

Management Plan for Cople Millennium Wood

2020 – 2024



(stock picture)

Stephen Halton
January 2020

Contents	Page
1. General Information	4
1.1 Vision statement	5
1.2 Land tenure and management	5
2. Site Location and description	5
2.1 Location	5
2.2 Description	6
2.3 Evaluation of important features	6
2.4 Notable habitats and species	7
2.4.1 Flora	7
2.4.2 Fauna	8
2.5 Site history	8
2.6 Compartment descriptions	8
3. Site Evaluation	8
3.1 Naturalness	8
3.2 Rarity	8
3.3 Fragility	8
3.4 Typicalness	9
3.5 Recorded history	9
3.5.1 Previous surveys and monitoring work	9
3.6 Position in unit	9
3.7 Potential value	9
3.8 Intrinsic appeal	9
4. Management Objectives	10
4.1 Objectives	10
5. Management Actions	10
5.1 Objective 1	10
5.1.1 Management of woodland	10
5.1.2 Management of grasslands	11
5.1.3 Management of scrub, woodland edge and rides	12
5.1.4 Hedgerow and Boundary management	12
5.1.5 Protecting wildlife	13
5.1.6 Protecting historic features	13
5.1.7 Managing fire sites	13
5.2 Objective 2	13
5.2.1 DDA compliance and Access for All	13
5.2.2 Improving access and Rights of Way	15
5.2.3 Inappropriate access	15
5.2.4 Waymarking	15
5.2.5 Public safety	16
5.2.6 Species monitoring	16

5.2.7 Public awareness	16
5.2.8 Green Flag Community Award	17
5.3 Table of Management Actions	18
6. Legislation affecting usage and management of Linslade Wood	20
6.1 Health and Safety at Work Act	20
6.2 Access and Public Rights of Way	20
6.3 Archaeology and Scheduled Ancient Monuments	20
6.4 Tree felling	20
6.4.1 English Woodland Grant Scheme	21
6.5 Risk Assessments	21
7. Bibliography	21
8. Appendices	
9.1 Flora species lists (names follow Stace, 1997)	22
9.2 Fungi (names follow Holden, L, BMS, 2007)	23
9.3 Birds	24
9.4 Mammals	25
9.5 Butterflies	25

1. General Information

Site Name: Cople Millennium Wood

Site Status (*highlight*): NNR SSSI LNR CWS **None** SAM

County: Bedfordshire

District: Bedford Borough

Parish: Cople

Local Planning Authority: Bedford Borough Council

Grid Reference: TL103476 OS 1:50 000 Sheet No. 153

Area: TOTAL WOODLAND AREA: 3.35 ha (8.28 acres)

Tenure: Cople Parish Council

Date of agreement: December 2014

Owner: Woodland Trust

Contacts: **Woodland Trust**
Ian Froggatt, Site Manager, Woodland Trust
Email: ianFroggatt@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Tel: 08545 293 5694

Cople Parish Council
Anne Pape
Email: Jeanne Pope coplepc@outlook.com
Tel: 01234 376645

David Hughes (Chairman)
Email: davidandfionahughes@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 01234 838669

Steve Halton (Ecology and Site Management)
Email: stevehalton@gmail.com
Tel: 01234 8386593

1.1 Vision statement

Cople Millennium Wood (hereafter known as CMW) sits in the Ouzel Valley to the south-east of Bedford in the Forest of Marston Vale, a Community Forest Initiative. The area, historically, has been relatively little wooded and affected extensively by sand and gravel quarrying. The landscape is flat although relieved by the Greensand Ridge, forming a line of low hills to the south and east. The chief land use is agriculture; mainly wheat, barley, oilseed rape, onions and potatoes.

The vision for the wood is to be run as a community partnership-led woodland with provision made to allow both people and wildlife to benefit from, and enjoy, the woodland and its varying habitats. Areas of maturing, semi-natural woodland with carpets of native woodland plants and a varied structure of trees interspersed with wide, scalloped rides and glades will enrich the area with a great diversity of age ranges, management methods and structures which will enable a wide range of habitats to be enjoyed by all. Wide woodland rides, glades and areas of coppice will add to the diversity and people will be able to enjoy the woodland diversity in all forms of quiet contemplation.

