

ENGLEFIELD GREEN WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Adopted by the Englefield Green Committee 26.06.19

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This management plan aims to bring together information about the site known as Englefield Green Woodland. Using all the available information, the site has been evaluated and the important features of the site identified. For each feature, an objective is given along with a description of the management required in order to meet that objective.
- 1.2. This document draws on previous work undertaken during 2017 & 2018 by Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) Consultancy. This work included a Background Ecological Data Search, Botanical National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Survey, Bat Activity Surveys, Bird Survey Report, Invertebrate Survey, Reptile Survey and Small Mammal Survey.

2. Description

- 2.1. Englefield Green Woodland covers an area of approximately 8.6 hectares of land located to the north of Englefield Green Village and is bounded by Castle Hill Road, Coopers Hill Lane and Bishopsgate Road. It is bisected by St. Jude's Road, the A328. It is located within the Englefield Green Conservation Area and has a central grid reference of SU991719.
- 2.2. The surrounding area comprises a mixture of large residential properties, open areas of grassland and Englefield Green itself. The wider area includes many green and open spaces including Oaklands Park, The Saville Garden and Windsor Great Park. Englefield Green town is approximately 100m south of the site and Egham is found beyond that.
- 2.3. The area is well drained with a soil of acid, sandy and loamy soils over Bagshot Sands.
- 2.4. The site is almost entirely covered by broad-leaved semi-natural woodland with small areas of semi-improved neutral grassland.
- 2.5. Englefield Green Woodland is owned by The Crown Estates but is managed by Runnymede Borough Council under the terms of a 99 year lease beginning in 1954. It would appear that Crown ownership dates back to 1817 when the surrounding areas and houses were enclosed (went into private ownership) but the whole of the common land comprising of the existing Green (now the cricket ground and woodland to the north) was exempted and therefore defaulted to Crown ownership. The woodland falls within the Englefield Green Conservation Area. This is one of seven designated areas of special architectural or historic interest within Runnymede that are protected with conservation area status. Near the junction of St Jude's Road and Bishopsgate Road sits a concrete Bills horse watering trough. Erected in 1931, the trough was financed by a trust fund established through the will of George Bills, originally from Brighton, England, but who made his fortune in Australia.

2.6. Recent management has followed the minimal intervention approach which has led to much of the woodland interior becoming densely shaded, with mature open-grown, standard trees (especially Pedunculate Oak) becoming over-crowded.

2.7. Englefield Green Woodland is unfenced and has easy pedestrian access from at least 8 points. Public Footpaths 19 and 20 cross the woodland. There are also two permissive horse routes.

3. Evaluation of the site

3.1. Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland

- 3.1.1. NVC W10c *Quercus robur* – *Pteridium aquilinum* – *Rubus fruticosus* woodland *Hedera helix* sub-community has been identified and mapped (Pedunculate Oak, Bracken, Bramble, Ivy).
- 3.1.2. The national distribution of this community is widespread and common. The regional distribution is also common.
- 3.1.3. A total of fourteen Ancient Woodland Indicators (AWI) were recorded during the NVC habitat survey.
- 3.1.4. The woodland straddles the A328 Saint Jude's Road where Pedunculate Oak is a constant in this tall even aged canopy although in places this gives way to locally abundant Beech with frequent Sycamore and occasional Sweet Chestnut and rare Yew. There are stands of Silver Birch in the under-canopy.
- 3.1.5. Also south of Bishopsgate Road there is a clump of maturing woodland trees and shrubs including Holly, Cherry, young Pedunculate Oak, Hawthorn, Gorse, Sycamore, Beech, young Yew and Bramble on the edges.
- 3.1.6. The understory is poorly represented and thickets of dense Holly tend to prevail across most of the site and in particular in the north and north western parts of the site and again in the south eastern part of the site either side of the path here.
- 3.1.7. Alder Buckthorn is rare and was recorded in the eastern woodland.
- 3.1.8. The underscrub layer is generally sparse with localised patches of Bramble and Bracken where there are slight gaps in the canopy. Bracken in particular can be very sparse in the more heavily shaded stands, especially under the thickets of Holly that abound. There are patches of young Sycamore and Hornbeam in canopy gaps. Gorse is present on the edge of the woodland and grassy edge along with Bramble and Hawthorn in the southern part of the woodland near the intersection between Bishopsgate Road and St Jude's Road. Gorse is also present on the southern edge of

the woodland south of Bishopsgate Road.

