



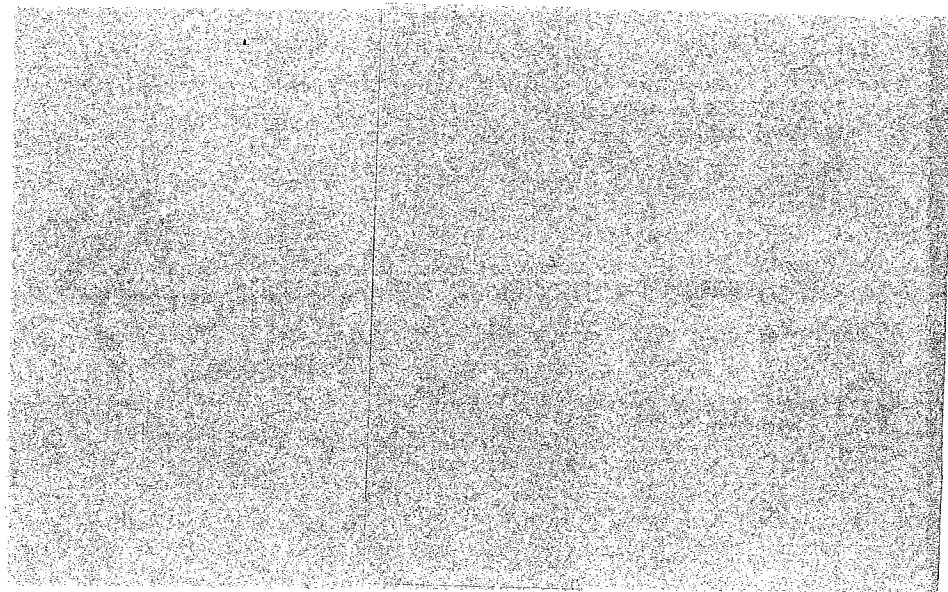
Woodland Management Plan

at

**Green's Wood, Swanmore,
Hampshire**

for

Swanmore Parish Council



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1. CLIENTS BRIEF

Swanmore Parish Council invited quotations in relation to the management of the woodland from an Arboricultural / Woodland management perspective over a 5 year period with a view towards the safe use of the site, visual amenity and wildlife biodiversity.

2. SCOPE OF REPORT

This woodland survey and management plan is prepared within the limitations of the instructions given by the client and the information disclosed for consideration.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE WOODLAND IN THE LANDSCAPE

Green's Wood is located within the parish of Swanmore, which lies to the North of Fareham and to the South East of Winchester in Hampshire.

Green's Wood is situated in the heart of the village and is accessed via a footpath from Church Road and Broad Lane. The woodland forms part of the rural village nature of the area, with large detached properties surrounding most of the perimeter.

The wood is a relatively narrow rectangular unit measuring approximately 130m (SW to NE) by 43m (NE to SE). The woodland runs diagonally South West to North East, with a (permissive) path running through the centre of the site. A ditch runs from the southern section along the western edge to the shallow pools in the north western part of the site.

The woodland appears to be used by the local population to a limited extent and provides walking opportunities and an element of habitat for local wildlife. Evidence of small scale garden waste disposal is present.

The wood is primarily stocked with:

- a high canopy of mature Oak (*Quercus robur*) in the southern part of the site, changing to mature Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in the northern section; occasional middle aged mature Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Gean (*Prunus avium*) in the central and northern sections and occasional middle aged Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) growing through the mature tree canopies.
- A mid canopy layer of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolia*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) throughout the southern section of the site and around the perimeter of the site; and Yew (*Taxus baccata*) in the central and northern section dominating the herbaceous layer.
- Ground flora including ivy and brambles.

4. LONG TERM VISION FOR GREEN'S WOOD

The long term vision for the woodland should include the maintenance of the area as a unit of sustainable and mostly native woodland providing recreation and opportunities for the involvement of the local population, whilst providing a visual amenity.

This can be achieved through such elements as silvicultural intervention to thin the copse and promote favourable conditions for future growth of trees of better form and structure.

