Berry Field Wood

Management Plan

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	2009	To	2018
Date of last review [1](2.1.3)	2004		
Owner / tenant	City of Saltford		
Agent / contact	Annie Surtees, City of Saltford		
Signed declaration of tenure rights and agreement to public availability of the plan[2] (UKWAS 1.1.3/1.1.5/2.1.2)	City of Saltford		

1. Background information

1.1 Location

Nearest town, village or feature	Walkden, Saltford
Grid reference	SD754034
Total area (ha)	4.37

1.2 Description of the woodland(s) in the landscape

Berry Field Wood is located within a small area of agricultural grassland that is bounded by the M60/M61 motorways to its north and eastern sides. It is approximately 2km east of the centre of Walkden and 7km south east of Bolton town centre. See Map 1. The woodland is square in shape, plantation in origin and approximately 30 years old. The whole wood sits above the surrounding land as the site was previously landfilled. Within the wood there is a steep slope or bund which effectively makes the woodland two-tiered, with the higher area to the centre.

1.3 History of management

A draft management plan was produced for the site a number of years ago. It is not clear which of the actions, if any have been carried out. Several areas have been thinned in the past although most of the site remains un-thinned. The material cut was left in habitat piles. This has resulted in a closed canopy woodland where the trees are at very close spacing, narrow in diameter with relatively small crowns.

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[1] The plan must be reviewed every five years.

[2] As owner, tenant or manager, you have the right to manage the wood in accordance with this plan. At least a summary of the management plan must be made publicly available on request.

2. Woodland information

2.1 Areas and features

2.1.1 Designated areas	In woodland	Adjacent to woodland	Map
Special Areas for Conservation (SACs)			
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
Ramsar Sites (**see note on Guidance)**			
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)			
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)			
Other designations e.g.: National Parks (NPs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)			
Details N/A			

2.1.2 Rare and important species	In woodland	Adjacent to woodland	Map
Red Data Book or BAP species			
Rare, threatened, EPS or SAP species			
Details N/A			

2.1.3 Habitats	In woodland	Adjacent to woodland	Map
Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)			
Other semi-natural woodland			
Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)			
Semi-natural features in PAWS			
Woodland margins and hedges	✓		2
Veteran and other notable trees			
Breeding sites			
Habitats of notable species or subject to HAPs			
Unimproved grassland			
Rides and open ground			
Valuable wildlife communities			
Feeding areas			
Lowland heath			
Peatlands			
Others			
Details The woodland has a high shrub content on its south-western side and is surrounded by agricultural grassland.			

2.1.4 Water	In woodland	Adjacent to woodland	Map
Watercourses			
Lakes			
Ponds		✓	
Wetland habitats			

Details

There is one pond directly to the north of the woodland and another 3 to the east and south east of the site.

2.1.5 Landscape	In woodland	Adjacent to woodland	Map
Landscape designated areas			
Landscape features			
Rock exposures			
Historic landscapes			
Areas of the woodland prominent from roads	✓		
Areas of the woodland prominent from settlements			

Details

N/A

2.1.6 Cultural features	In woodland	Adjacent to woodland	Map
Public rights of way		✓	
Prominent viewing points			
Permissive footpaths	✓		
Areas managed with traditional management systems			

Details

N/A

2.1.7 Archaeological features	In woodland	Adjacent to woodland	Map
Scheduled monument			
Historical features			

Details

N/A

2.2 Woodland resource characteristics

The woodland is approximately 30 years old, dominated by sycamore with common alder and beech present. There are a few individual larch trees. Shrubs species include hawthorn, elder and blackthorn. Due to the dense and extensive canopy there is little ground flora especially where beech and sycamore are dominant. Where there is ground cover, the most common species are bramble, nettles, ferns and mosses. The shrub layer is also poorly developed. Japanese knotweed is present on the southern edge. The lack of thinning has meant that stocking levels are high and that diameters are small. Tree

growth and survival since planting has been surprisingly high considering the depth of topsoil and character of the material beneath. There has been much self-thinning and there is plenty of small diameter deadwood.

2.3 Site description

The amount of topsoil present is varied and various types of inert domestic waste are still visible on the surface today. The exposed clay cap is also evident is some areas. In 1990 a gas spiker survey was carried out and identified that gases were present (presumably methane and carbon dioxide) in the soil profile. Soil analysis was also carried out in 1990 and there were no significant levels of phytotoxins present. Access to the woodland is via the public footpath network around the site, see Map 2. Vehicular access is potentially available from the west along a track. It is unclear whether the council has permission to drive along the track to access the woods.

