

## Woodland Trust Internal Management Plan

# Nellington Wood (Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



WOODLAND  
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## 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.

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## 1.0 Site Details

### Nellington Wood

Location:	Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells Grid reference: TQ556397 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 188
Area:	2.20 hectares (5.44 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2.0 Site Description

Nellington Wood is a small, 2.2 hectare (5.4 acre) urban-fringe woodland on the edge of the village of Rusthall to the west of Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The wood was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1988. The woodland is designated as a local Site of Nature Conservation Value (SNCI) by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and lies within the Tunbridge Wells Metropolitan Green Belt and High Weald National Landscape. The national landscape can be characterised as a medieval landscape of wooded, rolling hills: studded with sandstone outcrops and a rich patchwork of small fields, scattered farmstead and ancient routeways. Woodlands cover nearly a third (28%) of the National Landscape, containing the highest coverage of ancient woodland in any protected landscape and 8% of England's ancient woodland resource, a distinctive feature of the High Weald Landscape.

A remnant ancient semi-natural woodland, the wood is situated in a small steep-sided valley with a stream flowing from the south-east, via a small pond, through the site in a north-westerly direction. Another stream rises in the north-west part of the wood and flows north to join the main stream. The pond was restored in 1997, with the dam and overflow being re-built and the silt removed.

In spite of extensive damage during the storm of 1987, the wood still contains many large trees, mainly oak, beech, sweet chestnut and ash as well as a handful of more unusual exotic species such as London plane, horse chestnut and red oak. There are frequent examples of tree-sized holly, particularly along the southern boundary and areas of the western boundary. Due to the thick closed canopy in many areas of the site, there is a limited understorey, which is predominantly native species such as holly and hazel, with willow and alder along the stream and yew scattered throughout. There are extensive areas of invasive cherry laurel as well as bamboo, despite clearance in previous years. There are a few remaining large established cherry laurels which need to be removed along the western edge. Occasionally bamboo shoots sprout up on site and cherry laurel frequently seeds along the stream and the eastern half of the site.

The surrounding land use is predominantly residential housing, with a care home and a primary school a short walking distance from the wood. There are three entrances into the wood, connected by paths, allowing for a short circular walk. Rustic steps have been installed on the steeper slopes and two railed footbridges allow visitors to cross the stream. Being a shaded valley, the paths can become quite muddy in wet weather. The southern and eastern entrances open onto a paved public footpath which connects the nearby high street of Rusthall to the housing development to the west of Nellington Wood. The north entrance connects to a public footpath which leads cross-country toward the village of Speldhurst. The southern public footpath which runs adjacent to the woods connects to Langton Green.

## 3.0 Long term policy

Nellington Wood will continue to be a small ancient semi-natural woodland refuge and a local green space for the residents of Rusthall and Langton Green. Intervention will be limited to addressing the issues that pose the greatest risk to the ecological condition of the site and the safety of its visitors.

With only a small number of ash on site, the wood will be mostly unaffected by ash dieback. Invasive species will likely continue to

be the greatest threat to the health and resilience of this woodland. Regular monitoring and removal of invasive species such as cherry laurel and bamboo will ensure that regeneration is caught before it takes over the understorey.

The older trees such as the oak and sweet chestnut will be left to develop veteran characteristics that will support important populations of invertebrates, fungi, birds, and small mammals associated with large old trees. The pond and stream will remain a unique feature of the woodland; providing an essential water source for the wildlife using the site and adding a sense of tranquillity for human visitors to the site.

Low-key access provisions will be maintained to ensure the public continue to enjoy safe and open access to Nellington Wood. This includes annual management of entrances, infrastructure, and paths and removal of any dangerous or fallen trees in these areas. The wood will be made as safe as practical for visitors and neighbours through regular tree safety inspections along the paths and boundaries with roads and housing. Any trees felled for safety concerns, will be left in situ to provide valuable deadwood habitat.