1.2 Land tenure and management

CMW was purchased by the Woodland Trust (WT) in December 1997 from a local landowner. It was planted as part of the WT's 'Woods On Your Doorstep' scheme where 200 such woods were planted across the country to mark the Millennium.

The wood is managed by the WT through mowing of the rides and access tracks. No other management occurs.

Cople Parish Council now manages the wood on a long-term lease from the WT by Cople Parish Council and a 'Friends' group helps to look after and manage the wood on a sustainable and biodiversity-led basis.

2. Site location and description

2.1 Location

CMW is situated to the south of the main village of Cople and situated adjacent to Water End, a hamlet of Cople. The site grid reference is TL103476. The area is a rural, ex-farmland and has scattered cottages to the east and a mix of arable and horse paddocks elsewhere. There are views to the west of Cardington Airship Sheds and south to the wooded Greensand Ridge.

The area is covered by Ordnance Survey Explorer map number 153 (Bedford and Buckingham).

2.2 Description

CMW is a semi-natural planted woodland comprising areas of maturing trees, rides, open glades and wooded edge. The site is 3.35 ha (8.28 acres). Following community consultation the trees were planted during the winter of 1998/99 and comprised a mix of mainly native species. The habitat leans towards a W8 (*Fraxinus excelsior* – *Acer campestre* – *Mercurialis perennis*) woodland. There also areas of shrub species and fruit trees.

The wood has open access for walkers throughout the year and is crossed by a public footpath runs along the outside of the southern and western boundaries and a further one which runs NW to SE through the centre of the site as well as a network of mown rides throughout the wood. Two picnic benches and a bench are within the wood and an interpretation panel at the main access entrance. Management access is from the highway at Water End via a short track along which the WT/PC has a right of access.

CMW sits on the flat land of the Ouzel Valley with a mix of sands, clays and gravels. The wood is at an altitude of 27m.

2.3 Evaluation of important features

Feature	Importance		
	National	Regional	Local
Habitats			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland			√
Mature, old & decaying deciduous trees			√
Hedgerows			√
Lowland grasslands			√
Species, Mammals			
Soprano pipistrelle (P)			√
Species, Birds			
Linnet (P)	Red		
Song thrush (P)	Red		
Starling (P)	Red		
Yellowhammer (P)	Red		
Cuckoo (P)	Red		
Dunnock (P)	Amber		
Green woodpecker (P)	Amber		
Kestrel (P)	Amber		
Woodcock (P)	Amber		
Bullfinch (P)	Amber		
Species, Invertebrates			

Surveys needed			
History			
Boundary trees			√

Key

Red – Birds of Conservation Concern 2013 Red listed species.

Amber – Birds of Conservation Concern 2013 Amber listed species.

P – Legally protected species.

2.4 Notable habitats and species

2.4.1 Flora (names follow Stace, 1997).

58 species of flowering plants, trees and grasses have been recorded in CMW; most of these are typical of woodland, scrub, semi-natural grassland, and wood-edge habitats.

The wooded areas consist primarily of planted native species such as Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field maple (*Acer campestre*) and Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*).

The understorey is varied with a wide range of planted species including Common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), Hazel (*Corylus 7ylvestr*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) dominates the field layer with frequent Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*).

These species are typical of a W8 – Fraxinus – Acer – Mercurialis woodland. The ground flora is poor with bramble, ivy, some Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Cow parsley (*Anthriscus 7ylvestris*) and Ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*). Opportunities exist to improve this component through appropriate management.

Areas of scrub occur within the newer plantings, along some of the rides and glades and these comprise species such as Common hawthorn, Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Silver birch (*Betula pendula*), Dog rose (*Rosa canina*), Guelder rose (*Virbunum opulus*) and Wayfaring tree (*V. lantana*).

An area of fruit trees, in the south-west corner of the wood needs the varieties identifying and further (local) varieties planted.

Areas of semi-natural grassland are scattered across the site in the form of woodland rides, clearings and glades and vary in structural diversity from tall, rank MG1 grassland to areas of shorter, finer grassland and mown amenity areas. Typical species here include areas often dominated by False-oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) with herbs such as bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) and cow parsley (*Anthriscus 7ylvestris*).

