Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:		
Woodland or Property name	**Coleorton Wood**	
Woodland Management Plan case reference	**30544**	
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland		**Yes / No**
Plan author name	Original plan: Angus Hancock - Cameron Forest & Garden Ltd Five year revision: Ian McCormick – Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group	

For FC Use only:				
Plan Period *(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)*	**Approval Date:**	**March2019**	**Approved until:**	**2029**
Five Year Review Date	**2024**			

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision
1	September 2018	Draft	Five Year Review
2	March 2019	Final Approved Plan	FC approval
3	December 2024	Draft	Five Year Review

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 and deleted or copied and pasted from tables where needed.

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			
Name	Coleorton Wood	Owner Coleorton Parish Council c/o F.Palmer Parish Clerk	
Email	clerk@coleorton-pc.gov.uk	Contact Number	07855504567
Agent Name (if applicable)			
Email		Contact Number	
County	Leicestershire	Local Authority	North West Leicestershire DC
Grid Reference (e.g. ST 625 785)	SK 399 164	Single Business Identifier	119299488
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		6.0 ha	
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan? (Please use the most up to date version (v4). Older versions may have to be returned.)		Yes/No	
You have listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan? (PLEASE NOTE: Google Maps/ images of maps will not be accepted because they are copyright protected and should not be used commercially without the appropriate licencing from Google).		Yes/No	
You have sent us your GIS shapefile data? (PLEASE NOTE: this is not mandatory, but it can help speed up the processing time of your application. Instructions on how to submit your shapefile(s) are included on the management plan GOV.UK page.)		Yes/No	
		Felling Licence	Yes

Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?	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	

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*)

To develop a structurally diverse mixed woodland with high amenity and biodiversity value for the enjoyment of the residents of Coleorton and other visitors.

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	To enhance and maintain the ride network and other access provision for visitors.
2	To enhance and maintain the biodiversity value of the wood.
3	To provide opportunities for local people to become involved in the wood's management through practical conservation work.
4	To realise the wood's potential as a resource for recreational and social use by families, local residents and groups, including its use for organised events, in order to develop a sense of community.
5	To ensure that through a combination of voluntary work, grant support and timber income that the management of the wood does not become an undue financial burden to the Parish Council.

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
1. To enhance and maintain the ride network and other access provision for visitors.	The wood's grass ride network continues to be mown regularly as part of the Parish Council's wider public open space management regime. The ride edges are managed under an annual programme of rotational coppicing undertaken by the Volunteer Group on a 5 year cycle. One full cycle has now been completed from commencement of this plan. The volunteer group has maintained or replaced access gates as needed. Community grant money has enabled the replacement of the old 1990's information board with a new board. The map has been updated and content included from Viscount Beaumont Primary School.
2. To enhance and maintain the biodiversity value of the wood.	A first thinning of the wood was undertaken in 2014 by contractors at a thinning intensity of 30%. In Compartment 1b, between 2019 and 2024 halo thinning of larch around oaks, together with natural windfall has benefited the oaks. This limited thinning has been adopted instead of a clear fell. (See 5.7 Environmental threats) Additional hedging has been brought into management through further laying of the ride edge and southern boundary hedges to Compartment 1a. The re-planted northern boundary hedge of Compartment 1b is slow growing and not yet suitable for laying. The pond to the northern boundary of Compartment 1a (restored prior to 2013) has been managed by cutting bankside vegetation on the southern bank to maintain light levels and control bramble spread. Since 2019 work has been ongoing to control the levels within the pond via the drainage system to avoid the level being over high in winter and placing pressure on the banks. The pond is treated as a seasonal pond and allowed to dry out completely in hot summers. Nestbox provision, which had diminished with time has been increased.