## 4.0 Key Features

### 4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

<b>Description</b>
<p>Nellington Wood is a small (2.2 ha) remnant of ancient woodland. The steep sided valley in which this woodland sits proved historically impossible to cultivate, meaning this site has been wooded for centuries and as a result, has become a small refuge for ancient woodland species.</p> <p>The underlying slightly acid loamy and clayey soil is slowly permeable and prone to waterlogging. This soil type is of moderate to high fertility and supports a wide range of pasture and woodland types. Nellington Wood is no exception as it displays a diversity of tree, shrub, and ground flora species. Maturing oak, beech and sweet chestnut are the dominant canopy species, with some holly reaching canopy heights (&gt;12m) and only rare ash trees. Of the large exotic species in the wood the most notable still standing is the London plane (<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>) growing by the stream. Other species present include birch, sycamore, rowan, wild cherry, and lime with alder and willow along the stream. The understorey is dominated by holly, though some hazel, hawthorn, and yew is also present, mainly in the valley bottom near the stream. The holly, particularly in the areas heavily hit by the 1987 windstorm along the eastern and southern boundaries, continues to grow from the horizontal stems, forming extensive heavily shading thickets. The ground flora in these light-limited areas is sparse. In more open areas, the ground flora contains a high proportion of bramble; though other woodland plants such as bluebell, lesser celandine, cleavers, and lords and ladies can also be observed. Young sycamore saplings and ash suffering from ash dieback dominate the regenerating tree species.</p> <p>The wood had been heavily modified by the planting and encroachment of non-native trees and shrubs, such as red oak, cherry laurel and bamboo. Though much was removed under previous management cycles, laurel and bamboo regeneration continue to sprout up annually.</p> <p>Situated at the head of a small stream, in a steep sided valley, the wood has the moist, warm micro-climate associated with gill woodland throughout the High Weald of Kent and Sussex. These conditions allow ferns, mosses and liverworts to thrive. Other woodland specialist ground flora species present include bluebells, primroses and golden saxifrage.</p> <p>The pond provides a habitat for newts, frogs and toads and has previously even had small fish present. However pollution, choking invasive non-native species such as water fern and parrot's feather, and disturbance from dogs has reduced the ecological health of the pond habitat.</p>
<b>Significance</b>
<p>The amount of ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW) left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. Approximately 40% of England's ASNW is found in the southeast. ASNW is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years, in which time a diverse range of woodland habitats has developed that supports a correspondingly diverse range of flora and fauna. This diversity cannot be found in younger secondary woodland or woodland creation sites.</p> <p>Gill woodland of the High Weald provides a stable moist micro-climate which favours a rich growth of ferns and bryophytes. The sheltered, damp gills provide ideal living conditions for ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens. Many of these species are more characteristic of the mild and humid oceanic climate of Wales and Cornwall than that of the South East.</p>
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
<p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Silvicultural management is restricted by the steep terrain, small size, and regularly waterlogged soils. The steps leading from the main entrance also make vehicular access extremely difficult.</li></ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To work with local visitors on improving pond health (i.e. litter removal, weed pulling, education to limit dogs entering the pond and preventing debris build-up of the pond overflow).</li></ul>
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>

- Animal damage (i.e. squirrel and rabbit browsing of tree and shrub regeneration.
- Wind damage uprooting mature shrubs and trees, likely to worsen with the increase in extreme weather events associated with climate change; ;
- Tree disease, such as ash dieback will have a small effect due to the low numbers of the tree species, but the wood may lose all remaining individuals;
- Sycamore seedlings are dominating tree regeneration in more open areas and so the percentage of sycamore present in the canopy is likely to increase overtime;
- Constant regeneration of invasive species, such as cherry laurel and bamboo as well as the potential for other garden escapees from neighbouring properties;
- Invasive nature of holly on site is shading out the ground flora;
- Garden waste along shared boundaries;
- The pond and stream receiving large amounts of polluted run-off from the road during heavy rain.
- Pond and stream erosion from dogs entering the pond and visitors walking along and over the stream.

**Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The long term objective will be to support structurally diverse, resilient ancient woodland, comprising predominately native broadleaf species. Ancient woodland components will continue to be evident and lower storeys secured by natural regeneration. A younger age class of trees will be present in gaps created by the felling carried out under tree risk management or natural death of older trees. The understory will comprise of native shrubs with a ground layer of specialist woodland plants and ancient woodland indicator species. Invasive non-natives will not be posing a threat to the establishment and growth of native trees and shrubs, nor will holly be left to dominate the understory. Deadwood habitat will be present through standing and fallen dead trees and ancient living trees. Veteran trees of the future will be developing in character. The health of the pond and stream, with respect to invasive species, litter, and erosion will be protected as part of the general woodland monitoring programme, whereby corrective actions are taken as required.

**Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)**

In the next five years, the main objective for this ancient woodland site will be to retain its varied composition and structural diversity and control invasive non-native species. This can be achieved with the following management activities:

- Annual monitoring for tree hazards in garden and road boundary trees (Zone A) and every two years along footpaths (Zone B); address any safety concerns as required. Felled trees will be left on site to add important deadwood features to the site.
- Annual removal of cherry laurel and bamboo regeneration. Larger Cherry Laurel on western edge will be removed in 2026. Monitor for success of removal and rate of regeneration.
- General pond maintenance to repair the dam and overflow mechanism in 2024 and as required. Monitoring annually,
- Coppice 30% of holly within the woodland focusing on the eastern and western areas, to allow more light to reach the woodland floor in 2027.

**4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees**

**Description**

Nellington Wood is situated between the villages of Rusthall and Langton Green in the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The woodland is surrounded on three sides by residential development. The main entrance off of Nellington Road is less than 200m from Rusthall High Street. Rusthall is a modern village of nearly 5000 residents and a further 5000 residents live in the neighbouring ward of Speldhurst (which includes Langton Green).

The woodland is 1 of only 17 sites designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Value by the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. These are sites that have been assessed as important to local communities, particularly in urban areas, as they provide residents with an opportunity for direct contact with nature. Nellington Wood is a Woodland Trust access category B site, seeing moderate regular usage each day. The main visitors are local dog walkers.

The site can be accessed via three pedestrian entrances (squeeze gaps). One off Nellington Road in the south-east of the site (main entrance), one off the public footpath to the south of the site, and one off the public footpath to the north of the site. Paths from these entrance points link to a short level circular route up and down both sides of the stream. None of the paths are surfaced and are prone to becoming muddy, particularly in wet weather.

The stream is crossed via a narrow wooden footbridge in the north and a railed boardwalk over the dam that forms the pond in the south.

There are rustic steps leading down the valley from the two entrances in the south and a handrail has been installed parallel to the steps leading from the main entrance. As mentioned, the pond was created by damming up the stream and installing an L-shaped culvert with overflow, to prevent excessive flooding. The water level fluctuates with precipitation and can rise quickly following road-surface run-off in heavier rains. The overflow mechanism must be cleared from time to time as it gets filled with sticks and debris, jamming the flow.

The main entrance, including vehicle gate and breadboard signage was updated in 2017.

### **Significance**

It has been proven that access to woodland provides an improved quality of life, with benefits to both mental and physical health. Despite being a small site, Nellington Wood provides the local community with easy access to woodland, with fantastic spring flowers and wildlife interest, due to the fact that the wood is ancient and that there is a stream running through the central valley of the site.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

Constraints:

- There is limited parking near the wood, with only residential roadside parking available.
- The relatively small size of the wood means that visits are likely to be of short duration.
- The woodland is situated in a valley meaning that the steep gradients from the two southern entrances could limit accessibility for some potential users.

Opportunities:

- Volunteering opportunities to help tackle the invasive non-native species on site.

### **Factors Causing Change**

- The paths are prone to seasonal water-logging which leads to path creep widening bare-ground surfaces.
- The design of the pond means that the overflow mechanism can easily be jammed by people throwing branches etc. into it and requires manual removal of debris to return to normal function. This scenario can also lead to flooding and exacerbate the issues of path creep near the pond.

### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The wood will remain an attractive and popular place for local people to walk-in, explore, learn, and enjoy. Free and open access will continue through a well maintained but low key suite of visitor facilities suitable to the small size and frequency of visitors to the site. The water features will continue to be a unique woodland feature, adding tranquility to the visitor experience.

### **Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)**

During this plan period, the short term objective is to continue to provide safe and open access at Nellington Wood. This will be achieved by:

- Annual monitoring for tree hazards in garden and road boundary trees (Zone A) and every two years along footpaths (Zone B); address any safety concerns as required.
- An annual path cut and entrance maintenance (summer). 0.55 Kilometres of path network.
- Infrastructure (steps, access points, and footbridges) to be monitored annually and maintained/replaced as necessary.



