed chalkland meadow within the overall woodland boundary. (b) Education: To inform future community engagement, understanding and controlled access as an important fragile local asset; (c) Biodiversity: To promote biodiversity that is central to the identity of this ancient woodland canopy, understorey, and soil/leaf litter/natural decay products and soil health. To manage the northernmost meadow/glade to promote diverse natural chalkland habitat to support invertebrate, pollinator, mammal and bird populations locally. (d) Public Engagement: To engage with organisations including, for example, Forestry Commission, Forestry Research, Natural England, Kent Downs,

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
	Woodland Trust, Kent Men of the Trees (KMOTT), Lynsted with Kingsdown Society, Norton and Lynsted Primary School, and Lynsted traditional cherry orchard group. Securing specialist expertise as the need and opportunity arises and resources permit.
3	Meet the challenge of potential existential threat to a large number of **elms**. Monitor and managed the large number of **elm** (three species) primarily in the *"northern sector" of the woodland - [Appendix 2: Species distribution-transects and boundary survey (2021) – tagged 'cloud-based' map is available]. Comprising 30 significantly-sized elm along the scarp top and a further 150 of various ages more widely spread. Competing with a highly congested canopy and competition for other resources including rainfall, that argue for early thinning and removal of **mature** (+20 years) sycamore.* Retaining a population of immature examples for invertebrate diversity and resilience – especially for elm losses if they occur. Calling on expert engagement as need arises and resources permit in response to what is an existential threat from Dutch elm disease (DED). Explore further whether the congested canopy and/or chaotic mix of diverse species has acted as a prophylactic to inhibit the penetration of disease within the woodland? **Succession planting**: Mr Heriz-Smith prepared a list for the Lynsted with Kingsdown Society website suggesting the diverse trees most suited to local soil conditions and climate change as a 'starter for ten' – amended and elaborated at Appendix 4. Elm succession-planting (on advice of Forestry Research) might be drawn from several varieties under development in Europe (closest genetic mapping to native elm). Our current shortlist comprises: **Morfeo Elm - FL 509** - Hybrid [U. chenmoui x [(U. glabra x U. minor) x U. minor]]. Istituto per la Protezione delle Piante, Florence, Italy; **FL 493** - [[((U. wallichiana x U. minor) x (U. pumila x U. minor)) o.p.] x (U. x hollandica "Vegeta" x U. minor)] o.p. Istituto per la Protezione delle Piante, Florence, Italy; **Columella** - [(U. glabra var Exoniensis x U. wallichiana) x (U. minor 1 x U. minor 28)] selfed. Dorschkamp Research Institute, Wageningen, NL; **Ulmus laevis** - European White Elm - Unpalatable to Scolytus beetle due to Alnulin; **Ulmus glabra** – Wych Elm - Unpalatable to Scolytus beetle due to Alnulin. References: *Appendix 4* and web resource from the Lynsted with Kingsdown Society: http://www.lynsted-society.co.uk/resources_documents_articles_members_drought_tolerant_trees_all.html
4	Meet the challenge of potential existential threat to a large number of **ash** *(southern half)* by reducing the competing sycamore population and promoting succession planting of drought-tolerant native species that will compensate, in some measure, for any loss of ash. Put in place a programme of management to meet what is an existential threat to the southern portion of Toll Wood where ash is dominant. Mr Heriz-Smith has prepared a list for the Lynsted with Kingsdown Society website (*see link above - elms*) with local soil conditions and climate in mind as a useful point of departure. *Succession planting for ash in the*