3. To provide opportunities for local people to become involved in the wood's management through practical conservation work.	The Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group (established in 2010) has provided the vehicle for local people to become involved in practical conservation work. It meets up to four times per month at either of two woodland sites and also undertakes other tasks within the parish. Financial support from the County Council, Parish Council and the National Forest Company for training and equipment, most notably in chainsaw and brush cutter use, has enabled it to tackle a wider range of management tasks. The Group can be contacted through Facebook and coleorton11@gmail.com
4. To realise the wood's potential as a resource for recreational and social use by families, local residents and groups, including its use for organised events, in order to develop a sense of community.	The main recreational use of the site is by local dogwalkers. The Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group again provides the main focus working parties and other activities. The Group is encouraging activities with the local school, Viscount Beaumont Primary School.
5. To ensure that through a combination of voluntary work, grant support and timber income that the management of the wood does not become an undue financial burden to the Parish Council.	Since 2019 the objective has been achieved through active management through the input of volunteer time. Group members have undertaken training in practical techniques and also woodland management theory training.

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:
Coleorton Wood lies at the end of Pitt Lane to the south-west of the village of Coleorton in an area known as Coleorton Moor. The wood sits in a small brook valley and as such is not prominent in the local landscape being largely hidden from surrounding roads. The wood was planted in 1991 by Leicestershire County Council as one of the first new plantings in the National Forest. It was planted on the site of the former Coleorton Colliery (known locally as the 'Bug & Wink 'Colliery), which produced coal from 1875 until 1933. The site was returned to agricultural use after demolition in 1975 and the two mine shafts capped and sealed. As a result, prior to planting, the majority of the site was fertilised and ripped to alleviate compaction and to promote root penetration of the layer of demolition rubble and colliery spoil below the thin topsoil. The only exception to this was an area named as Post Office Wood (Compartment 1b), which was planted on agricultural soils, in a field to the west of the brook course.

Coleorton Wood is a young plantation designed primarily for public access and wildlife conservation. The design achieves this through the comprehensive network of grass rides, which allows for a variety of circular walks within the wood and which has the benefit of extensive ride side shrub planting providing abundant wood edge habitat.

Permissive public access is enhanced by the links to the public footpath network, notably to the north of the wood and by the wood's own car park at the entrance from Pitt Lane. This facility attracts visitors, notably dog-walkers from further afield.

Compartment 1a was planted primarily as amenity woodland with excess of 30 different species, planted in intimate mixtures of small species groups and with extensive shrub edge planting to the ride sides.

Tree growth has been good despite the site's history of land reclamation and a first thinning was undertaken across the whole wood in 2014. Thinning has helped to promote crown development of retained stems, notably oak, which is often of good form and reasonable vigour throughout and offers the best potential as the main long term component of the wood. However, the intention is to retain as much of the original range of species as possible as part of the wood's amenity value and interest for the visitor. Thinning has also encouraged the development of natural regeneration of some broadleaf species, notably birch, cherry, alder and ash. Regeneration of ash however, although prolific, has been affected by the onset of ash dieback disease, which is also apparent in a significant number of the originally planted stems.

The cycle of ride edge shrub coppicing established 2013, has been revised since 2019 to a five year. Re-growth of coppice, and particularly Dogwood, has been vigorous and additional work is taking place to avoid narrowing and 'tunnelling' of rides.

Management support from National Forest Co. advisors is helping the volunteer group steer its work.

Compartment 1b was planted exclusively with European larch (Larix decidua) and English oak (Quercus robur), as a contrasting and more traditional forestry mix on the better, agricultural soils, with the larch designed to act as a nurse to the long term oak crop. The larch has performed exceptionally well reaching top heights of up to 19m and dbh in excess of 40cm with an average in the range of 25-30cm. However, this vigour has been to the detriment of the oak.

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 and 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		No	
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Areas of peat over 50cm deep	No		No	
RSPB Important Bird Area	No		No	
Higher Level Stewardship grant-funded land	No		No	
Priority Habitats	No		No	
Other (please Specify):	No		No	
Notes	1. National Forest 2. Coleorton Wood is designated as one of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields, created to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.			