- 3.1.9. The field layer is lacking in numbers or variety of species due to the over shading from the canopy. The field layer is mostly found on the edges of the woodland next to the main roads. On the edges are Yorkshire-fog, Lesser Celandine, rare patches of Bluebell and Ramsons in the north west of the site. In the interior of the woodland there is occasional and locally abundant Common Ivy both as a climber and on the ground and Honeysuckle. In a more open area where a path and Bishopsgate Road meet there is a more varied herb layer with Dandelion, Broad-leaved Dock, Wavy Bitter-cress, Herb Bennet, Yorkshire-fog, Cock's-foot, Common Nettle, Rough Meadow-grass, Enchanter's Nightshade, Lesser Celandine and locally abundant Ground-elder and Remote Sedge.

3.2. Semi-improved neutral grassland

- 3.2.1. NVC MG7e *Lolio-Plantaginetum* grassland *Lolium perenne* – *Plantago lanceolata* sub-community has been identified and mapped (Perennial Rye-grass, Ribwort Plantain).
- 3.2.2. The national and regional distribution of this community is widespread and common.
- 3.2.3. Five grassland indicators were recorded during the NVC habitat survey. These are typical of grassland of conservation interest. To put this into context, to qualify as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance for neutral grassland, the guidelines recommend 15 or more.
- 3.2.4. Shorter managed areas of grassland are largely referable to MG7e *Lolio-Plantaginetum* grassland *Lolium perenne* – *Plantago lanceolata* sub-community. The occasional appearance of Perennial Rye-grass implies that this is an older more established grassland with frequent to occasional Yorkshire-fog and Cock's-foot with locally frequent Red Fescue, Rough Meadow-grass and rare Common Bent. There are areas when the inclusion of Parsley-piert, Common Bent, Field Wood-rush, Sweet Vernal-grass and especially Heath Bedstraw would suggest that in this small area the underlying soils are a little sandier, giving rise to a composition of plants that are more normally associated with acidic grasslands.
- 3.2.5. The longer areas of grassland that are not being as closely managed for example where the short grassland grades into the woodland south of Bishopsgate Road there is a gradation into an MG1 *Arrhenatheretum elatioris* (False Oat-grass) grassland.
- 3.2.6. The grassland located on the southern tip at the intersection between Bishopsgate Road, Saint Jude's Road and Coopers Hill Lane has been kept short for sight line purposes. Here Yorkshire-fog is frequent with Rough Meadow-grass and occasional Perennial Rye-grass, Annual Meadow-grass and Cock's-foot. With range of herbs including Dandelion, Daisy, White Clover, Dove's-foot Crane's-bill, Yarrow, Ribwort

Plantain, Common Mouse-ear and Cypress-leaved Plait-moss. Garden Daffodils have been planted here. There is also a dry ditch along the edge of Bishopsgate Road where there are some tufts of Soft Rush, Great Willowherb and Rusty Willow shrubs implying that it holds water in the winter.

