CABINET MEMBER FOR STREETPRIDE

Venue: **Management Meeting Room, 2nd Floor Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham. S60 1TD**

Date: **Monday, 15th February, 2010**

Time: **9.30 a.m.**

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006).

2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.

3. Minutes of previous meetings of the Cabinet Member for Streetpride held as follows:-
   For signature by the Cabinet Member:-

   - 30th November, 2009.
   - 14th December, 2009.
   - 4th January, 2010.

   (See Minutes presented to Council on 3rd February, 2010 – White Book)

4. Streetpride Response Times. (report attached) (Pages 1 - 13)
   Jon Surridge, Projects and Performance Officer, Streetpride, to report.
   - to report the 3rd quarter Streetpride response times.

5. Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood Management Plan, Thorpe Salvin. (report attached) (Pages 14 - 141)
   David Burton, Director of Streetpride/Roger Gaynor, Trees and Woodlands Officer, to report.
   - to seek approval of the management plan.

6. Bulky Items and Special Collections - Prices Review 2010/11. (report attached) (Pages 142 - 147)
   Adrian Gabriel, Waste Strategy Manager, to report.
   - to consider charges for the service 2010/11.

7. Clinical Waste - Internal Customers - Prices Review 2010/11. (report attached) (Pages 148 - 151)
   Adrian Gabriel, Waste Strategy Manager, to report.
   - to consider charges for the service 2010/11.

8. Commercial Waste Service - Prices Review 2010/11. (report attached) (Pages 152 - 158)

Adrian Gabriel, Waste Strategy Manager, to report.

- to consider charges for the service 2010/11.

Agenda Item 4

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	**Meeting:-**	**Cabinet Member - Delegated Powers Meeting**
2.	**Date:-**	**15 February 2010**
3.	**Title:-**	**Streetpride Response Times**
4.	**Directorate:-**	**Environment and Development Services**

5. Summary

Streetpride's overall performance in dealing with requests for service averaged 97.6% in the third quarter of 2009/10. This was a slight reduction in performance compared with the previous quarter.

6. Recommendation:

That Streetpride's performance in the third quarter of 2009/10 be noted.

7. Proposals and Details

Streetpride's performance during the third quarter of the financial year 2009/10 is illustrated in Appendix 2. During this period, Streetpride dealt with 97.6 % of requests for service within the agreed response times. While this represents a 0.5% reduction in overall performance compared with the previous quarter's out-turn of 98.1%, it should be noted that average performance over the 3 months exceeded the 90% target in every case. There were however dips in performance on a monthly basis (see Exception Report attached as Appendix 3).

8. Finance

Costs incurred in delivering current target response times are covered by the Streetpride Revenue Budget for 2009/10.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Streetpride's overall efficiency in meeting target response times can be adversely affected by factors beyond Streetpride's control (such as snow, flooding or industrial action) and continues to be dependant on the Service receiving adequate levels of funding.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Streetpride's rapid response in dealing with environmental issues makes an important contribution to three of the Council's corporate priorities: 'Rotherham Safe', 'Rotherham Proud' and Sustainable Development. This is achieved through Streetpride's rapid and efficient response to local environmental issues including the timely clearance of litter, disposal of abandoned cars, dealing with fly tipping, and removal of graffiti and dog fouling.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Appendix 1 - Streetpride response times for the period July to September 2009

Appendix 2 - Streetpride response times for the period October to December 2009

Appendix 3 – Exception Report for October to December 2009

The appendices have been produced jointly with Neighbourhood Services

Contact Name: *Jon Surridge, EDS Projects and Performance Officer (Streetpride) Extension 2901 e-mail: jonathan.surridge@rotherham.gov.uk*

APPENDIX 1

STREETPRIDE RESPONSE TIMES				Number of requests	% meeting target response time	Number of requests	% meeting target response time	Number of requests	% meeting target response time	% meeting target response times	% meeting target response times	Comments and actions to improve performance (where below 90%)
Resp		**Request for Action**	**Target Response 2008/09**	**Jul-09**		**Aug-09**		**Sep-09**		**Cumulative (Year to Date)**	**Average this quarter**	
Andy Roddis	1(a)	Make safe dangerous overhanging trees/vegetation on highway land.	If necessary, the danger will be signed and guarded within **4 hrs**.	1	100.0%	4	100.0%	4	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	1(b)		Cutting back will be carried out within **5 days**.	2	100.0%	0	100.0%	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Andy Roddis	2(a)	Make safe dangerous overhanging trees/vegetation on private land.	If necessary, the danger will signed and guarded within **4 hrs**.	0	100.0%	2	100.0%	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	2(b)		Cutting back by landowner - within **14 days** (after written notice from Streetpride)	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	0	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Andy Rowley / Maria Under wood	3	Provision of **estimate** for Vehicular Access Crossing (excluding factors outside Streetpride's control)	**10 working days** (after receipt of written request).	15	100.0%	16	100.0%	11	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Allan Lewis	4	Street light out.	**3 working days** (for a non supply fault).	187	97.0%	244	92.0%	350	98.0%	95.0%	95.7%	Very good overall performance during the quarter. The average time to deal with street lighting faults was 2.2 days compared with the 3 day target
Mick Powell	5(a)	Faulty traffic lights.	All lights out - **1 hr**	9	100.0%	9	100.0%	4	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	5(b)		Single bulb failure **24 hrs**	5	100.0%	5	100.0%	9	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter

APPENDIX 1

Resp		Request for Action	Target Response 2008/09	Jul-09		Aug-09		Sep-09		Cumulative (Year to Date)	Average this quarter	
Andy Roddis	6	Dangerous defect in carriageway.	**4 hrs** after being reported by the public	31	100.0%	25	100.0%	16	100.0%	99.1%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Andy Roddis	7	Dangerous defect on footpath.	**4 hrs** after being reported by the public	12	91.7%	8	100.0%	6	100.0%	97.3%	97.2%	Very good overall performance with the target fully met in August and September
Pete Hyde	8	Removal of fly tipping	**1 working day**	192	92.7%	227	93.0%	239	82.8%	87.4%	89.5%	Reasonably good overall performance during the quarter, but staff leave had an adverse effect on performance in September. The average time to remove fly tipping was 0.6 days compared with the 1 day target,
Pete Hyde	9	Removal of dog mess	**1 working day**	38	100.0%	30	100.0%	46	95.7%	97.0%	98.6%	Very good overall performance with the target fully met in July and August
Steve Finley	10(a)	Removal of abandoned car.	Burnt out - **same day** (if reported before noon), otherwise **within 24 hours**	1	100.0%	4	100.0%	0	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	10(b)		Wreck or dangerous - **within 24 hrs**	0	100.0%	2	100.0%	2	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	10(c)		Runner **15 working days**	2	100.0%	1	100.0%	2	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Andy Roddis	11	Make safe missing cover e.g. public and private sewers, gas, water or BT apparatus.	**4 hrs** to make safe and inform the owner. Owner to carry out repairs.	19	100.0%	20	100.0%	12	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter

APPENDIX 1

Resp		Request for Action	Target Response 2008/09	Jul-09		Aug-09		Sep-09		Cumulative (Year to Date)	Average this quarter	
Pete Hyde	12	Clear up spillage on carriageway.	**4 hrs**	9	100.0%	8	100.0%	10	90.0%	98.3%	96.7%	Very good overall performance with the target fully met in July and August

APPENDIX 1

Resp		Request for Action	Target Response 2008/09	Jul-09		Aug-09		Sep-09		Cumulative (Year to Date)	Average this quarter	
Pete Hyde	13	Empty overflowing litter bin/dog bin	**4 hrs**	4	100.0%	3	100.0%	2	100.0%	95.8%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Graham Kaye	14(a)	Clear blocked gully causing severe ponding.	**4 hrs** to sign and guard	6	100.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	14(b)		blockage relieved within **1 working day.**	8	100.0%	1	100.0%	3	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Bob Morrison	15	Empty missed wheelie bin (if reported within 24 hrs of being missed),	**Same day** (if reported before 1pm) **Within 1 working day** (if reported after 1.00 p.m.)	91	100.0%	83	100.0%	87	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Bob Morrison	16	Remove bulky item (after receipt of payment).	**9 working days**	330	91.2%	299	93.9%	319	97.5%	95.9%	94.2%	Good overall performance during the quarter.
Pete Hyde	17	Remove racist or offensive graffiti (subject to agreement with the landowner)	**1 working day** .	15	86.7%	16	93.8%	30	96.7%	92.2%	92.4%	Good overall performance during the quarter.
Pete Hyde	17a	Remove 'other' graffiti (subject agreement with the landowner) - i.e. graffiti which is not racist or offensive	**4 working days**	32	81.3%	46	97.8%	56	91.1%	91.0%	90.1%	Good overall performance during the quarter.
Lewis Coates	18	Request for an enforcement visit	**4 working days.**	156	96.0%	133	99.0%	143	100.0%	97.8%	98.3%	Very good overall performance with the target fully met in September
Lewis Coates	19	Clear up drug litter	**2 hours**	31	100.0%	34	100.0%	24	92.0%	97.6%	97.3%	Very good overall performance with the target fully met in July and August

APPENDIX 1

Resp		Request for Action	Target Response 2008/09	Jul-09		Aug-09		Sep-09		Cumulative (Year to Date)	Average this quarter	
Lewis Coates	20	Report of a stray dog	**1 working day**	128	100.0%	118	100.0%	150	97.0%	99.5%	99.0%	Excellent overall performance with the target fully met in July and August
Steve Finley	21a	Investigate report of un-taxed vehicle and report to DVLA	**24 hours**	98	100.0%	94	100.0%	135	99.3%	99.2%	99.8%	Excellent overall performance with the target fully met in July and August
Steve Finley	21b	Remove untaxed vehicle if authorised to do so by the DVLA	**24 hours** (after authorisation from DVLA)	20	100.0%	18	100.0%	28	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Pete Hyde	22	Remove litter following a report and return street to high standard of cleanliness	**7 working days**	67	95.5%	54	96.3%	58	89.7%	92.4%	93.8%	Good overall performance during the quarter.
								Overall Average		**97.9%**	**98.1%**	

APPENDIX 2

STREETPRIDE RESPONSE TIMES				Number of requests	% meeting target response time	Number of requests	% meeting target response time	Number of requests	% meeting target response time	% meeting target response times	% meeting target response times	Comments and actions to improve performance (where below 90%)
Resp		**Request for Action**	**Target Response 2008/09**	**Oct-09**		**Nov-09**		**Dec-09**		**Cumulative (Year to Date)**	**Average this quarter**	
Andy Roddis	1(a)	Make safe dangerous overhanging trees/vegetation on highway land.	If necessary, the danger will be signed and guarded within **4 hrs**.	1	100.0%	0	100.0%	0	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	1(b)		Cutting back will be carried out within **5 days**.	0	100.0%	0	100.0%	0	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Andy Roddis	2(a)	Make safe dangerous overhanging trees/vegetation on private land.	If necessary, the danger will signed and guarded within **4 hrs**.	0	100.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	2(b)		Cutting back by landowner - within **14 days** (after written notice from Streetpride)	2	100.0%	0	100.0%	0	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Andy Rowley / Maria Under wood	3	Provision of **estimate** for Vehicular Access Crossing (excluding factors outside Streetpride's control)	**10 working days** (after receipt of written request).	7	100.0%	17	100.0%	6	83.3%	98.1%	94.4%	Good overall performance during the quarter.
Allan Lewis	4	Street light out.	**3 working days** (for a non supply fault).	381	95.0%	466	92.0%	288	95.0%	94.7%	94.0%	Good overall performance during the quarter. The average time to deal with street lighting faults was 1.95 days compared with the 3 day target
Mick Powell	5(a)	Faulty traffic lights.	All lights out - **1 hr**	6	100.0%	14	100.0%	13	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	5(b)		Single bulb failure **24 hrs**	9	100.0%	21	100.0%	10	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter

APPENDIX 2

Resp		Request for Action	Target Response 2008/09	Oct-09		Nov-09		Dec-09		Cumulative (Year to Date)	Average this quarter	
Andy Roddis	6	Dangerous defect in carriageway.	**4 hrs** after being reported by the public	13	100.0%	52	94.2%	31	93.5%	98.0%	95.9%	Good overall performance during the quarter.
Andy Roddis	7	Dangerous defect on footpath.	**4 hrs** after being reported by the public	5	100.0%	9	100.0%	16	100.0%	98.2%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Pete Hyde	8	Removal of fly tipping	**1 working day**	211	89.1%	216	94.0%	181	90.1%	88.6%	91.1%	Good overall performance during the quarter The average time to deal with fly tipping during the quarter was 0.6 days, compared with the 1 day target
Pete Hyde	9	Removal of dog mess	**1 working day**	41	100.0%	39	97.4%	47	87.3%	96.3%	94.9%	Good overall performance during the quarter.
Steve Finley	10(a)	Removal of abandoned car.	Burnt out - **same day** (if reported before noon), otherwise **within 24 hours**	0	100.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	10(b)		Wreck or dangerous - **within 24 hrs**	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	10(c)		Runner **15 working days**	1	100.0%	0	100.0%	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Andy Roddis	11	Make safe missing cover e.g. public and private sewers, gas, water or BT apparatus.	**4 hrs** to make safe and inform the owner. Owner to carry out repairs.	16	100.0%	82	91.5%	27	92.3%	98.2%	94.6%	Good overall performance during the quarter.

APPENDIX 2

Resp		Request for Action	Target Response 2008/09	Oct-09		Nov-09		Dec-09		Cumulative (Year to Date)	Average this quarter	
Pete Hyde	12	Clear up spillage on carriageway.	**4 hrs**	14	100.0%	7	100.0%	1	100.0%	98.9%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter

APPENDIX 2

Resp		Request for Action	Target Response 2008/09	Oct-09		Nov-09		Dec-09		Cumulative (Year to Date)	Average this quarter	
Pete Hyde	13	Empty overflowing litter bin/dog bin	**4 hrs**	3	100.0%	0	100.0%	0	100.0%	97.2%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Graham Kaye	14(a)	Clear blocked gully causing severe ponding.	**4 hrs** to sign and guard	1	100.0%	6	100.0%	3	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
	14(b)		blockage relieved within **1 working day.**	2	100.0%	11	100.0%	4	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Bob Morrison	15	Empty missed wheelie bin (if reported within 24 hrs of being missed),	**Same day** (if reported before 1pm) **Within 1 working day** (if reported after 1.00 p.m.)	101	100.0%	64	100.0%	124	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Bob Morrison	16	Remove bulky item (after receipt of payment).	**9 working days**	262	98.1%	296	94.3%	275	93.1%	95.6%	95.2%	Good overall performance during the quarter.
Pete Hyde	17	Remove racist or offensive graffiti (subject to agreement with the landowner)	**1 working day** .	21	100.0%	13	92.3%	7	100.0%	93.9%	97.4%	Very good overall performance during the quarter.
Pete Hyde	17a	Remove 'other' graffiti (subject agreement with the landowner) - i.e. graffiti which is not racist or offensive	**4 working days**	52	98.1%	40	80.0%	27	92.6%	90.8%	90.2%	Good overall performance during the quarter.
Lewis Coates	18	Request for an enforcement visit	**4 working days.**	129	99.2%	123	99.2%	93	92.0%	97.5%	96.8%	Very good overall performance during the quarter.
Lewis Coates	19	Clear up drug litter	**2 hours**	28	93.0%	45	95.0%	18	88.0%	95.7%	92.0%	Good overall performance during the quarter.

APPENDIX 2

Resp		Request for Action	Target Response 2008/09	Oct-09		Nov-09		Dec-09		Cumulative (Year to Date)	Average this quarter	
Lewis Coates	20	Report of a stray dog	**1 working day**	121	100.0%	130	100.0%	85	100.0%	99.7%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Steve Finley	21a	Investigate report of un-taxed vehicle and report to DVLA	**24 hours**	88	100.0%	64	100.0%	37	97.7%	99.2%	99.2%	Excellent overall performance during the quarter.
Steve Finley	21b	Remove untaxed vehicle if authorised to do so by the DVLA	**24 hours** (after authorisation from DVLA)	19	100.0%	21	100.0%	8	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Target fully met throughout the quarter
Pete Hyde	22	Remove litter following a report and return street to high standard of cleanliness	**7 working days**	58	89.7%	26	100.0%	45	91.2%	92.8%	93.6%	Good overall performance during the quarter.
								Overall Average		**97.8%**	**97.6%**	

Appendix 3

Exception Report

Streetpride Response Times 2009/10 (Quarter 3)

Request for Action	Target	Month	Actual	Explanation
Provision of estimate for VAC	90% within prescribed target response time	December 2009	83.3%	Unable to carry out one survey in time due to snow in December
Removal of fly tipping	90% within prescribed target response time	October 2009	89.1 %	The very stretching 1 day target could not always be met due bad ground conditions or contamination at a number of sites in October
Removal of non racist graffiti	90% within prescribed target response time	November 2009	80%	Some staff resources were deployed to other more urgent duties at certain times during November
Clear up drug litter following a report	90% within prescribed target response time	December 2009	88%	Unable to deal with 2 requests in time due to snow in December
Remove litter following a report	90% within prescribed target response time	October 2009	89.7%	Some staff resources were deployed to other more urgent duties at certain times during October

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	**Meeting:**	**Cabinet Member for Streetpride**
2.	**Date:**	**15 February 2010**
3.	**Title:**	**Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood management Plan, Thorpe Salvin**
4.	**Programme Area:**	**Environment and Development Services**

5. Summary

A new management plan has been prepared for Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe low Wood. It outlines the Council's general position regarding the proposed long term development of these woodlands and includes a detailed work programme for the next five years.

6. Recommendations

That:

Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood Management Plan 2010 to 2015 be approved

7. Proposals and Details

The woodlands are ancient semi natural woodlands. These are woodlands that have been in existence since at least 1600. They are one of the most important habitat types in the UK. The woodland complex extends to 31.95 hectares (78.9 acres) and has been in local authority ownership since 1986. The site is a key public facility for the Thorpe Salvin and surrounding areas where publically accessible woodland is limited. It is important for the health and well-being of the local community, together with providing valuable opportunities for recreation, wildlife conservation and landscape protection. Indeed, the woodland complex is arguably the most important woodland in council ownership for wildlife conservation.

