



Friends of Gedling House Woods

Woodland management plan

Principles

The principles underpinning the management of Gedling House Woods are to:

- provide a natural habitat for plant, animal, bird and insect life throughout the year
- provide a range of light environments, from dense canopy to marginal scrub to encourage diversity
- maintain the woodland structure by felling dead wood and selectively replanting
- ensure a mix of native species, taking into account climate variation
- maintain public access through suitable pathways
- keep the site as natural looking as possible with minimal intrusive works or paths, only to ensure visitor safety through, for example, ensuring the maintenance of appropriately natural earth retention steps on muddy slopes.

Overall long-term vision

The woodland and the adjacent meadow are seen as a continuum from woodland to meadow with:

- dense canopy mixed woodland in the centre of the site, containing mature ash, beech, oak, sycamore, cherry and other native species present, which is maintained and, where necessary as gaps appear, replanted with similar young trees
- marginal areas adjacent to the meadows, with some coppicing as below but mainly hawthorn, elder, rowan, holly and bramble
- marginal areas adjacent to the lane and to properties to the north east, with some marginal as above but mainly coppiced hazel, sycamore and other species present
- at least one glade to provide a relatively open small grassy space, with a range of woodland flowers, including native bluebells, snowdrops, primroses, to complement the wood anemone, bluebells and wild garlic that is present in the woodland area.

Management strategies

To maintain a good balance of mature trees, new trees and a varied undergrowth that provide a wide-ranging wild-life habitat:

- fell any dangerous, dead, dying or diseased trees, including those bordering the meadows
- remove significantly overhanging branches that detract from the management of the meadow
- leave felled wood safely to provide habitats for insects, birds, small mammal and fungus
- identify any unwanted non-native or invasive species, and remove them
- maintain marginal areas with scrub and smaller trees on the meadow boundaries and roadside verges.

To provide safe access to pedestrians and road users

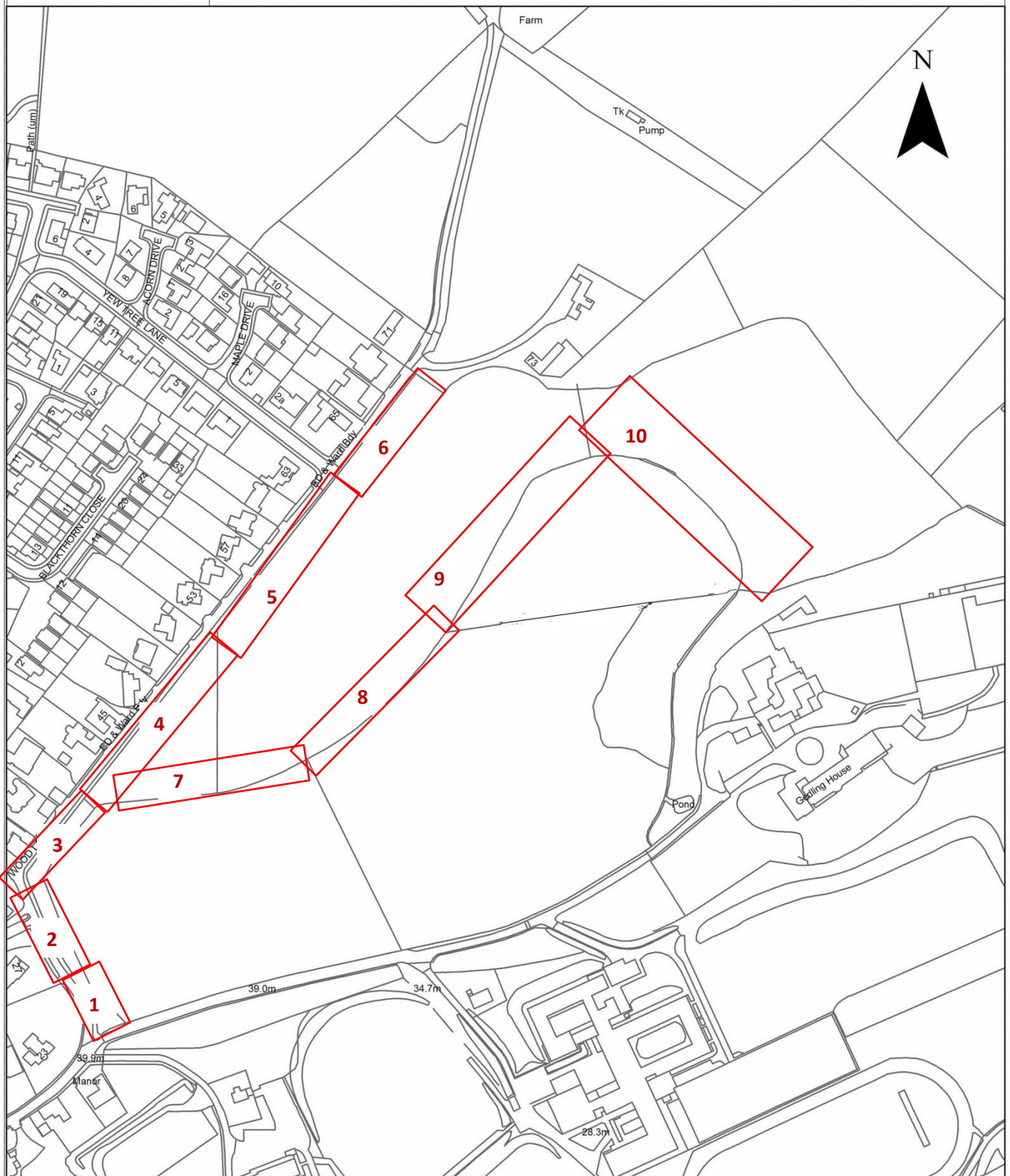
- maintain path surfaces as woodland paths with no special surfaces
- clear main paths of encroaching plants and branches to all allow free access at all times
- remove ivy from any large marginal trees to improve safety, leaving it to provide habitats elsewhere.