- 3.2.7. On the southern edge of Bishopsgate Road the grassland here is similar, but not cut as frequently and with similar grasses and herbs such as Common Mouse-ear, Sticky Mouse-ear, Wavy Bitter-cress, Common Sorrel, Creeping Cinquefoil and Creeping Buttercup. There is taller vegetation on a bank with Green Alkanet, Common Nettle, rare Greater Celandine and Lungwort.
- 3.2.8. On the southern edge of the woodland south of Bishopsgate Road, where the grass does not get cut so often there are patches of Soft Rush, Cuckooflower, White Clover, Creeping Buttercup, Daisy, Common Nettle, Bramble, Common Ivy, Common Mouseear, False Oat-grass and Ivy-leaved Speedwell.
- 3.2.9. At the intersection between Bishopsgate Road and The Green there is an interesting patch of grassland with Parsley-piert, Field Wood-rush, Sweet Vernal-grass, Annual Meadow-grass and Heath Bedstraw with a canopy of Silver Birch and mapped as woodland. However the presence of Heath Bedstraw indicates that the underlying soils are more acidic.
- 3.2.10. There is a small triangular area of grassland in the eastern corner of the site with mature and young planted trees. Pedunculata Oak, Norway Maple, Field Maple, Rowan, Holly and Yew. The grass comprises Yorkshire-fog, Rough Meadow-grass and Field Wood-rush, with occasional Dandelion, Germander Speedwell, Common Sorrel, Daisy, Ground-elder, Wavy Bitter-cress, Jack-by-the-hedge, Chickweed, Common Mouse-ear, Ground-ivy, White Clover and Common Bird's-foot Trefoil with rare Wall Speedwell and Meadow Buttercup.

3.3. Non-native, invasive plants

- 3.3.1. The following species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended were recorded during the NVC habitat survey:
 - Rhododendron
 - Variegated Yellow Archangel
- 3.3.2. Furthermore, the following species that are not listed on Schedule 9 but which are known to be non-native invasive species were recorded:
 - Sycamore
 - Hybrid Bluebell
 - Cherry Laurel
 - Turkey Oak
 - Bridlewort
 - Snowberry

- Greater Periwinkle

3.3.3. In addition there are several garden species that have found their way onto the site:

- Greater Celandine
- Red-stemmed Dogwood
- Druce's Crane's-bill
- Garden daffodil
- Lungwort

3.4. Bats

3.4.1. A bat survey was undertaken on 24th July 2018 at dusk and 7th September 2018 at dawn. The results of the surveys indicated that the site provides good quality habitat for bats.

3.4.2. A total of 150 bat passes were recorded across the survey area in July and September. Bats were recorded foraging and commuting on and across the site. One likely Common Pipistrelle roost was recorded in the north of the woodland. The highest bat activity was from Soprano Pipistrelle, closely followed by Common Pipistrelle. All stops had some bat activity, three stops with high levels, two with moderate activity and seven with low levels.

3.4.3. The range of bat species confirmed on site is high, with ten confirmed species out of 18 within the UK, indicating a high diversity of species. They are Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Nathusius' Pipistrelle, Serotine, Daubenton's, Noctule, Whiskered, Leisler's, Brandt's and Brown Long-eared.

3.4.4. The road network, woodland edge and especially the western woodland edge supported the most bat activity. Three stops in particular had high levels of activity, at the southern end of the woodland there were 29 passes from Common Pipistrelle and 33 passes mostly from Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle, then towards the western edge of the woodland there were 43 passes, 24 of which were from the dawn September survey from Soprano Pipistrelle. Lesser activity was recorded in the central parts of the area.

3.4.5. All species of British bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and under Regulation 38 (Schedule 2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994. Some species are BAP Priority species and SPIs. Should it be necessary to fell any trees older than 100 years, or with obvious cavities, or with a girth greater than 1 metre at chest height, these should be surveyed for bats before any work takes place.

3.5. Birds

- 3.5.1. Bird survey visits were undertaken on 17th May, 14th June and 25th July 2018.
- 3.5.2. Over the three survey visits a total of 22 species of bird were recorded using the survey area. Of these, four are birds of conservation concern:
- Starling (RSPB red listed)
 - Song Thrush (RSPB red listed)
 - Stock Dove (RSPB amber listed)
 - Tawny Owl (RSPB amber listed)
- 3.5.3. One Species of Principal Importance (SPI), Song Thrush, was recorded using the site. No Schedule 1 species were recorded using the site.
- 3.5.4. Breeding behaviour was noted during the first and second survey visit. On both occasions, fledgling Blue Tits were seen in the Pedunculate Oak canopy in the main block of woodland on the west side of St Jude's Road. In the same area a fledgling Robin was observed being fed by a parent on the second survey visit. Wood Pigeon nests were observed in the canopy on the other side of St Jude's Road.
- 3.5.5. All wild birds are protected from damage or destruction of their nest whilst in use or construction. Any work affecting trees or scrub should avoid the bird nesting season which is between the beginning of March and the end of August.