Records reveal that the woodland contains a number of protected species including badger, bat species and water vole, whilst great crested newt may be present. The woodland is also important for a number of bird species that have been in sharp decline in South Yorkshire in recent years. Its importance can be explained in part by its relative isolation and low visitor numbers. To ensure these benefits are continued it is vital there is an integrated and sustainable approach to the care of this woodland area. Therefore, this management plan provides a framework and a long term commitment to the careful stewardship of the woodland complex. Indeed, the proposed aims and objectives, together with a review process cover a period of 120 to 150 years. To begin this work the plan includes a detailed plan of operations and a broad statement of intent for a twenty year period. These will be reviewed every five years.

In particular, the plan promotes the vision for the site, which is as follows and reflects local, regional and national polices; *'Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood protected and conserved as community woodland for future generations'*.

Therefore, the main features of the plan are protecting its landscape importance and providing safe and appropriate access whilst conserving the valuable wildlife interests. Management of this balance will be critical. Whilst public access is welcomed, the extent and type of access will have an impact of wildlife. Potentially intrusive and disturbing activities such as cycling, horse riding and orienteering will not be permitted.

Access for walking and less intrusive activities such as photography will continue, including investigation of improved access to the woodland from Thorpe Salvin. Despite being only 125 metres from the centre of the village, access into the woodland is presently very restricted and requires a walk of over 1 km out of the village along a narrow section of highway with no footway and along a public footpath. Only a small parcel of privately owned land prevents a more direct route from being possible. Implementation of this plan will involve negotiation with the land owner to agree a permissive footpath from the village for walkers. If successful, a path, including the necessary gates and waymarking, will greatly improve access opportunities for the community.

In small areas of the woodland the trees are a similar age and are growing very close together following planting in the 1950s and 1960s. If left unmanaged many will fail to develop and those that do mature will do so at the same time and consequently be lost at the same time. To help avoid this and to improve the prospects of the better trees selective thinning will be carried out to improved light levels, encouraging the best formed trees to develop as well as wild flora to flourish.

Work to remove trees from archaeological monuments will be completed to help protect the monuments from damage caused by root ingress and collapse of trees. The site entrances will continue to be maintained and litter picked to maintained a cared for feel to the woodland.

8. Finance

The estimated cost of the works over the five year period is £26,340. These costs will be spread evenly over the five years of the plan. The works will be supported by the Forestry Commission's England Woodland Grant Scheme with a grant valued at £4,800.00. A contribution from the Connect2 award may be possible to contribute toward the cost of the access works. The balance of £20,040 will be covered by existing resources.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is some risk that agreement with the private land owner may not be reached to create a permissive path into the woodland from the village. This would be disappointing for woodland users but access will continue to be provided into and throughout the woodland along the existing public and casual footpath network.

Excessive access or inappropriate forms of recreation may have a negative impact on wildlife at the site. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a requirement on local authorities to conserve biodiversity, including restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats, as well as protecting them. This places responsibility on the authority to protect the conservation value of the site. Therefore, the type and extent of access will need to be carefully considered to demonstrate compliance of the Act.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

(a) Corporate Plan

The Authority's Woodland Estate is important in contributing to the following priorities identified in the Council's Corporate Plan:

Rotherham Safe "A place where Neighbourhoods are green and well maintained……there will be attractive public open space…….environments will be protected". Having a clean and green neighbourhood is much more than just aesthetics; the physical environment we live in affects how we feel about ourselves and about life in general. People are much more likely to take a pride in their locality if it is clean, green and in good condition. Accordingly, well

maintained woodlands also contribute to the other Corporate Priorities of **Rotherham Proud** and **Rotherham Alive** ("a place where people feel good").

(b) Cross Cutting Issues

Regeneration: Development of Rotherham's woodland estate addresses several of the Regeneration Priorities including **"Improve and promote the image of Rotherham**" and **"Provide sustainable neighbourhoods …. and a good environment".**

Sustainable Development: Rotherham's woodland estate offers a valuable setting in which to promote social and environmental well being close to where people live.

(c) Environmental Policy 2006/2010 - Built and Natural Environment: Key Objective (BNE6) – To maintain, manage and conserve trees & woodlands in the borough.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

A period of consultation took place with stakeholders from within the authority, including Highway Network Management, in particular the public rights of way team, the council's access officer and Green Spaces, in particular the council's ecologist, together with South Yorkshire Forest Partnership and South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. Following this, wide and detailed consultation has taken place with all 110 households in Thorpe Salvin village, Ward Members and ten specialist interest groups. This is in accordance with Section 5 of The Consultation Procedure for the Development, Review and Implementation of Management Plans for Council Owned Woodlands. There were 19 responses to the consultation with households. There was a presentation at the Rother Valley South Area Assembly meeting on 5 October 2009 attended by approximately 20 people. In addition, in response to a desire from the above consultees, two meetings were held in the woodland on 27 and 28 November 2009. This included a weekend meeting in order to be as accessible to as many people as possible. In total 12 people attended these meetings.

Pleasingly the response was positive to the proposals with no objections.

Subject to the approval of the plan, the selective thinning works, planned for year 3 of the plan, will be preceded with a further short period of consultation with local residents.

Work to agree access with the private land owner will proceed and, if successful, the necessary access improvements implemented.

Independent Scrutiny and Audit

The Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Forestry Stewardship Council's principles and criteria to ensure the Council maintains its woodland management certificate.

Rotherham Borough Council first received the Forest Stewardship Council certificate during 2003 for the management of its trees and woodland estate. This is recognition that the estate is managed to the highest worldwide standards. Maintaining this award is subject to satisfactory annual inspections and a detailed review every five years. Following a detailed review in 2007, Rotherham's Forest Stewardship Council certificate has been extended for a further five years. This is an assurance that the Council continues to maintain and, indeed, improve its performance in ensuring there is a responsible and sustainable approach to the care of the woodland estate. The inspection included a thorough assessment of all areas of the Council's woodland management, including amenity, wildlife, timber production and community interests.

The woodland is subject to the Forestry Acts 1967. This includes the need for a felling licence prior to commencement of any tree removal. Only works that are considered appropriate and sustainable to the future development and interest of the woodland will be awarded a licence.

Professor M Jones, a local geographer and landscape historian was asked to provide independent comment on the content of the plan. His report highlights the importance of the site for its rich and varied biodiversity. Also, the report is supportive of the proposals included in the management plan.

Background Papers

Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood Management Plan 2010 - 2015 Draft, attached as appendix A

Report on Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood Management Plan, 2010 – 2015 by Melvyn Jones, attached as appendix B.

Contact Names:

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Report on
Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood Management Plan, 2010-2015

by Melvyn Jones

This management plan, like all the others that I have read and reported on since 1996, is detailed, well-balanced and full of well thought-through common-sense solutions to silvicultural, ecological, recreational and community issues.

The general site information is full and balanced, the aims and objectives are clear, the management options are well-argued and the proposed management prescription should lead to a better structured woodland environment and to a welcoming, interesting and safe recreational and educational woodland site. South Yorkshire is very well blessed with local publicly-owned small woodlands and I am very pleased that Rotherham MBC is continuing with its woodland management programme after the end of the *Fuelling A Revolution* project.

It cannot be emphasised enough how important this woodland site is. It is one of only a small number of publicly-owned woods in Rotherham's Magnesian Limestone belt where the woods have a different character and are much more varied and have a richer wildlife than the much more numerous Coal Measure woodlands. A combination of surviving native lime trees, a particularly rich ground flora, a possible Romano-British archaeological site, badger setts and occasional bird rarities like the goshawk and golden oriole (of which there are only 5-17 breeding pairs in the country) makes the site a very special one. The fact that Hawks Wood, Low Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood lie in the outer parts of the borough which are much more rural than those parts of the borough that developed industrially and residentially in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries on the Coal Measures to the west adds not only to their attractiveness but also to their regional importance. Their location beside the restored Chesterfield Canal and the Cuckoo Way long-distance footpath is an added attraction.

My more detailed comments merely emphasise and add my support to the major points made in the plan.

1. I fully support the aims, objectives and management prescriptions to create an uneven-aged, diverse and semi-natural structure and character, favouring native species, through selective felling and thinning (particularly in the areas dominated

by sycamore, beech and pine) and some coppicing along the woodland edges and rides that will benefit ground flora, fungi, invertebrates, birds, mammals and amphibians and also maintain the woodlands' interest and attractiveness from the recreational and educational points of view.

2. I also support your views on the retention of standing and fallen dead timber. But as I have said in previous reports it is important that the local community is informed why you are doing this. Unless they are told, a substantial number of local residents will simply believe that the local authority could not be bothered to take away the dead timber or finish felling dead trees. This is the sort of information that could be displayed on a vandal-proof notice at the entrances to the site during and immediately after management operations or announced in the local press (with a photograph).

3. I fully endorse your intention to involve the local community as much as possible in all aspects of the care of the woodlands. I do not think community involvement can be emphasised enough. Any management needs the support of the local community, and to get that support and community respect for the site, local residents need to be informed about all aspects – historical, archaeological, ecological, educational, recreational – of the value of the woods. Full community involvement will also probably result in the full and prompt reporting of acts of vandalism such as the firing of mature trees, fly-tipping and littering and motor bike scrambling which all deter recreational and educational visits to a wood.

It may well be useful to suggest the formation of a 'Friends of…' group for Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood, Thorpe Low Wood and Old Spring Wood. Two groups in Sheffield, The Friends of Ecclesall Woods and Loxley and Wadsley Commoners have done tremendous work for their sites. The Friends of Ecclesall Woods, for example, whose membership varies between 120-140, have engaged in path resurfacing, have written guides and even books about the woods and have won two separate Heritage Lottery awards for undertaking archaeological surveys and producing an archaeological trail and a leaflet about the woods' wildlife through the seasons.

4. As I have said in previous reports I always read with particular attention the monitoring and review section of any management plan. Therefore I fully support your intention to try to gather more information on the woodland and to monitor the effects of the management plan through further ecological surveys and if possible, archaeological surveys, and in the light of these to amend the

management prescriptions as necessary. I also fully support the intention to keep a photographic record of the management implementation in the woods.

5.**You may want to add the following information about the past history of the site.** According to entries in the Duke of Leeds' Archive at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society in Leeds (Reference DD5/35), Hawks Wood, Old Spring Wood, Anston Stones Wood and Lobs Well Wood on the Duke of Leeds estate were all described as 'spring' woods, that is coppices-with-standards, during the first half of the eighteenth century. Among the products made from the timber and underwood felled in these woods during this period were hop poles, scaffold poles, cordwood (4-foot lengths of underwood for making charcoal) puncheons (i.e. pit props), heft wood (wood for tool handles) hazel hoops, and hedge bindings. Most interesting of all, in 1701 it was recorded that 562 'strait oaken trees' were taken from these woods 'by land and water to his majestys yard at Chatham' which yielded £473 in income. **This is the only record I have ever found of timber from South Yorkshire being used for shipbuilding.**

N. B. On p.11, paragraph 5, **scares** should be **scarce**!

Melvyn Jones
4 December 2009

Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood Management Plan 2010 - 2015

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

CONTENTS

List of Tables

List of Figures

1.0 Introduction and purpose of the management plan

Hawks Woods, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood are an important part of the Borough Council's Woodland Estate, which helps to make Rotherham a more attractive, enjoyable and healthy place to live, work and visit. To ensure these benefits are continued for everyone in the Borough it is vital there is an integrated and sustainable approach to the management of this estate, including this woodland complex. Therefore, this management plan provides a framework and a long term commitment to the careful stewardship of this valuable woodland. The plan provides a site description, assessment and evaluation of important features and interests, discussion of options, aims and objectives, together with a detailed work programme and review process. The plan covers a rotation period of around 120 to 150 years for the main broadleaved species, principally ash, native oak species and to a lesser extent sycamore. It will also cover a shorter rotation length of around 60 to convert the conifer plantations back to native broadleaved species. The aims and objectives will undertake to cover at least one rotation length. Implementation will be achieved with detailed plans of operations reviewed every five years and a broader statement of intent for a twenty year period. It is a vital document in encouraging community involvement and helping to achieve best practice. In very general terms it explains what we want to achieve and why we want to do it, together with when and how we intend to do the work. Also, it promotes the vision for the site, which is as follows and reflects local, regional and national policies.

'Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood protected and conserved as community woodland for future generations'.

2.0 General Information

Name: Hawks Wood (HW), Old Meadow Wood (OMW), and Thorpe Low Wood (LTW).

OS Grid References:	Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood	SK 528 815
	Thorpe Low Wood	SK 523 820

Area: Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood 31.25 ha. (77.2 acres)
Thorpe Low Wood 0.7 ha. (1.7 acres)

2.1.1 Location

Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood are situated in the extreme south east of the Borough of Rotherham, on the magnesian limestone belt, close to the village of Thorpe Salvin some 10 miles from Rotherham town centre. See figure 1.1. The woodlands are set in perhaps the most rural part of the Borough. A small number of houses are located near to the edge of the woodland area. The woodland adjoins the Chesterfield Canal and is surrounded by predominantly arable land to the north, east and west. The adjoining section of the Canal reopened in 2003. The council owned Old Spring Wood is close by.

2.1.2 Ownership information

The woodlands were owned by Mr and Mrs John Thomas Crofts of The Hall, Thorpe Salvin until 1949 when it was purchased by the Forestry Commission. The woodlands were sold to the then South Yorkshire County Council in 1986 for the sum of £91,800. The deed subsequently passed to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council following abolition of the County Council. This is with the exception of all mines minerals and mineral substances within and under the property which belong to the Duke of Leeds and his heirs.

2.1.3 Formal designations and constraints

The woodlands are included within the Nature Conservancy Council's Ancient Woodland Inventory (1986).

Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood are Grade 1 Heritage Sites i.e. of regional or national significance (as designated by Planning Services). Thorpe Low Wood is a Grade 2 site i.e. of district importance.

The site lies within the Anston Countryside Priority Area (Planning Services, 1989) and the Sandbank – Harthill Area of County Landscape Value.

The woodlands lie on the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area as defined by English Nature (1997).

The woodlands support several animal species protected by the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, and a range of species included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (HMSO 1995).

The site is constrained by Green Belt, Unitary Development Plan Policies, related to its protection from development (refer to Appendix 2).

The Chesterfield Canal, which adjoins the woodlands has been fully restored by British Waterways in conjunction with English Partnerships and Planning Services in recent years. The canal is followed by an associated long distance footpath, the Cuckoo Way, and hence attracts visitors from a wider area.

Old Meadow Wood is adjoined by one definitive footpath, Thorpe Salvin No. 3.

Old Meadow Wood is crossed by a Yorkshire Electricity (YEDL) low voltage overhead transmission line. Another YEDL overhead line skirts the western edge of Hawks Wood and Thorpe Low Wood.

A sewerage pipeline, following the same path as the YEDL line in Old Meadow Wood, feeds the Severn Trent Thorpe Salvin sewerage plant by the Canal and is owned by Severn Trent but maintained by Rotherham Borough Council's Drainage Section of Network Management, Streetpride. An outfall from the sewerage plant, operated under a discharge licence from the Environment Agency, flows into Pudding Dike.

All mines, minerals and mineral substances within and under Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood remain the property of the Duke of Leeds.

The woods are subject to regulations under the Forestry Acts.

A number for plant and animal species in the woodland are subject to various regulations and Acts that afford them legal protection from damage, disturbance or destruction, including, in some cases, accidental acts.

2.1.4 General site description

The woodlands are ancient and characterised by semi-natural vegetation. They are on a par with the adjoining Old Spring Wood, and Anston Stones Wood to the north, as one of the largest woodlands in this part of the Borough.

Clearfelled, perhaps during World War II, and subsequently owned by the Forestry Commission until 1986, Old Meadow Wood and Hawks Wood are dominated by 30-50 year old ash and sycamore over a diverse limestone woodland shrub and field layer. Several belts of plantation beech, sycamore, and Scots and Corsican pine, established during the 1950's and 1960's, are present along the southern site margins.

The wildlife surveys to date indicate that the woodlands are of Grade 1 Heritage value, i.e. of regional or national importance, with a very diverse field layer and rich associated invertebrate fauna. The woodlands also support several animal species fully protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, including badgers, bats, great crested newt, and goshawk.

Thorpe Low Wood is characterised by scattered mature ash and dead Wych elm forming a very broken canopy over an open shrub layer of hazel, with elder.

Overall, the woodland supports a large number of plant species characteristic of ancient semi-natural sites within the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area.

The archaeological interest is also Grade 1 Heritage value, including a presumed Romano-British settlement and eighteenth century lime kilns within Hawks Wood.

At present, public recreation and access within the site is low-key and generally informal, with few associated conflicts. The woodlands are utilised for environmental education by Education Culture and Leisure Services.

2.2 Environmental Information

2.2.1 Physical

(a) Hydrology

Pudding Dike, an ephemeral stream beginning near to Woodside Cottage at SK525812, runs through the middle of Old Meadow Wood in a north easterly direction, forming a small wetland, before emptying into the Chesterfield Canal. The stream emerges again on the northern bank of the Canal, where an extensive weir system allows surplus water from the Canal to flow into the Dike. Natural springs at SK528814 also empty into Pudding Dike. An outfall from the Severn Trent sewerage works adjoining the woodland empties into the pond. This operates under a discharge licence overseen by the Environment Agency.

The small wetland at this point was once more open and less choked with vegetation than it is today. The Severn Trent sewerage plant is discharging permitted nutrients, particularly phosphates, into this area, under the terms of its licence. These inputs will be encouraging plant growth. At present, nutrient-input control measures are only considered for those plants serving more than 10,000 people, which exempts the Thorpe Salvin system, and designated 'sensitive' areas, which are normally eutrophic river systems. Information is required on the nutrient status of the natural springs feeding Pudding Dike. If the sewerage outfall is found to be the main source of nutrients, possible measures to reduce the problem include extending the outfall so that it enters the pond directly adjacent to the culvert feeding the canal (Environment Agency, 1997).

