

Woodland Management Plan

Centenary Wood



Date:	30th May 2012
Date of last review:	
Owner / tenant:	David Rees
Agent / contact:	David Rees: owp@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Signed declaration of tenure rights and agreement to public availability of the plan (UKWAS 1.1.3/1.1.5/2.1.2):	

1. Background information

1.1 Location

Nearest town, village or feature	Charlbury Oxfordshire
Grid reference	SP 365 195
Total Area	4.57 ha

1.2 Description of the woodland in the landscape

Centenary Wood is owned by Oxfordshire County Council and is managed as a community amenity to provide appropriate recreation/learning opportunities. The wood is situated adjacent to a housing estate on the eastern edge of Charlbury. It is nestled in a re-entrant valley fringed with mature hedgerows and is not obvious in the landscape. The internal landscape is immature and is expected to change as the canopy closes to increase the contrast between open rides and developed canopy.

1.3 History of management

The wood was planted between 1991 and 1993 on land owned by Oxfordshire County Council with FC grant aid (WGS 016000252) to mark the centenary of Oxfordshire as a county council 1889-1989. Establishment problems were encountered due to soil, south-facing aspect and the habit of yellow meadow ants of building nests in the treeshelers; and untimely weeding. Trees were replanted on several occasions including on ground originally earmarked as open ground and have resulted in the informal mosaic of woodland and open ground now completing establishment. From 2006 the Oxfordshire Woodland Project set up a series of ongoing formative pruning workshops for interested local people which now meets twice a year. This group may possibly form the nucleus of a tasks team and has links with recently formed Sustainable Charlbury.

A management committee, made up of local residents and local government officers, meets from time to time.

Oxfordshire County Council owns a small amount of other woodland in the county. Management of these unrelated sites would not benefit greatly from a co-ordinated approach due to geography and tenure.

There are original and recent management records for this site. The original Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) paper file resides in the Countryside service and is marked 'Centenary Wood First File'. Since ~2008 the Oxfordshire Woodland Project has maintained paper and electronic files, accessible by site file number 0446 Centenary Wood and is stored at the Woodland Project office at the OCC Natural Environment Team (Environment & Economy).

2. Woodland information

2.1 Areas and features

2.1.1 Designated areas

• Other designations eg: National Parks (NPs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

Centenary Wood lies within the Cotswolds AONB. No other national designations are recorded (FC LIS search May 2010, magic search April 2011).

The woodland is wholly contained within the North Evenlode Valleys Conservation Target Area (CTA).

Ditchley Road Quarry SSSI lies within 1000m to the north-east, cited for geological reasons.

2.1.2 Rare and important species

No rare or important species were recorded within the boundary of the wood, however several species are recorded nearby, according to the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) overlay, titled Oxfordshire Protected and Notable Species (2010).

2.1.3 Habitats

- Habitats of notable species or subject to HAPs
- Unimproved grassland
- Rides and open ground

Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets:

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland 'management and restoration.

Unimproved grassland exists for the time being under the plantation. This habitat will persist indefinitely over the rides and footpaths.

2.1.4 Water

None

2.1.5 Landscape

The wood is wholly contained by the Cotswolds AONB.

The woodland is not prominent in the landscape.

There are no landscape features, rock exposures or historic landscapes.

The wood is not prominent from the road and is only prominent to householders in the immediate vicinity.

2.1.6 Cultural features

- Public rights of way
- Permissive footpaths

Bridleway #156/13 is routed on adjacent property at the northern boundary of the wood.

Footpath #156/14 forms the principal foot access to the wood and travels over the main east/west-oriented ride.

Footpath #156/15 is routed partly within the property at the southern (bottom) boundary. Open access over the woodland area is allowed, allowing free informal connection between these Rights of Way.

2.1.7 Archaeological features

- Historical features

Grim's Ditch, an ancient archaeological linear feature occupies Cpt F, created for the purpose and maintained as open ground.

2.2 Woodland resource characteristics

Economic: Centenary wood is a young broadleaved high forest plantation and is currently in the pre-production phase. It contains ash, oak cherry and beech, currently managed to optimise the somewhat limited site potential for high quality timber production. These species are appropriate for the objectives. The genetics of the planted stock is acceptable and allows the development of straight, upright trees over most of the ground without any special problems. The wild cherry has acceptable branching characteristics and the strain used is capable of suckering.

The presence of scattered hazel may produce a significant resource to the community in the form of bean poles and pea sticks.

Walnut, cherry and hazel may possibly provide fruit, given adequate grey squirrel control.

Social: The woodland is very well placed to deliver social benefits such as informal recreation, formal recreation/land-use appreciation and wildlife observation.

Environmental: The use of native broadleaves and the creation of generous rides will provide conditions for the development of valuable (priority) broadleaved woodland habitat.

2.3 Site description

The woodland is situated on a south-facing corn brash bank adjacent to a prosperous community. Compartment BC occupies the main bank area and contains poorly growing trees when compared with cpts occupying the more level ground at the top and bottom of the bank. Extraction access is provided from the Ticknell Piece road via the bowls club car park. Double gates lead on to the adjacent municipal field from which access to the principal woodland ride is gained without the need to negotiate more than gently sloping terrain. Vehicular access to most of the woodland is possible during dry weather but may need to be restricted to avoid costly restoration of turf for walkers. The southwestern leg of the woodland is not furnished with any internal trackway and future access would need to be made from the County Council-owned field to the north. The ground flora is neither a relic of ley monoculture nor diverse enough to become interesting. However, development of light & shade contrasts may improve diversity in future. There is scope to develop floral diversity on the shallow bank soils on which woodland development has been poor.

