

## Woodland Trust Internal Management Plan

# The Seek (Plan period – 2024–2028)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

## Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

## Management Plan Content Page

### Item

- 1.0 Site details
- 2.0 Site description
- 3.0 Long term policy
- 4.0 Key Features
  - 4.1 f1 New Native Woodland
  - 4.2 f2 Informal Public Access
- 5.0 Work Programme
- 6.0 Monitoring Key Features and Woodland Condition

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Appendix 3: Reference information and surveys

## Maps

Legal

Conservation Features

Management

## 1.0 Site Details

### The Seek

Location:	Braunston-in-Rutland Grid reference: SK839070 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 141
Area:	10.83 hectares (26.76 acres)
External Designations:	No designations for this site
Internal Designations:	Tree For All Site

## 2.0 Site Description

The Seek is new native woodland on edge of Braunston-in-Rutland, 1 mile south-west of Oakham and Rutland Water with panoramic views over surrounding countryside. Prior to planting the area was arable land, which is still the dominant land use in the locality. However, it is comparatively well punctuated with hedgerows and field corner planting. There is a small stream which runs along the eastern boundary of the wood, leading in from the SE, providing a ribbon of riparian shrubs and trees in that direction until it meets Brooke Road.

In design stages, local school children were invited to put forward ideas for the design and creation of woodland. During National Tree Week in 1992, 400 local school children planted trees and shrubs on the site. The Rutland Natural History Society were also involved in monitoring the development of the woodland and as of 2004 recorded 20 species of butterfly, 95 species of moth and 64 species of bird.

The site name “The Seek” was proposed by local residents as a call back to the old local name for a 'field running down to a stream' which aptly fits the site as it occupies a prominent south easterly aspect. 7,500 native broadleaved trees and shrubs were planted 1992-94 (See compartment description for full details of tree species). The first phase of planting was in the winter of 1992-93, with the first tree being planted by the late Geoff Hamilton. The following winter, Rutland Natural History Society members, children, villagers and friends planted a further 2000 oak, ash and hazel saplings.

Notable components of the site include a 1.4 hectare area of grassland which has been left unplanted at the top of the site, initially left as an open meadow area and is currently grazed with sheep. Also The Friends of the Earth have a small community orchard planted on site adjacent to the braunston road boundary at the top of the hill.

Gentle slopes throughout the site make it an interesting place to walk, making use of the grassy ride network which can become slippery and even boggy as you get closer to the boundary stream.

In 2021, the ash in the northern section of the wood was thinned to stabilise the stand and lower the risk posed by ash dieback. The area thinned was approximately 2.75ha in area.

Key Features are:

- Informal Public Access
- New Native Woodland

## 3.0 Long term policy

Diverse high forest structure, with deadwood retained where safe to do so and canopy trees managed as appropriate to encourage a range of predominantly native species of varying age classes. The balance of open space will also be appropriate for the setting and visitor levels, with the ride edges periodically coppiced to encourage desirable structure and the paddock at the top will be potentially be partly planted, but the open viewpoint at the highest point of the site will be retained to preserve the landscape views.

Paths, signage and entrances will be monitored and maintained to a good standard, ensuring a welcoming feel at all times and an appropriate visitor experience. The visitor infrastructure will be kept low key as benefitting a small, quiet rural site.

Non-woodland habitats, such as ponds and open areas, will be maintained where practicable in favour of species diversity and to add complexity of structure to the ecosystem.