2.4 Significant hazards, constraints and threats

Soils
As the site is a former landfill, the soil or surface layers should not be disturbed to a degree where tipped material is exposed. As the topsoils are shallow and occasionally absent, this is potentially very difficult to avoid. It also means that any thinning operations need to be sensitive to the potential for windblow. Any extraction or vehicle movements within the wood will need to be carefully considered. In this instance, the extraction of timber may also be excessively costly as the stock is of poor quality and small diameter. Machine access to the wood is questionable and within the wood is hampered by the steep slopes and generally damp soils. In terms of health and safety issues with regard to the landfilling material, City of Salford suggest that '*any site operatives undertaking any digging/handling waste materials etc, to wear adequate protective clothing in line with the Health and Safety Executive's Guidance Note HS(G) 66 'Protection of Workers and the General Public during the Development of Contaminated Land''*. Although the site is not thought to have any toxic contamination, on a practical level, it is not advisable to encourage picnicking or any collection of vegetative material for human consumption.

Slopes
The steep slope that divides the two levels also has implications for public access, as there is currently no easy way of getting into the centre of the woodland.

3. Long tern vision, management objectives and strategy

3.1 Long term vision

The long-term vision is to develop a mixed age class, broadleaved woodland.

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3.2 Management objectives

No.	Objective
1	Manage the woodland in compliance with UKWAS and to protect and maintain the ecological integrity of the woodland in the long term.
2	Improve structural diversity.
3	Prevent damage to the topsoil through windblow.
4	Provide safe access for walkers.
5	Control invasive ground flora

3.3 Strategy

The strategy is tied in with the objectives and can be summarised by the following points;

- the woodland will be managed on a continuous cover basis, in the future regenerating areas;
  through the removal of small groups of semi-mature trees;
- as the woodland is overstocked and under thinned, the number of trees will be gradually reduced through thinning. This provides the opportunity to reduce the number of non-natives;
- deadwood will be created through ring barking and the creation of habitat piles with material from thinnings;
- informal public access on foot will be encouraged.

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**~~ **/ No** (delete as appropriate)

4. Management prescriptions / operations

4.1 Silvicultural systems

4.1.1 Harvesting

It is envisaged that the woodland would be lightly thinned in successive operations to improve the overall form of trees, increase light levels onto the forest floor and remove some of the non-natives. A proportion of the trees identified for thinning will be ring barked to increase the amount of standing deadwood. Ring barked trees will be away from footpaths. Thinning of the woodland will be carried out approximately every 7 years within the first 20 years of the plan. The rotation of tree stands will be at least 60 years. Thinning will not remove more than 25% of stems due to the danger of windthrow. Thinning will not remove more than 25% of the overall woodland canopy, in any one operation, spread evenly across the site. In the future, felling coupes will be no more than 0.25 ha and no more than 1 per 2.5 ha randomly spaced. Felled coupes must have adequate regeneration before subsequent coupes felled. Extraction of timber from the site

may be impractical in terms of machine access and additional costs.

4.1.2 Phased felling and restructuring of plantations

No clear felling proposed over life of plan.

4.1.3 Establishment, restocking and regeneration

As above

4.2 New planting

None

4.3 Other operations

Removal of trees/vegetation along route of permissive footpath to maintain route. This will be co-ordinated with overall thinning operations.

Install FC Walkers Welcome signs at entrances and clear overhanging vegetation from southern entrance point.

4.4 Protection and maintenance

4.4.1 Pest and disease management

The only use of chemicals on site would be for the control of Japanese knotweed. On the southern edge of the woodland clumps of Japanese knotweed are encroaching into the wood. It is likely that a number of applications over several years will be required. Clumps of knotweed smaller than $1m_2$ will be tolerated to allow mass treatment. A record of the operational details will be kept.

4.4.2 Fire plan

In the event of a fire being reported the Fire Brigade must be contacted immediately. The rendezvous point is marked on the location map. Due to the predominantly broadleaved nature of the woodland, fire risk is considered to be low.

4.4.3 Waste disposal and pollution

N/A

4.4.4 Protection from unauthorised activities
There is some minor damage to tree stock by vandals and a few places where litter is present, which is removed as soon as possible but overall, problems are limited.