3.6. Invertebrates

- 3.6.1. Invertebrate survey visits were undertaken on 25th May, 22nd June and 23rd August 2018.
- 3.6.2. A total of 252 invertebrate species were identified, of which one is a UK Species of Principal Importance (SPI) research only named Cinnabar Moth.
- 3.6.3. Five species with a recognised conservation designation were recorded (e.g. Red Data Book, Nationally Scarce etc.). A further twenty eight Nationally Local species were recorded.
- 3.6.4. In addition, the saproxylic (dependent on dead or decaying wood) beetle *Sphinginus lobatus* was recorded as new for Surrey. This was formerly regarded as RDBK (Insufficiently known status). Currently knowledge suggests that it is a widespread but uncommonly encountered species.
- 3.6.5. The Invertebrate Species-habitat Information Systems (ISIS) assemblages A212 Bark & sap-wood decay and F001 Scrub edge were found to be in Favourable condition, thanks to the large amount of standing and fallen dead-wood habitat found on site.

3.7. Reptiles

- 3.7.1. Reptile surveys were conducted between 18th May and the 29th June 2018.
- 3.7.2. No reptiles were recorded on site throughout the duration of the survey period. Other species recorded using the refugia included Bank Vole, Common Shrew and Wood Mouse.
- 3.7.3. Grass snakes have been recorded within a 1km area and have a known range of over 1km.
- 3.7.4. All British reptiles are protected from killing and injury under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

3.8. Small Mammals

- 3.8.1. Mammal survey visits were conducted on the 8th, 9th and 10th October 2017.
- 3.8.2. The entire woodland was systematically walked over to assess its suitability for mammals and to search for signs of mammal activity.
- 3.8.3. Four non-occupied Badger setts were found on the site. It is impossible to know why Badgers are not currently using the setts present at Englefield Green Wood. Badgers are known to abandon setts only to return to them months or even years later. It is possible the presence of the busy roads intersecting the blocks of woodland have added a significant mortality risk to the clan eventually forcing them to move elsewhere. It is quite possible that passing lone Badgers looking for new territory will use these setts as temporary places to shelter or even that a clan will return and start using the sett again regularly in the future. Badgers are sensitive to increase in public use and especially vulnerable to small dogs which may enter their setts. Encouragement of dense Bramble and Nettle vegetation will help discourage people and dogs entering an area.
- 3.8.4. Evidence of Grey Squirrel, Roe Deer and Fox were recorded. No signs of Dormice were recorded.
- 3.8.5. 40 Longworth traps were pre-baited and set up in two separate locations across the site on 8th October 2017. These were then set into trap-mode on the 9th October and checked at dawn and dusk on the 10th October. In total one Pygmy Shrew, five Wood Mice and 22 Bank Voles were caught and released. This is a high number of captures over only two trapping sessions. It is likely there is a healthy population of small mammals in Englefield Green Woodland. This will support a number of predators such as Tawny Owls (which were heard on site), Foxes and possibly Stoats and Weasels.

- 3.8.6. Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take a badger or to interfere with their setts; such as the use of heavy machinery nearby.
- 3.8.7. All mammals receive some protection under the Wild Animals (Protection) Act 1996, which makes it an offence to crush or asphyxiate an animal (e.g. within its burrow).

3.9. Access and recreation

- 3.9.1. This site is already used by the public for access and recreation. The habitat immediately surrounding the site is highly disturbed by the public and fragmented by busy roads and residential properties. The site is an important resource for local residents, being the only woodland within easy walking distance of a number of properties.
- 3.9.2. The site does not have a formal car park as such, but parking is available nearby either behind the children's play area next to the pavilion, or in the lay-by at the back of the Green.
- 3.9.3. Access along the unsurfaced footpaths and horse routes through the woodland is reasonable. There is significant litter across the site. Pockets of garden waste and general litter are unsightly, a health and safety issue, encourages more tipping and can introduce and spread non-native plant species.