## 4.0 Key Features

### 4.1 f1 New Native Woodland

<b>Description</b>
7.9 ha (72%) of the site was planted in the winter of 1992/93 & 1993/94 with native mixed broadleaves with a high proportion of ash and oak with also some hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and holly. The bulk of the planting was enclosed by a deer fence and the planting outside that protection on the northern and eastern fringes was enclosed in tree shelters. The deer fence was removed in the late 1990s. A small paddock seeded with a grass seed / wildflower mix in the 1990s also exists at highest point of the site. The site contains a network of grassed rides. Friends of the Earth also have a small community orchard planted on site in the mid 2000's adjacent to the braunstone road boundary at the top of the hill.
<b>Significance</b>
The Seek adds significantly to the habitat diversity of the predominantly arable landscape. A key site within an area where other woodland is present, but in isolated island habitats.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To create a native broadleaved woodland habitat</li> </ul> <p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Limited size</li> <li>-Wet site</li> <li>-Slope from west to east</li> <li>-Species composition favours ash</li> <li>-Island habitat/Isolated from other woodlands</li> </ul>
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
<p>Climate change - stochastic weather events &amp; tree disease/ pests (e.g. Ash Dieback)</p> <p>Mammal damage (deer, rabbits, hare, squirrels, voles)</p>
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
Diverse broadleaved high forest structure, with a wide range of species and ages of trees, to include old and over mature trees. We expect to see hazel, oak, holly and hawthorn to regenerate naturally. With some silvicultural intervention, the site will have a less ash dominated canopy. Deadwood will be retained where safe to do so and canopy trees managed as appropriate to encourage a range of predominantly native species. The balance of open space will also be appropriate for the setting and visitor levels, with the ride edges periodically coppiced to encourage a desirable structure. The paddock will remain partly as open ground at the viewpoint and with potentially some more tree species.
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
<p>Balance of open space to be monitored/ assessed by site manager every 5 years through woodland condition assessment.</p> <p>Significant ash percentages through much of the planting poses a significant challenge within the immediate future. Decline is already evident amongst the stands, and will see loss of canopy cover in many areas. This decline should therefore be proactively managed through staged removal of infected ash. 3-5 felling coupes of roughly ½ acre each will be split out across the rest of the site in order to create areas where natural regeneration can thrive. Some ash around the badger sett in the work area will be felled and left in order to prevent any disturbance from visitors. The approximate area to be worked is 4.47ha This is due to be completed in the Summer 2024.</p> <p>It is desirable to minimise the deadwood liability within the canopy and so priority should be given to boundary trees as well as those along rides and path networks. Natural regeneration should be monitored closely through annual inspections in late spring by site manager, particularly in the felling coupes. Where natural regeneration is not forthcoming, browsing protection will be put in place as appropriate, to ensure establishment of 1100 stems per Ha before 2027. (*see 2017 felling licence conditions). If browsing pressure is seen as extensive, lethal deer control will be carried out following a herbivore impact assessment.</p>

**4.2 f2 Informal Public Access**

<p><b>Description</b></p> <p>Highly visible piece of land on the edge of Braunston-in-Rutland, 1 ½ miles south-west of Oakham and Rutland Water with panoramic views over surrounding countryside.</p> <p>Access to The Seek is easy with good parking facilities in the lay-by adjacent to the main entrance. Walking is easy with gently undulating slopes allowing access to the woodland throughout the year.</p> <p>The path network is approximately 1.9km in length and are unsurfaced and grassy. The slope going from west to east is quite steep in some places and occasionally slippery in the wet months. The site has 2 access points at the north-east and north-west boundary. The orchard planted in the mid 2000s are of particular interest to the general public.</p>
<p><b>Significance</b></p> <p>Attractive woodland site in close proximity to a significant population. Popular with dog walkers, the site provides a safe and enclosed environment to enjoy nature and trees in particular.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b></p> <p>Opportunities:              -site is close to people (Oakham &amp; Braunston)              -relatively good parking for a small site</p> <p>Threats:              -Tree disease creating site hazards &amp; reducing visual attractiveness              -Waterlogged paths in the winter</p>
<p><b>Factors Causing Change</b></p> <p>-Scrub encroachment of the rides &amp; paths              -Deterioration of signage &amp; infrastructure</p>
<p><b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b></p> <p>An attractive and welcoming site, where permission to access is prominent and in line with WT brand and internal paths are safe, inviting and easy to follow.</p>
<p><b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b></p> <p>Mow paths to minimum width of 2m regularly through the growing season (in line with WT spec 2.01) SM to visually inspect entrances and paths/ rides biennially to ensure they are open, easy to follow &amp; clear of obstructions as well as of a level appropriate to the visitor numbers and in line with latest WT standards. Action to be taken as required.</p> <p>Community involvement in the management of the site will continue to be supported and encouraged if there is local interest. Regular tree inspections will ensure the site is well maintained and as safe as reasonably practicable.</p>