4.4.5 Protection of other identified services and values (4.1.1)
N/A

4.5 Game management

None

4.6 Protecting and enhancing landscape, biodiversity and special features

4.6.1 Management of designated areas
N/A

4.6.2 Measures to enhance biodiversity and other special features (2.1.1k and 6.1.1)
All existing standing dead trees, stumps and deadwood to be retained (with the exception of dangerous trees close to roads/footpaths or where material may cause a fire risk) At least five canopy trees per hectare to be identified and retained as natural reserves.

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
N/A

4.7.2 Public access and impacts on local people
Public access will be encouraged along the existing permissive routes and a new section of footpath will be opened up to create a full circuit around the wood. See Map 2.

5. Consultation

Organisation/individual	Date received	Comment	Response/action
Public – through posting signs before carrying out works		None.	Post signs before any works.
City of Salford		H&S issues	Contact before carrying out harvesting.

6. Monitoring plan summary

Objective number, issue or UKWAS Requirement	Indicator	Method of assessment	Monitoring period	Responsibility	How will information be used?
Structural diversity	Structure following harvesting	Fixed point photography	Every 5 years	Salford City Council/Red Rose Forest	Feedback into planning of harvesting and need for additional regeneration and tending.
Damage to topsoil from windblow	Number of trees blown	Walkover of area	Annually and after any harvesting	Salford City Council/Red Rose Forest	Feedback to thinning control. Identify further potential instability.
Footpaths	Condition of footpaths	Walkover survey of footpath	Annually	Salford City Council	Identification of Problems with footpaths will facilitate remedial action.
Japanese knotweed cover	Area covered by plant	Walk over southern part of site	Annually in June	Salford City Council/Red Rose Forest	To determine extent and need for control

7. Work programmes

7.1 Outline long-term work programme (yyyy to yyyy)

Compartment or area	Activity	Year		
		6-10	11-15	16-20
All woodland	Selective thinning (ring barking in 1-5 and then assessed for subsequent years)	✓		✓

7.2 Short-term work programme (yyyy to yyyy)

Compartment or area	Activity	Year				
		1	2	3	4	5
All woodland	Selective thinning of all woodland. 25% of all stems to be thinned. 50% of selected trees for thinning will be ring barked. Ring barked trees should not be located within 5m of the footpath or be leaning in the direction of the footpath. Post signs before any works.		✓			
Southern border of woodland	Identify location and extent of Japanese knotweed. Control growth and spread of plant through herbicide treatment.	✓	✓	✓		
Western side of woodland	Removal of trees/vegetation along route of new footpath. (May not need to fell many trees as should co-ordinate with overall thinning.)		✓			
Entrance points	Install rustic posts at entrances and attach FC Walkers Welcome signs. Clear overhanging vegetation from southern entrance point.	✓				

8. Costings (2.2.1)

FC grant support includes WMG £30 per hectare per annum and Quality of Place Woodland Improvement Grant at 80% of the standard costs. The City of Salford will meet the remaining expenditure. There is unlikely to be any timber income during the life of the plan. Approximately 70% cost of the work will be met through utilising grant aid, the remaining 30% will be met by the owners.

9. Maps

List all maps here and append to plan.

Map No./Title	Description
1	Location of woodland
2	Features of woodland and 5-Year Work Programme

10. Thinning, felling and restocking proposals

Applicants seeking funding through the wood fuel initiative for harvesting machinery or wood fuel boilers must indicate the total volume that is to be thinned and felled during the period of this plan, **by completing Table A.**

This section **should not be completed** for any other applications.

All applicants **must** complete **Table B**. where harvesting work is to be undertaken.

Table A.

Species	Total estimated volume to be harvested during plan period (m^3)
Broadleaves	-
Conifers	-

Table B.

This section must be completed if you wish to gain felling licence approval from the Forestry Commission. The work detailed below should match the proposals set out in the plan.

For details on how to complete the table, please refer to EWGS 4 Woodland Regeneration Grant Guide (PDF 84kb).

Cpt/sub cpt	Area	Area to be worked	Type of felling	% of felled area comprising		Type of licence	Change in woodland type	Preferred claim year	Restock species %	Establishment by natural regeneration %	Standard proposals	Notes
				BL	CON							
1	4.3	100	T	100		U	None					