A number of small springs empty into the Canal along the length of Hawks Wood. Several artificial drainage channels are present at SK523818 at a major break of slope, running downhill towards the Canal.

Several brick and stone lined box shaped structures lie next to Pudding Dike. Another is present close to a natural spring at SK525817. These represent the remains of a hydraulic ram, perhaps used to supply water to Thorpe Hall in the past.

(b) Topography

The south eastern corner of Old Meadow Wood lies at 100m Ordnance Datum. The south eastern half of the wood is dominated by Pudding Dike, which occupies a shallow valley. This slopes gently northward, descending to 80m at the pond. Much of the remainder of Old Meadow Wood lies on a plateau at 100m, which slopes gently down to Pudding Dike. The maximum height of Hawks Wood is 105m in the south-western corner. The woodland occupies the top of a plateau before descending northward down to the Canal at 80m (Newbould 1992). Thorpe Low Wood lies at approximately 80m Ordnance Datum.

(c) Geology

The woodlands lie on Lower Magnesian Limestone (Newbould, 1992). The Natural Area is a narrow band of Magnesian Limestone running from Ripon in the north to Nottingham in

the south, never more than five miles wide. This soft rock has weathered easily to form rounded hills and spectacular gorges and caves.

Lower Magnesium Limestone consists of pale brown, yellow and grey Magnesium Limestone containing substantial quantities of limestone in the form of dolomite.

(d) Pedology

The woodlands are characterised by Brown Calcareous Earths (Newbould, 1992) with a pH around 5.

(e) Climate

The following information was provided by the Weston Park Museum, Sheffield (2002), the nearest Meteorological Station to the site. The figures are based on 30 year averages.

The following information was provided by the Weston Park Museum, Sheffield (2002) which is the nearest meteorological station to the site. The figures are based on 30 year averages.

Season	***Temperature (Celsius)***	***Rainfall (mm)***	***Sunshine (hours)***
Winter	Mean 4.8 Max. 7.5 Min 2.1	Mean 73 Total 150	Mean 68.3 Total 205
Spring	Mean 11.3 Max. 15.3 Min 7.2	Mean 62 Total 186	Mean 164 Total 492
Summer	Mean 13.5 Max. 19.5 Min 11.5	Mean 59.3 Total 178	Mean 169.7 Total 509
Autumn	Mean 7.3 Max. 9.9 Min 4.6	Mean 81.7 Total 245	Mean 58.3 Total 175

2.2.2 Biodiversity

This section summarises the more significant animals and plants so far recorded from the site. The status, distribution and ecology of key species are given herein, and a full list of species so far recorded is included within Appendix 1 (Biological Records Centre, Education Culture and Leisure 2006). This information identifies any UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) priority species and habitats, or species of conservation concern present. Also, any Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) key species or habitats recorded in the woodland areas will be given specific consideration in the management plan. The main plant communities present at the site are identified and classified using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) system (Figure 1.3).

A reasonable number of species recorded from the site are included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (HMSO, 1994) lists of globally threatened/declining species. In order to deliver the UK BAP targets the Action Plan needs to be implemented at a local level. LBAPs identify species and habitats that are scarce, rapidly declining or threatened in the local area and take action to protect them. Any UK BAP species and habitats present in

the local area should be LBAP priorities, however LBAPs will not be constrained to the UK lists and will consider species and habitats of local significance. The Rotherham LBAP was formally adopted on 4th September 2002 and given full Council approval on 25th September 2002.

To bridge the gap between the UK and Local BAPs and to effectively deliver biodiversity, a regional approach enables the grouping of areas with similar land use history and ecological character using English Natures Natural Areas (see section 2.3)

2.2.2.1 The biodiversity resource

Old Meadow Wood and Hawks Wood are ancient semi natural woodlands. For the largest part, the woodland is characterised by maturing sycamore but with occasional ash, aspen, silver birch, wild cherry, beech, native oak species, sweet chestnut and mature large and small leaved lime. The occasional lime has collapsed providing large dead wood on the woodland floor. The shrub layer is well developed with frequent hazel, many of the stools are large and well established. There is also hawthorn, privet, holly, goat willow, Guelder rose, spindle, dog wood and spurge laurel. The field layer is rich with the wet woodland and damp areas contributing considerably to the diversity. Many ancient woodland indicator species are present including bluebell, dog's mercury, ramsoms, pignut, early purple orchid, sanicle and bryophytes. The wet woodland area also includes opposite-leaved golden saxifrage and lesser celandine amongst other plants.

Apart from ancient semi-natural woodland communities, a stand of Scots pine, was established in Old Meadow Wood in 1958, together with several sycamore and beech plantations, whilst the southern edge of Hawks Wood is marked by plantations of Corsican pine, established in 1962, and further stands of beech and sycamore, planted in 1958. All overlie ancient, though impoverished, woodland field layers.

The woodland has exceptional ecological value and is one of the most valuable of the woodlands owned and managed by Rotherham Borough Council. There are 8 Red Data Book species and 2 proposed Red Data Book species. The woodland is host to 6 nationally scarce species, 63 are included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Locally 130 species are scarce in Rotherham and 55 species have not been recorded elsewhere in Rotherham.

There are eighteen bryophytes records for the site, including the moss *Thamnobryum alopecurum* which is a Red Data Book (RDB3) species. It has two distinct habitats: very wet, shaded rocks by streams and waterfalls, and comparatively dry calcareous woods, where it grows on tree roots, rock or soil. It has been recorded along Pudding Dike and the southern part of Hawks Wood.

The majority of the woodland can be classed as NVC community W8 - ash - field maple - dog's mercury woodland. This woodland type is known to be variable, in both the floristics of the field layer, and composition and structure of the woody component. The sub-communities *Deschampsia caespitosa* and *Alluim ursinum* have also been identified (Rodwell, 1991).

Pudding Dike, a shallow stream valley, dominates Old Meadow Wood. The vegetation here is characterised by NVC type W7 *Alnus glutinosa – Fraxinus excelsoir – Lysimachia nemorum* woodland.

Two small areas of NVC W13 *Taxus baccata* woodland are also found within the site.

See figure 1.3 for a map of all the NVC communities in the woodland.

(a) Flowering plants, ferns and bryophytes

An extensive list of flowering plants, some 192 species, has been recorded from Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood. The full list for the site can be found in Appendix 1.

Bluebell is included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan long-list of globally threatened/declining species, whilst large-leaved lime and wood barley are notable in the North of England.

The woodland is typified by 20-50 year old, pole-stage sycamore, with occasional ash. Other canopy components are infrequent but include aspen, silver birch and wild cherry. Mature large-leaved and small-leaved lime, beech Pedunculate oak, ash and sweet chestnut are scattered across the area.

The shrub layer is well developed, with frequent hazel, occasional clumps of hawthorn, as well as privet, holly, and spurge laurel.

The species rich field layer is dominated by a complex mosaic of dog's mercury, bluebell, wood anemone, violets, false brome and on wetter, deeper soils, ramsons and tufted hair-grass, all overlain by bramble. Early purple orchid is widespread by mid-spring, and giant and nettle-leaved bellflower by mid-summer.

Mature alder, ash and sycamore adjoin the streamside over a diverse shrub layer including hazel, elder, dogwood, Guelder rose, and spindle.

The field layer here is very diverse, with water avens, woodruff, meadowsweet, lesser celandine, brooklime, water mint, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage and wavy-bittercress typical. Ramsons are dominant upstream. A small wetland is present where the stream feeds into the canal. Supporting marsh marigold in early spring, nettle, and great willowherb are dominant by mid-summer.

A small glade at one of the ride junctions (SK527915) supports abundant crosswort, with bush vetch, greater stitchwort, bugle and common gromwell, amongst others.

Overall, the site supports the following trees, shrubs and flowering plants, listed in Table 1.1, which are characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland on the Natural Area. Furthermore, the site contains a large number of ancient woodland indicators, probably more than any other Council-owned woodland.

Seven ferns have been recorded from the woodlands. None are rare in Rotherham.

Forty seven bryophytes (13 liverworts and 34 mosses) have been recorded in the woodland, the majority have been recorded since 2000. One liverwort, *Leiocolea alpestris* present in the woodland has not been recorded at any other site in Rotherham.

Table 2.1 Botanical species recorded in Old Meadow Wood and Hawks Wood which are characteristic of ancient semi natural woodland on the natural area and indicators of ancient semi-natural woodland and their affinity to ancient woodland.

Common name	Scientific name	Characteristic	Indicator	Affinity	
				Strong	*Mild*

Wood sanicle	*Sanicula europaea*	*	*		
Primrose	*Primula vulgaris*	*	*	*	
Cowslip	*Primula veris*	*			
Toothwort	*Lathraea squamaria*	*	*	*	
Hard shield fern		*			
Columbine		*			
Yew	*Taxus baccata*	*			
Small-leaved lime	*Tilia cordata*	*	*	*	
Spurge laurel		*			
Giant bellflower	*Campandula latifolia*	*			*
Nettle-leaved bellflower	*Campandula trachelium*	*	*	*	
Remote sedge	*Carex remota*	*	*	*	
Early purple orchid	*Orchis mascula*	*	*	*	
Spindle		*			
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	*	*		
Dog's mercury	*Mercurialis perrennis*	*	*		*
Sweet violet	*Viola odorata*	*	*		
Early dog violet	*Viola reichenbachianna*	*			
Common dog violet	*Viola riviniana*		*		*
Bird cherry	*Prunus padus*	*			
English elm	*Ulmus procera*	*			
Monkshood	*Aconitum napellus*				
Wood anemone	*Anemone nemorosa*		*	*	
Wood sedge	*Carex sylvatica*		*		*
Opposite-leaved golden saxifrage	*Chryosplenium oppositifolium*		*		
Enchanter's nightshade	*Circaea lutetiana*				
Pignut	*Conopodium majus*		*		*
Wood spurge	Euphorbia amygdaloides				
Wild strawberry	*Fragaria vesca*		*		*
Yellow archangel	*Galeobdolon luteum*		*	*	
Sweet woodruff	*Galium odoratum*		*	*	
Water avens	*Geum rivale*		*		*
Yellow pimpernel	*Lysimachia nemorum*		*	*	
Crab apple	*Malus sylvestris*		*		
Wood melick	*Melica uniflora*		*	*	
Wood millet	*Milium effusum*		*	*	
Wood sorrel	*Oxalis acetosella*		*	*	
Wood speedwell	*Veronica montanum*		*		*
Barren strawberry	*Potentilla sterilis*		*	*	
Goldilocks	*Ranunculus*		*		*

buttercup	*auricomus*				
Greater stitchwort	*Stellaria holostea*		*		*
Guelder rose	*Viburnum opulus*		*		

This list represents 20 out of the 30 species considered characteristic (English Nature 1997). Of the notable species, wood barley (*Hordelymus europaeus*), large-leaved lime (*Tilia platyphillia*), and stinking hellebore (*Helleborus foetidius*) All three are included in the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (2006).

(b) Fungi

24 species of fungi have been recorded in the 3 woods. Most of these records however date from the 1980 and 1990's.

(c) Invertebrates

An extensive list of invertebrates have been recorded over the years in the woodland, the overwhelming majority recorded in the 1990's with a number of further records since 2000. A great many are scarce in Rotherham and a number are on Rotherham's list of key species i.e. oak bush cricket, the fruit fly *Platyporea discoidea*, the crane fly *Limonia trivittata*, the butterfly white-letter hairstreak, and the micor-moth *Mompha terminella*.

Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood

Among the 7 species of **Millipede** is *Nemasoma varicorne*, which is widespread but rather uncommon, particularly in Yorkshire, although not Rotherham. It lives under the bark of deadwood. It is Local in Northern England, and was recorded from Hawks Wood, in 1977.

The most significant **Orthoptera** is oak bush cricket, recorded from Hawks Wood in 1979. It is regionally notable in the North of England. It is found predominantly within deciduous woodland on limestone.

Amongst the 21 recorded **Bugs** is the ground bug *Drymus ryei*, which is found in dry places, and was recorded near Devil's Hole Bridge, Hawks Wood in 1976 and the froghopper *Cercopis vulnerate*, which is found in lush vegetation in damp ditches and on the edges of woods, and recorded from Hawks Wood in 1981. Both are local in northern England.
The 130 recorded **Beetles** include the 11-spot Ladybird *Coccinella undecimpunctata,* which is generally found on the coast and on heathland, and is local in the UK. It was recorded from Hawks wood twice in the mid 1970's. The 14-spot ladybird *Propylea 14-punctata* and the seven spot ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* have both been recorded since 2000.

The 2 **Caddisflies** include *Plectrocnemia geniculata*, which breeds in small streams. Although widespread it is uncommon in Britain and this is the only recorded site for the species in Rotherham. It has not been recorded at the site since 1981 when it was recorded from the NE corner of Old Meadow wood.

A total of 132 moths and butterflies have been recorded in the woodland, most during the 1990's. **Butterfly** species include speckled wood, which is local in the north of England, and prefers shady woodland. The larvae feed on grasses. The species has been recorded in the 1990's and in the 21 Century. The white-letter hairstreak declined rapidly in numbers in the 1970's with the large loses of elms to Dutch elm disease. The butterfly relies solely on elm to breed and has become restricted to large single trees that have survived the

disease or, in the case of this woodland complex suckering English elms in hedgerows or woodland wych elm. Specifically, the butterfly requires flowering elm which, in the case of suckering elm can only be for a small number of years before being reinfected by the disease.

Of the **Moth** species recorded these include the clouded magpie, which is local in the UK, but quite frequent in Rotherham, in suitable area. Its caterpillars feed on the leaves of elm. It was recorded from the north-east corner of Old Meadow Wood in 1981. The micro-moth *Mompha terminella* is notable in the north of England. It feeds on the leaves of Enchanter's Nightshade. It was recorded along the top ridge path in Hawks Wood in 1989.

There is an extensive list of **Fly** species recorded from the woodland, in excess of 300 species. The majority of these were recorded in the 1990's. There are several significant ones. The hoverfly *Portevinia macutalt* is local in the UK though not uncommon in Rotherham and has been recorded from Hawks Wood. It lives in most woods where its larvae feed on the stem bases of ramsons. This species is considered indicative of primary woodland (Stubbs, 1982), although the presence of just one species does not automatically equate a primary site. Further surveys are required to ascertain the presence of other indicator species, which would lead to more confidence in the potential primary woodland status of the site. The fruit fly *Platyporea discoidea* is a Red Data Book (RDB2) species, and is restricted to northern England. It lives in damp limestone woods where its larvae feed on (giant) bellflower. It has been recorded from Hawks Wood in 1977 and again since 2000. *Pelidnoptera fuscipennis*, a snail-killing fly, local in the UK, is also restricted to damp, limestone woodlands, particularly ancient ones. Its biology is unknown. It was recorded from the north east corner of Old Meadow Wood in 1981.

The cranefly *Limonia trivittata* which is notable in northern England although not particularly uncommon in Rotherham, and occurs in wet calcareous woodlands, especially alongside rivers where it appears to have an association with butterbur; and the hoverfly *Epistrophe grossulariae* which is local in the UK, though not Rotherham, and is found on woodland edges where the adults feed on umbellifer flowers and the larvae on aphids are both recorded from Old Meadow Wood (1990's, 1988) The cranefly *Tipula maxima* is local in the UK. The larva is semi-aquatic in the margins of streams with shallow, muddy edges, especially in woodland, and in marshes. It was recorded in Hawks Wood, north west of the main quarry in 1981 and again since 2000. The otitid fly *Otites guttata*, recorded from Hawks Wood in 1977 and again in 2000 is also local in the UK.

The **Hymenoptera** include the black ant *Formica lemani*, which nests under stones and in stumps on uncultivated land, is local in the UK. It was recorded near the access track from Devil's Hole Bridge, Hawks Wood, in 1978.

The **Arachnids** include the money spider, *Lepthyphantes pallidus*, recorded from Hawks Wood in 1977 and found in grasses Heather and in marshes. It is local in the UK. The harvestman Paroligolopus meadii is local in the UK.

(d) Amphibians, fish and reptiles

Both palmate newt (*Triturus helvecticus*) and great crested newt (*T. cristatus*) have been recorded from the site, the first records dating from 1991. Great crested newt is included on the BAP short list and is therefore a conservation priority. At present, the factors causing general loss or decline are loss of suitable breeding ponds caused by water table reduction, in-filling for development, waste disposal, neglect, degradation and loss or fragmentation of terrestrial habitats. Pollution and toxic effects of agrochemicals is also a factor. This species is also protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act

(1981) and under Annex 2 and 4 of the European Directive on Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora. Palmate newt is included on the BAP long-list.

The drystone wall along the southern boundary is a valuable habitat for both newt species. A single dead great crested newt was found on the track in-between the canal and the wetland at Old Meadow Wood. This species favours small ponds with areas of open water, but will not survive in those with fish present, although it can be tolerant of quite serious levels of pollution. The breeding sites of this population are unknown. Bearing in mind that given suitable habitat and cover, adults can migrate up to 500m away from breeding sites the location of the site(s) could be any of the following:-

- The Chesterfield Canal. This may have once been good habitat for great crested newt. However, with restoration in progress, the open water is now moving (which newts do not like), and it is also supports fish.

- The wetland in Old Meadow Wood. Whilst newts may once have bred here, the lack of open water means this is currently unlikely.

- The pond at Thorpe Hall. This pond is within 400m of the wall at Hawks Wood, but unfortunately little is known at present about the condition of this area.

- The abandoned brick workings ponds adjacent to Old Spring Wood.

If, during development or management operations, it is necessary to disturb or move newts, a licence is required from English Nature this includes catching or handling great crested newts.

Great crested newt is a notable species within ponds on the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area, and is included on the list of Key species in Rotherham, together with palmate newt. Great crested newt is a European protected species protected by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.

The grass snake *Natrix natrix* was also recorded in the 1990's. This is a species also protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

(e) Birds

A British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Common Bird Census (CBC) was undertaken in Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood between 1994 and 1999. The number of recorded species has varied from 33 to 41, and those breeding from 18 to 24.