## 5.0 Work Programme

Year	Generic Work Description	Detailed MP Work Programme	Exp/Inc	Due By
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	KHWCP with volunteers on site to cut and dig out laurel growing within the woods.. Bamboo should also be eradicated. Cut larger shrubs, but hand-pull the smaller seedlings and saplings ensuring the roots are pulled and not left directly on the ground. No spraying required.	285.00	22/01/2025
2025	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	3 meters of weld mesh to be replaced on lower footbridge and replacement of both hand barriers.	300.00	30/06/2025
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cut (as per EMC specs 1.1 and 2.1): strim all paths including pond margin along dam. Remove debris from pond overflow. Cut back overhanging vegetation along public footpath left from site entrance. Strim vegetation around all entrances. Minor litter pick. Wipe clean entrance signage.	630.00	31/07/2025
2025	SL - Legal Obligation Work	To cut back vegetation obstructing the carriageway on Nellington Road as per KCC Highways requirements in the diagram below. Vegetation should be cut back to the boundary fence.	1,120.00	30/11/2025
2026	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Replace rotten posts on boundary fences along the PROW and Nellington Road. SM to count how many & mark posts to be replaced.	800.00	31/01/2026
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Installation of paling fencing around the pond to stop access to waters edge from people and dogs. Contractor to meet SM on site to determine measurements. Signs to be installed on fencing.	1,500.00	31/01/2026
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	KWHCP Removal of established laurel trees on site, glyphosate treatment for cut stumps. Treatment with glyphosate must be within one week of felling the stem. Sensitive area as located near/on badger set. Two members of staff for one day and volunteer group - £570 This will include one member of staff felling and treating larger laurel stands and one supervising a volunteer group clearing smaller laurel and assisting in the processing of arisings. Volunteer groups usually consist of 7-15+ people who receive all tools and training from qualified countryside officers at KHWP. Costs of herbicide for stump treating is included.	570.00	31/03/2026

Year	Generic Work Description	Detailed MP Work Programme	Exp/Inc	Due By
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cut (as per EMC specs 1.1 and 2.1): strim all paths including pond margin along dam. Remove debris from pond overflow. Cut back overhanging vegetation along public footpath.. Strim vegetation around all entrances. Minor litter pick. Wipe clean entrance signage.	660.00	31/07/2026
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	KHWCP with volunteers:  Coppicing holly on site, SM to mark  Cut and dig out laurel, growing on boundary on Nellington road.	300.00	31/03/2027
2027	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Replace footbridge over pond. Weld mesh to be installed.	3,500.00	31/03/2027
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cut (as per EMC specs 1.1 and 2.1): strim all paths including pond margin along dam. Remove debris from pond overflow. Cut back overhanging vegetation along public footpath to S of wood. Strim vegetation around all entrances. Minor litter pick. Wipe clean entrance signage.	690.00	31/07/2027
2027	SL - Legal Obligation Work	To cut back vegetation obstructing the carriageway on Nellington Road as per KCC Highways requirements in the diagram below. Vegetation should be cut back to the boundary fence	1,320.00	30/11/2027
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	KHWCP with volunteers on site to cut and dig out laurel, growing on boundary on Nellington road. Remove regenerating cherry laurel across the site. Laurel densest along the stream and valley bottom. . Cut larger shrubs, but hand-pull the smaller seedlings and saplings.	300.00	31/03/2028
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cut (as per EMC specs 1.1 and 2.1): strim all paths including pond margin along dam. Remove debris from pond overflow. Cut back overhanging vegetation along public footpath to S of wood. Strim vegetation around all entrances. Minor litter pick. Wipe clean entrance signage.	720.00	31/07/2028
2029	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	KHWCP with volunteers on site to cut and dig out laurel, growing on boundary on Nellington road. Remove regenerating cherry laurel across the site. Laurel densest along the stream and valley bottom. Cut larger shrubs, but hand-pull the smaller seedlings and saplings.	300.00	31/03/2029
2029	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path cut (as per EMC specs 1.1 and 2.1): strim all paths including pond margin along dam. Remove debris from pond overflow. Cut back overhanging vegetation along	750.00	31/07/2029

Year	Generic Work Description	Detailed MP Work Programme	Exp/Inc	Due By
		public footpath to S of wood. Strim vegetation around all entrances. Minor litter pick. Wipe clean entrance signage.		
2029	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	KHWCP with volunteers on site to cut and dig out laurel, growing on boundary on Nellington road. Remove regenerating cherry laurel across the site. Laurel densest along the stream and valley bottom. Cut larger shrubs, but hand-pull the smaller seedlings and saplings.	300.00	30/11/2029
2029	SL - Legal Obligation Work	To cut back vegetation obstructing the carriageway on Nellington Road as per KCC Highways requirements in the diagram below. Vegetation should be cut back to the boundary fence.	1,370.00	30/11/2029