## 5.0 Work Programme

Year	Generic Work Description	Detailed MP Work Programme	Exp/Inc	Due By
2024	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Restocking previously thinned areas of the wood: 450 trees (transplants) to be planted in groups of 20 spread across the planting area. Trees to be provided by Woodland Trust	300.00	29/02/2024
2024	WC - Tree / Seed Supply	Delivery charge connected with order No 1396 for supply of 150 wild cherry, 150 oak and 150 silver birch.	45.00	29/02/2024
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per spec 2.1. Contractor to walk paths and cut to pedestrian width any areas where vegetation encroaches onto and obstructs the use of paths and rides. Also includes litter pick. See EMC map	750.00	30/06/2024
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per Spec 2.1 including litter pick. Cut the path full width through the community orchard. Also contractor to check paths and cut back any areas of overgrowing vegetation causing an obstruction. See EMC map.	750.00	31/07/2024
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Entrance maintenance to Spec 1.1 including cleaning and replacement of any missing WT signage to be supplied by the Site Manager.	0.00	31/07/2024
2024	AW - Management Access Capital	Stoning gateway entrance to enable machinery access and stacking of timber.	3,000.00	31/07/2024
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per Spec 2.1 including litter pick. Also contractor to check paths and cut back any areas of overgrowing vegetation causing an obstruction. See EMC map.	750.00	30/09/2024
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Trim both sides of roadside hedge - remove last years growth and angle top back from road. Trim W, S & SE boundary hedges inside and top. Complete outside of the bird nesting season. As per spec 3.2 see EMC map also.	0.00	30/09/2024
2024	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Selective fell of remaining infected ash (leaving 10%-20% in safe locations for retained deadwood habitat). New felling licence needed prior to contract.	5,000.00	30/09/2024
2024	WM - Harvesting Sales Income for Resale	Timber revenue from ash thinning works	-2,000.00	30/09/2024
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Trim the roadside face of boundary hedge - remove last years growth and angle top back from road. Trim W, S & SE boundary hedges inside and top. Complete outside of the bird nesting season. As per spec 3.2 see EMC map also. Includes element of hand held hedge cutting in southern corner of the wood.	1,450.00	31/10/2024
2024	WC - Site Maintenance	Management of orchard trees: Cut back the blackthorn hedge which is encroaching into the fruit trees (hard cut to make sure all trees	1,000.00	31/10/2024



Year	Generic Work Description	Detailed MP Work Programme	Exp/Inc	Due By
		are well clear of it). Strim and clear all vegetation in the area around the trees (but not right up to the tree trunks). DO NOT APPLY ANY BARK MULCH THIS YEAR.		
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per spec 2.1. Contractor to walk paths and cut to pedestrian width any areas where vegetation encroaches onto and obstructs the use of paths and rides. Also includes litter pick. See EMC map	750.00	30/06/2025
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per Spec 2.1 including litter pick. Cut the path full width through the community orchard. Also contractor to check paths and cut back any areas of overgrowing vegetation causing an obstruction. See EMC map.	750.00	31/07/2025
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per Spec 2.1 including litter pick. Also contractor to check paths and cut back any areas of overgrowing vegetation causing an obstruction. See EMC map.	750.00	30/09/2025
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Trim the roadside face of boundary hedge - remove last years growth and angle top back from road. Trim W, S & SE boundary hedges inside and top. Complete outside of the bird nesting season. As per spec 3.2 see EMC map also. Includes element of hand held hedge cutting in southern corner of the wood.	1,450.00	31/10/2025
2025	WC - Site Maintenance	Management of orchard trees: Cut back the blackthorn hedge which is encroaching into the fruit trees (hard cut to make sure all trees are well clear of it). Strim and clear all vegetation in the area around the trees (but not right up to the tree trunks). DO NOT APPLY ANY BARK MULCH THIS YEAR.	1,000.00	31/10/2025
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per spec 2.1. Contractor to walk paths and cut to pedestrian width any areas where vegetation encroaches onto and obstructs the use of paths and rides. Also includes litter pick. See EMC map	750.00	30/06/2026
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per Spec 2.1 including litter pick. Cut the path full width through the community orchard. Also contractor to check paths and cut back any areas of overgrowing vegetation causing an obstruction. See EMC map.	750.00	31/07/2026
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per Spec 2.1 including litter pick. Also contractor to check paths and cut back any areas of overgrowing vegetation causing an obstruction. See EMC map.	750.00	30/09/2026
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Management of orchard trees: Cut back the blackthorn hedge which is encroaching into	1,000.00	31/10/2026