2.4 Significant hazards, constraints and threats

Bark stripping damage by grey squirrel was observed for the first time in cpt i in the southwestern leg in 2009. This has the potential to severely damage the woodland, particularly with respect to timber production and amenity. There is an intermediate voltage electricity wayleave crossing the southwestern leg of the woodland, forming the boundary between cpts h and i.

Although considered endemic locally, muntjac, roe and fallow deer have not made any developmental impact on this site.

3. Long term vision, management objectives and strategy

3.1 Long term vision

To provide a community woodland for public benefit.

3.2 Management objectives

To provide to local people the many benefits that come from the multi-purpose management of broadleaved woodland.

In particular:

- free public access for quiet recreation,
- creation of a wood resource for the future
- creation of woodland habitat to consolidate or strengthen local biodiversity
- provide opportunities for quiet recreation and learning about the natural world and the sustainable production of wood, fruits and other commodities for the benefit of the owner and the community

3.3 Strategy

Work with the community so far as is possible to promote the mix of benefits derivable from the objectives. Proposals will be judged on their capacity to improve present and future value to the community, particularly with respect to sustainability. Conventional forestry techniques will be followed and adapted according to the conditions prevailing on site.

Develop quality timber growth and production where possible through the practical efforts of the community and through the use of broadleaved species. An informal system of (in-kind) reward for notable voluntary effort, will be considered.

Develop biodiversity where opportunities present.

Foster new links with other sections of the community where it contributes to overall benefit.

Maintain physical and legal access to and through the woodland for all-comers.

3.4 Woodfuel initiative

Would you be interested in receiving information on funding opportunities for the purchase of harvesting machinery or wood fuel boilers?

yes

4. Management prescriptions / operations

4.1 Silvicultural systems

4.1.1 Harvesting

It is intended that the majority of Centenary Wood should be managed as high forest with stands of trees progressively thinned over decades to produce the highest quality timber attainable consistent with a multiple-objective approach. Thinning will be undertaken with an eye to good silviculture and the wishes of engaged volunteers. Management conditions are likely to favour annual harvesting of thinnings (5% per annum), during the period of first thinning. Managing small areas as productive coppice and its variations is seen as being compatible with quality wood production and may be developed should the community desire it. Productive coppice may be low-pollarded in response to increase in browsing pressure.

This approach is intended to be simple and pragmatic. It is intended to be within the grasp of the community to appreciate and potentially to assume some control. For the time being, continuous cover forestry is not to be addressed due to the uncertainty of skilled management control in the long term.

The plan does not seek to maximise economic return from the land use.

4.1.2 Phased felling and restructuring of plantations

None

4.1.3 Establishment, restocking and regeneration

The establishment phase of Centenary Wood should be regarded as complete. However since the site seems to favour natural regeneration it may be possible to recruit some into existing stands where the form is clearly superior to that which pre-exists or where natural gaps may benefit from being closed.

4.2 New planting

N/A

4.3 Other operations

Encroachment by blackthorn threatens to limit access over the site over time. Encroachment will be limited by canopy shade from planted trees in certain parts but elsewhere control must be through rotational cutting and possibly by chemical control if deemed unavoidable. Rotational cutting is seen as a good means of maintaining control of the extent and physical structure of scrub. Rotational cutting may offer the opportunity of broadcasting native herb seed onto the freshly cut and largely unoccupied area. Seek advice from BBOWT and permissions for seed/plant collections of local provenance, from Natural England, prior to work.

4.4 Protection and maintenance

4.4.1 Pest and disease management

Monitor and control grey squirrel numbers to a level that leaves the woodland undamaged. Control methodology is likely to be through the Kania-type break-back traps but live trapping and warfarin baiting are alternatives.

There is at present no detectable impact of deer on the wood. This may change within the life of this plan, potentially to affect the diversity of ground flora. Monitor deer browsing of ground flora and of any coppice on site and take action, preferably in conjunction with neighbours, as appropriate.

4.4.2 Fire plan

Very low risk of uncontrollable fire: There is no history of fire-lighting on site and broadleaves are relatively low risk. However, there is no water on site and vehicuklaraccess gates are locked. Seek advice from Charlbury Fire Station.

4.4.3 Waste disposal and pollution

Machinery will be serviced and fuelled off-site.

The area in the region of Cpt I/H was formerly used as a waste tip (reportedly ash) in early 20th century, of which there is now no sign, except for improved growth.

4.4.4 Protection from unauthorised activities

There is no history of unauthorised use of the site nor any imminent threat of same.

4.4.5 Protection of other identified services and values

N/A

4.5 Game management

N/A

4.6 Protecting and enhancing landscape, biodiversity and special features

4.6.1 Management of designated areas

Current and proposed management complementsCotswold AONB objectives.

4.6.2 Measures to enhance biodiversity and other special features (2.1.1k and 6.1.1)

This Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan target irs relevant: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland -Manage and restore.

The woodland has been planted with native broadleaved trees and will be managed in such a way as to diversify structure where practicable. Despite the presence of other objectives the value of this wood to biodiversity will be close to the maximum possible for any woodland designed for the site.