Active woodland management will enhance the use of the woodland and increase biodiversity. Public engagement can add to the benefits provided by the woodland through use of volunteers to help with the management of the woodland.

5. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The key management objectives for Green's Wood are to:

1. Maintain and enhance the visual landscape feature of the woodland;
2. Create a more diverse and native woodland capable of sustaining greater numbers and more diverse wildlife;
3. Manage the potential risk of damage by trees to users of the site and adjacent landowners;
4. Enhance the quality and visibility of notable tree examples already on site;
5. Improve recreation opportunities and community use; and
6. Manage plants of garden origin and garden waste within the woodland area.

6. ACTIONS

There are a number of key issues which should be considered in association with the action plan that follows. These include:

- Establishment of native woodland species;
- Provision of appropriate growing conditions to encourage successful tree and herbaceous layer growth (access to light, water, space);
- Threats from pests and diseases introduced by plants of garden origin, invasive species and other organisms;
- Maintenance of access through the woodland for local people to use and enjoy;
- Provision of wildlife habitats to encourage biodiversity;
- Maintaining and encouraging the development of a native woodland for the future.

6.1 Short term programme of works (2015 - 2020)

Task	Years for implementation							Priority
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
1. Removal of plants of garden origin and garden waste to prevent colonisation by undesirable plants and maintain ecological nature of the site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Low	
2. Issue letter to adjacent residents where plants of garden origin and garden waste have been found informing the adjacent resident of the impact upon the ecology of the site and requesting their help in maintaining the site by disposing of waste using the Council facilities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Low	
3. Walked perimeter survey to identify plants of garden origin and garden waste and refer to points 1 and 2 above.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Low	
4. Removal of ivy on 1/5th of the trees throughout the woodland to allow tree condition survey whilst retaining ivy as habitat. Ivy to be removed preferentially from mature trees (over 500mm diameter at 1.5m) and those adjacent to the footpath, secondly around the perimeter of the site and thirdly from within the woodland. Ivy to be allowed to re-grow and provide habitat until cyclical removal in c5 years.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Low	

<p>5. Halo prune (removal of small diameter [$<300\text{mm}$ diameter at 1.5m] trees within the canopy spread and 5m beyond the canopy spread of mature or veteran trees [$>700\text{mm}$ diameter at 1.5m]) to increase light levels to the mature Oak trees in the southern sector.</p> <p>Halo pruning is the removal of competing young to middle aged trees within the canopy spread of mature or veteran trees and 5m beyond to aid daylight and sunlight to reach the subject tree to help ensure that the tree has sufficient photosynthetic opportunity to maintain a healthy system.</p> <p>Overcrowding of the subject tree reduces light and therefore reduces energy production within the tree leaving the tree more susceptible to decay.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Moderate
<p>6. Removal of the Larch (<i>Larix decidua</i>) adjacent to the northern entrance to the site due to its disposition towards adjacent properties and its condition.</p>	✓					Moderate
<p>7. Create and maintain a 1.5m wide path around the perimeter of the site to enable survey for tree condition, assessment of boundary, assessment of encroachment, identification of plant of garden origin.</p> <p>Trees over 200mm diameter at 1.5m to be retained unless their condition requires their removal.</p> <p>These works may be carried out by competent volunteers under the initial supervision of an Arboriculturalist.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Low
<p>8. Removal of 10% of Holly and 10% of Yew throughout out the site to increase light levels to the herbaceous layer and to encourage new tree growth from seed. These works may be carried out by competent volunteers under the initial supervision of an Arboriculturalist.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Low