4. Management Plan Features

4.1. Feature 1: Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland

4.1.1. Objectives

Woodland will continue to be present on the site. Non-native invasive species will be no more than occasional. The woodland will support frequent examples of mature and veteran trees as well as standing deadwood and fallen deadwood. Common Ivy will be left on trees where possible for the benefit of invertebrates, bats and birds. Improved light levels will encourage a more developed woodland understorey and ground flora to establish. The woodland edges and woodland glades present on site will be maintained and where possible enhanced. The woodland will have no garden waste or litter.

The management required to meet the objectives above is outlined below.

4.1.2. Non-native invasive plants

- 4.1.2.1. In the first instance management will seek to eradicate non-native invasive plant species, with priority given to those species that carry a statutory legal

obligation.

- 4.1.2.2. Variegated Yellow Archangel is particularly abundant along the eastern boundary, where its rampant growth dominates the field-layer to the detriment of native woodland species.
- 4.1.2.3. Rhododendron is rare across the site, but nevertheless will not be allowed to spread. Rhododendron is on the Schedule 9 list in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). A similar non-native invasive shrub present, but not on the Schedule 9 list is Cherry Laurel and they will be treated the same way. Both will be removed and the stumps treated to prevent regrowth, ideally with Eco-plugs, or direct stump treatment when this is not possible. The stumps may require repeat treatment and will need to be monitored for several years.
- 4.1.2.4. The Garden Daffodils will be removed. People have been known to plant garden species and especially daffodils as they add a splash of colour in the spring. However, they are totally unsuitable in a semi-natural habitat and send the wrong message to the public that it is acceptable to plant garden species in a semi-natural woodland.
- 4.1.2.5. Remove Hybrid Bluebell, but making sure that the native Bluebell is not accidentally removed (this requires careful identification). Remove Greater Periwinkle, Snowberry and Bridlewort.
- 4.1.2.6. Sycamore and Turkey Oak will be monitored and not allowed to spread.

4.1.3. Canopy & understorey thinning

Once the invasive species issue is under control attention will be diverted to allowing more light to penetrate through the canopy and shrub layer to the woodland floor. 20% of the woodland canopy will be open at any time to encourage a varied woodland flora and better structural diversity. Understorey thinning, will have an emphasis on the removal of non-native shrubs and Holly where it has become overly dominant. A proportion of Holly will be retained to provide habitat for its associated invertebrate species and those species associated with more shaded woodland. Yew will be retained for *Hyptiotes paradoxus* (Triangle spider).

4.1.4. Rides and glades

- 4.1.4.1. The existing footpaths (which are functioning as linear open spaces) through the western block of woodland will be managed in a way that allows light to reach the woodland floor. This will include coppicing or clearing on a cycle. Coppicing can encourage moth species, therefore providing an increase in invertebrate prey items available for bats. Coppicing will also encourage a

more varied layering structure within the woodland. Priority will be given to creating rides running in an east-west direction as these are in sunlight longer than those in a north-south direction and therefore have the greatest wildlife benefit.

4.1.4.2. The eastern block of woodland is extremely dark due to dense and overgrown thickets of Holly. A glade will be created, approximately 0.1 ha in size, with a mixture of an open herb zone, a herb/scrub zone and then a final transition from scrub to woodland. Plants such as Honeysuckle, Hazel and Crab Apple thrive in these conditions and will provide shelter as well as a range of foraging opportunities for species such as Roe Deer, Fox, Badger and small mammals.

4.1.4.3. Any thinning or felling operations greater than 5m³ will require a felling licence from the Forestry Commission.

4.1.5. Woodland edge

4.1.5.1. The woodland edge will be maintained and species such as Bramble, Gorse, Hawthorn and Hazel will be encouraged. If a scrub-like edge is developed it may attract slightly different bird species to the site such as Dunnocks and possibly Common Whitethroat which prefer dense scrub habitats.

