



# 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 or pose a risk to the public
- 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

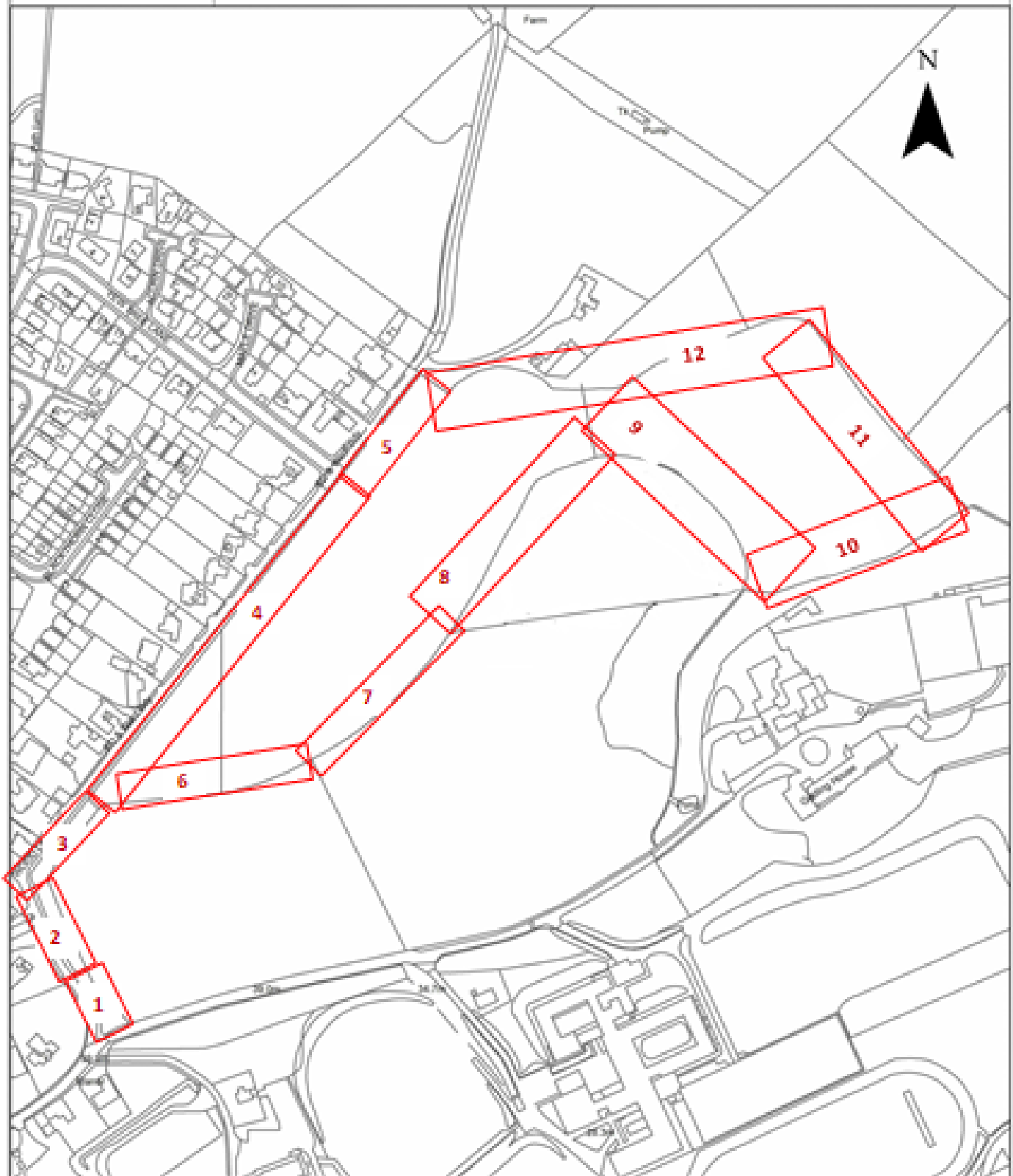
- maintain path surfaces as woodland paths with no special surfaces
- clear main paths of encroaching plants and branches to all allow free access at all times
- remove ivy from any large marginal trees to improve safety, leaving it to provide habitats elsewhere.

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

### Compartments 2 and 3

Timing	Activity
October to November	Hedge cutting
November to January	Annual clearance
November to January	Road side – ‘coppicing’
Throughout the year	Check compartments 2 and 3 for safe passage through intrusive bramble
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
October to November	Hedge cutting
November to February	Road side and wood side of fence – ‘coppicing’
April	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
November to February	Maintain chipping path

## Compartment 11

Timing	Activity
November to February	Check for damage and dead plants in newly planted area and replace.
Throughout the year	Maintain fencing to protect new planting.

## Compartment 12

November to February	Annual clearance along pathways
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## 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.