Scrub will be managed to control encroachment and to maintain diverse structure containing several developmental phases. This will be undertaken as part of ride management. Ride management will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of ther JNCC publication: Managing Rides and Glades to achieve a diversity of ride structure with managed light and shade. Opportunities for seeding ground under licence with uncommon species will be investigated. This woodland falls within the North Evenlode Valleys Conservation Target Area.

The location of Grim's Ditch at the far south-eastern corner has been left unplanted.

4.6.3 Special measures for ASNW and SNW

N/A

4.6.4 Special measures for PAWS

N/A

4.6.5 Measures to mitigate impacts on landscape and neighbouring land (3.1.2)

N/A

4.7 Management of social and cultural values

4.7.1 Archaeology and sites of cultural interest

Maintain Grim's Ditch (Cpt F) free from encroaching scrub.

4.7.2 Public access and impacts on local people

Maintain public rights of way and establish a permissive freedom to roam.

Maintain and increase use of this community wood by local people for a variety of complementary activities, particularly sustainable woodland development, to be decided and policed in conjunction with local people.

5. Consultation

Organisation/individual	Date received	Comment	Response/action
OCC	0000-00-00	OCC	noted, no additional action
Mr David Cannell	2010-09-03	management plan content	
Charlbury public consultation meeting	2010-09-23	disabled access provision	

6. Monitoring plan summary

Objective number, issue or UKWAS Requirement	Indicator	Method of assessment	Monitoring period	Responsibility	How will information be used?
Quality timber production	trees pruned at the correct quantity & quality & timing	One quality timber tree every 8x8m on average, pruned to~5m	to 2020	OWP/OCC, via community	feedback into practical management on site
Quality timber production	damage to trees by Grey Squirrel kept within acceptable limits	visual check of crowns of trees, notably beech, oak	annually in summer to 2030	OWP/OCC	feedback into intensity of gs control
Quality timber production	favoured trees with at least 33% of crown without immediate competition. Free growth conditions for certain trees	visual	from 2015, then ongoing	OWP/OCC	feedback into practical management on site
Quality timber production	control of timber harvesting	ensure that wood removals do not affect quantity and quality of subsequent crops of trees	ongoing	OWP/OCC	feedback into allowable periodic felling
Biodiversity	flora: sward & scrub architecture	assessment of flora after a base-line survey	biennial survey	OWP/OCC	Judge effectiveness of effort and direct future activity
Biodiversity	avian use and site occupation	survey by local enthusiast(s)	annually	OWP/OCC	Judge effectiveness of effort and direct future activity
Public enjoyment and access	numbers using the wood informally and via organised events	to be considered	5-yearly	OWP/OCC	To inform plans for development of enjoyment of the wood.

7. Work programmes

7.1 Outline long-term work programme

Compartment	Activity	Year
A	Thin to release the best stems from competition, removing 25% of stems every ~5 years. Thin to favour the best quality trees in terms of vigour and form, irrespective of species. Crowns of individual favoured trees to be substantially free from competition (min of 33% of crown free after thinning)	6-10
A	Monitor grey squirrel status and damage risk. Take appropriate action, taking advice as necessary.	6-10
B + C	Manage hazel on an agreed coppice cycle, to be determined by experience	6-10
B + C	Maintain augmentation plantings where appropriate	6-10
B + C	maintain a rolling programme of thorn control until canopy closure	6-10
E	Thin aggressively to the best stems to approximate free growth conditions: halo thin favoured trees and selectively thin remainder removing 25% of stems. In successive years, maintain the halo to minimise lower branch death.	6-10
G	Selectively thin to remove 25% of stems in a 5-year period to favour the best quality trees	6-10
G	Monitor & control grey squirrel	6-10
Yew path	Trim yew and cut grass	6-10
H	Selectively thin to remove 25% of stems over a 5 year period to free up favoured trees for further growth	6-10
J	selectively thin to favour best stems by removing 25% of competing stems	6-10
K	Selectively thin oak to allow best trees to gro on, removing 25% of stems.	6-10
K	monitor gre squirrel damage and take action as necessary.	6-10
A	Thin to release the best stems from competition, removing 25% of stems every ~5 years. Thin to favour the best quality trees in terms of vigour and form, irrespective of species. Crowns of individual favoured trees to be substantially free from competition (min of 33% of crown free after thinning)	11-15
A	Monitor grey squirrel status and damage risk. Take appropriate action, taking advice as necessary.	11-15
B + C	Thin to release best stems from competition, possibly co-ordinating with local groups for sale of produce	11-15
B + C	Manage hazel on an agreed coppice cycle, to be determined by experience	11-15
B + C	Maintain augmentation plantings where appropriate	11-15
B + C	maintain a rolling programme of thorn control until canopy closure	11-15
E	Thin aggressively to the best stems to approximate free growth conditions: halo thin favoured trees and selectively thin remainder removing 25% of stems. In successive years, maintain the halo to minimise lower branch death.	11-15
G	Selectively thin to remove 25% of stems in a 5-year period to favour the best quality trees	11-15
G	Monitor & control grey squirrel	11-15
Yew path	Trim yew and cut grass	11-15
H	Selectively thin to remove 25% of stems over a 5 year period to free up favoured trees for further growth	11-15
I	pollard for firewood	11-15
J	selectively thin to favour best stems by removing 25% of competing stems	11-15
K	Selectively thin oak to allow best trees to gro on, removing 25% of stems.	11-15
K	monitor gre squirrel damage and take action as necessary.	11-15
A	Thin to release the best stems from competition, removing 25% of stems every ~5 years. Thin to favour the best quality trees in terms of vigour and form, irrespective of species. Crowns of individual favoured trees to be substantially free from competition (min of 33% of crown free after thinning)	16-20