Year	Generic Work Description	Detailed MP Work Programme	Exp/Inc	Due By
		the fruit trees (hard cut to make sure all trees are well clear of it). Strim and clear all vegetation in the area around the trees (but not right up to the tree trunks). DO NOT APPLY ANY BARK MULCH THIS YEAR.		
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Trim the roadside face of boundary hedge - remove last years growth and angle top back from road. Trim W, S & SE boundary hedges inside and top. Complete outside of the bird nesting season. As per spec 3.2 see EMC map also. Includes element of hand held hedge cutting in southern corner of the wood.	1,450.00	31/10/2026
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per spec 2.1. Contractor to walk paths and cut to pedestrian width any areas where vegetation encroaches onto and obstructs the use of paths and rides. Also includes litter pick. See EMC map	750.00	30/06/2027
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per Spec 2.1 including litter pick. Cut the path full width through the community orchard. Also contractor to check paths and cut back any areas of overgrowing vegetation causing an obstruction. See EMC map.	750.00	31/07/2027
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per Spec 2.1 including litter pick. Also contractor to check paths and cut back any areas of overgrowing vegetation causing an obstruction. See EMC map.	750.00	30/09/2027
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Trim the roadside face of boundary hedge - remove last years growth and angle top back from road. Trim W, S & SE boundary hedges inside and top. Complete outside of the bird nesting season. As per spec 3.2 see EMC map also. Includes element of hand held hedge cutting in southern corner of the wood.	1,450.00	31/10/2027
2027	WC - Site Maintenance	Management of orchard trees: Cut back the blackthorn hedge which is encroaching into the fruit trees (hard cut to make sure all trees are well clear of it). Strim and clear all vegetation in the area around the trees (but not right up to the tree trunks). DO NOT APPLY ANY BARK MULCH THIS YEAR.	1,000.00	31/10/2027
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per spec 2.1. Contractor to walk paths and cut to pedestrian width any areas where vegetation encroaches onto and obstructs the use of paths and rides. Also includes litter pick. See EMC map	750.00	30/06/2028
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per Spec 2.1 including litter pick. Cut the path full width through the community orchard. Also contractor to check paths and cut back any	750.00	31/07/2028

Year	Generic Work Description	Detailed MP Work Programme	Exp/Inc	Due By
		areas of overgrowing vegetation causing an obstruction. See EMC map.		
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path mowing to 3m as per Spec 2.1 including litter pick. Also contractor to check paths and cut back any areas of overgrowing vegetation causing an obstruction. See EMC map.	750.00	30/09/2028
2028	WC - Site Maintenance	Management of orchard trees: Cut back the blackthorn hedge which is encroaching into the fruit trees (hard cut to make sure all trees are well clear of it). Strim and clear all vegetation in the area around the trees (but not right up to the tree trunks). DO NOT APPLY ANY BARK MULCH THIS YEAR.	1,000.00	31/10/2028
2028	WMM - General Site Management	Trim the roadside face of boundary hedge - remove last years growth and angle top back from road. Trim W, S & SE boundary hedges inside and top. Complete outside of the bird nesting season. As per spec 3.2 see EMC map also. Includes element of hand held hedge cutting in southern corner of the wood.	1,450.00	31/10/2028