To ensure the woodland management plan is followed in a timely manner:

- ensure an annual inspection of tree safety takes place, with any culling taking place in the winter
- use contractors or Gedling Borough Council staff for all tree-climbing and chain-saw work
- use volunteers for low level tree work of all types where possible.

Location:

Gedling House Woods



NOTE This map is provided only for purposes of site location and should not be read as an up to date representation of the area around the site. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of H.M.S.O. Crown Copyright. Licence No LA100021248. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Month by month plan

Marginal woodland

General points – marginal woodland

Timing	Activity
November to March	Annual tree check and removal of dead, dying or diseased wood, and some overhanging branches.
November to March	Remove ivy from growing trees in verge and marginal areas only.

Compartment 1

Timing	Activity
November to March	Annual clearance and hedge cut
May/June	Clear daffodil area and verges
June to October	Keep daffodil area, roadside verges and entrance mown/clear or tall growth
Autumn 2020	Additional bulb planting in triangle area

Compartments 2 and 3

Timing	Activity
November to March	Annual clearance
November to March	Hedge cutting
November to March	Road side – coppicing
May to October	Check compartments 2 and 3 for safe passage through intrusive bramble
Autumn 2020	Check central spine of mature trees for gaps and replant

Compartments 4 and 5

Timing	Activity
November to March	Hedge cutting
November to March	Road side and wood side of fence– coppicing
May 2020	Remove invasive Spanish bluebells
October/November 2020	Plant native bluebells to replace those removed.

Compartment 6

November to March	Clear roadside verge
November to March	Clearance and coppicing of marginal areas

Compartments 7 and 8

Timing	Activity
November to March	Annual clearance
November to March	Thinning, coppicing and replanting

Compartments 9 and 10

Timing	Activity
November to March	Annual clearance
November to March	Scrub and coppiced areas
March to September	Path round outside of meadow cut regularly

Non-marginal woodland

General points – non-marginal woodland

Timing	Activity
November to March	Annual tree check and removal of dead, dying or diseased wood, and some overhanging branches.
	<i>For the avoidance of doubt, ivy should not be removed from non-marginal woodland areas</i>

Main glade

Glade area

Timing	Activity
Dec / Jan / Feb	Rake dead leaves and leave in woodland / clear glade and edges
April through October	Mow grassed area
June / August	Strim grass edges to prevent incursion of weeds, bramble and other woody growth.

July	Trim tree bases
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