A	Monitor grey squirrel status and damage risk. Take appropriate action, taking advice as necessary.	16-20
B + C	Thin to release best stems from competition, possibly co-ordinating with local groups for sale of produce	16-20
B + C	Manage hazel on an agreed coppice cycle, to be determined by experience	16-20
B + C	Maintain augmentation plantings where appropriate	16-20
B + C	maintain a rolling programme of thorn control until canopy closure	16-20
E	Thin aggressively to the best stems to approximate free growth conditions: halo thin favoured trees and selectively thin remainder removing 25% of stems. In successive years, maintain the halo to minimise lower branch death.	16-20
G	Selectively thin to remove 25% of stems in a 5-year period to favour the best quality trees	16-20
G	Monitor & control grey squirrel	16-20
Yew path	Trim yew and cut grass	16-20
H	Selectively thin to remove 25% of stems over a 5 year period to free up favoured trees for further growth	16-20
J	selectively thin to favour best stems by removing 25% of competing stems	16-20
K	Selectively thin oak to allow best trees to gro on, removing 25% of stems.	16-20
K	monitor gre squirrel damage and take action as necessary.	16-20

7.2 Short-term work programme

Compartment	Activity	Year
A	Prune selected trees (~25%) for timber over winter months (cherry & walnut in Jun/Jul/Aug)	1
A	Consider recruiting natural seeding and suckering of cherry & ash by protecting with treeshelters & mulch (treeshelters to be raised off surface of the soil to discourage ant occupation, then removed early)	1
A	Respace existing pocket of cherry suckering. Consider removing the occasional planted tree where rapid natural regeneration is of clearly superior quality and vigour.	1
A	Arrange for collection of cherry fruit and hazel nuts by community	1
A	Residents to monitor grey squirrel presence and also damage in June/July/August, identify sample nibbles on main stem just above branches as likely for-runner to wholesale bark stripping the following year.	1
B + C	Continue formative pruning of ash	1
B + C	Take a policy decision on gaps in Cpt B&C. Alternatives are: -Augment with new planting or suitably protected natural regeneration , -Re-allocate Open Ground (now planted in other parts) to already understocked areas on which trees are not doing well.	1
B + C	Manage hazel by harvesting and cutting as appropriate to establish active coppice cycle, possibly by a combination of draw coppicing and low pollarding, co-ordinating in advance with local sustainability group/garden society	1
D	Pollard wild cherry tree and others interfering with two walnut trees.	1
D	Recruit obvious natural regeneration in gaps using treeshelters & mulch	1
D	Continue formative pruning on selected trees.	1
E	Continue programme of formative pruning to just 5m on this bank, then stop.	1
E	carry out rolling programme of thorn cutting and wildflower seeding	1
G	Formative prune to 7m.	1
G	Monitor for grey squirrel damage in June/July/Aug and plan control to prevent substantial damage in succeeding years.	1
Yew path	Trim yew	1
Yew path	Cut grass around memorial	1
H	Prune selected timber trees in winter.	1
I	prune where possible	1
I	mark off dangerous hole to divert footpath users.	1
J	prune selected ash trees for timber production	1

J	Monitor for grey squirrel damage	1
K	Prune selected trees for timber in the winter months, note high tension powerline wires.	1
K	monitor for grey squirrel damage and take action as necessary	1
A	Consider recruiting natural seeding and suckering of cherry & ash by protecting with treeshelters & mulch (treeshelters to be raised off surface of the soil to discourage ant occupation, then removed early)	2
A	Control a proportion of blackthorn and broadcast locally collected seed onto cut areas, acting with the advice of BBOWT/ NE.	2
A	Arrange for collection of cherry fruit and hazel nuts by community	2
A	Residents to monitor grey squirrel presence and also damage in June/July/August, identify sample nibbles on main stem just above branches as likely for-runner to wholesale bark stripping the following year.	2
B + C	Commence rolling programme of blackthorn cutting until canopy closure, cut~20% of blackthorn area annually to prevent further encroachment. Broadcast locally collected (& licensed) herb seed after cutting	2
B + C	Implement policy on gaps in Cpt B&C	2
D	Recruit obvious natural regeneration in gaps using treeshelters & mulch	2
E	carry out rolling programme of thorn cutting and wildflower seeding	2
G	Formative prune to 7m.	2
G	Monitor for grey squirrel damage in June/July/Aug and plan control to prevent substantial damage in succeeding years.	2
Yew path	Trim yew	2
Yew path	Cut grass around memorial	2
Yew path	Add bench	2
I	prune where possible	2
J	Monitor for grey squirrel damage	2
K	monitor for grey squirrel damage and take action as necessary	2
K	Harvest hazel poles and low pollard to stimulate high quality replacement growth beyond deer browsing height. Co-ordinate with other hazel cutting activity and local demand.	2
A	Prune selected trees (~25%) for timber over winter months (cherry & walnut in Jun/Jul/Aug)	3
A	Consider recruiting natural seeding and suckering of cherry & ash by protecting with treeshelters & mulch (treeshelters to be raised off surface of the soil to discourage ant occupation, then removed early)	3
A	Control a proportion of blackthorn and broadcast locally collected seed onto cut areas, acting with the advice of BBOWT/ NE.	3
A	Arrange for collection of cherry fruit and hazel nuts by community	3
A	Residents to monitor grey squirrel presence and also damage in June/July/August, identify sample nibbles on main stem just above branches as likely for-runner to wholesale bark stripping the following year.	3
B + C	Continue formative pruning of ash	3
B + C	Commence rolling programme of blackthorn cutting until canopy closure, cut~20% of blackthorn area annually to prevent further encroachment. Broadcast locally collected (& licensed) herb seed after cutting	3
B + C	Manage hazel by harvesting and cutting as appropriate to establish active coppice cycle, possibly by a combination of draw coppicing and low pollarding, co-ordinating in advance with local sustainability group/garden society	3
D	Continue formative pruning on selected trees.	3
E	Continue programme of formative pruning to just 5m on this bank, then stop.	3
E	carry out rolling programme of thorn cutting and wildflower seeding	3
G	Formative prune to 7m.	3
G	Monitor for grey squirrel damage in June/July/Aug and plan control to prevent substantial damage in succeeding years.	3
Yew path	Trim yew	3
Yew path	Cut grass around memorial	3