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
	southern sector could draw on = Oak, beech, sycamore (already well represented and subject to limits by age), aspen, alder, field maple, and rowan (not ideal conditions). Wild Service Tree could be considered for introduction as an uncommon native tree (Sorbus torminalis).
5	To explore options for the introduction of non-native tree species able to thrive in a changing climate – broadly, chalk and drought tolerant species. The purpose being to build greater resilience and diversity into the future of Toll Wood. Precautionary approach to be applied in favour of native species.
6	Education and Research: To support prolonged surveys of plants, fungi, lichens, invertebrates, mammal and bird populations. 'Fungus forays' and bat surveys have been undertaken in past years by both the Lynsted Traditional Orchard Group and the Lynsted with Kingsdown Society. – e.g., http://www.lynsted-society.co.uk/event_reports/events_reports_2005.html#fungus
7	Meadow recovery. An incremental programme of interventions to promote biodiversity to include seasonal pollinator species in the meadow/glade in the northernmost boundary of Toll Wood. Initially, remove sycamore entirely and push back scrub. There is a case for retention of complementary scrub at the northern margin for its habitat value. Management may include cycling ten 'blocks', each being cleared in successive years allowing recovery thereafter.
8	Education/Research. To record, explain and preserve archaeological features. To include, for example, an early track, WW2 home defence bunker [reported], series of cut posts [game-bird and deer pens?], a curious structure that is indicated in an 1897 map but not in evidence after a recent inspection of the identified site (perhaps it was wooden), a solid floor and brick edging inside the wood close to the track, evidence of quarrying/exposed chalk features, identification of a dene-hole sites, modern 'waste heap' on the south-west margin will probably be left undisturbed.
9	Education/Research. As resources permit, to establish interpretation resources for future enjoyment and study of Toll Wood. To include historical and social research into the place of Toll Wood as a "sporting woodland" serving the large estates of Lord Teynham – the family seats of Bedmangore (into antiquity, 16th century and earlier) and Lynsted Lodge from the 16th century.
10	Enrichment and biodiversity. Thinned and fallen timber will be used to demarcate and highlight features of the woodland and form 'insect islands' and fungi habitats from the mixed tree species present. Halo thinning to open up the understorey to support more complex range of shrub and vascular. Support woodland edge (and meadow) for pollinator and feeding mammal and invertebrate species. Opening up the Western margin of the wood below the chalk scarp to encourage recovery and diversity of vascular species and let light into the body of the wood.

Section 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	Achievement

Section 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:
Character: Toll Wood is an ancient woodland comprising at least 18 native deciduous species of tree so far identified. There is a dead Scots pine stump too. There are numerous ancient woodland indicator species on the woodland floor, including (continuous review/observation through the seasons): Adoxa moschatellina - The moschatel; Anemone nemorosa - Wood anemone; Euonymus europaeus – Spindle; Glechoma hederacea - Ground ivy; Hyacinthoides non-scripta – Bluebell; Mercurialis perennis - Dog's mercury; Primula vulgaris - Common primrose; Urtica doica - Common nettle. At times, trees are regarded as indicator species. Four tree species in this category and present in Toll Wood – Wych elm, Hornbeam, Wild cherry and Field maple. There is little evidence of formal plantation-style economic management. The modest size of this wood explains this in part. Historically, Toll Wood has been described as a "sporting wood" – e.g., cover for game birds, rabbits, hares, deer, etc. This interpretation is supported by an absence of pollarding and coppicing together with the random distribution of tree species. Clearly Toll Wood has been worked for wood throughout its existence but not through monoculture timber stands. Stands of similarly aged trees indicates some periodic extraction some decades ago. Elm varieties are of differing ages – thirty are of greater age than the ravages of Dutch elm disease in the late 1960's into the 1970's. Some limited evidence of elm beetle at the northern margins but it presents as historic rather than active. Keep under review. **Woodland composition**: Our perimeter survey, two transects and several less structured visits by ecologists reveal: Three elm species – English elm

(Ulmus procera), smooth-leaved/field elm (U. minor carpinifolia) and Wych elm (U. glabra) (up to 180 examples, 30 of which are mature) mostly confined to the centre and north of the woodland; Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus) of good size (20+ mature with clusters alongside the elm); Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) numerous in the southern 'toe' of the wood that sits on thinner clay over chalk; Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) is invasive throughout the woodland and enclosed meadow with only a small handful of any age – that will be candidates for removal/thinning to open the canopy and control congestion in competition with other tree varieties. Sycamores older that twenty years risk continuous reseeding and competition for precious resources. The sycamores in the southern quarter appear to be struggling with the conditions – succession-planting with alternative, fully drought-tolerant species is intended; Field Maple (Acer campestre) – is present in the mix and is a good candidate for succession planting in place of sycamore; Spindle (Euonymus europaeus) thickets mostly at the western edges where there is good light; Elderflower (Sambucus nigra) struggling within the wood but healthier at the edges and should be part of pollinator planting; Blackthorn/Sloe (Prunus spinosa) in the boundary could be expanded as wildlife foodstuff and pollinator; Hawthorn (Crataegus avellana); Large-leaved lime (Tilia platyphylos) – needs confirmation as it could be small-leaved under stress of heavy canopy (Heritage-class limes sit in the centre of Lynsted Village nearby and a good example in the parkland also owned by the owners of Toll Wood); English oak (Quercus robur) – only one scrawny and suppressed example found; Wild Cherry (Prunus avium), one very large and two lesser (several dead examples left standing) – sadly, one very large one (c.120 years age) was felled under previous ownership. Three 'outlier' English walnuts (Juglans regia) sit in the northern meadow as the only identified 'exotic' trees in the whole woodland and are of very poor ecological value. They could be removed and will be kept under review.