<p>9. Selection of new self set native trees to be allowed to grow on and protect using 1.2m high tube or net / fine mesh protection (for instance www.farmforestry.co.uk/ or similar).</p> <p>Selection of trees to protect is to be preferentially Oak, Ash, Gean, Birch, Hawthorn, Hazel.</p> <p>Protected trees are to be surveyed annually to ensure that the protection is sufficient. If not sufficient an alternative specification is to be sought from the Arboricultural Consultant.</p> <p>These works may be carried out by competent volunteers.</p>							
<p>10. Removal of 1/5th of the Sycamore to remove the seed source for colonisation by Sycamore seedlings.</p> <p>Mature Sycamore to be removed before the middle aged and young trees.</p> <p>Stumps to be killed to prevent regrowth (for instance www.ecoplug.com/ecoplug-info/ecoplug-how-to-use-or-similar).</p> <p>The intention is for all Sycamore to be removed from the site within 10 years whilst allowing replacement trees to develop to maintain 'continuous cover' woodland.</p> <p>Where sufficiently distance (more than falling distance) from the perimeter of the site and footpath through the site the Sycamore can be killed by herbicide to increase the amount of standing deadwood within the site.</p> <p>Works to small diameter (<200mm diameter at 1.5m) may be carried out by competent volunteers.</p>							

<p>11. Walked tree condition survey identifying significant features that present an unreasonable / above normal risk to users of the site and adjacent properties.</p> <p>Survey to be on a negative return basis where only trees requiring works are to be recorded.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Moderate
<p>12. Implement remedial works identified by the tree condition survey with notice issued to the Local Planning Authority advising them of the works and seeking whether works are exempt or whether a Tree Works Application is necessary prior to implementation.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Moderate
<p>13. Remove low branches from trees adjacent to the footpath to create and maintain reasonable access.</p> <p>Appropriate clearance is 3m above the footpath and 0.5m either side of the footpath.</p> <p>These works may be carried out by competent volunteers. Pruning is to be limited to branches <75mm diameter. Natural target pruning is to be applied. Branch removal to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undercut to 1/3rd of branch thickness within 150mm of desired final cut position • overcut 2.5cm further out from undercut to 1/2 branch thickness and then broken off by hand • final pruning cut to natural target pruning 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Low
<p>14. Coppicing of 1/10th of the Hazel utilising the arisings to protect the stool from Deer browsing.</p> <p>These works may be carried out by competent volunteers.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Low

<p>15. Creation of deadwood habitat. Arisings from tree works to be stacked in piles >3m from the path edge and no higher than 1m. 2mm gauge wire to be stapled to the logs to prevent failure of the stack and to prevent removal of 'firewood'.</p> <p>These works may be carried out by competent volunteers.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Low
<p>16. Unofficial fire sites are to be removed and the logs stapled together to prevent their reuse as seating.</p> <p>These works may be carried out by competent volunteers.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Low
<p>17. Mounds of excavated soil are to be flattened to allow the colonisation by woodland flora and fauna.</p> <p>These works may be carried out by competent volunteers.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Low
<p>18. Seed from trees can be collected and grown on in pots to allow local provenance trees to be planted out in the local area and in the woodland.</p> <p>These works may be carried out by competent volunteers.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Low
<p>19. Review woodland management plan to identify success of implementation of the above tasks, identify changes in the desired management of the woodland and to identify new tasks and to provide management recommendations to improve the woodland.</p>	~	~	~	~	~	~	Low