## 6.0 Monitoring Key Features & Woodland Condition

### 6.1 Completed Observations

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
KF-New Native Woodland	f1	15/05/2014	Assess the need to continue grazing the paddock, consider continuing allowing it to scrub up or perhaps planting it.	Meadow being grazed at the moment. Appears to work well. Growth and structure of the wood excellent, canopy closure.	No further action required
KF-New Native Woodland	f1	02/06/2016	Woodland Health and Resilience	Ash dieback believed spotted in ash stock on site during a walk around with a colleague, this needs to be monitored annually and action taken as appropriate to ensure the ongoing resilience of the woodland. Observations updated to suit.	Make sure future observations take into account effects of ash dieback and that woodland health observations take place on an annual basis.
KF-New Native Woodland	f1	24/07/2017	Assess woodland health, condition and resilience annually particularly in light of ash dieback which appears to have taken hold at the property. Take action as appropriate.	ash very much in decline, with most trees showing symptoms, but of varying degrees. felling licence submitted to enable a managed decline over the next 5 years. Starting with safety consideration along the path network.	Carry out ride edge work and plan for phased removal of ash over the next plan period.
KF-New Native Woodland	f1	22/06/2018	Annual inspection of regeneration across the site. At least 3 species and a density of 1100 per ha is desirable. Check especially for mammal damage and undertake protection as required. Note areas where stocking density is not being achieved to inform under-planting in next plan period.	This type of observation will now be carried out as part of the 5 year woodland condition assessment. Annual assessment not necessary. However an observation was carried out on 22 June, some regeneration of ash, maple and hawthorn seen to be occurring. Silvicultural thinning is necessary to ensure enough of this is occurring. recent ride works have encouraged greater regeneration along rides.	none
KF-New Native Woodland	f1	16/07/2019	Annual inspection of regeneration across the site. At least 3 species and a density of 1100 per ha is desirable. Check especially for mammal damage and undertake protection as required. Note areas where	Regeneration of ash but also oak along rides, plus hazel, cherry & hawthorn within the stands. Bramble could be a problem in parts if thinning is too heavy. Although regeneration is there it is patchy and low level. Thinning will release it and encourage more.	none

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
			stocking density is not being achieved to inform under-planting in next plan period.	We are not seeing 1100 stems per ha across the whole wood. Ash dieback now very evident, and roadside pre-emptive felling would be useful.	
KF-New Native Woodland	f1	14/05/2020	Annual inspection of regeneration across the site. At least 3 species and a density of 1100 per ha is desirable. Check especially for mammal damage and undertake protection as required. Note areas where stocking density is not being achieved to inform under-planting in next plan period.	Regeneration of ash, field maple, hazel and hawthorn is visible in the stands. This will be allowed to develop when extra light is created through thinning. Regeneration levels to be re-assessed again following thinning works.	none
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	12/09/2002	ATTRIBUTE TO BE MEASURED  State of main management and pedestrian access point. Condition of rides and footpaths within the woodland.  METHOD  Inspect main paths and rides for obstacles. Check all entrance points and maintained to the specification laid out in the EMC.	Site is in good condition, all paths have been mown 3 times and no obstructions where found. Both entrance points are in good condition.	
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	06/02/2004	ATTRIBUTE TO BE MEASURED  State of main management and pedestrian access point. Condition of rides and footpaths within the woodland.  METHOD  Inspect main paths and rides for obstacles. Check all entrance points and maintained to the	Rides and open ground mown satisfactorily. Lower path still rutted from hunt incursion 2003.  Map boundary problem. A controllable number of ragwort rosettes in grassed area, consider spot spraying with approved herbicide.	Additional northern gate planned 2004. Completed June 2004

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
			specification laid out in the EMC.		
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	10/09/2004	<p>ATTRIBUTE TO BE MEASURED</p> <p>State of main management and pedestrian access point. Condition of rides and footpaths within the woodland.</p> <p>METHOD</p> <p>Inspect main paths and rides for obstacles. Check all entrance points and maintained to the specification laid out in the EMC.</p>	No problems observed.	
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	22/11/2005	<p>ATTRIBUTE TO BE MEASURED</p> <p>State of main management and pedestrian access point. Condition of rides and footpaths within the woodland.</p> <p>METHOD</p> <p>Inspect main paths and rides for obstacles. Check all entrance points and maintained to the specification laid out in the EMC.</p>	Gate damaged by hay trailer has been repaired. No other problems.	
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	17/06/2006	<p>State of main management and pedestrian access point. Condition of rides and footpaths within the woodland.</p> <p>METHOD</p> <p>Inspect main paths and rides for obstacles. Check all entrance points and maintained to the specification laid out in the EMC.</p>	Paths mowed. Meadow fenced. Hay removal in July and grazed by sheep after. Boundary in NE corner re-fenced.	