Song thrush and grey partridge are included on the BAP short-list of globally threatened/declining species song thrush has been recorded from the site complex in the last ten years. However grey partridge has not been recorded since 1989. Spotted flycatcher, linnet, corn bunting, tree sparrow, bullfinch and turtle dove are on the middle list. All are therefore conservation priorities. Goshawk, which is fully protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, was recorded in 1997.

Song thrush prefers dense shrubby cover, including hedgerows, and lives on a diet of worms, snails, slugs insects and berries. At Hawks Wood and Old Meadow wood, it is generally confined to the woodland edges, with between 2-5 pairs breeding 1994-96. Maintaining young shrub/thicket type growth would be beneficial, together with the general

encouragement of shrubs throughout the woodland. Open, short grassy glades are also important for feeding. It nests in the shrub layer, seldom higher then 4m.

Again, grey partridge is not a woodland specialist, preferring extensively managed farmland and heath, but it will utilise scrub (and shrubby woodland margins). It is unlikely to use the site for breeding, but may continue to use it for cover. Individuals were recorded just outside the woodland in 1995.

Spotted flycatcher is found in mature woodland, predominantly broadleaved, parkland and large gardens. In woodland, it prefers stands with an open canopy or open spaces including gaps created by fallen trees, rides and the edges of felling copses. It is an insect feeder. Clearly, as the woodland matures, it will become more attractive for this species, although the provision of glades, rides and a broken canopy, would also be beneficial. This species is not thought to breed at the site at present. It was recorded in Hawks Wood, north of the main quarry in 1996.

Linnet will breed in very young coppice growth, and hence is unlikely to be breeding at the site. There were several individuals seen in 1996, mainly by Pudding Dike Bridge, and all outside the woodland. Typically, it nests in bushes at heights up to 4m.

Tree sparrow is predominantly a bird of arable farmland, with scattered woods and trees. Whilst not a woodland specialist, it may feed along with woodland edge and nests in tree holes, up to 8m high. It was not recorded during the three Common Bird Census surveys.

Corn bunting is essentially a bird of arable farmland. Open scrub, is an occasional, but untypical, breeding habitat. In winter, however, it roosts gregariously in reedbeds or thick scrub. It feeds predominately on seeds of cultivation. The last record from the site is from 1977.

Bullfinch is found in scrub, hedgerows and woodland, and in mature woods is often found mainly at the edge where undergrowth is thickest, feeding on seeds, buds, tree flowers and buds in the shrub layer, and nesting in a thick bush 1-3m above the ground. Up to three pairs bred in 1996, with records concentrated along the woodland margin adjoining the Chesterfield Canal, and the edges of Old Meadow Wood.

Turtle Dove is found in thick scrub, mid-coppice growth and the woodland edge, feeding on seeds and fruits, mainly taken in other habitats. Maintenance of scrubby woodland edges and the encouragement of coppice growth are important for this species. It nests in a bush or low tree 1-5m but mostly less than 2m above the ground. One pair bred at the site in 1996.

Goshawk breeds in both mature coniferous and broadleaved woodland, but requires an extensive territory, with both woodland and open ground for feeding. Within woodland, wide rides and open space help to provide feeding areas. This species is resident in South Yorkshire (RSPB 2007) however breeding has not been confirmed within Rotherham borough, but previous records for passing and feeding birds in the south of the Borough have pointed to a possible breeding pair in the area.

Lesser spotted woodpecker and marsh tit are considered characteristic species of ancient semi-natural woodland within the Natural Area. Both are recorded in the Hawks Wood/Old Spring Wood complex.

The associated BTO analysis confirms that the woodland holds a fairly typical selection of woodland species with densities highest around the edges. Wren, blackcap, chaffinch, robin, blue tit and chiffchaff are all present. All these species, with the exception of blue tit and blackcap reflect well the present structure of the site, as they prefer woodland edge habitats, scrub and dense regenerating woodland. A dense, often bramble dominated field layer is also important. The shape of the woodland provides a large amount of edge habitat.

Species preferring more mature woodland, and breeding at the site, include blackcap, tawny owl, great spotted and lesser spotted woodpecker, treecreeper, sparrowhawk and coal tit. Not surprisingly, these species are generally concentrated in the northern part of the wood, where mature trees and older growth are more prevalent. Nuthatch was first recorded breeding in 1996. As the woodland matures, all these species will benefit. Marsh tit, willow warbler and willow tit (and sedge warbler) prefer wet woodland, with alder, willow and birch, and are concentrated around Pudding Dike and the canal margins.

Although not recorded in the three CBC surveys, woodcock does occur and in the past it has suggested that at least two pairs may breed annually (Croxton, 1994). Most sightings come from the Pudding Dike area, where the wet conditions provide ideal feeding habitat. Open areas are also important for displaying, and the YEDL wayleave clearance in this area may be valuable here. Species such as coot, mallard and moorhen breed along the adjoining canal, with occasional sightings of tufted duck, teal and Canada goose reported. Coal tit and goldcrest breed predominantly within the pine plantations, although the first is more varied in its choice of woodland.

Standing deadwood and tree holes provide nesting and feeding sites for several species, and it is very important that this resource is maintained.

Golden oriole was seen in 1996. This species generally prefers mature poplar plantations, as found in the nearby Low Spring Wood.

Recorded birds such as collared dove, stock and turtle dove, magpie, mistle thrush and carrion crow will breed in woodland but feed in adjacent habitats, particularly farmland.

In 2006 the RSPB undertook survey in north Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire to help determine the reason for decline of the willow tit across the UK. Old Meadow and Hawks Wood were both surveyed as part of this wider survey and were found to have willow tits present.

Table 2.2 Resident bird species of conservation concern

Common and scientific name	**Status**	**Habitat requirements**	**Threats**
Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*	RMBC key species	Hedges and scrub to nest. Use rough ground and glades to prey on, swoop and surprise their prey (small birds).	Persecution and egg collection. Removal of hedgerows. Numbers are on increase after the dramatic decline in the 1960s following organophosphate poisoning.
Grey partridge *Perdix perdix*	UKBAP Priority BTO (red list)	Feeds in open farmland and nests in cover of hedge bottoms or dense scrub.	Loss of nesting sites caused by agricultural intensification.
Stock dove	BTO	Woodland edge habitat	Organochloride seed dressing

Common and scientific name	Status	Habitat requirements	Threats
Columba oenas	(amber list)	in breeding season. Farm land in winter.	cause serious declines but since being banned numbers have rised sharpely since 1906s.
Turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*	UKBAP Priority BTO(H	Associated with fertile arable land in warm, dry situations. Nests in large hedges and mature scrub.	Agricultural changes, loss of nesting habitat in hedgerows and scrub, possible effects of climate change.
Tawny owl *Strix aluco*	BTO(M)	Large woodlands, particularly those greater than 100 hectares.	Organophosphates.
Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*	SPEC cat. 3 BTO (amber list)	Require slow moving water such and ponds and canals.	Harsh winter weather although the species does have good breeding potential.
Green woodpecker *Picus viridis*	RMBC key species	Standing dead wood for nesting but prefer open grassy areas to feed. Ground feeders, they will break open ants nests to feed on ants.	Although locally rare 10-15 years ago the population has expanded considerably and is now relatively common in Rotherham. Removal of large standing dead wood for safety reasons and 'tidying' of woodlands would threaten nesting sites.
Lesser spotted woodpecker	UKBAP	Feed on invertebrates living in dead wood.	Removal of standing dead wood would threaten nest sites. Removal of fallen dead wood would threaten feeding.
Dunnock *Prunella modularis*	UKBAP BTO(M)	Scrub and woodland edge.	Uncertain, cold winters and farming practices are contributory.
Song thrush *Turdus philomelos*	UKBAP Priority BTO & RSPB red lists	Woodland edge preferring areas adjacent to farmland and gardens to feed on molluscs and snails.	The species has been in long term decline nationally. This trend may be linked to intensification in agricultural practices.
Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*	UKBAP	Deciduous woodland with moderate scrub, parks and gardens.	Population has been steadily rising since 1950s.
Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*	UKBAP	Deciduous woodland with good shrub layer, commons, copses and tall hedges.	Drough conditions in their over wintering habitats in Africa.
Willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*	BTO(M)	Young woodland, woodland edge and scrub.	Sharp fall in woodlands in 1980s. Reasons are unclear.
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*	BTO(H)	Conifer woodland.	Harsh winter weather.
Spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*	UKBAP Priority BTO &	Open wooded habitats with well-spaced mature trees & glades,	Not well known, possible causes include climatic change, both in breeding & wintering ranges and

Common and scientific name	Status	Habitat requirements	Threats
	RSPB red lists	orchards, parkland and large gardens.	loss of nest sites (large trees).
Long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*	UKBAP	Conifer woodland.	Dependant on good seed years.
Marsh tit *Parus palustris*			
Willow tit *Poecile montanus*			
Coal tit *Periparus ater*			
Blue tit *Parus caeruleus*			
Great tit *Parus major*			
Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*	UKBAP	Woods, parks and gardens.	Severe winter weather, particularly ice on trees.
Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*	UKBAP BTO(M)	Parks, hedges, woodland edges and farmland in winter.	Farming practices, particularly organochloride seed dressing.
Goldfinch *Phylloscopus trochilus*	UKBAP	Shrubs, bramble and woodland edge.	Farming practices, particularly organochloride seed dressings.
Golden oriole *Oriolus oriolus*	BTO (amber list)	Deciduous woodland. Likes poplar plantations near to water.	
Swallow *Hirundo rustica*	BTO (amber list)	Prefer open areas with plentiful insects.	Loss of their wintering grounds
House martin *Delichon urbicum*	SPEC cat. 3 BTO (amber list)	Areas with plentiful aerial insects such as around water and woodland edge.	Possibly due to difficulties on wintering grounds or harsh weather during migration.
Tree pipit *Anthus trivialis*	BTO (amber list)	Newly planted conifer woodland and heathland.	Unclear. Could be the maturing of young woodland.
Yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*	UKBAP priority	Lowland grassland, particularly near cattle.	Farm drainage and conversion of pasture land to arable production.
Grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*	BTO (amber list)	Fast flowing rivers in summer and farmyards in winter.	Possibly reduced quality of river habitats.
Grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia*	BTO (red list)	Scrub, grassland, edge of reedbeds and new woodland plantations.	Reduced habitat quality on breeding grounds.
Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*	UKBAP Priority BTO & RSPB red lists	Open woodland and woodland edges, hedgerows, parks and gardens - wherever there are suitable trees with nest holes.	Decline possibly due to changes in agricultural practices, removal of hedges, heavy grazing and re-seeding of species rich fields.

Common and scientific name	Status	Habitat requirements	Threats
		Wintering habitat includes farmland.	
Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*	SPEC cat. 2 BTO (amber list)	Lowland farmland, unimproved pasture.	Possibly changes to farm practices and increased grazing intensity in upland areas.

SEPC - Species of European Conservation Concern
Red list species; highest conservation priority requiring urgent attention
Amber list; conservation concern due to rapid declines in population
Green list; no conservation concern

(f) Mammals

A good range of mammals was recorded from the site during the 1990's, such as badger, roe deer (and possibly Muntjac deer), rabbit, mole, fox, grey squirrel, brown hare, pipistrelle bat and water vole.

Pipistrelle bat, water vole and brown hare are included on the BAP short-list of globally threatened/declining species. Roe deer and badger are included on the long-list.

Pipistrelle bat has been recorded feeding along the woodland edges and over the canal. Whiskered/Brandt's bats were recorded at Old spring Wood in 1993, over the canal, and brown long-eared was detected close by (Sheffield Bat Group, 1993). Whilst both these species feed in woodland primarily, they don't tend to roost in this habitat. It is likely that both these latter species feed close to Hawks Wood. Both noctule and Daubenton's bat have been previously recorded in the local area. All bats are protected by the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

The woodland itself is not open enough to provide any substantial feeding sites, with the exception possible of the wayleave area. Providing open areas within the woodland would benefit this species. Roosts may well be present within the site. Further bat survey would be useful in identifying fully the feeding areas, and the presence/absence of other species.

Water Vole is also protected by the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. It has declined dramatically in recent decades in the face of river pollution, watercourse engineering works, predation by mink and destruction of suitable habitat, including in the streams of the southern magnesian limestone natural area. It prefers well-vegetated banks of rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, feeding predominantly on grass. It nests usually below ground, but in marshy regions nests may be built at the base of rushes (Corbet and Southern, 1977).

Brown hare is found mainly on agricultural land and has suffered from intensification of the farming landscape, including the conversion of grassland to arable. It probably uses woodland for shelter rather than feeding, although it will bark strip young trees. Maintenance of the woodland habitat will continue to provide a refuge for this species.

Hawks Wood is a stronghold of the badger population in Rotherham. Whilst not a threatened species nationally, the badger in Rotherham was, until recently, an endangered species, in the main because of illegal persecution. However, work by the South Yorkshire Badger Group (SYBG) in recording, monitoring and protecting the species and setts has

seen a gradual increase in the local population. The population is fairly mobile, and new setts are known to have opened up overnight (SYBG, 1996).

There are a number of long established setts in Hawks Wood, along with a number in the neighbouring Old Spring Wood. Observation by woodland staff in early 2006 noted that one of the main setts appeared to be quite inactive. Discussions with South Yorkshire Badger Group (SYBG) confirmed similar findings by the Group.

SYBG suggested that increasing access through this part of the woodland may be having an effect. In particular, dogs being walked in the woodland may cause stress and disturbance to badgers. It is likely that many dog walkers do not realise that dogs investigating the entrances to setts and marking territory can cause the badgers alarm. Disturbance by dogs walking through the woodland in the late evening of the spring and summer months, when badgers are feeding can be worst. At present, people do not appear to be walking over the sett itself, so no infringement of the 1992 Badger Act is taking place. As well as problems of disturbance to the setts themselves there are also potential problems of disturbance to the to the major feeding areas around Devil's Hole Bridge and the small glade at the juncture of Old Meadow Wood and Hawks Wood to consider.

The setts are regularly monitored by the SYGB, and signs of new activity are often identified during this process. Sett protection works are undertaken as necessary by SYBG at the appropriate time of year which is October.

Badgers are very sensitive to disturbance of any kind, and all management work near sites of badger activity needs to be clearly considered. The Forestry Commission's Best Practice Guide 9 Forest Operations and Badger Setts (1995) should be followed to ensure works are carried out in accordance with The Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

A Species Action Plan for the badger in Rotherham has been prepared by Rotherham Borough Council, in partnership with the SYBG, as part of the Rotherham BAP. Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood are not specifically mentioned in the document, however a programme of works and priorities have been identified to protect active unprotected setts, this is given the highest priority followed by inactive, unprotected setts. These priorities include Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood.

Water vole is a declining species within streams of the southern magnesian limestone Natural Area.

2.2.3 Cultural

2.2.3.1 Legal obligations

(a) Conditions attached to the purchase of the land

Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood

(i) The mines and minerals, together with ancillary rights of working are expected from Hawks wood and Old Meadow Wood.

(ii) The woodland has the benefit of the following rights granted by but is subject to the following exceptions and reservations contained in a conveyance thereof dated 28th May, 1956, made between (1) John Thomas Crofts and Ada Mary Crofts, (2) Bradford Equitable Building Society, and (3) The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:-

* ‘A right of way in common with all other persons so entitled at all times and for all persons so entitled at all times and for all purposes along the roads coloured brown on Figure 1.4 and indicated by the letters MB’

Except and Reserved as follows:-

* A right of way for the owner and occupier for the time being of Ordnance Survey Nos. 18 (0014), 106 (8568pt) and 116 *8668) at all times and for all purposes over the pathway coloured blue on the said plan and indicated by the letters CK.

* A right of way for the owner and occupier for the time being of Ordnance Survey No. 116 (8568) over the pathway coloured blue on the said plan and indicated by the letters CD.

* A right of way for all purposes for the owners and occupiers for the time being of Ordnance Survey Nos. 111 (3069), 113 (1869), 119 (8568 ad 120 (0156, 0854, 0864 and0867) over the said track indicated by the letters CK.

* All such drainage rights and water supply under over to or from the property hereby conveyed as are now existing and enjoyed.

Thorpe Low Wood

Easements rights and privileges granted:-

* Full right and liberty to pass and repass as aforesaid over and along the track through Hawks Wood shown on the said plan between the points A and B and thence along the hedge forming the southern boundary of the field Ordnance No. 25 (8600) to Lady Field Road, at the point marked M.

* Full right and liberty as aforesaid to lead timber through Hawks Wood aforesaid thence along the northern boundary of the field Ordnance No. 130 (8900) on said plan, through Old Spring Wood, and thence to Back lane by way of fields No. 140 1219), 139 (0006 pt) and 169 (0006 pt), which track is indicated by the letters CKOP.

* Full right and liberty as aforesaid for the purposes of access to the field No. 116 (8568) hereby conveyed through Old Meadow Wood shown on the said plan along the track indicated by the letters C D and thence to Back Lane by way of the track indicated on the plan by letters D E F.

* Full right and liberty to a water supply as now enjoyed from the spring in Old Meadow Wood, together with a right of access thereto for the purpose of repairing the pipes in connection with such water supply, but subject to the making good of any damage done thereby.

* A right of way for all purposes along the track running in a north-easterly direction from Pudding Dike bridge to entrance of field No. 115 ( ) as appurtenant to the said property shown on the plan. See figure 1.7

* The right to enter upon the two small strips of woodland hereby conveyed – Ordnance Nos. 118 and 117 (7855) and fell and remove the standing timber thereon that is to say all timber measuring over six inches quarter girth measurement. For following right refer to Figure 1.8b.

* Together with the benefit of an existing right of way at all times with or without vehicles between the points marked A B and C on the said plan, and a similar right to take animals between the points marked DC and EF on the said plan (refer to Figure 1.7)

* The mines and minerals together with ancillary powers of working are excepted.

(b) Public rights of way and other access

The site is connected to the surrounding area via definitive footpath Thorpe Salvin No. 3, which begins just east of the village of Thorpe Salvin, skirting Old Meadow Wood, passing through Old Spring Wood and linking into other definitive footpaths running northward to Lindrick Dale, Anston Stones Wood, and north eastward, to South Anston. The main points of access onto the Canal are at Kiveton Park Station to the west and at Turnerwood (and Shireoaks) to the east. The canal is followed by a towpath, well-used by local people, and visitors from outside the area, following the associated long distance footpath the Cuckoo Way. Refer to figure 1.4.