Also present are Holly (Ilex aquifolium); Native Privet (Ligustrum vulgare); Hazel (Corylus avellana); and a single dead Scots Pine that most probably succumbed to dense shading.

Topography: Toll Wood sits along the eastern slope of the Lyn Valley -a sloping chalk substrate with loam over brickearth clay in the wood. Chalk is much closer to the surface in the southern woodland sector that falls away to the Lyn Valley. The eastern margin is defined by Toll Lane that was largely an agricultural track until recent decades. Below the woodland, to the west, extends parkland first associated with the Roper Family (Lord Teynham) and Millers (a mediaeval house later demolished and replaced by Aymers). That parkland is part of the wider holding that contains Toll Wood, mapped and registered with the Rural Payments Agency. The parkland has some magnificent maiden trees of great antiquity - *see Appendix 1*.

Within the wood, there is a marked scarp feature (chalk outcrop) running roughly north to south through the woodland. Some of the most

interesting/large trees follow the brow of the scarp-line. This natural feature is reflected in our compartmental Thinning Licence Application document (Appendix 5) with opening up of the canopy and pushing back scrub being considered to promote vascular plants on the woodland floor. Suggested by a visiting ecologist.

The transition from ash/sycamore to widely mixed deciduous trees equate roughly to a line drawn west from the point where Mill Lane meets Toll Lane.

Overall, the wide range of native species supports a strategy of moderate halo-thinning to improve diversity in the understorey, thinning and glade clearance of invasive mature sycamore to open up the highly congested canopy and revive the understorey. First priority (after the boundary fencing has been renewed) will be given to thinning (<10cm diameter - esp. sycamore) and limited removals (e.g., larger sycamore) to relieve competition for resources and to allow succession planting. We anticipate that most thinning may fall below the 'permitted' 5 cubic metres per quarter, but a thinning licence is essential to cater for challenges in each compartment as they are identified and planned for. Such interventions will be modest and fall well under the Forestry Commission limits of 30% of the overall canopy through 'thinning'. Most trees will be left to age and decline naturally to support wider invertebrate, wildlife and fungi/hyphae species. Succession planting will take place cautiously over the next five- and ten-year periods to support future restoration, climate-change resilience, and biodiversity.
History of Management - *see Appendix 1*

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.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
Biodiversity- Designations				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	No		No	
Special Area of Conservation	No		No	
Tree Preservation Order	No		**Yes**	**#2**
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other (please Specify): Ancient semi-natural woodland	**Yes**		No	**#2**
Notes	**Toll Wood** is in Defra's Ancient Woodland Inventory.			

Feature		Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species					
Bat	Species (if known)	Some in flight; roosts unknown			Future work-programme: boxes and a likely dene-hole or other underground structures for hibernaculum or swarming.
Dormouse		No			Unlikely in an isolated wood with poor food sources at present. Engage with Wildwood for advice on mammals.
Great Crested Newt		No			
Otter		No			
Sand Lizard		No			
Smooth Snake		No			
Natterjack Toad		No			
Biodiversity – Priority Species					

Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	N/K			Future work-programme
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		N/K			Future work-programme
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		N/K			Future work-programme
Plants		N/K			Ancient woodland indicator species present. Continuing work-programme
Fungi/Lichens		Some recorded			Fungus forays have taken place including 28th October 2023. Actively foraged locally.
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)		N/K			Future work-programme planned 2024-25 seasons by Kent Recorder.
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)		No			No water-bodies or springs.
Other (please Specify):		No			
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments		No			
Unscheduled Monuments		No			
Registered Parks and Gardens		No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees		**Yes**			Adjacent parkland has veteran trees; northern hedgerow is partly encompassed by the ancient woodland footprint.
Listed Buildings		No			
Other (please Specify):		Yes			Archaeological features to be explored (Toll track. See Section 2.2 Item 8.
Landscape					
National Character Area (please Specify): The Lyn valley feature extends from the North Kent AONB – but that connection has been disrupted by the M2.					
National Park		No			