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	11/09/2007	Check all paths and open spaces.	All paths OK. Hay has been cut in meadow.	Move sheep into meadow when FMD restrictions allow.
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	08/07/2008	Inspect paths, signs and entrances.	All in good order no problems noted	Re-inspect 2009
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	26/08/2009	Check signs paths and entrances once every 2 years.	All in good order.	Re-inspect in 2 years time
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	02/09/2011	Check signs paths and entrances once every 2 years.	All in good order	Re-inspect 2013
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	25/06/2013	Check signs paths and entrances once every 2 years.	Path grass rather long but to be mown again next week. Illegal campsite removed. Lower wooden kissing gate to be replaced next week with Centrewire gate.	No further action required.
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	23/06/2015	Check signs paths and entrances once every 2 years.	All appeared okay. No issues noted at time of inspection.	Re-inspect 2017
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	24/07/2017	Check signs paths and entrances once every 2 years.	all in tact and present/ Old branding bit in good condition. include in planed for upgrades but as low priority.	
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	16/07/2019	Visual inspection of site entrances, signs and infrastructure (benches, gates, fences, etc.) and thought the site. Ensure everything is in "good state of repair" + Check internal paths to ensure they are open, safe and easy to follow, organising remedial works as required.	Public access standard is Ok. New sign is now on gate and paths are in good management.	none
KF-Informal Public Access	f2	13/09/2021	Visual inspection of site entrances, signs and infrastructure (benches, gates, fences, etc.) and thought the site. Ensure everything is in "good state of repair" + Check internal paths to ensure they are open, safe and easy to	Paths and entrances all in good management.	none

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
			follow, organising remedial works as required.		
	F97	14/04/2017	Seek is new native woodland on edge of Braunstone-in-Rutland, 1 mile south-west of Oakham and Rutland Water with panoramic views over surrounding countryside. Prior to planting the area was arable land. Locals named the woodland 'The Seek' because it is the old local name for a 'field running down to a stream' and this aptly fits the site which occupies a prominent south easterly aspect. 7,500 native broadleaved trees and shrubs were planted 1992-94 (See compartment description for full details of tree species). The first phase of planting was in the winter of 1992-93, with the first tree being planted by the late Geoff Hamilton. The following winter, Rutland Natural History Society members, children, villagers and friends planted a further 2000 oak, ash and hazel saplings.		
	F97	13/04/2023	Arable land to the East, but with a wide grass margin next to the wood. Small woodland/camp to the northeast. Stream and mature ash trees on eastern boundary. This is an ash dominated wood being severely impacted by ash dieback. Small meadow/pasture on higher ground to the southeast which has been difficult to manage in recent years.		
Woodland Condition	F99	04/06/2003	Annual woodland inspection regarding tree health and general site condition to	All trees look to be in good health and all species have put on good rates of growth this growing season. Ragwort appears at this	Make contact with Hunt via Legal section and ensure proper re-



Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
			coincide with annual tree safety inspection	stage to be not as much a problem as last year.  Considerable damage to the lower rides by the Hunt in Mar. Not reinstated as promised.  Tree safety inspection has been carried out and no action is to be taken at this time.	instatement of damaged rides.
Woodland Condition	F99	06/02/2004	Annual woodland inspection regarding tree health and general site condition to coincide with annual tree safety inspection	All trees look to be in good health and all species have put on good rates of growth the last growing season. Some rabbit damage.  Tree safety inspection has been carried out and no action is to be taken at this time.	Retain tree shelters because of rabbit damage.
Woodland Condition	F99	26/06/2004	Floristic Survey to be carried out to assess the species colonising meadow area.	See site file	
Woodland Condition	F99	10/12/2004	Annual woodland inspection regarding tree health and general site condition to coincide with annual tree safety inspection	Shelters removed from area outside original deer fence.  No problems observed.	
Woodland Condition	F99	22/11/2005	Annual woodland inspection regarding tree health and general site condition to coincide with annual tree safety inspection	Small area in lower section by pond and margin of large ride planted with shrubs Nov 2005. No other problems.	
Woodland Condition	F99	29/11/2006	Annual woodland inspection regarding tree health and general site condition to coincide with annual tree safety inspection	No problems	
Woodland Condition	F99	11/03/2008	Annual woodland inspection regarding tree health and general site condition to coincide with annual tree safety inspection	Excellent progress. Site beginning to look quite mature. Spirrals breaking loose and biodegrading. Rutting in wet ground by electricity company.	Contact electricity company re reinstatement of grass where rutted.
Woodland Condition	F99	07/07/2008	General site condition of both trees and open ground.	All in good order. Tree stock appears healthy and is doing well. No problems noted.	all ok