Although only one definitive footpath skirts the site, a permissive route was agreed through the woodlands, connecting with two formal access points for members of the public, close to Pudding Dike Bridge and Devil's Hole Bridge. Other casual paths are present but are few in number. One in particular that is inappropriate is an infrequently used one along the top side of the disused quarry. The path is opening up parts of the woodland that were previously quiet wildlife areas, including disturbance to a badger sett entrance. There are also possible safety concerns with the path passing so close to the quarry edge. Dead hedging and felled trees have been put across the path in recent years to discourage access. There is also a well used route towards the village from Hawks Wood and through Old Meadow Wood. There are no paths in Thorpe Low Wood.

(c) Wayleaves and easements

A disused oil pipeline, abandoned in 1969, passes approximately north to south across the middle of Hawks Wood.

A Yorkshire Electricity (YEDL) plc low voltage overhead transmission line erected in March 1973 passes through Old Meadow Wood in accordance with an agreement between YEDL and the Forestry commission. Another YEDL overhead line passes through the western end of Hawks Wood, following a similar agreement dated 30th July, 1936. Refer to Figure 1.5.

Kiveton Park Rural District Council were granted permission to construct a sewer pipeline through Old Meadow Wood (beneath the YEDL plc line), which now runs to the Thorpe Salvin Severn Trent plc sewerage plant, and is maintained by Rotherham Borough Council's Drainage Section in Network Management, Streetpride.

See figure 1.5 for locations of wayleaves and easements.

(d) Artificial structures.

Although they are the responsibility of British Waterways and are not within the boundaries of the site, two bridges, one for pedestrians, the other for vehicles and pedestrians, cross the canal from the towpath to give access into the woodland.

There are a number of lime kilns along the edge of the canal. See 1.2.4 Archaeology below.

(e) Insurance

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is not insured for any damage or loss of any of its woodland sites.

(f) Boundaries responsibilities.

The south eastern boundary of Old Meadow Wood (550m) is demarcated by a thick mixed hedge with intermittent sections of dilapidated post and rail fencing. The hedge shows clear signs of past laying – refer to Figure 1.5. Options include leaving it unmanaged; coppicing, and replanting of gaps, or, allowing it to grow for several years, before laying in sections on rotation. The boundary with Woodside Cottage is marked by green mesh fencing, whilst the southern and western extremes (adjacent to Thorpe Hall) are lined by post and rail fencing, erected in 1993. Much of this is now in a poor state of repair as the posts are beginning to rot. Apart from a short section of hedge, the western boundary of Old Meadow Wood and the southern margin of Hawks Wood is demarcated by a drystone wall, mostly (630m) rebuilt in 1992-93. The last 230m of this wall is still in an original but fair condition. The eastern boundary of Hawks Wood is secured by a hedge growing upon a weak bank, with associated dilapidated post and rail fencing. The boundary with the Canal is not secured. The eastern entrance to Hawks Wood/Old Meadow Wood is marked by post and rail fencing, an access field gate and combination stile.

None of the boundaries of Thorpe Low Wood are secure, although the northern boundary with the railway is demarcated by a neglected concrete post and wire fence.

(g) The Forestry Acts

All tree works carried out within Old Meadow Wood, Hawks Wood and Thorpe Low Wood must be in accordance with the Forestry Acts (1967, as amended). A Felling Licence is required if felling more than 5 cubic metres of timber a quarter (3 cubic metres if the timber is to be sold), of trees that have a diameter at breast height of greater than 8 cms.
The woodland area has been subject to a Forestry Commission approved Plan of Operations received under Woodland Grant Scheme (ref. 012003538) from November 2001 to November 2006. This has met the requirements of the Forestry Regulations for the last five years. The woodland has been included in the new England Woodland Grant Scheme application with the rest of the Council's woodland estate. A felling licence will be obtained for all licensable works to be completed over the five years of the plan. Also, all future silvicultural management will aim to be sustainable and meet the criteria laid out in the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (2006), UK Forestry Standard (2004), the Strategy for England; Trees, Woods and Forests (2007) and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)

(h) Forest Stewardship Council

Rotherham Borough Council was awarded the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate in March 2003. The certificate number is **C806699FM.COC-01.2007**. This was following an audit of the Council's past and present management of its woodland estate, including amenity, wildlife, timber production and community involvement interests. Certification also demonstrates that there is an integrated, responsible and sustainable approach to the future care and development of the wood. The Council is committed to managing its woodland

estate, including Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood in accordance with FSC principals and criteria for a minimum of five years. To ensure these high standards are maintained the Council will be strictly monitored to ensure compliance with certification requirements. Audits are carried out on an annual basis as a minimum. The Council may be required to carry out corrective actions to maintain FSC requirements. Monitoring visits will then be arranged to ensure corrective measures are undertaken. Failure to comply will result in a 'formal action request' to address non-compliance. This and the corrective actions will be formally recorded. Serious and persistent non-compliance may result in expulsion from the Forest Stewardship Council scheme.

(i) Protected species

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
There are a number of protected species recorded in the woodland including badgers, bluebell and all species of bats and nesting birds. Their protection must be taken into account in the management of the woodland. The legislation concerned with their protection is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Broadly the Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to:

Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests.
Intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed in schedule 5 of the Act and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection and to disturb these places.
Pick, uproot, trade in or possess (for the purposes of trade) any wild plants listed in schedule 8 of the Act.

Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994 ('The Habitats Regulations')
In addition to the above, amendments to the Habitat Regulations came into force on 21 August 2007 which increases the legal protection given to a schedule of European Protected Species in England. In respect of Rotherham's woodland estate this list includes all our species of bats and the less common great crested newt. Currently the other species listed rarely if ever occur.

The amended regulation includes any damage or disturbance of a breeding site or resting place of a European Protected Species as an offence, whether it is accidental or deliberate. Therefore, how the Council's woodlands are managed and how forestry operations are carried out will require very careful consideration and planning. The risks of committing an offence may be reduced by making the necessary checks and surveys, modifying operations and following good practice guidance. Where it appears there is no satisfactory alternative a licence application will be submitted to the Forestry Commission. The licence will be issued by Natural England. Applications needed for non forestry operations (generally not subject to the terms of the Forestry Acts) e.g. tree survey and demolition of building etc will be made direct to Natural England. Licences maybe approved with conditions attached.

In respect of this woodland complex, the species principally affected by these regulations are the bat species present in the woodland and great crested newt if present. Surveys for evidence of bats, including temporary roosting sites will be carried out prior to works taking place. The council also has in place procedures and guidance in its contracts to be followed by contractors to further assist with the protection of these species.

Surveys of the pond area and the dry stone walls would be required prior to works in near the pond or to the walls for presence of great crested newt.

Table 2.3 European Protected Species (EPS) inhabiting woodland
This table establishes the likelihood of EPS inhabiting Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood, describes their habitat, potentially damaging activities to habitat and measures to avoid damage.

Species	**Is woodland close to current known species range?**	**Are there records of species in the woodland ?**	**Woodland habitats types used by the species.**	**Potentially damaging operations for the species.**	**Risk of undertaking potentially damaging operations in this woodland.**	**Good practice measures for the species to avoid breach of the regulations. See Forestry Commission and Natural England's good practice guidance for each species.**
All 17 species of bat	Yes	Yes	Anywhere bats can take shelter. <u>Roosting requirements:</u> In any tree with holes, cracks crevices or loose bark. Broadleaves 80 years and over are most attractive. <u>Foraging requirements;</u> water, wet woodland, woodland edge, open areas such as parkland, hedges.	Felling of any trees with actual or potential roost sites. Opening up of the canopy around actual and potential roost sites. Removal of sheltering trees close to roost sites. Changes to flight patterns for foraging (e.g. clear felling). Damage to rich foraging areas.	Very high	Identify and protect trees with confirmed roosts. Employ Sheffield Bat Group to assist with this. Protect buffer trees also. Complete walk over survey to determine numbers of potential roost sites across the woodland. If there are only a small number of potential roost sites protect as above. If potential roost site trees are abundant a small percentage may be felled in any 10 year period. Avoid disturbance to flight paths and foraging areas. Increase volumes for standing and fallen dead wood. Identify areas of low intervention management. Good ride management.
Dormouse	No. May be present in a neighbouring borough.	No	Broadleaved woodland with plenty of cover from coppice and shrubs/scrub and a plentiful food source from nuts and fruits.	Disturbance to habitat from operations such as felling, coppicing and extraction, particularly during the	Low	Only undertake small scale operations. Thinning is less destructive than felling. Least damaging times of year are pre-breeding and the active period after

				breeding season. The scale of the disturbance relative to the size of the woodland will also have an affect.		breeding but before hibernation. The creation of dense scrubby and young coppice areas will benefit the species greatly.
Great crested newt	Yes	No	Breeding sites. Shallow ponds that warm up, together with small areas of standing water such as wheel rutts. Pond plants suitable for egg laying e.g. water plantain. Resting and hibernating sites. Dense undergrowth, beneath timber and log piles, tree roots, animal burrows and under stones and in dry stonewalls.	Anything that will cause disturbance to terrestrial habitat, particularly within 100 metres of ponds such as timber harvesting and extraction.	High	Limit operations in proximity to breeding ponds (up to 100 metres). Avoidance of trafficking through dense scrub. Identify areas that will not be disturbed during operations that will act as refuges. This makes re-colonisation by newts into other areas more likely following operations. Thinning and felling will increase opportunities for newts as the shrub layers improves following increased light levels. If timber is to be extracted stack well away from terrestrial habitat to avoid stacks being used as resting places.
Otter	Yes	No	Wet woodland, carr, thick scrub and quiet woodlands generally within 50 metres of rivers, canals, ponds, lakes and wetlands. Small streams and ditches are used as foraging grounds and corridors.	Sudden opening up of quiet areas for recreation. Felling, coppicing, extraction and other disturbing operations close to corridors, especially within 50 metres may damage holt and resting places.	Moderate	Avoid operations and trafficking within 50 metres of holts. Phase felling and coppicing works in corridors. Do not stack timber close to riparian corridors unless it is intended to be used as habitat piles. Changes to access for recreation should be planned carefully to avoid creating paths in sensitive areas.
Smooth snake and sand lizard	No	No	See Forestry Commission and Natural England's guidance notes.		No risk	

2.2.3.2 Site safety

In publicly owned woodlands where public access is permitted, issues concerning site safety and conflict of interest must be highlighted and addressed to ensure risk to woodland users of accidents is minimised. Identified here are possible safety concerns for woodland users.

(a) Dangerous trees

Trees are living, dynamic structures which undergo a number of stages in life, including decline and senescence. Die back of branches will occur naturally at some point in the life of a tree and trees may become infected with different species of fungi that can have the capacity to cause decay. Trees are also exposed to the natural elements such as wind, lightning and snow. Trees in woodlands with public access may also be subject to vandalism. Both biotic and abiotic damage has the potential to weaken part of, or the whole tree making the tree dangerous in situations where partial or whole collapse of the tree could happen. In areas where people or property are present then the tree could be considered dangerous. It is the responsibility of tree owners to ensure their trees do not pose a threat to people or property by carrying out inspections and undertaking the necessary remedial work to maintain trees in a safe condition.

(b) Natural features - slopes and quarries and rocky outcrops

Parts of the woodland occupy steep slopes as would be expected in ancient woodlands. The slopes grade down to the stream in Old Meadow Wood and to the canal in Hawks Woods. One of the main permissive paths passes along the top of the slope in Hawks Wood. The other path that runs directly up and down the slope is at a point where the degree of the slope is not unreasonably steep.

There are a number of rocky out crops in Old Meadow Wood that run parallel to the water course. On occasions these outcrops become covered by vegetation.

Local people are known to play in the quarry, especially in summer. Camping, making shelters, and rope-swings over the sheer faces of the quarry are the commonest activities. At present, swings are removed as soon as possible, and other shelters dismantled. Secondly, the casual footpath along the top edge of the quarry, is potentially dangerous. This has been closed a number of times in the last ten years by the use of dead hedging.

(c) Water courses and wet woodland areas

The Chesterfield canal runs the entire length of the northern boundary of Hawks Wood. For the greatest part there is no promoted access down to or alongside the canal. The track alongside the canal that gives access to Hawks Wood is the closest that woodland users will be to the canal side.

The stream that passes through Old Meadow Wood has an associated wetland area at either side of the free flowing water. The stream runs to a pond next to the canal. There are no footpaths, or any other type of promoted access down to or next to the water course and wetland areas.

(d) Manmade hazards

The nature of the site with its steep slopes lends itself well to use for rope swings hung from trees. There are potential safety risks here if swings are attached to weak tree limbs or weak rope is used. Swings over footpaths will conflict with use of the paths by walkers.

(e) Flytipping and dangerous rubbish

With the exception of abandoned vehicles from a neighbouring land owner these woodlands do not suffer from problems of flytipping. This is primarily due to their isolated location away from the public highway.

(f) Conflicting recreational uses

There are no bridleways through the woodland therefore horseriding and cycling are not permitted. The commonest form of recreation currently appears to be walking and running on the permissive footpaths. The level of use is relatively low compared with woodlands in more populated parts of the Borough. The conflicts between recreational uses is therefore limited.

(g) Fire plan

A fire plan was produced in the late 1990's for all Council owned woodlands and other countryside sites by the then Culture, Countryside and Amenities Service in consultation with the South Yorkshire Fire Service. A fire plan location and access map for Old Meadow Wood, Hawks Wood and Thorpe Low Wood has been prepared. The main access points are identified in Figure 1.4 with a description of the access provisions in Table 1.2.3 (c).

2.2.4 Archaeology and historic interest

(a) Archaeology

Hawks Wood contains several features of major archaeological importance. Refer to Figure 1.6.

At SK526818, a sub-circular ditched enclosure on the brink of the escarpment overlooking the Canal is present. At the centre of the earthwork are the possible traces of a rectangular structure, whilst remnants of dry stone walling exist on the eastern bank. An initial survey of the earthwork was undertaken by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service SYAS (Ryder 1979). A simple hachured ground plan of the earthworks was produced, together with two profiles across the site (refer to Figure 1.8a). The Yorkshire Archaeological Register (YAR) of 1979 mentions the site and lists a concentration of finds from Hawks Wood in the area of the earth works. These finds include a second century silver ring with blue glass intaglio, five antoniniani and potsherds. Two brooches, four antoniniani, four mid-fourth century coins and a steelyard weight were found elsewhere in the wood. These were taken to suggest a Romano-British date for the earthworks (Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, 52, 1980). No other archaeological investigation of the site has been carried out. A more detailed topographical ground survey would be useful to determine the exact nature, shape and condition of the earthworks and would allow detailed recommendations to be made on its continued protection and its incorporation into the holostic management of the entire woodland (SYAS, 1992).

The site is in a moderate state of preservation and suffers little from visitor pressure, although slight erosion has taken place in the past where a casual, unpermissive footpath crosses the feature (SYAS, 1992). The use of dead hedging and fallen trees to discourage use of this path in recent years has helped limit access pressures. The 1979 YAR also reports the following medieval finds within the earthwork – a fifteenth to sixteenth century iron key and late medieval pottery. Bronze and iron keys of the fourteenth to fifteenth century, an iron spearhead, bronze buckles, lead weights and six silver half-groats have been found elsewhere in the wood.

At SK528615, four eighteenth century lime kilns are present within a large abandoned quarry. No detailed archaeological evaluation of these features has been undertaken. A site visit with the SYAS (1996) confirmed that the kilns are in a relatively good state of preservation, and worthy of Scheduled Ancient Monument status. Several mature ash and maturing sycamore were felled from the kilns in autumn 1996 to address the problem of root damage to the monuments. A further visit in 2006 with SYAS revealed that two of the kilns had suffered quite extensive damage to the stone work. The damage was very recent and probably occurred in 2006. It is unclear whether the damage had been cause by vandalism or natural erosion of the stone work.

Although unproven, it seems likely that the kilns were constructed and used either during or after the construction of the canal. For example, Devil's Hole Bridge is built with squared rubble limestone and brick (Department of the Environment, undated). There is no extensive literature on the archaeology of quarrying (Crossley, 1990) and little is known about the above. No datable objects have been found associated with the quarry except the kilns.

The plateau area of the woodland, particularly the area near to the drystone boundary wall, contains a number of small shallow depressions. These may be the remains of small scale lime burning, perhaps to provide lime for soil dressing. Simple sow or sod kilns have been investigated in Northumberland, for example. These consisted either of hollows in a hill slope or small rings of stone on more level ground. In these were placed limestone packed with wood and covered with turf; slow burning when the woodland was managed, presumed by coppicing.

A possible "holloway" runs across the breadth of Hawks Wood. Its origin is unknown (SYAS, 1996). It ends abruptly at the quarry edge and originally probably continued further.

A derelict well, called St. Nicola's Well on a 1774 map of the proposed Canal route (YAS, D225/11), lies at SK525817. It is lined with dressed stone and is post-medieval in origin (SYAS, 1996). Dead wood collects in the well and needs to be periodically cleaned out.

Finally, several brick and stone-lined boxes lie along the course of Pudding Dike, at the Canal end. These represent the remains of a (probably nineteenth century) hydraulic cam. It is suggested that this was used to supply water to Thorpe Hall, in Thorpe Salvin village, when the woodland and hall were owned by the Duke of Leeds (SYAS, 1996)

The southern boundary of Hawks Wood and the western boundary of Old Meadow Wood are marked by a strong woodland bank and ditch in several places which probably formed the medieval woodland boundary. This was straightened and replaced by a stone wall in the late nineteenth century. A weaker bank, perhaps once topped with a stone wall, forms the western boundary of Hawks Wood, whilst a bank across the western extremity of Old Meadow Wood probably represent a past woodland boundary.