## 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-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	05/02/2002	Check progress of clearance of Jap knotweed,	This is NOT Japanese knotweed. It is a species of Ribes.	None
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	09/01/2003	Check clearance of and monitor extent of any garden waste tipping	Garden waste still to be cleared (letter written 9/1/03).	Check if letter has had an effect.
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	29/01/2004	Observe condition of pond and surrounding area and report.	Pond overflow partly blocked by sticks and weed. Very low flow for time of year - pond weed and water-cress building up. Blockage and some weed cleared by WO. Coppice to E and S of pond marked for cutting to allow more light to water.	Coppice around pond to be cut and chipped to remove debris that can be thrown into water. Revetment needed for dam to prevent further digging and erosion - top surface of dam could be surfaced
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	05/01/2005	Check success of cutting and treatment in 2004	Laurel and bamboo mostly under control. Some laurel along boundary with Nellington Rd. Rideside and pond-side coppicing completed. Problems still with pond -sewage, Parrotts Feather and water fern.	Chase EA re pond
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	11/11/2008	Check for any laurel/bamboo or any other invasive exotics. Check condition of pond: is coppicing needed. Check for squirrel damage, windblow etc.	No invasive species. Pond overflow needs unblocking - path improvements required by pond.	
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	04/12/2009	Check for any laurel/bamboo or any other invasive exotics. Check condition of pond: is coppicing needed. Check for squirrel damage, windblow etc.	one bamboo removed. Pond ok - no tree work required.	

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	09/05/2013	Check for any laurel/bamboo or any other invasive exotics. Check condition of pond: is coppicing needed? Check for squirrel damage, windblow etc.	No invasives present. Pond not great but due to regular pollution not viable for any work. Min intervention recommended.	
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	03/08/2016	In winter 2016, EMC contractor is scheduled to cut cherry laurel and paint the stumps across the woodland. There are two bamboo bushes beside the river needing removed also. Check on laurel and bamboo for regrowth.	Laurel and bamboo still present in many places. Unclear if this action was carried out in winter 2016.	Follow-up with contractor to see if it was done. Discuss options with contractor. Repeat action if appropriate or implement an alternative.
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	23/03/2020	Survey the level of holly regeneration within the woodland. Note the coverage of holly regeneration, using DAFOR for the various stages of regen and established shrubs/trees. Take photos in two locations: 1.) Midway down the path on the east side of the stream, from all four directions (N, S, E, W). 2.) From the path junction where the dam boardwalk meets the west side path, from all four directions.	Photos taken and saved in site files. Holly Abundant-Dominant in both locations. Mostly mature trees shading out all ground flora. Regen spreading out but not cause for concern currently.	Re-assess annually, consider coppicing some larger holly to allow light to ground flora, bluebells non existent under large hollies.
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	09/12/2020	Survey the level of holly regeneration within the woodland. Note the coverage of holly regeneration, using DAFOR for the various stages of regen and established shrubs/trees. Take photos in two locations: 1.) Midway down the path on the east side of the stream, from all four directions (N, S, E, W). 2.) From the path junction where the dam boardwalk meets the west side path, from all four directions.	Holly levels not greatly increased since last yer, though some thinning may be beneficial to woodland ground flora	Add 25% holly thin to 2022 EMC