Feature		Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Biodiversity - European Protected Species					
Bat	Species (if known)	Yes	All		Bat survey conducted in 2015 recorded Soprano Pipistrelle, Common Pipistrelle and possibly Daubenton's bat species.
Dormouse		No			
Great Crested Newt		Probable			Not recorded but likely as known to be local.
Otter		No			
Sand Lizard		No			
Smooth Snake		No			

Natterjack Toad		No			
Biodiversity – Priority Species					
Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	No			
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)		No			
Reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard etc)		Possible			No survey records exist
Plants		No			
Fungi/Lichens		Yes			Leicestershire Fungi Study Group has recorded over 60 species, with 10 being rare to the area and 2 being new County records. The majority are associated with fallen deadwood.
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)		Yes			
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)		Possible			No survey records exist
Other (please Specify):		No			
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments		No			
Unscheduled Monuments		No			
Registered Parks and Gardens		No			
Registered Battlefields		No			
World Heritage Sites (UNESCO)		No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees		No			
Listed Buildings		No			
Burial Grounds		No			
Other (please Specify):		Yes	1a		Capped mine shafts. The wood is planted on the site of the former Coleorton Colliery and forms part of the village heritage trail.
Landscape					
National Character Area (please Specify):					
National Park		No			
National Landscapes (formerly AONBs)		No			
Other (please Specify):		No			
People					
CROW Access		No			
Public Rights of Way (any)		No			Public footpaths adjoin the northern

				boundary of the wood but do not provide direct access which is only available from Pitt Lane.
Common Land	No			
Other Access Provision	Yes	All		The wood is open for permissive access and is served by the car park at the end of Pitt Lane, which is open daily between 8.30am 4pm (later in summer)
Public Involvement	Yes			The wood is owned and managed by the Parish Council and worked by the Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group.
Visitor Information				
Public Recreation Facilities				
Provision of Learning Opportunities	Yes			Work parties are organised and run by the Volunteer Group, providing experience and informal training in practical conservation work.
Anti-social Behaviour	No			Occasional issues but not viewed as significant.
Other (please Specify):	No			
Water				
Acid Vulnerable Catchments	No			
Watercourses	Yes	1a, 1b	2	A small, seasonal brook forms the boundary between Cpts 1a and 1b.
Lakes	No			
Ponds	Yes	1a	2	
Other (please Specify):	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.

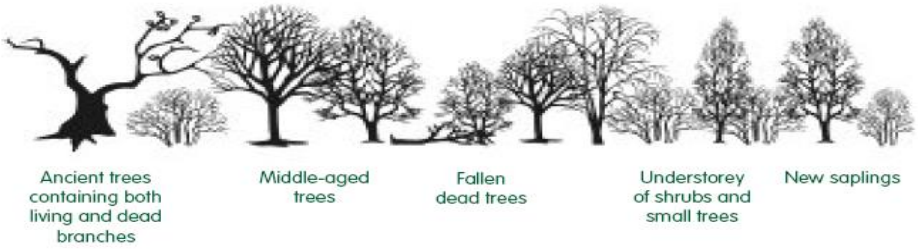
Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	No			
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No			
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes	All		
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
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	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 (please Specify):	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.

Woodland Type (Broadleaf, Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
Mixed plantation	100%	Even	The wood has extensive planted ride edge shrub zones, which are in a cycle of coppice management to provide diversity of structure.