(b) Land use history

According to the Domesday record of 1086, the parish of Thorpe Salvin supported six carucates of cultivated land, and was member of the soke of Laughton, passing from Earl Edwin to Roger de Busli, and then to the crown (Hunter 1828-31). Research by Jones (1988) has shown that at this time, in the eastern part of Rotherham Borough and the whole of Doncaster Borough, woodland was already scattered, and absent from many communities. This, it is suggested, points to early clearance and continuous occupation and cultivation by a relatively dense population for thousands of years. The Magnesian Limestone belt has long been regarded as the most attractive and fertile area of early settlement in South Yorkshire. Whilst *wood pasture,* where woodland was exploited for its trees and used as pasture for animals, was prevalent in the west of Rotherham Borough, and Sheffield (here woodland was still relatively common and population scarce in 1086), *coppicing* was already being practised in the east, perhaps even in Thorpe Salvin. Woods were scarce and valuable resources which needed to be fenced or walled to keep grazing animals out. Coppicing was introduced to give a continuous and self-renewing supply of trees and wood to a relatively dense human population.

Thorpe is a Danish word for a small hamlet, often an outlying one. *Salvin* is a family name (Hunter, 1823-31). The first known reference to woodland in the area is from the late 13th century when Worksop Priory was granted *free warren*, the right to hunt on its demesne, in *Rykeneildthorpe Wood,* Thorpe Salvin. Thorpe Salvin is often called Thorpe Rykeneild in documents of this time and until the late eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries, Hawks Wood (and Low Meadow Wood) was called *Thorpe Hawks Wood* or *Thorpe Wood*. The Hundred rolls of the time state that the Priory had made a park here. (Anketine Salvin was granted free warren on her lands in Thorpe Salvin in 1310/11). The park passed to the Sandford family. In 1491 Brian Sandford was provided with 12 does from the park at Conisborough for his park at Thorpe Salvin (Jones, 1996). Deer Parks were not primarily created for hunting, although hunting did take place there. Their main function was to provide for their owners a reliable source of food, and supplies of wood and timber. No deer park is shown on John Speed's map of the West Riding of Yorkshire, 1610, and it can be assumed that it had been disemparked by this time. It was the Sandfords who built the original Thorpe Hall, which in 1636 passed to Sir Edward Osborne, the Duke of Leeds (Hunter, 1828-31). Research of the family papers, held by the Yorkshire Archaeological Service (YAS), has yielded some useful information.

The first cartographic evidence for the woodland comes from a 1770 map of the proposed Chesterfield Canal, by T. Jeffrey (YAS, DD225/10). Although little detail is given *Thorpe Hawks Wood* (and *Thorpe Spring Wood)* are clearly shown. A Nicolas's Well is also depicted within Hawks Wood. A letter from 1777 records the sale of various closes and sections of woods through which the Canal was to pass, including Hawks Wood, Dule Hole close, Breary Wood Close and Old Spring. A map of 1774 (YAS, D225/11) depicting the route of the proposed route from Hawks Wood to Old Spring Wood suggests a landscape very similar to that shown on the 1848 Tithe map for the area (see figure 1.8c).

Following reference to the Duke of Leeds records and letters concerning the construction of the Canal in the area, it seems highly likely that wood and stone were taken from Hawks Wood. The lime kilns and associated quarries in Hawks Wood may date from this time (SYAS, 1996).

According to entries in the Duke of Leeds' Archive at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society in Leeds (Reference DD5/35), Hawks Wood, Old Spring Wood, Anston Stones Wood and

Lobs Well Wood on the Duke of Leeds estate were all described as ‘spring’ woods, that is coppices-with-standards, during the first half of the eighteenth century. Among the products made from the timber and underwood felled in these woods during this period were hop poles, scaffold poles, cordwood (4-foot lengths of underwood for making charcoal) puncheons (i.e. pit props), heft wood (wood for tool handles) hazel hoops, and hedge bindings. Most interesting of all, in 1701 it was recorded that 562 ‘strait oaken trees’ were taken from these woods ‘by land and water to his majestys yard at Chatham’ which yielded £473 in income. Jones (2009). This is the only reference to be found by Jones of timber from South Yorkshire being used in shipbuilding.

There is also reference to the peeling of oak in *Thorpe Wood Bottom* (almost certainly Thorpe Low Wood) in 1848, and the felling of nearly fifty tons of beech and ash from *Thorpe Wood* i.e. Hawks Wood (YAS, DD5/16/A). Hawks Wood/Old Meadow Wood is still called Thorpe Wood by some local residents. On the 1840-41 one inch to the mile Ordnance Survey, Hawks Wood is labelled Thorpe Wood. Although no records for coppicing have been found in Hawks Wood, a description of this management technique survives for the nearby Old Spring Wood, from 1735 (YAS, DD5/5/85) and it is probable that it was practised in Hawks Wood. The diverse and predominantly light-loving ancient woodland field layer support this hypothesis.

Coppicing went into steady decline during the nineteenth century, as coal became the main source of industrial and domestic fuel, and steel and iron replaced wood in construction. As a result, the majority of woodlands in South Yorkshire were converted to high forest by either planting or singling of coppice stools at this time (Jones, 1995). The Duke of Leeds was already planting large numbers of trees in the estate woodlands by the 1830's (YAS, DD5/24/1) and Hawks Wood was no exception. Several large beech trees in the woodland must date from at least this period; the presence of other mature beech, sycamore and sweet chestnut are indicative of widespread nineteenth century planting.

The 1848 Tithe map of Thorpe Salvin provides a wealth of information about the area (refer to Figure 1.8c). Firstly, the western boundary of Hawks Wood (the associated name Old Meadow Wood had not been added at this time) was much more sinuous than today, supporting the ancient woodland status of the site (Rackham, 1986). Although the surrounding farmland was predominantly arable, field names like *Oaks Pasture* evoke a more pastoral based economy in the past, whilst names like Breare Wood Close (Briar Wood) pointed to past woodland clearance.

The 1854 Ordnance Survey of the area depicts a similar picture (refer to figure 1.7).

Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood were sold to Thomas Crofts of Thorpe Salvin in 1921 and subsequently bought by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in 1956. After the purchase by MAFF, it passed under the control of the Forestry commission. The present structure of the woodland indicates it was clearfelled around this time. The Forestry Commission subsequently planted around three hectares of beech, Scots pine and sycamore plantations in 1958, and a small area of Corsican pine was added in 1962. All were established along the western boundary of the woodland, probably to provide shelter to the rest of the regenerating site.

Hawks Wood and Old Meadow wood, together with Old Spring Wood, were purchased by South Yorkshire Country Council on the 18th June, 1986, at the price of £91,800, and subsequently passed to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RB12011A). Thorpe

Low Wood was bought by Rotherham Metropolitan borough Council (RB16587) on 4th June, 1990, from James Stephen White (and others), as part of a bigger purchase.

2.2.5 Access, recreation and community involvement

(a) Access and recreation

Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood provide a variety of opportunities for enjoyment of the countryside and informal recreational pursuits.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that walking is the commonest informal activity taking place within the woodland. The site has a variety of topography, with the permissive path rising up a gentle incline from the canal before reaching the plateau dominating the southern boundary of Hawks Wood. In general, the paths are dry and free draining. Access for less able-bodied persons is reasonable. Due to of the relative isolation of the site, and isolation from the public highway, access to the woodland directly from the road is not possible. Therefore, people using wheelchairs are unlikely to reach the area. The distances involved, much of it over land in third party ownership would make it unreasonable to provide improved access in the form of a surfaced link path. There have been improvements to the canal towpath in recent years and although the path is flat by the canal, steep descents down to the path may make it difficult. The towpath is not considered compliant with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, nevertheless some users of wheelchairs may be able to access the towpath. Access into the woodland from the towpath may also be difficult for some using wheelchairs as the humpback style canal bridges are steep.

Currently, the only access into the woodland from the village is via Thorpe Salvin public footpath number 3 (see figure 1.4).

Limited access has meant that recreation and access has historically been very low-key and generally informal, with no serious conflicts. However, restoration of the canal does appear to have increased recreational pressure with evidence of widening footpaths and new footpaths being opened up. This is likely to be increasing pressure on wildlife in the woodland. The main conflict at present is disturbance of feeding badgers by walkers, particularly those with dogs, following the permissive path which crosses several important feeding areas and lies very close to one of the setts. Some long established badger setts in the woodland have seen much reduced activity in recent years. This may possibly be an unintentional effect of increased dog walking near to the setts South Yorkshire Badger Group 2006).

It may be necessary in the future to consider re-routing this path, although the available options are constrained by the presence of other active setts in the near vicinity. This will need to be given particular consideration in conjunction with any proposals to create a new access point.

In 1997 a site sign at Devil's Hole Bridge was removed as it was felt to be inadvertently increasing awareness of the site to walkers and cyclists using the canal towpath, however, the formal access point was kept open.

All the site access points are secured by access furniture. Refer to Table 1.5 for details.

(b) Community involvement

The local community and the parish council have a strong interest in the woodland and surrounding countryside. A large number of local groups have been involved in the care and management of the site over the years, including:-

South Yorkshire Badger Group – Badger surveys, sett protection and monitoring.

SK58 Bird Group – casual bird recording and winter surveys.

BTCV – day tasks and working holidays, including fencing, walling, sett protection and dead hedging.

RSPCA – Animal protection and welfare.

NACRO Training Agency – rebuilding of boundary wall.

Rotherham Urban Wildlife Group, Rotherham Conservation Volunteers, St. John's Badgers, Thrybergh Wildlife Group, Conservation Kids.

(c) Education and interpretation

Guided walks are occasionally led by Rotherham Borough Council staff in Hawks Wood. Through these a wide range of wildlife and conservation issues are highlighted. Additional walks and events are organised to highlight specific management issues as and when they arise, particularly around the development and implementation of the management plan.

The site entrance at Pudding Dike Bridge (SK529814) is marked by a site sign. This is a useful means of advertising walks, management works, and to illustrate the permissive route available to visitors, and how this links into the definitive footpaths of the surrounding area. A sign used to be at the entrance at Devil's Hole Bridge (SK532819) but was removed some years ago because local conservation groups suggested that the sign was encouraging people to enter the woodland from the canal towpath.

The woodlands have been utilised in the past for environmental education by the council including visits by children under its guidance. The woodlands provide a setting and resource that links to the requirements of the National Curriculum. It is also an opportunity to promote good practice, such as the importance of not dropping litter, and digging up wild plants etc. However, access, including parking of buses close to the woodland is very difficult and this restricts opportunities. Opportunities to get close to and into the woodland may exist along the Chesterfield Canal.

2.2.6 Landscape

The woodlands lie within arguably the most attractive part of the Borough, the limestone country of the east, which forms a marked landscape contrast to much of the industrial and residential development in the rest of the Borough. Intensive cereal production is predominant, creating an undulating landscape with fine vistas and open panoramas. Urban areas form a series of distinct settlements well separated by open countryside. The early origin of many of these settlements, together with the use of mainly local building materials, maintains a highly diverse and attractive rural character.

The area is characterised by large woodlands intermixed with extensive arable fields often devoid of hedgerows. The valley followed by the canal is dominated by an east-west fault line which has allowed the land to the north to drop vertically. Hawks Wood (and Old

Meadow Wood) are situated on the top edge of the escarpment that was created by the fault lines, making them prominent parts of the local landscape particularly from Thorpe Salvin village, notably from Lady Field Road, between Kiveton Station and Thorpe Salvin, and from Dog Kennel Lane from South Anston to Kiveton Station.

The site also lies within the Sandbeck-Harthill Area of County Landscape Value (Planning Services, 1999).

2.2.7 Tourism

The Borough Council has done much work over the years to promote tourism in Rotherham. Highly desirable areas such as Thorpe Savlin are used in literature to promote an image of the Borough.

The borough is well served by major road networks, being close to the M1, A1 and M18. There are a number of attractions in the area such as Magna Centre, Roche Abbey and the Tropical Butterfly House. This part of the Borough is also close to the Nottinghamshire border and Sherwood Forest which attacks large numbers of visitors.

The Chesterfield Canal which runs from Gainsborough to Chesterfield provides an excellent opportunity for tourism in this area. Restoration of the section of the canal, including tow path, next to Hawks Wood was completed in 2003, potentially increasing the draw of tourists through the area.

Woodland in general helps to promote an attractive image of the borough. More specifically Old Meadow Wood and Hawks Wood, along with nearby Old Spring Wood contribute significantly to the rural appeal of this area.

Table 2.4 Recreation pursuits associated with woodlands and their suitability in Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood.

Activity	Requirements	Impacts			Safety Issues (*)	Nature of the activity	Suitability for this woodland
		Erosion	Wildlife Disturbance	Noise			
Closed and open woodland							
Walking	Defined path network and waymarking. Information and interpretative signs are useful.	Low	Moderate, high with dogs.	Low	**Minimal** (personal due care and attention)	Formal and informal / Individual or group based	**Suitable where no conflict with badger setts exist.**
Photography	Open areas linked by path network.	Low	Low	Low	**Minimal** (personal due care and attention)	Informal / Individual	**Suitable**
Wildlife study	Varied woodland structure but particularly open woodland linked by path network.	Low	Low	Low	**Minimal** (personal due care and attention)	Formal and informal / Individual or group based	**Suitable**
Painting and sketching	Open areas linked by path network.	Low	Low	Low	**Minimal** (personal due care and attention)	Formal and informal / Individual or group based	**Suitable** however the lack of open areas may restrict potential. Conversely, the canal may provide opportunity.
Play (children's facilities)	Close mown area linked by path network, ideally close to parking facilities. Suitable play equipment and appropriate safety surfacing would be necessary.	Low	Moderate	Moderate	**Moderate.** Personal (adult supervision for young children) and duty of Council to maintain equipment in a safe condition.	Informal/ Individual or group based	**Unsuitable.** No suitable areas for formal play equipment.
Cross country running	Defined path network that is waymarked	Low	Moderate, depending on numbers and season	Low	**Moderate** depending on numbers involved at any one time.	Formal and informal / Individual or group based	**Suitable for individuals.**
Mountain biking	Defined bridle route that is waymarked.	High	Moderate	Low	**Minimal/moderate** Conflict with other path users. Personal due care and attention.	Informal/Individual	**Unsuitable.** There are no bridle routes through the wood.

Activity	Requirements	Impacts			Safety Issues (*)	Nature of activity	Suitability for this woodland
		Erosion	**Wildlife Disturbance**	**Noise**			
Picnicking	Close mown open areas linked by path network, ideally close to parking facilities. Woodland furniture. High maintenance required.	Low	Low	Low/ Moderate	**Minimal.** Personal due care and attention and duty of Council to maintain furniture in a safe condition.	Informal/ Group based	**Suitable.** However no woodland furniture present.
Biathlon events	Defined path and track network	Moderate	High	Low/ Moderate	**Moderate** – requires risk assessments and appropriate insurance from event organisers.	Formal/Group	**Unsuitable**. The woodland cannot support large numbers of cyclists – No bridle routes
Horse riding	Defined bridle route. Must be well surfaced if large numbers of horses use the woodland.	High	Low	Low	**Moderate/High.** Conflicts with other uses	Informal/Individual	**Unsuitable.** There are no bridle routes through the wood.
Orienteering	Diverse woodland structure (open and closed woodland).	Moderate	High depending on the time of year	Low	**Low/Moderate** - requires risk assessments and appropriate insurance from event organisers	Formal/Group	**Unsuitable.** The ground flora is too sensitive in many areas. There is inadequate parking near to the woodland.
Archery	Open woodland areas linked by path network	Low	Low	Low	**High** - requires risk assessments and appropriate insurance from event organisers.	Informal/ Individual or group based	**Very unsuitable.** Insufficient open space available.
Camping	Open, close mown areas. Water supply, toilet facilities, refuse collection. Very high maintenance.	Low	Moderate to High	Moderate /High	**Moderate to High** Moderate if fires were permitted. Personal due care and attention required.	Informal/ Individual or group based	**Very unsuitable.** No formal facilities. Wild camping is not permitted to protect the site's wildlife interest.
Shooting (Clays, target, game and stalking)	Open ground for clays and target. Large rural woodlands required for game/ stalking.	Low	Moderate/ High	High	**Very high** - requires risk assessments and appropriate insurance from event organisers.	Formal/Group	**Very unsuitable**. Not enough open space, particularly for clay pigeon shooting. Other forms of shooting conflicts with conservation objectives.

Activity	Requirements	Impacts			Safety Issues (*)	Nature of activity	Suitability for this woodland
		Erosion	**Wildlife Disturbance**	**Noise**			
Hunting	Varied woodland structure. Large woodlands with little public access. May even be necessary to close woodlands for this type of event.	Moderate	High	High	**Very high** - requires risk assessments and appropriate insurance from event organisers.	Formal/Group	**Very unsuitable**. Conflicts with conservation objectives.
Motor sports	Large woodlands with wide rides and tracks	High	High	High	**Very high** - requires risk assessments and appropriate insurance from event organisers.	Formal/Group	**Extremely inappropriate.** The track and ride network is completely inadequate.
Adventure games e.g. paint ball	Large areas of multi structured woodland with good cover for participants	Low/ Moderate	High	High	**High** - requires risk assessments and appropriate insurance from event organisers.	Formal/Group	**Very unsuitable**. The ground flora is too sensitive. There is inadequate facilities nearby for parking etc.

(*) For the purposes of this table, the assessment of safety issues has been made on the basis that equipment and facilities necessary for the activity would be in place.

2.5 Other woodland provision in the area.

The table identifies other woodlands within a 10 km radius of Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood. The private woodlands, particularly the larger woods, may be suitable for organised events. However, the individual policies of private owners are not expressed in the table. Landowners should be approached individually with proposals.