2.4.2 Fauna

CMW forms an important resource for mammals, birds and invertebrates with the site providing a diversity of habitats in addition to important links with the surrounding countryside.

2.5 Site History

CMW was purchased at the end of December 1997 following a lead from the Marston Vale Community Forest (MVCF) of its availability. Following community consultation, much of it was eventually planted during the winter of 1998/99. Subsequent planting has since taken place which has involved MVCF.

2.6 Compartment Descriptions

Due to the small size of the wood there are no compartments.

3. Site Evaluation

3.1 Naturalness

CMW is maintained as an area of mixed habitat comprising semi-natural broadleaved woodland, areas of recently planted mixed secondary woodland with a network of rides, glades and clearings consisting of natural and semi-natural neutral grasslands and a few areas of scrub. A range of hedgerows also occur across the site. The vegetational communities across this site are those that would naturally form as part of natural succession of vegetation in this area of the UK.

3.2 Rarity

The presence of semi-natural broadleaved woodland is an important component of this site and important at both county and national levels. The areas of grassland, scrub and hedgerows are important at a local level.

No rare species have been recorded in CMW but it is very likely that species of national biodiversity importance do occur in the wood and recording efforts should be made to identify potential species; probably most likely to be found amongst invertebrates.

3.3 Fragility

The woodland is, to some extent, self-managing, but it is apparent that there is a need for some, small-scale, clearance, tree removal or other management (see Section 5, Management Actions). The areas of grassland are more fragile and will only remain if managed through human action as, without management, these areas would be replaced by scrub and ultimately secondary woodland as part of the natural vegetation succession. Both grasslands / scrub and hedgerows will need managing to retain their interest and as an important part of the overall habitat mosaics across the area (see Section 5, Management Actions).

3.4 Typicalness

The areas of semi-natural woodland are typical of the climax community to be found on Sand-Clay-Gravel soils. The other woodland areas, although planted, are also indicative of what would have developed naturally on this site. The grassland communities also consist of what would naturally develop in the area and are typical of habitats managed by mowing.

3.5 Recorded history

See section 2.5 for a history of the site.

3.5.1 Previous surveys and monitoring work

None known.

3.6 Position in unit

CMW is set in a semi-rural location to the north of Cople and adjoining the small hamlet of Water End. The wood itself is quiet with mainly local people accessing and enjoying the site. Due to its location, views from the site are extensive with views across rolling farmland to the Greensand Ridge and with attractive thatched cottages and their gardens along the eastern boundary.

3.7 Potential value

CMW has the potential to develop as a valuable resource for biodiversity and as a site of value for the local community and schools in developing activities and events within the site. It is also a valuable reservoir of biodiversity which, through careful management, can be used to spread species throughout wood and surrounding countryside.

3.8 Intrinsic appeal

CMW makes a significant contribution to the character and diversity of wildlife and landscape in the area. As noted earlier, the site provides a rich mosaic of habitats including woodlands, scrub, grassland and hedgerows, all within a rural/open countryside setting.

The wildlife, landscape, access and community value of CMW is of local importance and the management of both conservation and community features of the wood should be given a very high priority. The strong local interest and partnership organisations involved in this site should ensure a commitment to the future of CMW.

4. Management Objectives

4.1 Objectives

1. To manage the site to protect and enhance its habitats and species diversity whilst complementing its position within the wider landscape.
2. To maintain and improve public access and visitor enjoyment and any facilities on the site, encouraging responsible visitor use, local interest and community support and providing relevant information to encourage this.

5. Management Actions

5.1 Objective 1

To manage the site to protect and to enhance its habitats and species diversity whilst complementing its position within the wider landscape.

5.1.1 Management of woodland

This covers the entire wood, grassland and rides.

The primary consideration is to maintain the woodland through minimum intervention, except where any trees may present a danger to the public through Health and Safety issues. Wherever possible, all dead and standing trees should be left untouched.

If trees present an imminent danger to health and safety they should be surveyed for bats prior to any works being undertaken. Only those trees within falling distance of a pathway, or boundary, should be considered for health and safety reasons.