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 (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora*, Needle Blight etc)	Ash Dieback (Chalara)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High (Present)
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium/high
Response (inc protection measures)	Ash Dieback is a wind-borne disease caused by a fungus Hymenoscyphus fraxineus and is invariably fatal, especially to young ash trees. There is at present no known cure for this disease other than natural resistance. The disease has been found extensively within the National Forest and is established at Coleorton Wood, where it is most notable in young natural regeneration causing mortality. The originally planted ash in all areas of the wood is affected with in excess of 50% of trees in stands displaying symptoms. Ash is one of the main species planted at Coleorton Wood, although one of over 30 species in total. The volunteer group is monitoring and felling those with substantial die-back that stand in zones 1 & 2 of the of the three-zone risk zoning plan. Over the remaining life of this plan the group will clear the larger areas of Ash before they completely die and become a felling risk.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Red Band Needle Blight
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low-Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Red Band Needle Blight (RBNB) is caused by the Dothistroma septosporum fungus and causes premature defoliation of the tree which can spread year on year, causing stagnation and reducing timber growth in direct relation to the reduction in crown foliage. Ultimately the disease can lead to tree mortality. Corsican Pine is the main conifer species planted in Compartment 1a and has shown some symptoms of the disease, although this appears to have been alleviated by first thinning, which has improved airflow through previously overstocked stands.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Phytophthora
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Phytophthora ramorum is a fungus-like pathogen that can cause extensive damage and mortality to a number of tree species, including European Larch which makes up the majority of Compartment 1b. P. ramorum has been reported within the local area and felling and removal of larch has taken place on those sites. Therefore there is a real risk of disease spread to Coleorton Wood and a requirement to clear fell the larch. This is potentially a significant cost to the Parish Council, mitigated by any recovered value from the timber. This also would be a significant amenity loss of a now mature wooded area. (See also 5.7, effect of windthrow).

5.3 Deer

Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Muntjac (High)
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Muntjac populations in the area are significant and it is likely that deer are frequent visitors to the

	wood, although the relatively small size of the site and frequent disturbance by dog walkers mitigate against a resident, breeding population. This is supported by the lack of any obvious signs or impact of browsing on the coppiced shrubs at ride edges. It is unlikely that deer numbers will prove problematic and that control is therefore considered unnecessary. However, any enrichment planting or re-stocking should be protected by individual tree shelters to a minimum height of 75cm to protect against browsing by this species.

5.4 Grey Squirrels

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High (Present)
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	A squirrel damage report was undertaken in early 2022 by APHA in conjunction with National Forest Company. Summarised results are: Trees affected - Damage observed most commonly on hornbeam and field maple and to a lesser extent, oak and wild cherry. Amount of damage – Damage is mostly small and historical based on small areas of stripped bark, but also included two examples where considerable levels of damage to the canopy had been done to the detriment of the trees form and growth. Extent of damage - In most recorded locations damage was done to individual trees or small groups. The National Forest Damage Severity Score (DSS) for all woods in the survey is 0.95. Coleorton Wood has a DSS across all species of 0.46. Main species showing damage is field maple with a DSS of 3.3 and hornbeam with a DSS of 1. This is at or just below the threshold (3) where trees are considered to be at risk of "declining in health and tree quality". 17% of all surveyed trees exhibit some level of damage. "Small site with a high level of disturbance. Whilst damage is confined to the current species there is little effect on the amenity or timber value of the woodland as a whole. The site will need monitoring to ensure that damage does not create a health

	and safety risk through hung up branches or tops or extend to a wider range of tree species." A National Forest Company advisor has recommended that grey squirrel management be considered as a regular and long term activity. This could be grant aided.

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Rabbit & Hare
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High (Present)
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Rabbit and hare are both seen in and around the wood and there is a rabbit warren established in the western boundary hedgeline of Compartment 1b. There is some evidence of browsing of natural regeneration (notably ash) and coppice regrowth by these species although overall damage is not significant and has remained at a low level during the first five year Plan period. Control is not considered necessary at present, although constant monitoring of browsing damage is required. Any enrichment planting or re-stocking should be protected by individual tree shelters to a minimum height of 75cm to protect against browsing by these species.