Name	**Ownership**	**Distance from the woodland**	**Transport from the woodland**	**Extent of access**	**Benefits to community**	
					Recreation*	Landscape value
Old Spring Wood	Rotherham Borough Council	100 metres	On foot on a public right of way.	Full	Walking, photography, wildlife study, painting and sketching, picnicking, cross country running by individuals.	Ancient woodland. With high landscape value in the local area.
Smarson Hills plantations	Private	400 metres	Over private land only	No public rights for way.	Possible activities should be discussed with the owner.	Small woodland not close to any highways but close to the edge of South Anston the value is important locally.
Loscar Wood	Private	1.6km	Highway and public footpath.	Public footpath runs round 1 edge of the wood.	Activities appropriate for public footpaths. Possible activities should be discussed with the owner.	On the edge of rural roads the woodland is of local significance. Ancient woodland.
Turnerwood	Private	1.6km	Along public footpath network.	No public rights of way.	Possible activities should be discussed with the owner.	Between the canal and the railway line the woodland is significant for the setting of the canal and users. Ancient woodland.
Mosses Seat	Private	1.8km	Along public footpath network.	Public footpath is routed through the middle of the wood.	Activities appropriate for public footpaths. Possible activities should be discussed with the owner.	Away from highways and in a rural location away from property the woodland has a lower amenity value except perhaps for golfers at Lindrick Golf Club. Ancient Woodland.
Cuthbright Wood	Private	2.1km	Public highway.	No public rights of way.	Possible activities should be discussed with the owner.	On the edge of rural roads the woodland is of local significance. Ancient woodland.
Anston Stones Wood	Parish Council	2.6km	Highway and public rights of way.	On public rights of way and discretionary paths.	Walking, photography, wildlife study, painting and sketching, picnicking, cross country running by individuals.	Very high being between the busy A57 and North Anston. Ancient woodland.
Windmill Plantation	Private	4.5km	Public highway and public rights of way	No public rights of way.	Possible activities should be discussed with the owner.	On the edge of North Anston and by a main road the landscape value is high.
Whitwell Wood (Nottinghamshire)	Forestry Commission	6km	On public highway	On main footpaths	Walking, photography, wildlife study, painting and sketching, picnicking, cross country running by individuals.	Large woodland next to some busy roads the landscape value is high.

Norwood	South Norwood is Leased to Rotherham Borough Council.	6.2km	On public highway and public rights of way	On public rights of way.	Walking, photography, wildlife study, painting and sketching, cross country running by individuals.	A large woodland area between the M1 Motorway and Killamarsh the landscape value is high. Ancient woodland.
Wales Wood	Rotherham Borough Council	7.5km	On public highway	Full access	Walking, photography, wildlife study, painting and sketching, cross country running by individuals.	Still relatively young and between a rural area and an industrial estate the wider value is relatively limited at present.
Rother Valley Country Park	Rotherham Borough Council	7.5km	On public highway	Full access	Walking, photography, wildlife study, painting and sketching, picnicking, cross country running by individuals, horse riding and cycling.	The plantations are still relatively young but provide high landscape value from within the park.
Anston Plantation	Rotherham Borough Council	7.5km	On public highway	Full access	Walking, photography, wildlife study, painting and sketching, cross country running by individuals.	Very prominent in the centre of an urban area.
White Quarry Plantation	Rotherham Borough Council	7.5km	On public highway	Full access	Walking, photography, wildlife study, painting and sketching, cross country running by individuals.	Very prominent on the edge of an urban area.
Alcove Plantation	Rotherham Borough Council	8.0km	On public highway	Full access	Walking, photography, wildlife study, painting and sketching, picnicking, cross country running by individuals.	Very prominent in the centre of an urban area.

Table 2.6 Inventory of available recreation facilities

(a) Habitat Types

(i) Woodland – Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood (NVC W7, W8 and W13)

(ii) Streams – Pudding Dike and associated wetland.

(iii) Waterways – Chesterfield Canal.

(iv) Adjoining countryside areas – predominantly arable farmland; small areas of unimproved limestone grassland; ancient woodland (Old Spring Wood).

(b) Viewpoints

(i) Internal. There are some limited views out over the canal, adjoining farmland and of Thorpe Hall.

(ii) External. The woodland is prominent in the local landscape with views from Thorpe Salvin and very prominent views from the Chesterfield Canal towpath.

(c) Access (see Figure 1.4)

(i) Adjoining public rights of way – Thorpe Salvin No. 3.

(ii) Permissive footpath – through Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood. Not surfaced.

(iii) Informal, casual footpaths – a small number are present.

(iv) Bridleways - None

(v) Access points

No. 1 – Public access from footpath No. 3 and the adjoining Chesterfield Canal (at SK529814). Footpath No. 3 links with Back Lane. Kissing gate and field gate, with associated post and rail boundary fencing. Pedestrian and vehicular access possible at this point.

No. 3 – Access from Bunkers Hill/Lady Field Road across an arable field, to the western extreme of Hawks Wood (SK520817), for forestry (and maintenance operations) only. No public access at this point. Field gate.

No. 4 - From Devil's Hole Bridge into Hawks Wood (SK525819). Squeeze through stile and associated post and rail fencing. Pedestrian access only.

No. 5 - Access for forestry (and maintenance operations) only. No public access at this point. Field gate.

(d) Car parking

There are no car parks by or in the woodland. Parking in the village is very limited. Visitors park informally at Turnerwood and Kivenon Park Station, both 1.5 miles from the site.

(e) Public transport

There are a number of bus stops in Thorpe Savlin and one on the edge of the village close to the public footpath that leads to the woodland. There is an hourly service from Rotherham to Worksop via Thorpe Salvin between 8.02 and 19.02 and a service from Crystal Peaks, Sheffield to Worksop via Thorpe Salvin Monday to Saturday between 8.10 and 18.10

In addition, a Sheffield to Worksop rail service stops at Kiveton Park Railway Station. The station is 1.5 miles from the woodland.

3. The Woodland Resource

3.1 Quantitative assessment

3.1.1 Methods of site survey, inventory and classification

The woodland was divided into sub-compartments on the basis of its vegetation (for example: woodland, wetland) and these sub-divided by community and age structure, as necessary. Sub-compartment areas were later estimated to the nearest 0.1 ha using a dot grid and checked against the total area shown on the most recent 1:2,500 scale Ordnance Survey.

Following definition, the structure and composition of the vegetation of each sub-compartment was described in detail. In addition, evidence of past management was noted. Refer to Figure 1.2. Compartment descriptions are given in section 2.1.3. In the case of sub-compartments 32d, e, f, g, h and i the standing timber volume per hectare was estimated by following procedure 9 in Forestry Commission Booklet 39 (Hamilton, 1975).

3.1.2 Summary of inventory

Table 3.1(a) Compartment Analysis

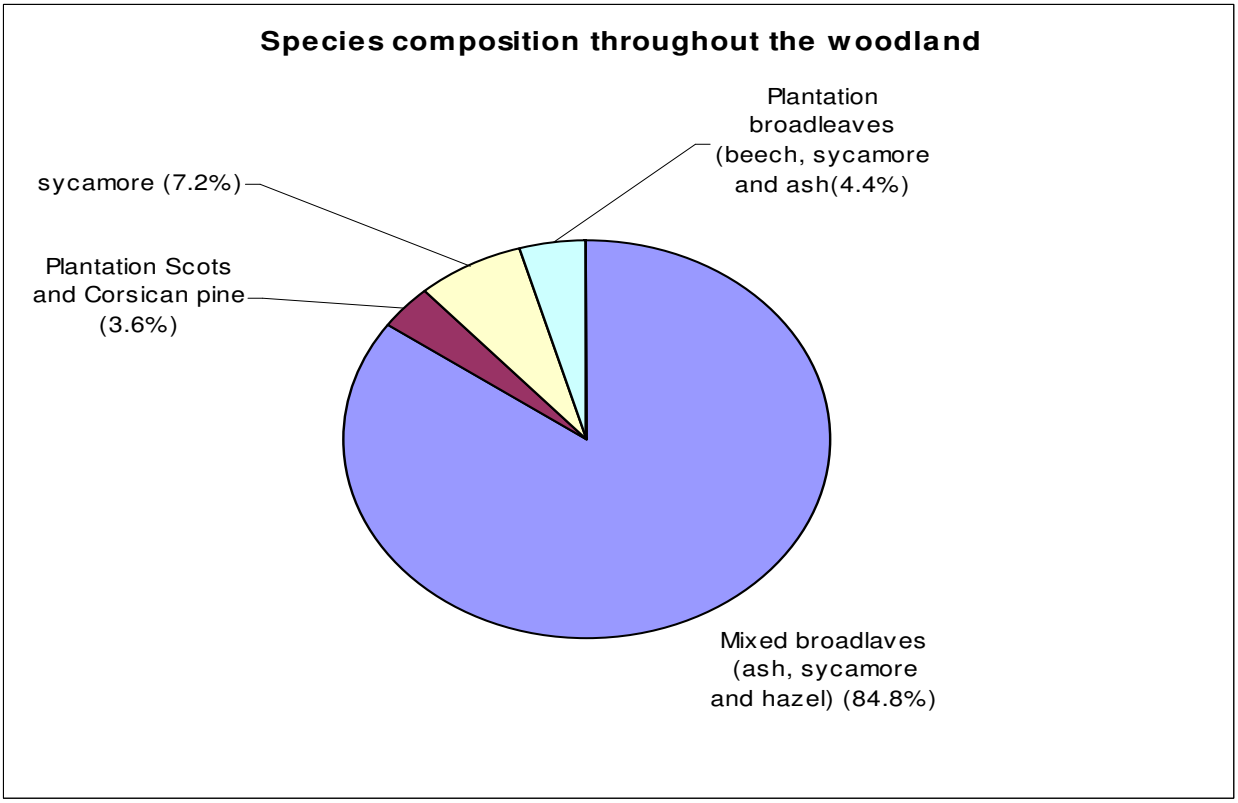
S.cpt.	Area (ha.)	Planting Year	Vol/ha. (m^3)	Yield Class	Species	Habitat Type		
						B'leaf High Forest	C'fer	Scrub
32a	18.95	MB	160	6	SAB	18.95		
32b	1.1	MB	160	6	SAB	1.1		
32c	0.35	1995	-	-	MB			0.35
32d	1.6	58	220	6	SY	1.6		
32e	0.4	58	150	6	BE/SAB	0.4		
32f	0.5	58	190	10	SP		0.5	
32g	0.65	62	210	12	CP		0.65	
32h	1.0	58	150	6	BE/SAB	1.0		
32i	6.7	40-60	300	8	SY/AH	6.7		
32j	0.7	MB	150	6	SY	0.7		
Total	31.95					30.45	1.15	0.35

BE – Beech SAB – Sycamore, Ash, Birch SY – Sycamore
CP – Corsican pine SP – Scots pine MB – Mixed broadleaves
AH – Ash

Harvesting of non-timber woodland products does not take place in the woodland.

Table 3.1(b) Age class distribution of trees throughout the woodland complex

Table 3.1(c) Composition of the main species found in the woodland complex



3.1.3 Compartment descriptions

Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood

S.cpt.32a 18.95 ha

Representing the majority of the site this area is characterised by pole-stage 20-50 year old sycamore, with occasional ash. Other canopy components are infrequent but include aspen, silver birch, wild cherry and dead and suckering wych elm. Mature, large-leaved and small-leaved lime in the west of the compartment, beech, Pedunculate oak, ash (and sweet chestnut) are scattered across the area. There is common yew close to compartment 32f. There are a number of old mature beech in the west of the compartment that may be considered as veteran trees.

The shrub layer is often well-developed, with frequent hazel, occasional clumps of hawthorn, as well as wild privet, holly, goat willow, guelder rose, spindle, dogwood and spurge laurel. Ash regeneration is frequent in places. There are clear signs that coppicing has been carried out in the southern part of the compartment in the past as there are frequent, well spaces stools of hazel and occasional hawthorn.

The field layer is rich. False brome, tufted hair-grass and bramble are frequent throughout with a mosaic of herbs, including wood anemone, bluebell, dog's mercury, pignut, early and common dog violet, abundant ramsons, locally abundant primrose, early purple orchid and wood sanicle amongst others. The giant and nettle-leaved bellflower is found at various locations towards the southern and western edges of the woodland. The ground layer is carpeted with bryophytes.

An area in the southern part of the compartment contains a number of old coppiced hazel stools. It is some decades since these were last coppiced and the stored coppice is providing a canopy to the woodland in this particular area.

S.cpt.32b 1.1 ha

Dominated by Pudding Dike, this area is strongly influenced by the ephemeral stream passing through it. Sycamore (and ash), some 30-50 years old forms the canopy, with mature large-leaved and small-leaved lime, ash, alder and fallen and standing dead wych elm are more frequent towards the pond in the north of this area.

The shrub layer is poorly developed but includes hazel and occasional elder, guelder rose, dogwood and spindle.

Ramsons form mono-species stands throughout much of the area but towards the wetland there is a much more diverse field layer with opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage, meadowsweet, woodruff, lesser celandine and many others. Again, bryophytes carpet the ground layer.

The wetland itself is swamped by aquatic vegetation, predominantly nettle and great willow herb, with creeping buttercup, meadowsweet, marsh marigold and opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage.

S.cpt.32c 0.35 ha

This area lies beneath a Yorkshire Electricity Distribution Limited (YEDL) overhead transmission line. The trees and shrubs are managed by coppicing to maintain a safe operating distance for the line. The trees were last coppiced in 2004. The stools have

recoppiced vigorously. A mains sewerage pipeline runs beneath the overhead wayleave from Thorpe Salvin to the Severn Trent plc Thorpe Salvin Treatment Plant.

S.cpt. 32d 1.6 ha

A 1958 plantation of unthinned sycamore with occasional ash over ramsons, lesser celandine and bluebell. The form of the sycamore varies considerably. There are many poorly formed trees having weak forks with included bark. The future prospects of these trees is likely to be limited, indeed a number have collapsed in recent years. The shrub layer is limited principally to elder which is quite frequent in areas affording some shrub cover in the compartment. The field layer is dominated by ransoms and bramble.

S.cpt. 32e 0.4 ha

Sycamore is present in the compartment as above but there is also a mix of planted beech and ash throughout, together with a notable proportion of wild cherry. The beech are unthinned and lack room to develop. The shrub layer is limited. There is some yew to the east of the compartment. The field layer is more varied than 32d above. As well as a mix of bramble and ransoms, snow drop is abundant throughout. Daffodils are also frequent throughout, however, these are likely to be garden escapees rather than the native daffodil, albeit that some are a similar size, form and colour to the native species.

S.cpt.32f 0.8 ha

A 1958 plantation of unthinned mixed pine (Scots and Corsican), with a poorly developed shrub layer of hawthorn and elder but with a reasonable amount of holly. The field layer of the sub compartment is impoverished. The trees appear to have grown well in the early years and have developed a good form, however growth in more recent years has been severely restricted by a lack of thinning. Self thinning has been taking place latterly. Many of the trees do still have sufficiently deep crowns allowing them to respond favourably to management at this late stage.

S.cpt. 32g 0.65 ha

1962 plantation of unthinned Corsican pine. The plantation has grown well but for the same reasons as 32f above thinning is now required. Again the shrub layers are poorly developed and the field layer is impoverished.

S.cpt. 32h 1.0 ha

Two small 1958 plantations of beech (and sycamore), unthinned since established (although self-thinning is evident and a limited amount of beech bark disease has taken its toll). The majority of trees are poorly crowned. The shrub layer is poorly developed and the field layer impoverished although there are groups of primrose and ?? throughout.

Compartments 32f, g and h provide an effective wind break from the prevailing winds on this exposed edge of the woodland.

S.cpt. 32i 4.1 ha

A mixed-aged stand, 35-65 years old, and dominated by sycamore with occasional oak, dead wych elm, wild cherry and ash, over a sparse shrub layer of hazel and hawthorn (Guelder rose, spindle, dogwood).

Other, mature broadleaved species are scattered throughout the stand, significantly a number of mature large and small leaved lime. It is unclear whether this is an indigenous

group but there is no variation in the age class of the trees. Nine mature lime have been identified in the compartment. One of these was wind blown several years ago but the tree remains alive. They all appear to be of the same age around the mature age bracket, albeit possibly early mature rather than over mature. See figure 1.3 for the approximate locations of these trees.

Furthermore, survey of the compartment to establish locations, age and condition of any coppiced lime throughout the compartment would be of merit for any future management of the compartment.

There are also two large over mature beech in the compartment that may be considered as veterans owing to their size, age and condition. These represent the largest trees in the entire woodland and should certainly be considered for long term retention and managed as veterans into the future. See figure 1.3 National Vegetation Classification plan.

The field layer is varied with ramsons dominant towards the canal, elsewhere bramble dominates.

Thorpe Low Wood

S.cpt. 32j 0.7 ha

Predominantly 50-80 year old sycamore, with scattered individual mature ash, Pedunculate oak, beech, common lime and European larch, over a shrub layer of elder, hazel, with hawthorn, Guelder rose and dogwood. The compartment has a relatively good age structure of trees.

The field layer is dominated by dog's mercury and wood anemone, with ramsons. Other herbs include pignut, lesser celandine and nettle-leaved bellflower.

3.2 Silvicultural assessment and management options

The woodland of Old Meadow Wood, Hawks Wood and Thorpe Low Wood is overwhelmingly ancient and semi-natural in character and can be assigned to the National Vegetation classification (NVC) community W8 *Fraxinus excelsior – Acer campestre – Mercurialis perennis* (ash - field maple - dog's mercury).

In general, NVC W8 woodlands are those in which ash, field maple and hazel provide the main character of the woody component. Often, these three species dominate in various proportions, and they frequently form the basis of some kind of coppiced underwood, though often now abandoned. The next most common tree is Pedunculate oak, although its abundance can be very variable and is often low, as it is at this site. This appears to often be the case in the northern half of the country.

Similarly, wych elm and sycamore, which are generally rare in south-eastern examples of this woodland type become very frequent and often abundant towards the north-west. Other trees are rare but include birch, holly, rowan, wild service tree and small and large-leaved lime.

The floristics of the field layer are variable. The sub-communities *Deschampsia caespitosa*, and *Allium ursinum* have been identified (Rodwell, 1991) at Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood.