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
People				
CROW Access	No			
Public Rights of Way (any)	No			
Other Access Provision	Managed by Trust (2024 completion planned)			Owners are willing to place the woodland into a Charitable Trust.
Public Involvement	Yes			Planned Trust and local collaboration and engagement
Visitor Information	Yes			Planned Interpretation resources and guides. Dedicated website under development (www.tollwood.org.uk).
Public Recreation Facilities	No			
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes			Planned Interpretation resources and controlled visits.
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes			Some fly-tipping has taken place in the past both here and in countryside nearby.
Other (please Specify):	No			
Water				
Watercourses	No			
Lakes	No			
Ponds	No			
Other (please Specify): Nailbourne in the Lyn Valley	Possibly.			A reported nailbourne in Lyn Valley that supplies springs to the north (ejecting at Osiers Farmhouse)

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.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	**Yes**			Small unimproved enclosed meadow at northernmost part of the wood.
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	**Yes**			18+ native tree species with many ancient woodland indicator species
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	**Yes**			Separate from the Woodland, the owners' holding includes historical estate/parkland with some heritage-class and ancient trees. Partially encompassed meadow at northern end of the woodland.
Other (please Specify):	No			
Non Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	No			

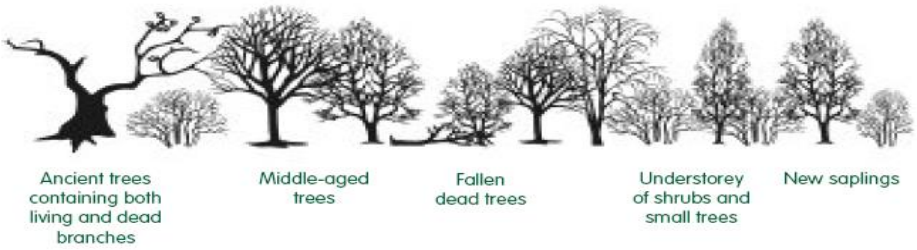
Lowland meadows	**Yes**			Pasture in Lyn Valley.
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			
Reed bed	No			
Wood pasture	Yes			Toll Wood meadow and woodland adjacent to Toll Lane grazed in living memory. Part of Toll Wood footprint.
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			
Unimproved grassland	No			
Peat lands	No			
Wetland habitats	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes			Possible Denehole near the enclosed meadow (collapsing) – *potential* for bat habitat.

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.

Woodland Type (Broadleaf, Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e., understory or natural regeneration present)
Broadleaf – intimate mixed native species.	85%	Uneven, with a possible exception in the southern quarter of the wood (Ash/sycamore).	Understory comprises extensive indicator species. Sycamore, in particular, has led to crowded canopy and uneven growth through competition for light and nutrients. Some storm-felled trees have regenerated ("phoenix" trees) and will be left alone.
Open space	15%		Meadow/grassland

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



Even-aged woodland – tidy but of low diversity

Section 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). Use the simple Risk Assessment process below to consider any potential threats to their woodland(s) and whether there is a need to take action to protect their woodlands.
Note: To add more tables, Copy the table and Paste below.

5.1 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	*Ash Dieback* (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) **not** yet observed but will be regularly monitored. Response will focus on retention of standing ash rather than clearance - except where traffic/pedestrians are at risk from falling limbs or collapsed trunks. Ashes in this position will be scored/risk assessed in accordance with the Forestry Commission guidance on 'zones'. Work with, for example, Forestry Commission, KMOTT, Woodland Trust, Tree Council and Natural England advice;
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Succession planting strategy and early opening of canopy by removal of poorly competing sycamore in the southern quarter. See possible succession species at Appendix 4.

Threat	*Dutch Elm disease* galleries present in two elms in the margins of the adjacent meadow.

	Needs to be monitored. Not obvious whether this is historic or recent.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium/High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High. Wych elm shows some resistance. We hope to engage with the Forestry Research Research Project on Elms in due course. We have alerted them to our interest.
Response (inc protection measures)	Succession planting strategy and opening of canopy will be needed to secure the future integrity of the ancient woodland conditions. First priority to remove sycamore from this section of the woodland to encourage elm varieties, hornbeam and others from the list of native species identified with the wood. We will explore European elm resistant elms under development.