7. NEXT STEPS

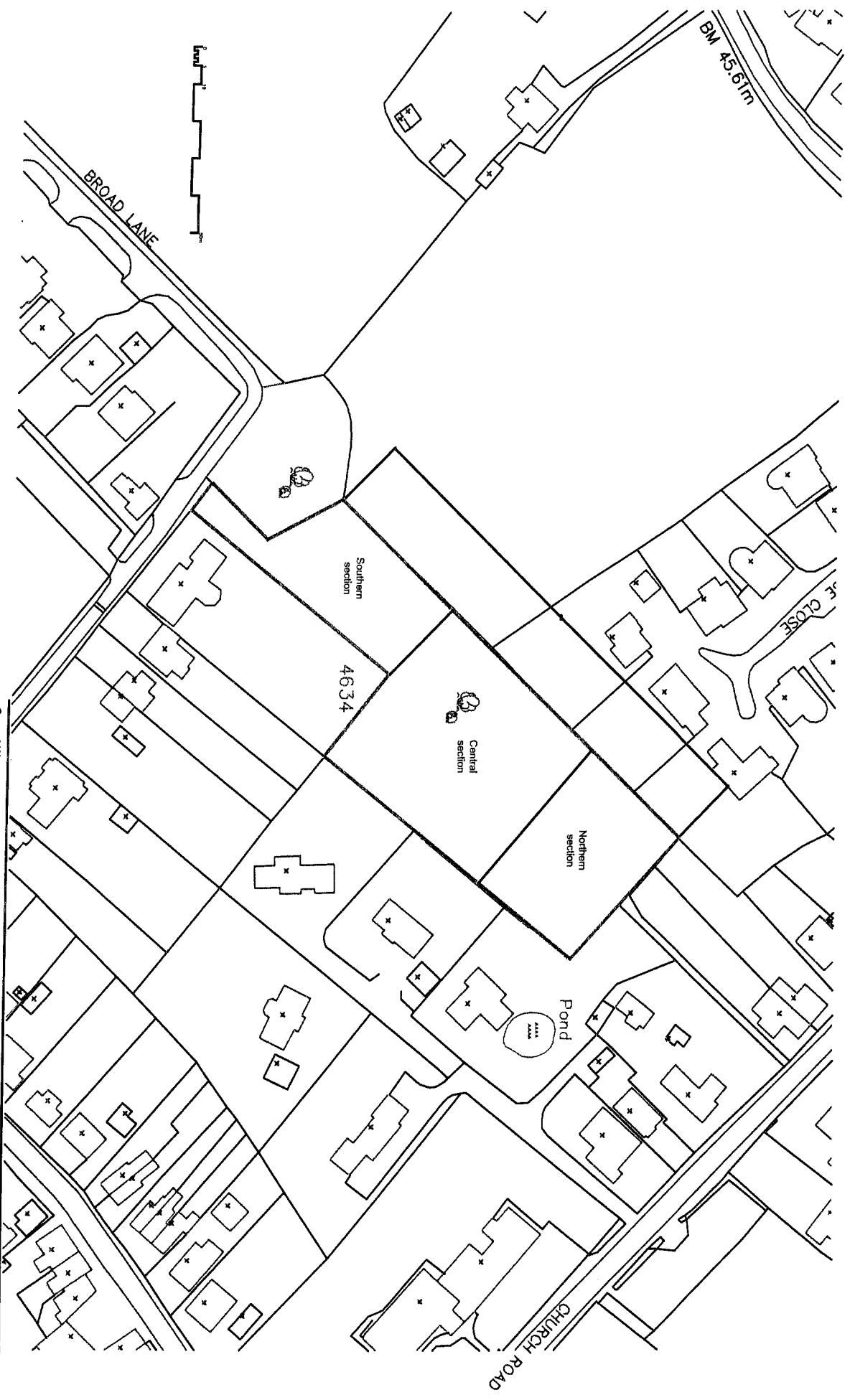
The implementation of the Woodland Management Plan will require submission to the Local Planning Authority to seek their consent for tasks 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 14.

The Woodland Management Plan can be submitted to the Forestry Commission to determine whether they have an interest in the management of the site (Felling Licence). It is not anticipated that this is likely due to the limited amount of tree removals. The number of tree removals is likely to be less than 5m³ per quarter.

Consultation with local environmental groups can be carried out to determine whether works can reasonably be carried out on a volunteer basis.

For works that cannot be carried out under a volunteer basis (Tree Condition Survey and larger tree removals) then these works ought to be issued to appropriate Contractors to seek the implementation of these elements of the Woodland Management Plan. A brief for these works may need to be developed and issued for Tender.

Site notices for the site and to adjacent landowners to advise and inform them of the proposed works, timescales and the reasons for the implementation. This can be through the parish magazine and or notice boards.



General / Key:
 Woodland area



Site:
 Green's Wood, Swamore

Data:
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