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	07/02/2022	After two years of back-to-back removal, check the site for cherry laurel and bamboo regeneration. This monitoring event comes after one growing season and the next removal is not scheduled until winter 2023. Comment on the rate of re-establishment and whether a removal action every other year is an appropriate length of time. Consider lengthening the time between cuts to every three years.	Laurel and bamboo all but absent from site (with exception of uncontrolled patch surrounding highly active badger sett)	lengthen period between cuts.
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	07/02/2022	Survey the level of holly regeneration within the woodland. Note the coverage of holly regeneration, the various stages of regen and established shrubs/trees.	Extensive holly across site, regenerating in centre along stream. bluebells & lesser celandine present across site but absent under holly	20-25% thin in 2022 to increase light to forest floor & preserve AW ground flora - added to EMC
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	05/02/2002	Monitor safety work	No safety works ordered.	None
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	05/02/2002	Check that condition of gates, posts, notices OK. Check condition of paths, steps and bridges OK.	Gates, signs, steps, footbridges all OK	Remove redundant sleeper bridge from below pond dam.
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	09/01/2003	Check that condition of gates, posts, notices OK. Check condition of paths, steps and bridges OK.	New rails needed for kissing gate. Replacement steps in EMC. Tree safety work to be ordered .	Replace rails when doing steps
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	29/01/2004	Check that condition of gates, posts, notices OK. Check condition of paths, steps and bridges OK.	Kissing gate needs replacing. New steps installed from main entrance Aug 2003 - good. Rideside coppice marked to cut back to improve access. New welcome signs will be needed at minor entrances. Squeeze gap to S looks tatty.	Renew main entrance - management gate and squeeze gap. Renew squeeze gap to S. Install short posts for small welcome signs at both minor entrances. Rideside coppicing to complete

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	11/11/2008	Check condition of entrances, signs, steps, footbridge. Check level of path cutting/ride widening adequate. Assess access category.	Entrances & structures ok. Path cut completed. Tree safety survey completed.	
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	16/04/2009	Check condition of entrances, signs, steps, footbridge. Check level of path cutting/ride widening adequate. Assess access category.	site visit following report of litter - picked up large bag. Put up no stealing wood notices. All entrances ok.	
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	09/05/2013	Check new boardwalk & handrail are installed & ok. Check condition of entrances, signs, steps, footbridge. Check level of path cutting/ride widening adequate. Assess access category.	New boardwalk & handrail installed. Harling plaque installed. Access cat & management regime suitable for site.	
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	18/07/2014	Check condition of entrances, signs, steps, footbridge. Check level of path cutting/ride widening adequate. Assess access category.	Footbridge and culvert repair looks safe (Nick Hilton fixed this in May 2014)	
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	06/08/2018	Assess visitor infrastructure as part of WCA and management plan review - is it still appropriate? Does it need replacing or upgrading?	Backdated observation from summer 2018 site visit. Infrastructure in working order. No need to replace anything at this time. Main entrance gate replaced in 2017, new breadboard installed in 2018. Boardwalk in good condition. All handrails (main entrance), boardwalk, and bridge is sturdy. Continue to monitor annually and add in repair/replace if required. Footbridge in the north is looking weathered, but sturdy with no rot. Stairs from the south entrance are likely needing to be replaced within next 5-year management plan. Culvert from pond working as expected.	Add in job to replace stairs from southern entrance in latter part of next 5-year plan. Continue to monitor infrastructure as part of annual safety inspection and add in any repairs as required.

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	11/04/2024	Assess visitor infrastructure as part of WCA and management plan review - is it still appropriate? Does it need replacing or upgrading?	Some fence posts along Nellington Road and PROW have started to rot, replace within next 5 years.	
	F97	28/04/2017	Small sloping asnw with a pond in the south and a stream flowing northwest through the centre of the site. The woodland is classified as an urban woodland as it is located next to the built up area of Rusthall, Kent and is surrounded by houses and roads. There is a public footpath along the outside of the southern boundary. There are some old oak, ash, and chestnut within the woodland. The western boundary was affected by windblow during the 1987 storm. This same area also has a significant amount of overgrown laurel among a very large badger set.		
	F97	11/04/2024	Nellington Wood is a small sloping woodland nestled in the community of Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. There is a small pond in the south and a stream running north that bisects the site. A public footpath borders the northern and southern boundary.		
Woodland Condition	F99	30/01/2001	Woodland in good condition although past and recent storm damage noted. Also noted invasion by bamboo and cherry laurel and first signs of japanese knotweed invasion. Noted specimen type exotic broadleaves. Good regeneration of native species, good age mix and some older larger trees with niches. Canopy incomplete with strategic openings	Observation: Monitor annually, as in managemnt plan, with eradication and pushing back of invasive species. (Also limited coppicing otherwise mainly minimal intervention except for general maintenance and tree safety work).	



Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
			amongst mature trees allowing light to woodland floor and understorey.		
Woodland Condition	F99	05/02/2002	See ghyll woodland KF obs	See Ghyll Woodland KF obs	
Woodland Condition	F99	09/01/2003	see KF	Garden rubbish and tree safety need doing. Otherwise all OK.Great spotted woodpecker drumming.	Ask Woodwise to look at tree safety - winch needed
Woodland Condition	F99	29/01/2004	see KF	Pond in poor condition - see KF obs. Ride and pondside coppicing to do during next 2 months. Some overstood hazel coppice along rides has been pulled down over paths and split. Some windblown and resprouting trees need clearing from N boundary with pfpth. No recent garden rubbish. Bluebells beginning to show. Greater spotted woodpecker drumming. All laurel in the wood now cut.	Ride and pond side coppicing to do.
Woodland Condition	F99	05/01/2005	Check condition of pond, effects of ride and pond side coppicing.Check effectiveness of laurel and bamboo control.	Laurel and bamboo under control. Some laurel on boundary with Nellington Rd. Pond in poor condition - parrotts feather, water fern, sewage. Vandalised post and signs in N of wood. Also damaged trees. Minor fly tipping on boundary with Upper Nellington. Tree safety inspection - one medium-sized ash tree to remove on boundary with Upper Nellington. Pond and rideside coppicing complete - good.	Chase EA re pond. Order tree safety work.
Woodland Condition	F99	23/01/2006	Check condition of pond, any sign of vandalism, tree safety, fly tipping.	Site condition good. Pond now in much better condition following weed removal and strimming of banks etc November 2005. No recent vandalism. Tree safety work to do on boundary with Nellington rd and Upper Nellington. Steps, footbridge, culvert OK. Small signs at N and S entrances to be replaced. Laurel and bamboo mostly eradicated from wood	Small signs to EMC contractors for installation at path cut.

Observations for KF	Ref no	Actual Date	Planned observation	Actual observation	Suggestions / Actions
Woodland Condition	F99	29/11/2006	Check condition of pond, any sign of vandalism, tree safety, fly tipping. Check for laurel, bamboo.	Pond condition OK: some invasive weed but clear water. Overflow not blocked. No recent vandalism/motorbikes (last report in May 06). Minor amounts of cherry laurel throughout site. Squirrel damaged tops and branches blown out by recent high winds. Small signs at all entrances need replacing. Steps from SW entrance and all fencing to replace in 2007.	New signs, steps, fencing
Woodland Condition	F99	07/12/2007	Check condition of pond, any sign of vandalism, tree safety, fly tipping. Check for laurel, bamboo. New fencing and steps completed.	No recent anti-social behaviour problems. Pond in poor condition with parrotts feather and water fern. Water has flowed over dam in recent heavy rain and is eroding down-stream side. Some laurel and bamboo present in wood but not at levels to threaten biodiversity. Gates, signs, steps and footbridge in good condition. Minor tree safety work on Nellington Road. Yews and ash overhanging garden of Nellington Mead need to be reduced in consultation with neighbour.	Consult with Mrs Collins re overhanging trees
Woodland Condition	F99	11/11/2008	Check condition of pond, any sign of vandalism, tree safety, fly tipping. Check amounts of laurel and bamboo present.	Pond overflow needs clearing, may be improved by some coppicing. Tree safety survey completed.	
Woodland Condition	F99	04/12/2009	Check condition of pond, any sign of vandalism, tree safety, fly tipping. Check amounts of laurel and bamboo present.	see KF obs	
Woodland Condition	F99	24/10/2017	Check condition of pond, any sign of vandalism, tree safety, fly tipping. Check amounts of laurel and bamboo present.	Lots of algal cover on pond and logs have been put in the overflow pipe. Small amount of litter on site. Laurel appears to have been successfully eradicated and no bamboo was observed.	