5.3 Deer

Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	N/A

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low (limited food sources). Needs to be researched/quantified
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low (protection measures in all succession planting)
Response (inc protection measures)	Subject to survey.

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Rabbits in evidence. Needs to be researched/quantified.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium/Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low.

Response (inc protection measures)	Renewal of all boundary fences required; succession planting will need protection in early years.

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Badgers and foxes in evidence. Needs to be researched/quantified.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium/High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Keep records to map and quantify.

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	N/A
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Fly tipping.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High/Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Cost of clearance + risk of ground pollution
Response (inc protection measures)	First priority to replace/renew all fencing – especially adjacent to Toll Lane and neighbouring land.

Threat	Sycamore further crowding the canopy and stifling the ground cover and competing for nutrition and water.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High – an existing threat
Impact (high/medium/low)	High – suppression of recovery of existing species and opportunities for succession planting.
Response (inc protection measures)	Second Priority to remove larger (20+ years) throughout the wood.

5.8 Social

Threat	Fly tipping is a regular occurrence locally, including along Toll Lane.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High.
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Requires renewal of all boundary fencing (chestnut palings) just over 1km perimeter.

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Operational costs in securing, recovering/renewal of ancient woodland. Capital investment in fencing is beyond the resources of current owner.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Explore options to access grants. Seek collaboration/public engagement strategy with local organisations/trust/"Friends of Toll Wood"

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Concentration of species potentially vulnerable to disease – ash and elm
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium/High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Important for early improvement of overall condition of woodland through halo-thinning and opening of sycamore congestion. To allow timely and balanced succession-planting of disease-resistant varieties of elm plus native drought-resistant trees already present. Consider cautious introduction of additional native tree species into succession-planting to further enhance biodiversity and resilience against losses at scale (possibly add the wild

	service tree). Margins and hedges provide opportunities for planting for pollinators and feedstuffs (insects, birds, mammals).

Section 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 Objective / Feature	Management Intention
Establish a Trust.	Secure the future of Toll Wood and its enclosed meadow as an important contribution to local biodiversity and enhance as a controlled community asset.
Engage local community, Borough, county and national bodies and expert groups and bodies.	To bring to bear the assets and expertise available through Forestry Commission, Natural England, Woodland Trust, Kent Men of the Trees, CPRE, and others to deliver a comprehensive programme of timely responses at appropriate scale to promote biodiversity, achieve renewal/succession planting and scenario-building to meet existential threats to key species. Research social history.
Plan thinning and felling timetable. Define future objectives for retaining trees at all stages of their lives into the future. Engage capacity and skill-base of local partners/farmers when and where needed. **Appendix 5 defines our preferred approach.**	Firstly, to reduce numbers of sycamore older than 20-years as thinnings to open the canopy and permit succession-planting; secondly, after nesting season, to fell only very small number of larger sycamores in and adjacent to the meadow - as a first step to restore light penetration to the woodland floor in all seasons and reduce pressure on the chalkland meadow. We plan to leave trees standing into old age, stumps, rotting, and collapsed. To this end, some larger trees may be ring-barked and outer limbs cut back to reduce mechanical forces in preference to felling. Retain thinnings/felled trees and lopped boughs as feature markers and wood-piles for invertebrates, mammals, birds, fungi, etc. To retain and support the natural cycle in all layers of the woodland architecture/ topography from floor to canopy. This process must be cautious, progressive, measured, and sensitive. Under the thinning licence, never to exceed 30% canopy reduction through this mechanism to balance competition for light, water and nutrients.
Explore options for the encompassed meadow at the north end of Toll Wood.	Evaluate seasonal flora and fauna to inform a coherent and sympathetic future for this equally neglected feature. We have already

	been visited by two ecologists and an expert on Downland Chalk meadow remediation. To support biodiversity in vascular plant, invertebrate, bird and mammal populations.
Secure funding to achieve management objectives	To open dialogue with potential funding sources to secure the future of Toll Wood as a Charitable Trust (2024).
Build educational/informational resources to describe and record the biodiversity contained in Toll Wood.	Provide educational pamphlets, publications and a dedicated website (already in hand for 2023 – www.tollwood.org.uk). Support school projects for improved understanding of the natural world. To extract value from and understanding of Ancient Woodland features, environment and contribution to biodiversity for well-being.

Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to Operations Note 35 for further information. 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.