Other management considerations are:

- To manage the woodland to increase diversity and age structure – some selective felling could be considered but should be done with care as this could encourage the spread of bramble. Any existing stands of planted wild cherry, Norway maple, sycamore and lime may need felling in future – these areas should be either left to regenerate naturally or some replanting of native species may be considered. Some of the elder in the south of the wood could be cleared and replanted with hazel and other native shrubs.
- To manage areas to help increase the spread of the native wildflowers. This should be achieved by cutting and clearing areas, firstly where any wildflowers/bluebells are already under threat, then creating new clearings allowing native species to spread into new areas.
- To reduce the amount of non-native species in the wood – follow as above.
- To control (but not entirely clear) invasive species such as blackthorn and bramble in glades and along the woodland edge – occasional clearing or coppicing of these shrubs if they start to become too dominant.
- To maintain deep shade for particular species – some species of plants and invertebrates prefer deep shade with little or no ground cover – it is important to maintain areas such as these so avoid over-clearing over felling large areas of trees.
- Could consider a monitoring programme of woodland floor plant species over a period of years.
- Maintain and increase diversity of rides and woodland edge (see below) and through cutting of ‘scallop’, bays and some selective thinning/coppicing to increase structural diversity.
- Introduce coppicing of hazels – coppicing to be carried out over a 7 – 9 year cycle in agreed plots.
- To consider the need for a shallow pond within the wood.

5.1.2 Management of grasslands

The primary consideration in this area is to allow areas of grassland to be maintained, and if necessary, increased through some tree and scrub clearance, ride widening, creation of glades etc. Ideally, the nature conservation value of the grasslands would benefit most by

a return to traditional grazing by livestock – this is unlikely here but mowing regimes can provide a satisfactory alternative.

A second-best option is to consider a more practical method of managing grassland such as use of mechanical machinery such as mowers, strimmers etc.

Whatever management method is decided upon it is essential that the removal of all arisings from cutting / grazing operations are removed in order to prevent any build-up of nutrients and subsequent undesirable and detrimental changes to the sward as the competitive species (particularly the coarser grasses) become more dominant over the rarer or unusual / less competitive species.

All current grassland areas should be cut, and the arisings removed, on an annual basis, ideally between late June – early July. Some areas, such as the picnic site, rides or other amenity areas should be cut more frequently throughout the growing season to maintain access for users.

To increase biodiversity, it is permissible to rake up and stack any cut material in heaps in suitable areas (woodland edge / under trees) to provide additional habitat for some species.

Wherever possible, leave areas of uncut grass between areas of woodland and scrub/grassland to encourage a woodland/scrub/long grass/short grass ecotone.

In some areas extend the area of grassland through the removal of encroaching scrub.

5.1.3 Management of scrub, woodland edge and rides

Scrub is an important and undervalued habitat in its own right which will quickly degenerate and lose its interest if not carefully managed. As part of a natural succession of communities, scrub will turn into woodland and lose important biodiversity associated with it and needs active management to prevent this.

Any areas of scrub will need cutting/coppicing in blocks on a rotation (suggest 7 – 10 years) to maintain a diversity of age ranges and structure. Leave one or two shrubs to develop into mature scrub. Try to avoid using too many fire sites when burning scrub, or put cut material to other uses such as dead hedging or habitat piles.

The rides and woodland edges around CMW also require careful and specific management. The aim here is to keep the rides wide and open with well-structured edges with a graduation of habitat from short, cropped grassland through longer, grass/ tall herbs/ a mixture of scrub/grassland to small shrubs (ie; willow, bramble, dogwood, wayfaring tree) then up to mature woodland.

There is also a need to increase biodiversity and structural diversity through the creation of glades, ‘scalloping’ of rides and the occasional removal of large, mature trees,

particularly if a non-native or invasive species. This will increase the area of open, sunny, sheltered areas which will benefit various invertebrates, birds and mammals.

A strip of 5-10m would be a minimum or up to 10-20m wide in places, depending upon the height and structure of the woodland edge trees. The long grassland zone along rides should be cut on a rotational basis every 2-4 years and in appropriate lengths to be agreed and as suitable for the ride length. The ride scrub edge should be cut/coppiced on a cycle of an 8-15 year rotation.