## 6.2 Planned Observations

Observations for KF	Ref no	Planned Date	Planned Observation
KF-Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	f1	31/12/2027	Check pond fencing, still in place , is it improving the pond edge habitat? Survey the level of invasive non-native species, cherry laurel and bamboo regeneration. is management working Survey the level of holly regeneration within the woodland. Note the coverage of holly regeneration, the various stages of regen and established shrubs/trees.
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	31/05/2025	Check all signage, access points and other site infrastructure and furniture to ensure that all are in good condition and adequate for visitor numbers and all user groups. Check for completion of maintenance works – path cut and the strimming works around the entrances.
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	31/05/2026	Check all signage, access points and other site infrastructure and furniture to ensure that all are in good condition and adequate for visitor numbers and all user groups. Check for completion of maintenance works – path cut and the strimming works around the entrances.
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	30/08/2027	Check all signage, access points and other site infrastructure and furniture to ensure that all are in good condition and adequate for visitor numbers and all user groups. Check for completion of maintenance works – path cut and the strimming works around the entrances.
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	30/08/2028	Check all signage, access points and other site infrastructure and furniture to ensure that all are in good condition and adequate for visitor numbers and all user groups. Check for completion of maintenance works – path cut and the strimming works around the entrances.
KF-Connecting People with woods & trees	f2	30/08/2029	Assess visitor infrastructure as part of WCA and management plan review - is it still appropriate? Does it need replacing or upgrading?
	F97	30/04/2029	High Weald NCA/National Landscape

## Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	2.2	Mixed broadleaves	1850	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Belt, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
<p>Small urban-fringe ASNW. Two storied structure with oak, beech and sweet chestnut as dominant canopy species. Understorey species include hazel, holly, goat willow, rowan, sycamore. Ground flora species include bluebells, bramble, ferns and mosses. There are also some mature exotic tree species such as London plane, red oak and horse chestnut. The site suffered extensive windblow during the storm of 1987. A small stream crosses the site from SE to NW. There is a small in-line pond with dam and overflow. The terrain slopes towards the stream, steeply in places. Soils: slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with seasonal waterlogging. The surrounding landuse is predominantly residential housing with some grassland and woodland to the north.</p>						

## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Forecast Year	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
1a	Coppice	2.20	2027	0	1

## Appendix 3: Reference information and surveys

Evaluation Type	Type of Information	Details of Contents	Author / Recorder	Date of record
Management History	Past WGS	First Scheme: 1993-1998 Plan 1: 1999-2004 Plan 2: 2004-2009.	WT	10/12/1993
Management History	Past WGS	Grouped with Friezland & Hurst Wood - Scheem ref: 20164 2009-2013.	WT	04/02/2004
Management History	Monitoring Results	<p>05/02/2002. Tree safety survey done - no work required. Gates, signs, steps, footbridges are all OK.</p> <p>9/01/2003. Garden waste along boundary still needs to be cleared (letter written 9/1/03). New rails needed for kissing gate. Replacement steps are in EMC. Tree safety work needs to be ordered. Greater spotted woodpecker drumming.</p> <p>29/01/2004. Pond in poor condition. Overflow partly blocked by sticks and weed. Very low flow for time of year: pond weed and water-cress building up. Blockage and some weed cleared by WO. Coppice to E and S of pond marked for cutting to allow more light to water. Some overstood hazel coppice along rides has been pulled down over paths and split. Some windblown and resprouting trees need clearing from N boundary with public footpath. No recent garden rubbish. Bluebells beginning to show. Greater spotted woodpecker drumming. All laurel in the wood now cut. Kissing gate needs replacing. New steps installed from main entrance Aug 2003: good. Rideside coppice marked to cut back to improve access. New welcome signs will be needed at minor entrances. Squeeze gap to S looks tatty.</p> <p>05/01/2005. Laurel and bamboo under control. Some laurel on still on boundary with Nellington Rd. Pond in poor condition: parrots feather; water fern; sewage. Vandalised trees, post and signs in N of wood. Minor fly tipping on</p>	Toby Bancroft	08/01/2007

Evaluation Type	Type of Information	Details of Contents	Author / Recorder	Date of record
		<p>boundary with Upper Nellington. Tree safety inspection: one medium-sized ash tree to remove on boundary with Upper Nellington. Pond and rideside coppicing complete: good.</p> <p>23/01/2006. Site condition good. Pond is now in much better condition following weed removal and strimming of banks in November 2005. No recent vandalism. Tree safety work to do on boundary with Nellington Rd and Upper Nellington. Steps, footbridge, culvert OK. Small signs at N and S entrances need to be replaced. Laurel and bamboo mostly eradicated from the wood..</p>		
Management History	Past Management Plan	Past plan: 1994 Past plan: 2001-2006 Past plan: 2007-2012 Past plan: 2012-2017.	WT	12/11/2017
Wildlife Conservation	Species List	Limited by foot and mouth disease restrictions, limited list in Feb 01.	G Marshall	28/02/2001