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	None
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)	Windthrow
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High (Present)
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Windthrow poses a significant environmental threat to the wood, most notably to Compartment 1b (Post Office Wood) where larch stems are lost every year. Windthrow to this part of the wood has been occurring for a number of years, pre-dating Parish Council ownership both pre- and post-thinning in 2014 with as many as forty stems having been lost in single storm events. Windthrow has also been evident amongst pine stands to the southern end of Compartment 1a but at a much lower level. Coleorton Wood is not exposed by way of altitude or aspect, and it is considered that the windthrow reflects the rapid growth of larch in Compartment 1b in fertile agricultural soils exacerbated by a lack of early intervention to thin. In Compartment 1a, windthrow is once again likely to be related to soils, but in this area, reflects the reclaimed and thin topsoils on which this part of the wood is planted. The continual loss of larch stems in Compartment 1b needs to be addressed by management intervention in the next five year Plan period, acknowledging that the original commercial timber production objectives for this part of the wood have been significantly compromised. Consideration should therefore be given to planning for a clear fell and re-stocking of this area following the next significant windthrow event. Careful planning needs to be given to the choice of species for re-stocking, with windfirm species selected purely for this attribute in planting at the southern and south-western end of the compartment.

	In Compartment 1a, thinning of pine stands may require intervention on a little and often basis and at more frequent intervals than the surrounding broadleaf stands, in order to reduce future susceptibility to wind damage.

5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Trespass/Fly-tipping
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low/Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	The location of Coleorton Wood at the end of Pitt Lane and its surfaced car park make it a potentially attractive for trespass by travellers or to fly-tippers. One instance of fly-tipping has occurred during the 2019-2024 period. This is considered to be a reflection of the security afforded by the gating of the entrance to the car park and the daily locking of the gate to prevent access outside of daylight hours. The woodland has seen a few instances of incursion from quad/motor bikes. Revising the gating has minimised this. Compartment 1a has natural barriers surrounding though 1b is relatively open.

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights etc)	
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	None
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	
Impact (high/medium/low)	
Response (inc protection measures)	

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Uniform Structure
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High (Present)
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	As a recent plantation, it is inevitable that the woodland is even-aged and lacks structural diversity at this stage. The first thinning undertaken in 2014 and the ongoing cycle of ride edge shrub coppicing is already starting to introduce some structural diversity and encourage the development of natural regeneration and understorey development. The management strategy for the next five year Plan period (see section 6 below) will continue this approach in Compartment 1a. Any clear felling and re-stocking of Compartment 1b in response to windthrow damage would have a more immediate effect by introducing a second age class to the wood approximately 30 years after its original planting. Enrichment planting undertaken following any selective felling of diseased ash stands will also achieve a similar result.

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
1. To enhance and maintain the ride network and other access provision for visitors.	Access provision will be monitored to ensure that it remains safe for visitors. Safety inspections will include assessment of tree safety hazards, as well as inspection of furniture and the removal of the remaining rabbit fencing between Compartments 1a and 1b as it fails. The grass ride network will continue to be managed through a combination of mowing and coppicing to maintain permissive access for visitors. The existing ride edge shrub coppicing programme will be revised to introduce a greater variety of structure into this edge zone to avoid equal re-growth of shrubs on both sides of the ride creating a tunnel effect that lessens the internal landscape interest of the wood. To this end, alternate sections of shrubs will be coppiced on either side of a ride, using natural breaks or changes in direction as switching points at which to change sides for cutting. This will ensure that rides are not narrowed by growth from both sides. In addition, where shrub edge zones are deeper, coppicing will be irregular with the retention of some uncut stools away from the immediate ride edge to allow these to grow on for two or three times the length of the cycle to provide greater structural diversity. The five year coppice cycle will be maintained to keep re-growth at a size that is both useful for coppice craft products and that will allow for ease of re-cutting by volunteers using hand tools. In addition, consideration will be given grubbing out of suckering rootstocks such as dogwood, where the spread of this growth is narrowing rides and creating wet and muddy pinch points. The maintenance of wide and easily navigable grass paths for visitors is considered an important factor in avoiding a proliferation of desire lines away from the ride network that reduce the amount of undisturbed areas for wildlife in a small wood. Putting in drainage channels on two ride edges will be considered to reduce ride flooding which affects access.
2. To enhance and maintain the biodiversity value of the wood.	The ride edge coppicing of shrubs will also be a key aspect of maintaining the biodiversity value of the