H	Prune selected timber trees in winter.	3
I	prune where possible	3
I	pollard for firewood	3
J	prune selected ash trees for timber production	3
J	Monitor for grey squirrel damage	3
K	Prune selected trees for timber in the winter months, note high tension powerline wires.	3
K	monitor for grey squirrel damage and take action as necessary	3
A	Control a proportion of blackthorn and broadcast locally collected seed onto cut areas, acting with the advice of BBOWT/ NE.	4
A	Arrange for collection of cherry fruit and hazel nuts by community	4
A	Residents to monitor grey squirrel presence and also damage in June/July/August, identify sample nibbles on main stem just above branches as likely for-runner to wholesale bark stripping the following year.	4
B + C	Commence rolling programme of blackthorn cutting until canopy closure, cut~20% of blackthorn area annually to prevent further encroachment. Broadcast locally collected (& licensed) herb seed after cutting	4
E	carry out rolling programme of thorn cutting and wildflower seeding	4
G	Formative prune to 7m.	4
G	Monitor for grey squirrel damage in June/July/Aug and plan control to prevent substantial damage in succeeding years.	4
Yew path	Trim yew	4
Yew path	Cut grass around memorial	4
I	prune where possible	4
J	Monitor for grey squirrel damage	4
K	monitor for grey squirrel damage and take action as necessary	4
K	Harvest hazel poles and low pollard to stimulate high quality replacement growth beyond deer browsing height. Co-ordinate with other hazel cutting activity and local demand.	4
A	Prune selected trees (~25%) for timber over winter months (cherry & walnut in Jun/Jul/Aug)	5
A	Respace existing pocket of cherry suckering. Consider removing the occasional planted tree where rapid natural regeneration is of clearly superior quality and vigour.	5
A	Control a proportion of blackthorn and broadcast locally collected seed onto cut areas, acting with the advice of BBOWT/ NE.	5
A	Arrange for collection of cherry fruit and hazel nuts by community	5
A	Residents to monitor grey squirrel presence and also damage in June/July/August, identify sample nibbles on main stem just above branches as likely for-runner to wholesale bark stripping the following year.	5
B + C	Continue formative pruning of ash	5
B + C	Commence rolling programme of blackthorn cutting until canopy closure, cut~20% of blackthorn area annually to prevent further encroachment. Broadcast locally collected (& licensed) herb seed after cutting	5
B + C	Manage hazel by harvesting and cutting as appropriate to establish active coppice cycle, possibly by a combination of draw coppicing and low pollarding, co-ordinating in advance with local sustainability group/garden society	5
D	Continue formative pruning on selected trees.	5
E	Continue programme of formative pruning to just 5m on this bank, then stop.	5
E	carry out rolling programme of thorn cutting and wildflower seeding	5
G	Formative prune to 7m.	5
G	Monitor for grey squirrel damage in June/July/Aug and plan control to prevent substantial damage in succeeding years.	5
Yew path	Trim yew	5
Yew path	Cut grass around memorial	5
H	Prune selected timber trees in winter.	5
I	prune where possible	5
J	prune selected ash trees for timber production	5

J	Monitor for grey squirrel damage	5
K	Prune selected trees for timber in the winter months, note high tension powerline wires.	5
K	monitor for grey squirrel damage and take action as necessary	5

8. Costings

8. Costings

Funding for woodland work is anticipated from

- The owner, Oxfordshire County Council: 50%
- Sources of grant aid: 40%
- Timber income: 5%
- Local fundraising: 5%

9. Maps

Map No./Title	Description
1,2	compartment maps and dominant species
3,4	felling proposals, aerial photograph (plotted Sept 2010)
5,6	Copy of Rights of Way definitive map Large scale map showing Rights of Way network
7	Blackthorn encroachment (to be managed alongside ride maintenance)

10. Thinning, felling and restocking proposals

Table A

compartment	main species	total work area (ha)	estimated volume to be harvested during work periods (m ³)			
			years 1-5	years 6-10	years 11-15	years 16-20
Centenary Wood, A		0	0	0	0	0
Centenary Wood, B + C		0	0	0	0	0
Centenary Wood, D		0	0	0	0	0
Centenary Wood, E		0	0	0	0	0
Centenary Wood, F		0	0	0	0	0
Centenary Wood, G		0	0	0	0	0
Centenary Wood, Yew path		0	0	0	0	0
Centenary Wood, H		0	0	0	0	0
Centenary Wood, I		0	0	0	0	0
Centenary Wood, J		0	0	0	0	0
Centenary Wood, K		0	0	0	0	0