Glades with woodland, both existing and newly-created, should be maintained as open, grassy habitats through grazing/cutting vegetation and removal of arising or stacking up, as described in Section 5.1.2. Try to maintain or encourage the presence of woodland/scrub/grassland edge habitats wherever possible.

5.1.4 Hedge and Boundary Management

The hedges and boundaries in and around CMW should ideally be managed on a 5 – 7 year rotation, cutting or trimming appropriate lengths as agreed through on-site meetings. This will allow hedgerow plant species to flower and set seed providing food and nectar sources for invertebrates, small mammals and birds. Specific features such as native deciduous trees forming an integral part of the hedge should be retained or removed on an individual basis – it is recommended that such trees are left wherever possible, unless of non-native origin, are aggressively dominating the hedge or causing excessive shading to the detriment of the hedge.

It may be worth considering laying of some hedges, particularly to provide an entrance feature to the wood at various points, as a means of increasing the biodiversity and to provide training and skills learning by community groups.

5.1.6 Protecting historic features

The site should be managed sensitively with respect to any historic features such as wood banks, archaeological points of interest and important historic boundary features such as ancient trees and hedgerows.

Any new plantings should be sympathetic to the local flora and the surrounding landscape. All new plantings should be of local, native species. Avoid any planting on grasslands or other areas of biodiversity interest.

5.1.7 Managing fire sites

Minimise the number of fire sites as the ash from old fires enriches the soil and encourages invasive plants that will alter the ecology of any habitats affected.

5.2 Objective 2

To maintain and improve public access and any facilities on the site, encouraging responsible visitor use, local interest and community support and providing relevant information to encourage this.

5.2.1 DDA Compliance and Access for All

The Disability Discrimination Acts of 1995 / 2005 aims to ensure that disabled people are treated in a fair and equal way. The Acts place duties on providers of goods, facilities and services and makes it unlawful for a service provider to discriminate against a disabled person:

- by refusing to provide (or deliberately not providing) any service which it provides to other members of the public; or
- by providing a lesser standard of service for disabled people.

The 2005 Act covers all functions of public bodies, not just services and therefore includes the provision of paths and access. Other changes included a requirement on public bodies to positively promote disability equality by:

- explaining how you will promote equality for disabled people;
- challenging discrimination against disabled people;
- helping to remove barriers for all disabled people

To 'comply' with the DDA services and facilities any potential improvement work will need to meet current codes of good practice. There are many regulations for the built environment but not the countryside apart from BS5709 for Gaps, gates and stiles. The Countryside Agency guidelines outlined in the publication *By All Reasonable Means* and the BT Countryside for All standards are the current best practice guidelines for England. Statistics from the Disability Rights Commission report of 2005 says there are 6.8 million disabled people of working age in Britain. The Communities & Local Government approximate that 1 in 5 people in the UK have a disability of some description.

When sites or services are unable to reach the BT Countryside for All standards in the 'wider countryside' for example, the principle of least restrictive access is a useful piece of guidance. Priority should be given to removing or modifying human-made barriers. Achieving total accessibility to the site may not be possible due to consent of the landowner, grazing regimes or practical difficulties. BBC will need to make all reasoning on any decision transparent. Consultation and involvement of disabled people at local and regional level is required by the DDA and will result in pragmatic solutions which would have local support. Looking at the site from a non-bias view as to the needs of the disabled this report will look at the 'key experiences' for the site, looking for ways of improving 'access for all' and for as wide a range of people as possible. The information

collected from all interested parties and the associated task group is the basis for the experiences. In addition, site considerations are a factor and will dictate what is and isn't possible, these may include, the likely demand, site sensitivity (which is a very relevant on this site) and ability to cope with visitors, feasibility, local and regional context. Visitors should reasonably expect surfaced paths leading from the car park to the picnic and seating area. Any further path surfacing on this site may cause conflict issues with the CWS, though may still be reasonable to consider. Mowing existing desire lines would enable visitors to move across open spaces with confidence. Design of countryside furniture may also vary (though there are minimum standards of accessibility). Working on the understanding that people with disabilities wish to be able to experience the site as far as possible in the same way as non-disabled people it would be valuable to have a dedicated area. The topography of the site means that people in wheelchairs or people with low mobility would struggle to negotiate the majority of this site, so it is important that the spaces they can visit can accommodate them sufficiently.