	wood, with the new cutting pattern offering greater diversity of habitat for wildlife. This will be further enhanced by the development of a sympathetic mowing regime allowing for retention of unmown edges to the central grass strip and a development to a mix of two and three zone ride management. The first thinning of the wood in 2014 increased light levels to the woodland floor, promoting natural regeneration of some broadleaf species and the greater development of understorey. Further thinning will be necessary in Compartment 1a during this Plan period, although at a much lighter intensity and primarily amongst the conifer stands. This thinning will be undertaken on a selective basis and 'little and often' with the objective of improving the crown development and windfirmness of softwoods and gradually opening up around selected oak stems or pockets of natural regeneration. Selective thinning will also be necessary in this Plan period to remove diseased ash affected by dieback (H. fraxineus). This might be the removal of individual trees for reasons of tree safety or discrete stands where the felling can provide the opportunity for enrichment planting with alternative species in canopy openings. The choice of species for any such re-stocking should aim to maintain the breadth of species as envisaged in the original design for the wood. The options for maintaining Compartment 1b are: (i) continue with windthrow management and actively halo thin larch around oaks. This activity is generally manageable by the volunteer group. (ii) contractor thinning. This is potentially the highest cost option. (iii) contractor clear fell. This is more likely than thinning to generate a timber profit. The downside is that the woodland will be lost until the re-stocking has matured. Re-stocking would immediately provide a second age class to the wood and a distinctly different structure and habitat during the establishment period for Compartment 1b. Species choice should again reflect the original intention of diversity and for an element of commercial timber production from this area of the wood. To this end, re-stocking of the main body of the compartment should comprise oak at traditionally closer spacings (1-1.5m centres) with stock selected from known seed stands of good timber form and provenance. This will need to be tempered by the selection of

	windfirm species such as sycamore and beech for the southern and south-western edges. Biodiversity value will be maintained by the continued management of other habitats within the wood. Pond management will be continued so as to improve its biodiversity. It will be managed as a seasonal pond, allowing drying out in hot summers. Standing and fallen deadwood will be retained wherever safe to do so and the recently laid hedges will be allowed to grow out further in order to provide denser wood edge habitat.
3. To provide opportunities for local people to become involved in the wood's management through practical conservation work.	The Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group has provided the vehicle through which local people have become involved in the wood's management and as such the Group is of critical importance to the achievement of this objective and indeed to the present management of the site. It is anticipated that the Group will continue in this enabling role during the next five year Plan period and will be supported by the Parish Council. The proposed work programme will continue to offer opportunities for the volunteers to be engaged in practical conservation, mainly through the continuing coppice cycle for ride edges. The reduction in the length of this cycle and the initiation of the second round of coppicing should ensure that the coppice stems are of a smaller size enabling the majority of this work to be tackled by handtools. The harvesting of hazel coppice rods from stools now brought into management may open up further opportunities for engagement in rural crafts. Whilst contractors will be required to undertake the felling in Compartment 1b, light thinning elsewhere in the wood is considered within the range of skills now possessed by the Group. Re-stocking and enrichment planting with the subsequent maintenance required during the establishment phase could also be undertaken by volunteers. The Group also has the opportunity to take on the ride mowing for the site using Parish Council equipment, which will allow for more timely and sensitive management of the grass rides. Consideration will also be given to the potential role of volunteers in surveying flora and fauna and it may be appropriate to engage with specialist groups such as Butterfly Conservation in order to extend the range of learning opportunities.
4. To realise the wood's potential as a resource for recreational and social	The Volunteer Group has been the main enabler and organiser for community-led use of the wood.