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
Woodland Condition	F99	25/06/2013	General site condition of both trees and open ground to be inspected once every 5 years.	Excellent condition. Universal canopy closure. Some collapse of willows.	No further action required
Woodland Condition	F99	23/06/2015	Assess the health and condition of the woodland once every 2 years.	Trees showing potential symptoms of ash die back noted at the property, reported to the FC. Otherwise everything looks to be healthy.	Re-inspect annually from now on in light of threats from ash dieback.
Woodland Condition	F99	02/06/2016	Assess the health and condition of the woodland every 5 years.	Some evidence of chalara throughout the site. tip dieback on ash was common. Otherwise looking ok, with good extention growth on most species. closed caopy throughout the site. squirrel dammage also common, but not affecting establishment.	continue to monitor decline of ash - look specificaly for natural regeneration forming as the canopy thins in ash domiated areas.

## 6.2 Planned Observations

Observations for KF	Ref no	Planned Date	Planned Observation
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## Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	10.69	Mixed broadleaves	1993	Wood establishment	Diseases, Services & wayleaves	No designations for this site

This area is new plantation, planted in part by local volunteers and local school children, between 1992 & 1994. Species include sessile oak, ash, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and holly. The planting blocks are separated by rides. The bulk of the planting was enclosed by a deer fence and the planting outside that protection on the northern and eastern fringes was enclosed in tree shelters. The deer fence was removed in the late 1990s. A small paddock seeded with a grass seed / wildflower mix in the 1990s also exists on site and is currently grazed by sheep. The site contains a network of grassed rides. Friends of the Earth also have a small community orchard planted on site in the mid 2000's adjacent to the braunstone road boundary at the top of the hill, this is cared for and looked after by them.

## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Forecast Year	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
1a	Ride edge Coppice	7.00	2017	3	23
1a	Selective Fell	5.00	2021	5	25

## Appendix 3: Reference information and surveys

Evaluation Type	Type of Information	Details of Contents	Author / Recorder	Date of record
Management History	Past Management Plan	Management plan at time of planting 16/11/94 Date of Record - '16/11/94'..	JEW/gbd	
Management History	Past WGS	WGS 014000271 for new planting, plan period - 08/03/93 - 31/03/98.	FC	03/08/1993
Management History	Monitoring Results	<p>Chris Williams - Site Manager 17th June 2010</p> <p>The site developed well in the last plan period and the trees have continued to grow well and remain healthy. Tree guards were removed and a new entrance gate was installed to the north of the site. There have been some issues with ragwort at the site and back in 2003 an incursion by the local hunt also caused damage to the paths and rides that took some time to recover.</p> <p>The paddock also continues to be grazed / cut for hay.</p> <p>Friends of the Earth planted a small community orchard at the top of the site adjacent to Braunstone road and installed a bench in the vicinity.</p> <p>Otherwise the site remains popular with local people..</p>	Christopher Williams	17/06/2010
Wildlife Conservation	Species List	Meadow area 1.4 ha. Date of Record - '14/07/2004'..	Andrew Lear Leics and Rutland Wildlife	
Wildlife Conservation	Species List	Booklet prepared by the Rutland Natural History Society in 2001. It gives a brief background behind the woodland, and species lists for moths, butterflies, other insects, birds, flowering plants and Grasses & sedges..	Alistair Lawrence & Patrick Mann	01/01/2000