5.2.2 Improving access and Rights of Way

Review all access points onto and around the site with a view to providing improvements, where and if necessary, to meet national Access for All standards.

Investigate possibility of erecting appropriate signage (ie. Interpretation boards describing wildlife, access, history, contacts etc). Investigate funding and resources.

Consider development of a leaflet for visitors to the site, explaining access, wildlife, history etc.

Investigate possibility of developing a website promoting the wood.

Continue to raise awareness of the site as a place of open access and informal recreation for visitors on foot.

Investigate and ensure that conflicts do not arise between users of CMW.

Explore links with surrounding sites and wider countryside and consider developments / improvements to these, and other, access routes such as rights of way.

Maintain and widen any rights of way, as appropriate, as part of any annual management programme.

Investigate possibility of new seating at appropriate locations around the wood, particularly where there are views and within more intimate landscapes.

5.2.3 Inappropriate access and site usage

There are some forms of access and site usage which historically, or currently, can cause potential problems of usage on the site. These include:

- Inappropriate mountain biking and illegal motorbike usage
- Inappropriate horse riding
- Littering
- Dog mess
- Inappropriate/uncontrolled behaviours ie; fires, camping etc.

These issues need to be dealt with as part of future site management and may necessitate forming a group to look at the issues and to work with local communities to develop and implement a programme to minimise, restrict or remove these issues from the site.

5.2.4 Waymarking

Bedford Borough Council will maintain waymarking along all public and other, promoted, routes and any other paths as deemed appropriate by BBC.

5.2.5 Public safety

Undertake to complete any Risk Assessments prior to any works being undertaken on the site.

Provide a point of contact on all site interpretation / literature / website etc.

Carry out Tree Condition surveys as identified by Risk Assessment (to be carried out by an appropriately experienced person). Identify and, if necessary, carry out any works that be arise from this – however, any necessary steps should be taken to ensure that protected species (ie; bats), and their roosts, are protected as part of this process.

5.2.6 Species monitoring

Encourage the recording and monitoring of wildlife on the site; in particular manage for any notable species of mammals / birds / invertebrates and flora.

Encourage regular, repeatable surveys of more obvious groups ie; bird and butterfly transects, small mammal trapping (under licence) to monitor effects of management and to locate particular areas for rare or notable species.

Ensure all records from the site are submitted to the relevant BNHS County Recorders for inclusion in the county Biological Recording and Records Centre (BBRMB).

Undertake bat emergence and detector surveys in the spring / summer and summer / autumn to confirm bat roost sites (develop project with Bedfordshire Bat Group).

5.2.7 Public awareness

Promote and raise awareness of the site using a range of media. Ensure continued coverage of events and activities in the local Press, newsletters, websites and other electronic media and through partner organisations.

Investigate the possibility of producing an interpretative leaflet for the site covering wildlife, conservation, access, history, contacts etc.

Hold occasional / annual open days to raise awareness of CMW.

Continue with support for, and partnership projects with, the Friends Group. Any practical work should work towards agreed targets, as laid out in the agreed management plan.

Continue to encourage opportunities to maximise local community interest and involvement with CMW. This could include specific projects such as video / audio projects, an aural history project and a community arts-based project, for example.

Investigate links with surrounding landowners to make them aware of future projects and to encourage them to become more involved with the site.

5.2.8 Green Flag Community Award

The Green Flag Community Award (GFCA) is a national scheme that recognises high quality green spaces that are managed by voluntary and community groups. The Award is part of the Green Flag Award scheme; the national standard for quality parks and green spaces.

The GFCA is run by Keep Britain Tidy with various funding partners.

It may be considered appropriate in the future to enter CMW into the GFCA scheme (on a continuing annual basis) as the benefits of receiving an Award will be invaluable in the future development, management and awareness of the site.