Table B

compartment	area to be worked	type of felling	Felled area composition	type of license	change in woodland type	preferred claim year	restock species	natural regeneration	standard proposals	notes
A	100%	T	100% Broadleaved 0% Conifer	U	from: BL_P to: BL			0%		selective thin to remove 25% of stems
G	100%	T	100% Broadleaved 0% Conifer	U	from: BL_P to: BL			0%		selective thin to remove 25% of stems
H	100%	T	100% Broadleaved 0% Conifer	U	from: BL_P to: BL			0%		selective thin to remove 25% of stems
I	100%	FC	100% Broadleaved 0% Conifer	C	from: BL_P to: BL			0%		cutting may leave high stumps to reduce deer browsing, restocking to be by coppice regrowth and any natural regeneration, to a minimum of 1100 stools/ha
J	100%	T	100% Broadleaved 0% Conifer	U	from: BL_P to: BL			0%		selective thin to remove 25% of stems

K	100%	T	100% Broadleaved 0% Conifer	U	from: BL_P to: BL			0%		selective thin to remove 25% of stems
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woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: A



Area: 1.15 ha

Stocking density: 400 trees per hectare

Management Notes

Stocking rate as judge by canopy cover is around 50% of gross cpt area though this figure will increase as crowns of scattered trees coalesce. Formative pruning is therefore all the more important in the absence of side shade. Pruning has been timely with small wounds created for the most part and is now well advanced. Note that most beech has not been pruned, in anticipation of grey squirrel damage. Portential quality has been maintained in this compartment to date. Growth rate is acceptable. Badger tracks evident at eastern end. Agree in advance grey squirrel control measures and means to fund action. Blackthorn is present and expanding on eastern and southern edges.

Some evidence of cherry, ash and hazel regeneration.

Management History

Establishment of trees on site has been difficuklt, partly due to dry conditions and ant colonisation of shelters.

Year	Activity
1, 2, 3	Consider recruiting natural seeding and suckering of cherry & ash by protecting with treeshelters & mulch (treeshelters to be raised off surface of the soil to discourage ant occupation, then removed early)
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Arrange for collection of cherry fruit and hazel nuts by community
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Residents to monitor grey squirrel presence and also damage in June/July/August, identify sample nibbles on main stem just above branches as likely for-runner to wholesale bark stripping the following year.
1, 3, 5	Prune selected trees (~25%) for timber over winter months (cherry & walnut in Jun/Jul/Aug)
1, 5	Respace existing pocket of cherry suckering. Consider removing the occasional planted tree where rapid natural regeneration is of clearly superior quality and vigour.
2, 3, 4, 5	Control a proportion of blackthorn and broadcast locally collected seed onto cut areas, acting with the advice of BBOWT/ NE.
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	Thin to release the best stems from competition, removing 25% of stems every ~5 years. Thin to favour the best quality trees in terms of vigour and form, irrespective of species. Crowns of individual favoured trees to be substantially free from competition (min of 33% of crown free after thinning)

6-10, 11-15, 16-20	Monitor grey squirrel status and damage risk. Take appropriate action, taking advice as necessary.
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Inventory

composition	species	age	dbh	height	basal area	form
20%	Cherry	21	15 cm	9 m	1.63 m ²	
50%	Ash	21	10 cm	8 m	1.81 m ²	
10%	Hazel	21	6 cm	4 m	0.13 m ²	
20%	Beech	21	10 cm	8 m	0.72 m ²	

Total basal area	4.29 m ²
Basal area per ha	3.73 m ²

woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: B + C



Area: 1.43 ha

Stocking density: 400 trees per hectare

Management Notes

This compartment has very patchy groups of trees, probably as a result of poor success rate at planting. Stands are denser in the west (up to ~700/ha). The rate of growth has been modest, probably due to modest depth of soil on this bank. Ash form is good, resulting from a programme of formative pruning (still in progress in 2010). Blackthorn encroachment will shortly start to limit access in western parts of this area. Blackthorn control in understocked areas will need to be undertaken indefinitely unless gaps are planted, possibly with hazel.

Query use of woodland as honeybee forage, with hive(s) in quietest corner but note presence of badger, Cpt i

Take advice on the biodiversity value of scarifying & sowing with conservation seed mixture over a small selected area of the poorest part of this area. Alternatively spread locally collected native seed (eg devilsbit scabious, downy woundwort with advice from BBOWT, licence from NE) over newly cut blackthorn areas.

Management History

This area has been replanted more than once, resulting in a deviation from the original plan. Areas originally earmarked as rides are now planted while other planted areas (eastern end) are resulting in bare ground or very lightly populated woodland.