4.1.5.2. Woodland edge habitat or the interface between densely wooded and more open habitats, is especially important for invertebrates due to a number of factors including micro-climate, corridor effect and flowering shrubs. Edge habitat should not be a harsh edge but gradations from 'open' to effectively 'closed', e.g. coarse grasses, Bramble and scrub grading into taller shrubs and finally closed canopy woodland. To create warm and sunny conditions in woodland scallops, they should ideally be south-facing so the boundary on Cooper's Hill Lane is ideal.

4.1.6. Haloing

4.1.6.1. There are several mature open grown Pedunculate Oak trees across the woodland, that are being swamped by the Holly and other trees surrounding it. These surrounding trees will be carefully and slowly removed in a 'haloing' process around the Pedunculate Oak and allow room for the Oak to spread and fully grow. Examples include on the western corner next to Castle Hill Road, one good example on the edge of the path through the eastern woodland and a line of three Pedunculate Oaks in the eastern woodland in the north.

4.1.6.2. The haloing of mature trees could have an impact on bat roosts. Opening up a canopy around a roost or removing surrounding trees can impact on the

connectivity and alter the micro-climate, potentially causing the roost to be unfavourable to bats. It can leave bats open to increased predation risks and even to abandon a roost. A likely Common Pipistrelle roost was noted at the northern tip of the bat survey site. Seeking advice from a Licensed Bat Ecologist will ensure that suitable tree specimens are chosen for haloing, and to retain connectivity where required.

- 4.1.6.3. Certain 'future-veteran' trees will be identified within the woodland and will be provided with the space and protection required to grow into full veteran trees with features to support bat roosts and nesting birds, such as Tawny Owl.

4.1.7. Dead wood

- 4.1.7.1. Create more decaying standing and lying wood, either in piles or left randomly on the woodland floor. Where compatible with health and safety requirements, fallen trees and tear-outs will be left intact and in situ. Many small saproxylic beetles, such as *Sphinginus lobatus* and members of the *Salpingidae*, develop in twigs and small branches, not trunks and heart-wood. Log or habitat piles will be created in a variety of different situations i.e. shady, sunny and damp.
- 4.1.7.2. A log pile will be created in the woodland between Bishopsgate Road and Englefield Green open space, at least 3m from a main public walking route.
- 4.1.7.3. At least one pile of 1 m high, 1 m across and 1.5 m long will be formed to hopefully appeal to hedgehogs wishing to hibernate on site.

4.1.8. Bird enhancement

- 4.1.8.1. Although the semi-natural woodland habitat will provide a variety of natural nesting opportunities for birds using the site, the woodland may benefit from a small number of targeted nest boxes positioned in key locations.
- 4.1.8.2. Stock Dove will nest in natural tree cavities but they are also the only member of the Pigeon family likely to use a nest box. As this species is present on the site and is an amber Bird of Conservation Concern, a suitable nest box will be installed on the southern edge of the woodland, facing out towards the green. Stock Dove nest boxes should be large and positioned above 3m above the ground on a sturdy tree. This type of box may also get used by other species such as Great Spotted Woodpecker.

4.1.9. Bat enhancement

- 4.1.9.1. The bat activity and range of species within the survey area is high, however much of the activity originates from two species. Fifteen bat boxes will be installed in five areas to diversify the roosting opportunities.
- 4.1.9.2. Woodcrete bat boxes will be used, as this material is long lasting and provides suitable temperature regimes for roosting bats. Woodcrete bat box models that will be positioned on trees include:
- Schwegler 2FN Bat Box 55 - Suitable for Noctule species as well as, Bechstein's, Daubenton's and Nathusius' pipistrelle.
 - Schwegler 2f-DFP Universal Bat Box with Double Front Panel - Suitable for crevice-dwelling bats such as Pipistrelles.
 - Schwegler 3ff Bat Colony Box - Suitable for crevice-dwelling bats such as Pipistrelles.
 - Miramare Woodstone Bat Box - Suitable for crevice-dwelling bats such as Pipistrelles.
- 4.1.9.3. Three boxes will be positioned on each tree chosen to support bat boxes, facing east, south and west to provide a range of temperature conditions for bats. They will ideally be at least 4m above the ground (where safe installation is possible).

