



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 throughout.

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
- maintenance and expansion of woodland wildflower areas containing native species of wild garlic, snowdrops, celandine, wood anemone and bluebells
- 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

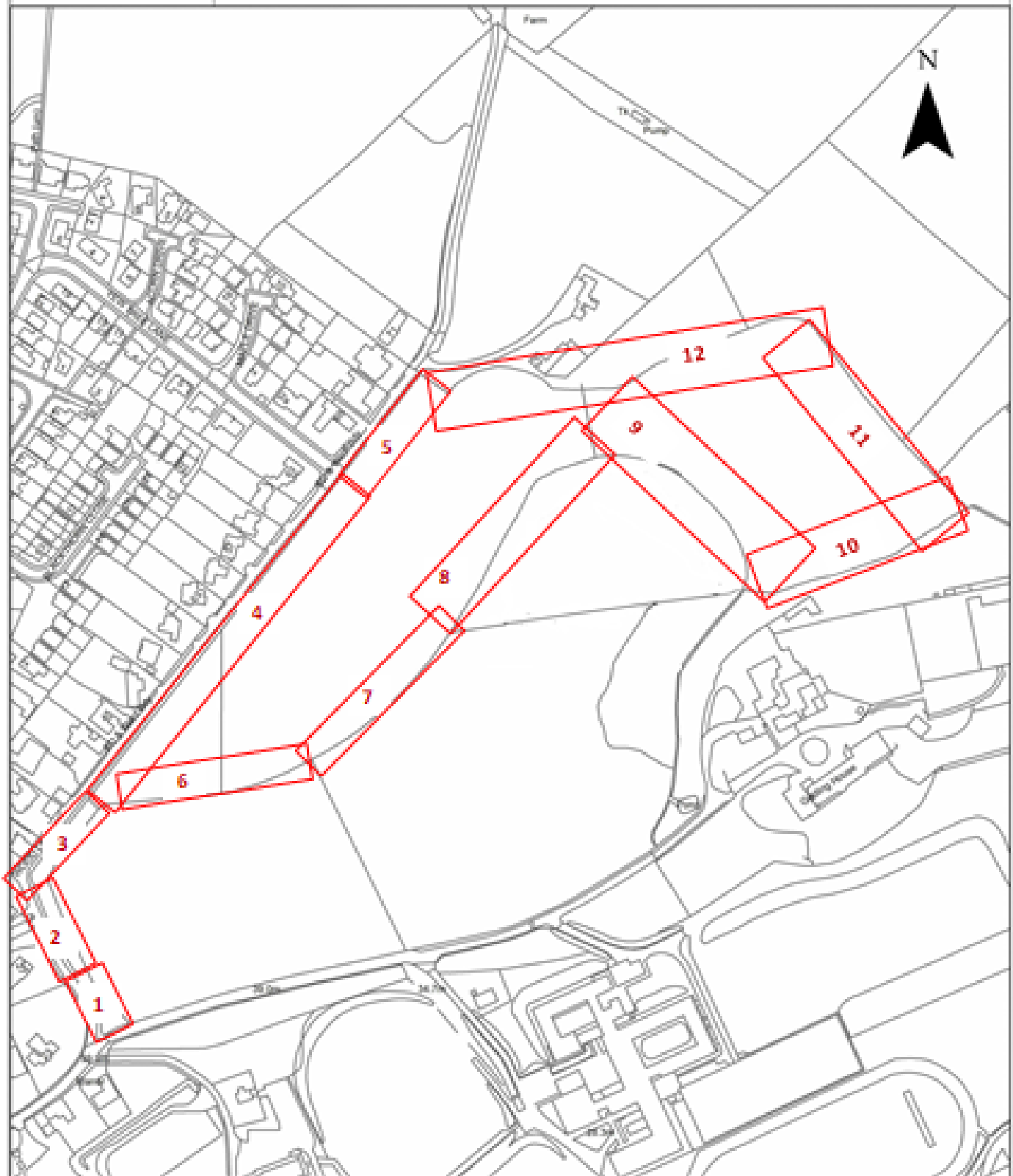
- maintain path surfaces as woodland paths with no special surfaces
- clear main paths of encroaching plants and branches to all allow free access at all times
- remove ivy from any large marginal trees to improve safety, leaving it to provide habitats elsewhere.

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.
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Month by month plan

Marginal woodland

General points – marginal woodland

| Timing | Activity |
|---------------------|---|
| December /January | Annual tree check and removal of dead, dying or diseased wood, and some overhanging branches. |
| December / February | Remove ivy from mature growing trees in verge and marginal areas only. |

Compartment 1

| Timing | Activity |
|---------------------|--|
| November to January | 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 2022 | Additional bulb planting in triangle area |

Compartments 2 and 3

| Timing | Activity |
|---------------------|---|
| November to January | Annual clearance |
| November to January | Hedge cutting |
| November to January | Road side – coppicing |
| Throughout the year | Check compartments 2 and 3 for safe passage through intrusive bramble |
| Oct / Nov 2021 | Clear and thin area on corner (Comps 2/3) and replant (beech) |
| Nov 2021 | Check central spine of mature trees for gaps and replant if needed |
| Summer (Comp 2) | Remove burdock and other invasive species from area near main gate |
| Summer (Comp 3) | Trim hedge on roadside corner to provide safer passage for vehicles. |

Compartment 4

| Timing | Activity |
|----------------------|---|
| November to January | Hedge cutting |
| November to February | Road side and wood side of fence– coppicing |

| | |
|----------|--|
| May 2022 | Check for any remaining invasive Spanish/hybrid bluebells and remove |
|----------|--|

Compartment 5

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| October | Clear roadside verge |
| November to February | Maintain this compartment as marginal woodland. Remove all sycamore regrowth to provide space for newly planted species. |

Compartments 6 and 7

| Timing | Activity |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| November to February | Annual clearance |
| November to February | Thinning, coppicing and replanting |

Compartments 8 and 9

| Timing | Activity |
|----------------------|--|
| November to February | Annual clearance |
| November to February | Check scrub and coppiced areas |
| April to October | Path round outside of meadow cut regularly |

Compartment 10

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| November to February | Annual clearance along fence line and pathways |
|----------------------|--|

Compartment 11

| Timing | Activity |
|---------------------|--|
| Throughout the year | Check for damage in newly planted area. |
| Until March 2022 | Liaise with Streetwise on any remedial action. |
| February 2022 | Further planting at lower end of this compartment as GAR fencing completed |

Compartment 12

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| November to February | Annual clearance along pathways |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|

Non-marginal woodland

| General points – non-marginal woodland | |
|--|---|
| Timing | Activity |
| November to January | 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 | Additional planting if needed |
| April through October | Mow grassed area |
| June / August | Strim grass edges to prevent incursion of weeds, bramble and other woody growth. |
| July/August | Trim tree bases |
| December | Rake dead leaves and strim to remove nettle growth and other large weeds. |