Year	Activity
1	Take a policy decision on gaps in Cpt B&C. Alternatives are: -Augment with new planting or suitably protected natural regeneration , -Re-allocate Open Ground (now planted in other parts) to already understocked areas on which trees are not doing well.
1, 3, 5	Continue formative pruning of ash
1, 3, 5	Manage hazel by harvesting and cutting as appropriate to establish active coppice cycle, possibly by a combination of draw coppicing and low pollarding, co-ordinating in advance with local sustainability group/garden society
2	Implement policy on gaps in Cpt B&C
2, 3, 4, 5	Commence rolling programme of blackthorn cutting until canopy closure, cut~20% of blackthorn area annually to prevent further encroachment. Broadcast locally collected (& licensed) herb seed after cutting

6-10, 11-15, 16-20	Manage hazel on an agreed coppice cycle, to be determined by experience
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	Maintain augmentation plantings where appropriate
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	maintain a rolling programme of thorn control until canopy closure
11-15, 16-20	Thin to release best stems from competition, possibly co-ordinating with local groups for sale of produce

Inventory

composition	species	age	dbh	height	basal area	form
80%	Ash - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	20	8 cm	6 m	2.3 m ²	
10%	Hazel - <i>Corylus avellana</i>	20	5 cm	4 m	0.11 m ²	
10%		20	6 cm	4 m	0.16 m ²	

Total basal area	2.57 m ²
Basal area per ha	1.8 m ²

woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: D



Area: 0.16 ha

Stocking density: 600 trees per hectare

Management Notes

A few good quality timber trees that have been pruned in this small compartment. Two walnut trees *J. regia* have been established next to a wolf cherry

Management History

Year	Activity
1	Pollard wild cherry tree and others interfering with two walnut trees.
1, 2	Recruit obvious natural regeneration in gaps using treeshelters & mulch
1, 3, 5	Continue formative pruning on selected trees.

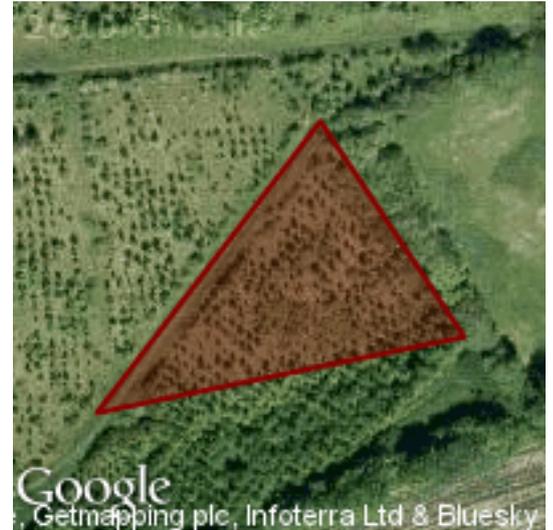
Inventory

composition	species	age	dbh	height	basal area	form
40%	Ash - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	22	7 cm	8 m	0.15 m ²	
40%	Beech - <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	22	7 cm	6 m	0.15 m ²	
20%	Cherry - <i>Prunus avium</i>	22	13 cm	9 m	0.25 m ²	

Total basal area	0.55 m ²
Basal area per ha	3.44 m ²

woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: E



Area: 0.35 ha

Stocking density: 500 trees per hectare

Management Notes
Tree form is good as a result of formative pruning. Tree vigour is limited by the soil but currently seems acceptable. Trees may need to be thinned aggressively to try to maintain adequate growth on this challenging bank. Encroaching blackthorn present at the eastern boundary and leap-frogging into the main area.

Management History

Year	Activity
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	carry out rolling programme of thorn cutting and wildflower seeding
1, 3, 5	Continue programme of formative pruning to just 5m on this bank, then stop.
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	Thin aggressively to the best stems to approximate free growth conditions: halo thin favoured trees and selectively thin remainder removing 25% of stems. In successive years, maintain the halo to minimise lower branch death.

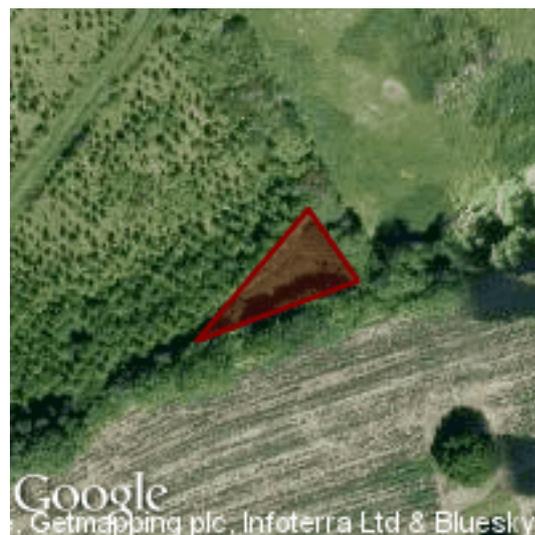
Inventory

composition	species	age	dbh	height	basal area	form
90%	Ash	22	8 cm	6 m	0.79 m ²	
5%	blackthorn, hawthorn	2012	0 cm	0 m	0 m ²	
5%	Open ground	2012	0 cm	0 m	0 m ²	

Total basal area	0.79 m ²
Basal area per ha	2.26 m ²

woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: F



Area: 0.06 ha

This is a non-wooded area.

Management Notes

Archaeology: Location of Grim's Ditch.

Open ground with clues suggesting deeper neutral soil. Occupied by mediocre sward of grasses, hogweed a single meadowsweet and some buttercup. Blackthorn is invading from the eastern boundary. Northwestern boundary is a new hedge.

Management History

Year	Activity
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woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: G



Area: 0.22 ha

Stocking density: 1000 trees per hectare

Management Notes

Currently the best-performing stand of trees in Centenary Wood, occupying this valley bottom site. Formative pruning is well advanced giving good potential. Now vulnerable to grey squirrel damage.