use by families, local residents and groups, including its use for organised events, in order to develop a sense of community.	Consideration will be given during this second five year Plan period as to how to widen the scope of community involvement and the wood's resource. Future opportunities might include the provision of a Tree Trail to interpret the wide range of species in the wood; a firewood auction to sell off timber from woodland management or craft courses to utilise harvested coppice products. In addition, the Parish council is committed to the re instatement of the bird feeding station once issues with damage are resolved. Nestbox provision, once extensive across the wood, might also be re-introduced.
5. To ensure that through a combination of voluntary work, grant support and timber income that the management of the wood does not become an undue financial burden to the Parish Council.	The work undertaken by the Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group will continue to be critical in ensuring that the overall costs of woodland ownership and management to the Parish Council are not a financial burden. However, opportunities for future grant support are likely to be more limited in the next five year Plan period given the demise of the Forestry Commission's EWGS and its replacement by Countryside Stewardship (CS). Coleorton Wood will not qualify for CS funding because of its lack of conservation designation and its small size. Consideration will be given therefore to application to the National Forest Company's Woodland Management Grant, although this grant requires application on an annual basis and ongoing work such as ride side coppicing is unlikely to score highly enough to attract consistent funding in its own right. Timber income is anticipated from the felling of Compartment 1b, but this is unlikely to do more than cover the costs of its harvesting and extraction and the ground preparation necessary for re-stocking. This work will therefore be at a net cost to the Parish Council.

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.

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Management Plan Update (Draft)	Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group	September 2018 October 2024	October 2018 January 2025	Comments and aspirations for the Group/Coleorton Wood.	Adopted into revised Plan to ensure that proposals and scale of work programme is acceptable to the C&NLVG.
Management Plan Update (Draft)	Coleorton Parish	October 2018 January 2025			Revised Plan to be posted on Parish website to enable viewing and comment during FC consultation period.
Management Plan Update (Draft)	National Forest Company	January 2025	January 2025	Advised on local Woodland protection issues. Comments incorporated.	To be provided with approved revised Plan for information and in support of any grant applications.
Management Plan (Final)	Leicestershire CC				To be provided with approved revised Plan for information and in support of any grant applications.

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
To enhance and maintain the ride network and other access provision for visitors.	Well-managed rides accessible all year round. Well-maintained access furniture, signage and seating	Visual Photographic record Feedback from visitors.	Ongoing Annual safety inspection	Parish Council CNLVG	Feedback into programme for mowing and coppicing of ride edges Feedback into planning for repair or replacement
To enhance and maintain the biodiversity value of the wood.**Error! Reference source not found.**	Increased structural diversity of habitat Increased wildlife populations	Visual Photographic record Surveys of flora and fauna	Annual	CNLVG, consultants external groups/local community	Feedback into Management Plan
To provide opportunities for local people to become involved in the wood's management through practical conservation work.	Continued volunteer contributions	Record of volunteer hours/volunteer numbers Feedback from volunteers	Annual	CNLVG	Feedback into Management Plan

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
To realise the wood's potential as a resource for recreational and social use by families, local residents and groups, including its use for organised events, in order to develop a sense of community.	Events held at the wood New facilities (eg interpretation or educational provision)	Number of events/ new facilities. Feedback from visitors/local community Increased no. of visitors	Annual	Parish Council CNLVG	Feedback into Management Plan
To ensure that the management of the wood does not become an undue financial burden to the Parish Council.	Management costs at break even or within budget.	Budget setting Income and expenditure records	Annual	Parish Council	Feedback into planning work and grant applications
Disease	N/A	Visual inspection	Ongoing	CNLVG, consultants	Feedback into timing of thinning or selective felling proposals.
Grey squirrel damage Ongoing	Reduction in damage Reduction in population	Visual inspection Reduction in sightings	Ongoing	CNLVG, consultants	Feedback into instigation of control measures.
Windthrow	N/A	Visual inspection after storm events.	Ongoing	CNLVG, consultants	To action remedial tree safety issues. Feedback into timing of felling proposals.

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/No**	
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/No**	
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/No**	
Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-	• Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency).	**Yes/No**	

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/No**	
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/No**	

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:**
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).*	**Name (AO, WO or FM):**	**Date:**