4.1.10. Litter

There is evidence of anti-social behaviour throughout the woodland including general littering, fly-tipping of rubble, garden waste and an abandoned camp. Key litter/ garden waste areas will be cleared.

4.2. Feature 2: Semi-improved neutral grassland

4.2.1. Objectives

The grassland will continue to be present on site. Whilst there is limited grassland habitat within the woods, there is grassland habitat next to the woodland to the south. Encourage the growth of a diverse range of grassland species at the intersection of Bishopsgate Road and The Green, plus along the northern edge of the main cut grass area.

The management required to meet the objectives above is outlined below.

4.2.2. Tree felling

There is a small triangle of grassland just to the north of Englefield Green Woodland, currently managed as a meadow. Pollard 3no. Acer trees to open up the grassland, encouraging more growth and biodiversity.

4.2.3. Non-intervention

Small areas of grassland on the northern edge of The Green will be left to go 'wild' with less frequent mowing and no applications of pesticides. This zone of longer grass and/ or native flowers along the woodland edge or area will provide habitat for important invertebrate prey for species such as Starling and many others.

4.3.Feature 3: Access

4.3.1. Objectives

The site will be a welcoming, safe and attractive place for local people to visit. There will be increased opportunities for the public to visit and walk around the woodland. Interpretation material will be provided. Community involvement in the management of the woodland will be encouraged.

The management required to meet the objectives above is outlined below.

4.3.2. Interpretation material

An information board will be installed to give history of the site and details of main tree species, and other interesting flora and fauna.

4.3.3. Community involvement

The local community and other interested parties such as Honorary Wardens will be able to help self-police the site and encourage people to be more sensitive towards the site. An annual (or possibly more frequent) clean-up session will be held.

4.4.Feature 4: Monitoring

4.4.1. Objectives

Monitoring the site will help establish changes over time, will be a valuable record, help establish whether the project is a success and provide a guide to the ongoing management programme.

The management required to meet the objectives above is outlined below.

4.4.2. Reviews

The work programme will be reviewed annually. The management plan will be reviewed in its entirety in 2023.

4.4.3. Monitoring

Monitoring of the woodland will take the form of a repeat National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Survey in 7 years' time. Woodland surveys are best undertaken between late April to mid-June when the woodland plants are in flower.

5. 10 year work programme

All of the works detailed in the plan are summarised in the table below. The amount of work RBC can undertake each year will depend on resources available. The year suggested to undertake the work is given only as a guide. The priority given for each action can be used to prioritise work.

Red = High
Yellow = Medium
Green = Low

Task	Year with priority									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Finalise Woodland Management Plan	✓									
Investigate felling licence	✓									
Monitor litter levels and tackle as necessary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tackle Schedule 9 invasive species with ongoing stump monitoring & treatment where required	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?			

Task	Year with priority									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Tackle all other invasive species with ongoing stump monitoring & treatment where required		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Establish meadow cut grassland along northern edge of Green		✓								
Create a small glade in the eastern block of woodland			✓							
Create woodland scallops along boundary of Cooper's Hill Lane				✓					✓	
Undertake a programme of thinning of small compartments aiming for 20% of the woodland canopy to be open. Prioritise young trees and Holly		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Clear trees and shrub along routes of paths in western block of woodland			✓		✓		✓			
Halo selected mature trees across the site (following advice from bat expert)			✓							

Task	Year with priority									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Identify future –veteran trees, haloing as required			✓							
Pollard 3no. Acer trees near bus stop		✓	✓	✓						
Create log/ habitat piles from timber & brash resulting from management works		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Install information board			✓							
Erect bird and bat boxes				✓						
Review work programme annually	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Review the management plan in its entirety and confirm work programme for the next ten years					✓					✓

Task	Year with priority									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Repeat NVC survey of site including looking at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of open space • Presence of invasive species 							✓			