Management History

Year	Activity
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Formative prune to 7m.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Monitor for grey squirrel damage in June/July/Aug and plan control to prevent substantial damage in succeeding years.
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	Selectively thin to remove 25% of stems in a 5-year period to favour the best quality trees
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	Monitor & control grey squirrel

Inventory

composition	species	age	dbh	height	basal area	form
100%	Oak	19	10 cm	6 m	1.73 m ²	

Total basal area	1.73 m ²
Basal area per ha	7.86 m ²

woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: Yew path



Area: 0.04 ha

Stocking density: 150 trees per hectare

Management Notes
Maintain as a yew avenue for amenity by trimming annually. Maintain area around Janet Tassel's memorial by cutting woody vegetation and mowing grass regularly. Consider adding a bench in this location to add a focal point and place for reflection.

Management History

Year	Activity
	Plant yew?
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Trim yew
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Cut grass around memorial
2	Add bench
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	Trim yew and cut grass

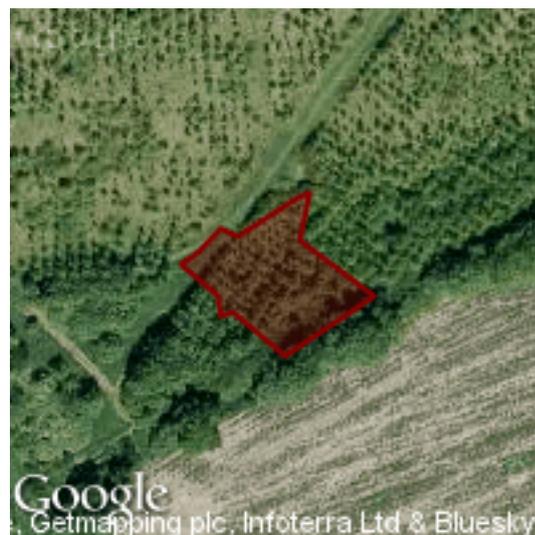
Inventory

composition	species	age	dbh	height	basal area	form
100%	Yew	22	7 cm	4 m	0.02 m ²	

Total basal area	0.02 m ²
Basal area per ha	0.5 m ²

woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: H



Area: 0.11 ha

Stocking density: 1000 trees per hectare

Management Notes

Good potential quality timber and some natural regeneration present. Formative pruning well established.

Management History

Year	Activity
1, 3, 5	Prune selected timber trees in winter.
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	Selectively thin to remove 25% of stems over a 5 year period to free up favoured trees for further growth

Inventory

composition	species	age	dbh	height	basal area	form
95%	Ash - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	19	9 cm	7 m	0.66 m ²	
5%	Open ground	2012	0 cm	0 m	0 m ²	

Total basal area	0.66 m ²
Basal area per ha	6 m ²

woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: I



Area: 0.18 ha

Stocking density: 700 trees per hectare

Management Notes
Poor stem form resulting from rapid growth before pruning could be established. Some salvageable stems at southern end of cpt. Soil modified by ash-tipping in the past. Manage primarily for wood fuel and amenity. Consider cutting northern section as coppice/low pollard to limit size of materials to that manageable by volunteers. Outlier badger sett here, with one hole dangerously placed in the centre of a footpath

Management History

Year	Activity
1	mark off dangerous hole to divert footpath users.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	prune where possible
3	pollard for firewood
11-15	pollard for firewood

Inventory

composition	species	age	dbh	height	basal area	form
90%	Ash - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	22	16 cm	9 m	2.28 m ²	
10%	open ground	2012	0 cm	0 m	0 m ²	

Total basal area	2.28 m ²
Basal area per ha	12.67 m ²

woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: J



Area: 0.40 ha

Stocking density: 600 trees per hectare

Management Notes

Formative pruning programme established.

Management History

Year	Activity
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Monitor for grey squirrel damage
1, 3, 5	prune selected ash trees for timber production
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	selectively thin to favour best stems by removing 25% of competing stems

Inventory

composition	species	age	dbh	height	basal area	form
95%	Ash - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	22	8 cm	6 m	1.15 m ²	
5%	Field Maple - <i>Acer campestre</i>	22	8 cm	5 m	0.06 m ²	

Total basal area	1.21 m ²
Basal area per ha	3.03 m ²

woodland: Centenary Wood

compartment: K



Area: 0.24 ha

Stocking density: 900 trees per hectare

Management Notes
Oak with good potential, however grey squirrel damage noted in this compartment. Look for a market for the hazel coppice, some good bean pole material. Boundary to the east is powerline.

Management History

Year	Activity
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	monitor for grey squirrel damage and take action as necessary
1, 3, 5	Prune selected trees for timber in the winter months, note high tension powerline wires.
2, 4	Harvest hazel poles and low pollard to stimulate high quality replacement growth beyond deer browsing height. Co-ordinate with other hazel cutting activity and local demand.
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	Selectively thin oak to allow best trees to gro on, removing 25% of stems.
6-10, 11-15, 16-20	monitor gre squirrel damage and take action as necessary.

Inventory

composition	species	age	dbh	height	basal area	form
95%	English Oak - Quercus robur	22	10 cm	7 m	1.61 m ²	
5%	Hazel	22	6 cm	4 m	0.03 m ²	

Total basal area	1.64 m ²
Basal area per ha	6.83 m ²