GFCA benefits include:

- Increased publicity for the site on a national and regional scale.
- Increased funding opportunities.
- Increase in recognition for the site, its biodiversity and community work.
- The knowledge that the site would be helping to contribute to a renewed sense of pride in sites regionally.

Sites are judged under the following criteria:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Well Maintained and Clean
- Environmental Sustainability

- Biodiversity and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Achievements

The following are needed for an entry:

- Management Plan
- Community Group Constitution
- Financial Details/Accounts
- Site Agreement (with landowner)

Sites must be entered by the end of January, are judged in May/June and the outcome announced in July.

For further information, see: www.greenflagaward.org.uk

5.3 Table of Management Actions

Action	Where / When					
	Year					Notes
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Woodland						
1. To manage the woodland to increase diversity and age structure and to reduce the amount of non-native species in the wood - Clear suckering wild cherry in places. - Consider felling of trees where too close together.	X	x	x	x	x	
	x	x	x	x	x	
	x	x	x	x	x	
2. To control / coppice invasive species ie; blackthorn and bramble in glades, rides and woodland edge.	x		x		x	
3. To maintain some deep shade for particular species.	x	x	x	x	x	
4. Develop programme of monitoring of some woodland plant species.		x		x		
5. Maintain mosaics and current mix of deciduous trees and scrub through non-intervention.	x	x	x	x	x	

6. Maintain and increase diversity of rides and glades through cutting 'scallops', bays and some selective thinning / coppicing.	x	x		x		
7. Introduce coppicing of hazel stands, using a 7 – 9 year cycle (use of eWGS here).		x				
8. Encourage native plant species (ie; bluebells) to spread by planting in appropriate areas on the woodland floor.		x	x		x	
Grassland						
1. To manage all grassland areas for conservation and biodiversity interest.	x	x	x	x	x	
2. Cut grassland on annual basis.	x	x	x	x	x	
3. Remove and/or stack any arisings in piles.	x	x	x	x	x	
4. Leave areas of uncut grass between woodland and scrub areas (cut every 2 years).		x		x		
5. Extend areas of grassland through scrub removal.	x		x		x	
Scrub, woodland edge and rides						
1. Manage scrub through cutting/coppicing.		x	x		x	
2. Management of rides – coppice and/or cut scrub/shrubs along ride edges on 8 – 15 year rotation.	x	x		x	x	
3. Create scallops along ride edges.	x	x			x	
4. Management of existing woodland glades – cutting vegetation and enlargement of glades.	x	x		x		
5. Creation of new glades within woodlands/woodland edge.	x	x	x		x	
Hedges and boundaries						
1. Manage hedges on a 5 – 7 year rotation by cutting and/or coppicing.		x		x		
2. Consider laying some hedges, particularly at entrance points.		x			x	
GFCA					x	

Consider applying GFC status, then maintain annually.						
DDA Compliance and Access for All Form steering group, make recommendations and deliver.	x	x	x	x	x	
Inappropriate Access Consult with local community; work BBC staff to solve issues and implement recommendations.	x	x	x	x	x	

6. Legislation affecting usage and management of CMW

This list has not been prepared by a lawyer and should be considered as a guide to the relevant legislation only. Other legislation may exist that is relevant to the site.

Legislation includes:

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007.

6.1 Health and Safety at Work Act

All operations on the site must be undertaken by appropriately trained and competent personnel, using methods and equipment approved by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and in compliance with any other relevant Health and Safety Policy.

6.2 Access and Public Rights of Way

CMW has a bridleway (BW1) running along the western edge, a second bridleway (BW7) running along the southern edge and a footpath (FP8) running diagonally across the wood. All paths are used for recreational activities such as walking, dog walking (footpath) and horse-riding, walking and cycling (bridleway).

There are also a large number of created 'desire line' routes along the woodland rides and glades throughout the wood.

It is proposed that all current RoW continue to be maintained, as previously, by the BBC RoW Team. All other paths/desire lines etc should be reviewed on a regular basis which will allow assessments to be made and changes/alterations/additions etc., made where deemed necessary.

6.3 Archaeology and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's)

There are no known Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the site.