Private Woodland without PROW. Not applicable at this stage as there are no competing interests. However, the owners have a clear vision on engagement with the local community, local organisations, county and regional bodies as the first five years unfold, resources are found and progress is made.

Local organisations already made aware of the change in ownership and vision-in-principle ("heads up") for future engagement include members of the Lynsted with Kingsdown Society, Park Farm Community Traditional Orchard Group, Parish Council, and members of KMOTT. These links have not been made official ahead of the owners gaining a clearer understanding of how their vision may be achieved.

Our first step will be to secure advice and funding through the Forestry Commission and other grant-aiding bodies. Followed by a programme of expert-visits for specific dimensions of restoring the woodland (and parkland) environment.

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action

Section 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
Renew all fencing to protect the woodland from future fly-tipping/soil pollution & to prevent uncontrolled access. [Obj.1]	Secure funding to implement this workstream.	Financial records, invoicing and completion of fencing.	Once. With subsequent regular monitoring.	Owner/Trust to approach Forestry Commission and others for potential funding sources.	We have secured a contribution towards fencing from RPA Capital Project Fund.
Creation of a Trust [Obj 2]	(a) Formation of a Trust and agree Management Board; (b) Identification of funding streams for costed work programmes. (c) Creation of a dedicated website. (2023).	Public reports through website and Trust AGMs.	Website reporting of Trust actions and ambitions and funding needs as they evolve. Annual summary.	This is exclusively in the gift of the Owners.	This will be finalised early 2024.
Community engagement [Obj 2]	(a) Programme of events/expert	Record of planned	Annual review.	Owner/Trust.	

	engagements and presentations with and through local community, Kent and national organisations. Two in 2022/23 and in each following year; (b) School visit in second year (2024/25) and thereafter for the Primary Academy. (c) Community bodies to engage; (d) Interpretation resources created or commissioned.	events and resources placed on the website. Publications.		*Website* to be developed by Nigel Heriz-Smith.	Nov.2023 – Fungus Foray (public)
Identify stages for woodland renewal programme (thinning, felling, diverse succession planting). [Obj.5]	Engagement of local community resources and expertise.			Owners/Trust	Compartment-based ten-year cycle of local action/intervention/planting. Appendix 5 - Map attached defines planned annual cycle of management actions.
Scenario Planning for rejuvenation and diverse planting programme to meet potential existential threats to (a) Elm and (b) Ash [Objs 3 & 4]	Timely engagement with Forestry Commission/ Research and Woodland Trust to follow best	Publish strategies to web.	Annual surveys.	Owners/Trust	

	practice (UKFS criteria). Also Natural England.				
Establish a programme of expert and educational presentations and guided access to the woodland [Obj 6]				Owners/Trust/ Partners	
Build understanding of the encompassed meadow, its flora and fauna and develop strategies based on that understanding. [Obj 7]	By cop Year Two [2023-24], engage with potential delivery partners and support local engagement as appropriate.	Reports and invitations to action through the website.	Rolling programme of continuous improvement.		Dan Tuscon visited December 2023.
Production of educational/orientation materials and resources consistent with the owners' Vision. [Objs 8 & 9]	Continuous process of research, expert engagement, and publication.	Series of Guides published to web (paper if financially viable) for aspects of understanding of this ancient woodland.	The Initial Report to the Owners to be published in Year One.		

Forestry Commission England

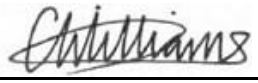
UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Achieved	Review notes
Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, environmental objectives will be achieved.	• Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.	**Yes**	
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.	Management intentions communicated in ***Sect.6*** of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in ***Sect. 2***. Management intentions should take account of: • Relevant features and issues identified in 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 are documented in ***Sect. 7***.	**Yes**	
Identification of designations within and surrounding the woodland site: For designated areas, e.g., National Parks or SSSI, particular account is taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.	• Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations.	**Yes**	
Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity:	• Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency).	**Yes**	

When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made to meet UKFS requirements. Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range 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.	• 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).		
Consultation: Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations.	• Stakeholder consultation 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.	**Yes**	
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.	• A 5-year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan • ***Sect. 8*** is completed with 1 indicator of success identified per management objective	**Yes**	

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.***	**Name (WO or FM):** 	**Date:** **02/04/2024**
Approved	**Name (AO, WO or FM):**	**Date:**

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).		**21/05/2024**