6.4 Tree Felling

Felling / thinning of trees on the site (even for safety or heritage reasons) may require a Felling Licence from the Forestry Commission and they should be consulted prior to any works being undertaken.

A protected species (bat/dormouse) survey should be undertaken on any trees prior to them being felled, pruned, have ivy removed or have any other maintenance works undertaken.

6.4.1 English Woodland Grant Scheme

The English Woodland Grant Scheme (eWGS) is a scheme administered by the Forestry Commission for the creation, stewardship and management of woodlands. Funding is available for such items as; woodland planting, ecological assessment and design plans, woodland management and woodland improvements (including thinning and coppicing).

6.5 Risk assessments

A risk assessment should be undertaken for the site and before work parties by a suitably trained and competent individual to ensure there are no undue risks to the site users. This will need to be reviewed annually.

7. Bibliography

8. Appendices

9.1 Plant species list (names follow Stace, 1997).

Alphabetical by common name

Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Common chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
Common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum vulgare</i>
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Common speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Cuckoo pint	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Cut-leaved cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Dog's mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Elm	<i>Ulmus</i> sp.
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Goatsbeard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>
Great willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Herb Bennett	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertanum</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Lesser celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria bulbifer</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>
Perforate St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum perforate</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>

Red bartsia	<i>Odontites vernus</i>
Red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Rough chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Shepherd's purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserine</i>
Smooth sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus</i> sp.
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Sycamore	<i>A. pseudoplatanus</i>
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
White campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i> ssp. <i>alba</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
White dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
Wild arum	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>
Wild teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> sens.lat.
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanata</i>

9.2 Fungi species list (names follow Holden, L, BMS, 2007).

Alphabetical by common name

Birch Polypore	<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>
Candlesnuff Fungus	<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>
Common Puffball	<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>
Honey fungus	<i>Armillaria mellea</i>
Jelly Ear	<i>Auricularia aricula-judae</i>
Jelly Rot	<i>Phlebia tremellosa</i>
Turkeytail	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>
Orange Birch Bolete	<i>Leccinum versipelle</i>
Oyster Mushroom	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>
Pestle Puffball	<i>Handkea excipuliformis</i>
Shaggy Parasol	<i>Macrolepiota rhacodes</i>
Sulphur Tuft	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>
White fibrecap	<i>Inocybe geophylla</i>

9.3 Birds

(Species of Conservation Concern in bold)

Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Stock dove	<i>C. oenas</i>
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
Great Spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>
Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Fieldfare	<i>T. pilaris</i>
Redwing	<i>T. iliacus</i>
Song thrush	<i>T. philomela</i>
Mistle thrush	<i>T. viscivorus</i>
Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
Common whitethroat	<i>S. communis</i>
Lesser whitethroat	<i>S. carruca</i>
Blackcap	<i>S. atricapilla</i>
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Willow warbler	<i>P. trochilus</i>
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Blue tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
Great tit	<i>P. major</i>
Marsh tit	<i>P. palustris</i>
Coal tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Rook	<i>C. frugilegus</i>
Jackdaw	<i>C. monedula</i>
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Linnet	<i>C. cannabina</i>

Lesser redpoll
Bullfinch
Greenfinch
Yellowhammer

C. cabaret
Pyrrhula pyrrhula
Carduelis chloris
Emberiza citrinella

9.4 Mammals

European Hedgehog
European Mole
Common Shrew
Common Pipistrelle
Soprano Pipistrelle
Red fox
Chinese Muntjac
Grey Squirrel
Wood mouse
Bank vole
Field vole

Erinaceus europaeus
Talpa europaea
Sorex araneus
Pipistrellus pipistrellus
P. pygmaeus
Vulpes vulpes
Muntiacus reevesi
Sciurus vulgaris
Apodemus sylvaticus
Myodes glareolus
Microtus agrestis

9.5 Butterflies

Speckled Wood
Small Heath
Meadow Brown
Ringlet
Gatekeeper
Marbled White
Comma
Small Tortoiseshell
Painted Lady
Red Admiral
Peacock
Common Blue
Holly Blue
Small Copper
Large White
Small White
Green-veined White
Orange Tip
Brimstone
Large Skipper
Small Skipper