Of the various silvicultural treatments applied to this type of woodland, it is coppicing that has left the most striking legacy. Coppicing has been responsible for the development of great floristic and physiognomic contrasts between the woody cover of different stands of this

community. The species list for these coppiced areas is comprehensive and demonstrates well developed floral communities. However, many areas of woodland would benefit from detailed survey work to better determine the species present and their distribution. At any one site, the most significant impact of coppicing is seen in response to the sudden periods of change that accompany each cut: a sudden increase followed by a steady decline in the exposure of the ground, together with the trampling and disturbance associated with the cropping and removal of wood. The cyclical changes in the field layer are particularly obvious. First, there is often a quick decline and slow recovery of dog's mercury, often the commonest field layer dominant. This opens up more ground for subsequent prominence of the existing field layer associates and their spread. Among the former, the characteristic post-coppice flowering can be seen in great splendour in this community with its various mixtures of bluebell, primrose, wood anemone, lesser celandine, viola spp., ground ivy and yellow archangel. Individual plants can increase greatly in vigour producing larger rosettes and spreading carpets. Other characteristic species in the community may be able to make more obvious temporary gains on areas of open ground. Bramble often increases whilst sanicle, false broome and herb Robert may appear in profusion. A clear sequence is usually obvious, with annuals, then biennials, then perennials attaining prominence in turn. Some like *Juncus* spp. originate from buried seed. Some favour moister soils like *Juncus* spp., great willowherb and marsh thistle. Provided there is uninterrupted re-establishment of the canopy, few, if any, of the species last into the later stages of longer rotations.

Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood have been greatly affected by clearfell and plantation forestry, resulting in part in the replacement of the semi-natural tree and shrub communities with introduced species like beech and pine. Furthermore, the non-indigenous species sycamore is very prevalent throughout the woodland, although ash is probably the second most common tree at the site. However, it is very possible that the lime are of an age that would make them remnants from before the clearfelling.

Although it is highly likely that Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood were managed as coppice at one time, they had probably been converted to high forest by the mid-Nineteenth Century, and today retain little coppice structure. Whilst the reinstatement of coppicing on an extensive scale may well be unrealistic, other methods of managing the woodland, such as frequent thinning, and in the long term group felling, can mimic the effects of coppicing on the woodland flora, with knock-on benefits for wildlife. Ride management, in the form of scalloping, may also have a role here.

Compartment 32a - Semi-mature ash-sycamore woodland

This compartment constitutes the majority of the site and is characterised by pole-stage, 25-55 year old sycamore, with occasional ash and scattered mature broadleaves.

This has developed following the clear-felling of mature broadleaved woodland, probably during or soon after World War II. The woodland here does not appear to be of plantation origin, rather it represents advance natural regeneration released by clear-felling. However, there is surviving evidence of enrichment planting, as several tree shelters have been seen throughout the compartment. At present, the stand has a healthy structure, with a relatively open canopy, and diverse, well-lit shrub and field layers, with large hazel and hawthorn forming members of the canopy in places, locally abundant ash regeneration and scattered mature and over-mature trees.

Allowed to develop naturally, this part of the woodland will become progressively shady, with the associated loss of shade intolerant plant species like wood sedge, yellow pimpernel, early purple orchid, and common and early dog violet. The locally abundant advance ash regeneration would not be allowed to develop, except in small areas where natural collapse of mature trees occurred or trees were removed for safety reasons, and sycamore would

continue to dominate. Research has shown (Buckley, 1994) that under prolonged conditions without disturbance, shade tolerant field layer components, in particular bluebell, dog's mercury, ramsons and wood anemone, take advantage of space created by elimination of less shade tolerant species. These species have one of two types of strategy for persistence which enable them to cover the ground completely in a shaded environment over considerable areas given sufficient time since last disturbance:-

(a) Production of a superabundance of seed, even under shaded conditions, combined with limited colonial growth exemplified by bluebell and ramsons. The beech plantations in Old Spring Wood, and parts of Pudding Dike, are good examples.

(b) Rhizomatous clonal growth from which a complete ground cover of shoots arise; exemplified by wood anemone and dog's mercury.

Most perennial species do not have either of these two capacities. These species, which include plants rare in the woodland like enchanters nightshade, moschatel, St. John's wort spp., early purple orchid, primrose, wood speedwell, and others, benefit most from coppicing, felling and thinning in terms of abundance. This is due to the creation of more space on the woodland floor for colonisation, by reduction in the amounts of the more abundant species through the disturbance caused by felling and extraction, and improved ability to reproduce in frequent periods of higher light levels.

Although silvicultural operations are not necessary at this stage in the development of the compartment a number of options have been identified below for consideration in future years. These options will be considered subject to more detailed floral and faunal survey. Although there are reasonable records for the site, management would be better guided by some more, up to date survey. Also, given the lack of any immediate urgency to undertake silvicultural work in this compartment, time can be afforded to complete survey prior to any silvicultural work being undertaken on the ground.

In the medium-term, a phased thinning programme would offer the opportunity to favour native species such as ash and oak, over the ubiquitous sycamore, and give understorey species, like hazel, spindle, dogwood, alder, buckthorn and Guelder rose, as well as advance ash regeneration, more room. However, there is presently a dense cover of bramble in this area which is also likely to benefit from increased light levels. It may be that, as the canopy that presently exists, develops and increases the shading of the woodland floor, the density of bramble will reduce. However, any thinning in the medium term may re-stimulate growth and this should be borne in mind at the planning stage for any future silvicultural operations. Small numbers of non-native species, like beech, which as mature individuals presently add character to the woodland, could also be favoured during thinning operations. In addition, mature and maturing hawthorns being shaded out by competing vegetation could be given more room, promoting the flowering of this important nectar species, the same applies for *Salix* species. Furthermore, trees with long-term commercial timber potential can be promoted to give their crowns room to properly develop.

Small group felling, the clearing of selected small areas generally about 1.5 to 2 times the height of the trees, creates the disturbance discussed above but only in the areas selected. The areas selected are often areas where natural regeneration already exists or is anticipated to be achieved. The other areas of the compartment do not generally receive benefit from the works. However, a combination of selective group felling and thinning can be considered.

Coppicing has been practiced in parts of this compartment in the past. With the benefits that this form of management brings to wildlife and native woodland flora, coppicing should once again be considered in this part of the woodland. A detailed floristic and perhaps faunal

survey of the compartment would be wise in the first instance to help inform the extent and location of coppicing work. The timing of proposed coppice operations will need to be carefully considered in relation to other proposed management such as felling in adjacent areas of the compartment and other nearby compartments.

Clear felling again at this stage in the development of this stand would simply restart the process of woodland regeneration and development. From a purely economic perspective clear felling does only tend to be preferred when the stand is at its optimum in terms timber development and can be most profitably utilised. Clear felling also has considerable landscape and ecological implications, particularly in ancient woodland and long established secondary woodland.

Compartment 32b - Pudding Dike and ephemeral stream

It is important that water courses and riparian areas through woodland have a variation of light levels from shady to sunny. Presently the light levels are quite uniform along the length of the water course at moderate levels. Over time it would be beneficial to allow some areas to become more shady by allowing the trees to develop further whilst thinning at other locations would increase light levels. A walk over with the Council's ecologist prior to any felling work taking place would help to identify any particular areas where increased light would be most beneficial.

Compartment 32c - under the wayleave

The trees and shrubs under the YEDL overhead transmission line through Old Meadow Wood are periodically coppiced to maintain a safe operating distance from the lines. This represents the largest area of open space in the woodland at present and provides an ideal opportunity to maintain an open, reasonably well-lit area within the site. Management by piecemeal, phased coppicing on a rotation would reduce the landscape impact and create a varied age-structure to the regenerating woodland, in turn providing more varied opportunities and habitat for wildlife. Alternatively, clearing the woody species from this area of the woodland and adopting a regime of mowing would maintain the transmission line clear without the need for recoppicing. Beneath the wayleave, species like wood sedge, enchanter’s nightshade, St. John’s wort, burdock and wood spurge are relatively abundant in comparison to the surrounding woodland.

Compartment 32d - sycamore plantation with wild cherry and ash

The compartment will, at sometime in the future benefit from some silvicultural work, either thinning or small group felling. Each option delivering the benefits described above for 32a. Many of the trees, sycamore in particular, are poorly formed with included forks, limiting their long term prospects. Thinning operations would selectively remove these trees whilst leaving the better formed trees with more room to develop. Small group felling would not discriminate between poorly formed and well formed trees. This should be taken into consideration when selecting an option.

Compartments 32e, f, g and h - coniferous and broadleaved plantations.

The plantations established within Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood between 1958 and 1962 are characterised by densely spaced, unthinned stands, beneath which the pre-existing ancient woodland ground flora is impoverished. This is especially true beneath the beech and pine plantations. Buckley (1992) has shown that the field layer seed bank underneath coniferous stands established within previously semi-natural woodland, is unlikely to survive for more than fifty years. Left unmanaged, these stands will become progressively more shaded, slowly destroying the remaining field layer and losing their potential as commercial crops.

Due to a lack of thinning their commercial potential has been reduced, although these stands may have been purposely left unthinned to increase their role as shelterbelts whilst the regenerating woodland immediately adjacent grew up. In addition, beech bark disease is a minor problem. It develops where bark infested by an insect, the felted beech coccus, is subsequently invaded and killed by the fungus *Nectria coccinea*. This disease can cause significant mortality and growth reduction in plantations, particularly those between 20 to 40 years of age. Often, trees are girdled and die, or decay. Fungi quickly invade affected trees causing stem snap. This has been a problem in Old spring Wood. Prompt felling of affected trees is required if their timber is to be utilised. Stems heavily infested with the insect are best removed at thinning, as even before the onset of disease their growth rate will be severely retarded (Hibberd, 1993). Stress factors, like drought, can increase the severity of the attack.

Both Scots and Corsican pine are generally unsuitable for chalk or limestone soils, except as a nurse, although Corsican is more successful on chalky soils than Scots. Beech is only tolerant of these soils provided free calcium carbonate is absent from surface layers, whilst sycamore is tolerant of calcarecus soils (Hibberd, 1991)

Silvicultural management in the form of a programme of thinning would improve stand quality by ensuring that future increment is concentrated on the best formed trees, whilst promoting healthy crown development. Thinning also offers the opportunity to favour other species, locally native broadleaves in this case, and would promote the development of an understorey and, with time, the recovery of the field layer. One exception is sub-compartment 32e, which has grown particularly badly, leaving very few trees with long-term potential.

Small group felling of the pine and beech whilst leaving surrounding mature ash and other natives as a seed source would begin a conversion process back to native broadleaves more quickly than thinning. Thinning, although increasing light levels to the woodland floor would also benefit the remaining pine and beech, allowing them to increase in increment and crown spread, in time shading out the woodland floor again.

Any tree removal works close to an exposed wind firm edge may have implications for the stability of the stand, but in particular group felling may create turbulence that would cause wind throw of neighbouring trees. Some limited wind blow of pine has been observed in recent winters.

Clear felling would have obvious landscape implications with the stands being on the woodland edge, albeit that the woodland is not visible to a large residential population or to busy roads. Clear felling along this exposed edge would also increase exposure to the remaining woodland behind, probably causing wind throw but also exposing the woodland and its wildlife to cold winds, making conditions less favourable to wildlife. Alternatives to clear felling also allow expenditure to be spread over time. Importantly, gradual change in the woodland structure and species composition creates a more diverse habitat and range of opportunities, allowing wildlife to more easily adapt.

English Nature has identified the restoration of ancient woodlands, replanted with introduced species, as a key issue in the southern magnesium limestone natural area. This would suggest that the conversion of these areas back to semi-natural stand types, principally NVC W8 woodland, would be preferable. However, the long term retention of a proportion of beech and pine would maintain a continuity of habitat and maintain greater habitat diversity with a wider range of habitats and food sources for fungi, invertebrates and for several bird species recorded from the site. Survey of the plantation areas prior to any silvicultural will determine whether there are any important wildlife associations with the pine.

Compartment 32 i - mixed-aged maturing sycamore woodland.

The far western end of Hawks Wood is characterised by a very similar vegetation community to that found throughout the majority of the woodland (compartment 32a), but is dominated by a frequently densely stocked, often closed canopy stand of older sycamore some 40-70 years old. Although similar to compartment 32a, the stand is more densely stocked and darker and therefore closer to a need for thinning than 32a. As a result, shrubs are rare but advance regeneration of ash is locally abundant. Parts of this area are approaching commercial maturity, (probably 60 years on this reasonably fertile site) and it may be best to begin regenerating the area now, especially as some advance natural regeneration is in progress. Other, younger areas are densely spaced, with tight crowns, but with reasonable to excellent form.

Thinning and small group felling would offer the same advantages and disadvantages as described above for 32a. A combination of thinning and group-felling may offer an opportunity to encourage increment on the more commercial trees, whilst making space for new trees. In turn, this would create a more diverse woodland structure in this part of Hawks Wood with the long-term aim of promoting a mixed-aged woodland dominated by species characteristic of ancient woodland on the natural area.

Of principal consideration in this compartment are the mature limes located throughout. These trees have been growing in the shade of neighbouring trees for some years. In order to prevent sudden changes to light levels to the trees which may cause shock to the limes, location of felling groups will need to be carefully considered to ensure that limes do not end up on the edge or in the middle of an opening. However, there is presently not enough information available about the limes to consider management prescriptions at this stage in the development of the management plan. Therefore, only survey and research into the limes should be considered in this five year plan period.

Glades, open space and ride management

Apart from the wayleave (compartment 32c) there is little open ground within the woodland. A small glade at SK527814, a remnant of one of the Forestry Commission's management rides, is one of the only other areas of open space in the woodland. The glade supports plant species not found elsewhere within the woodland in any abundance such as crosswort, bush vetch, and greater stitchwort. Furthermore, areas such as this can provide feeding areas for sun loving invertebrates. The small glade is gradually being encroached upon by the surrounding woodland. To maintain its value, encroaching trees and scrub could be pushed back and the area could perhaps be enlarged. Open space would also be beneficial to some bird species such as spotted flycatcher for feeding and woodcock for displaying.

Other, selected areas within the site could also be considered for management by coppicing and ride scalloping to provide a greater area and spread of open-space throughout the woodland.

The main ‘ride’ in public use (and perhaps the most appropriate for use during timber extraction), is that followed by the permissive footpath through the woodland. Interestingly, the neglected ride system within the woodland supports strongholds of shade intolerant species, in particular wood sedge, St. John’s wort species, columbine and wild strawberry. For this reason scalloping of selected areas along this ride in a phased way, and then managed by coppicing shall be considered for inclusion in the proposed work programme.

There are three dominant features of a ride that have a major influence on wildlife: the level of shade, the ride width and the type of cutting regime.

Shade and width – generally, rides need to be at least as wide as the height of the surrounding trees. This would be around 10-15m at present. Rides orientated east/west like this particular ride also receive more sun during the summer months than those orientated north/south.

Cutting regime – creating a scalloped ride edge of varying age and height, rather than a uniform margin, creates a variety of conditions, thus providing a range of opportunities for wildlife, particularly birds and invertebrates.

3.3 Sustainability and management for biodiversity

3.3.1 Sustainability

All future management of Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Low Thorpe Wood will aim to be sustainable, contributing towards the national targets of sustainable forest management laid out in the England Forest Strategy (2000). The UK Forestry Standard (2004) gives detailed national criteria for sustainable forest management, to be delivered at the individual forest management level. Table 2.3.4 below outlines how the management of the woodland complex meets each of the UK Forestry Standard Criteria for sustainable forest management. Sustainable forest management as defined in the UK Forestry Standard is:

'*The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way and at a rate,* that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems'.

3.3.2 Management for biodiversity

Biodiversity is a key test of sustainability as it enhances quality of life, provides natural assets from which economic benefits can be derived and demonstrates an environment in good health (English Nature 1999). To achieve the UK Biodiversity Action Plan national targets, a regional approach to biodiversity has been developed for the Yorkshire and Humber area. The regional approach is built upon the UK BAP priority species and habitats and English Nature's Regional Natural Area reports which describe the biodiversity and natural heritage importance of each region, the issues which impact upon them and regional objectives for nature conservation (English Nature 1999). This has resulted in the production of Rotherham's Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

In the Yorkshire and Humber region 7 habitat/landscape types, including woodlands have been identified as Regional Biodiversity indicators. The key management issues concerning woodland on the Southern Magnesian Limestone are:

- Accessibility leads to public use, litter and associated disturbance of wildlife.
- There may be conflict between exotic species and management for nature conservation.
- The resource is fragmented. Conversion of agricultural land to new woodland should aim to ensure trees local to the Natural Area are used and thought given to nature conservation. Restoration schemes should also use local stock and ensure that traditional management is restored if appropriate.
- Inappropriate management and lack of traditional woodland management.
- Woodland contains important industrial archaeology which may be neglected.

- Re-opening of stone quarries can destroy secondary woodland.

Natural England's nature conservation objectives for the Natural Area are:

- To maintain, expand and enhance the characteristic semi-natural habitats such as woodland, valley wetlands, heathland and unimproved grassland and to conserve species and geological features.

- To increase the nature conservation value of the wider countryside and urban greenspace within the Natural Area.

- To increase awareness and encourage appropriate use of the nature conservation resource.

- To influence land use of sites undergoing fundamental change.

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan addresses national and local biodiveristy issues and identifies species and habitats of conservation priority in the local area.

3.3.3 Priority habitats

Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood form an ancient woodland site. Ancient woodland is included in the list of key habitats in Rotherham and is therefore recognised in the Unitary Development Plan. Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood are Scheduled Heritage Sites and will be protected against inappropriate development in keeping with Unitary Development Plan Policies ENV2, ENV2.1, ENV 2.3 and ENV 2.4. Within Old Meadow Wood the area of wet woodland at Pudding Dike is a UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat. Therefore the wet woodland areas will be a management priority.

In the Rotherham area a number of habitat/landscape types, including woodlands have been identified as priority biodiversity habitats. Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Low Thorpe Wood contain types. These are:

Wet Woodlands (High Conservation Concern)
Oak – Birch Woodland (Medium Conservation Concern)
Streams (Medium Conservation Concern)

3.3.4 Biodiversity action plan species

All BAP species recorded in Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood will be given special consideration during any management works and their presence monitored. The UK Biodiversity Steering Group advise that specific management recommendations focus on species that are identified as conservation priorities (formally short and middle listed species), whilst noting those species of conservation concern (formally long list species) and directing more general management practices toward their conservation. Any species on the LBAP found to be present at the site during the period of this plan will also become a priority, as will any species present that is included in a Red Data Book, on the RSPB/BTO "red list", or designated as regionally or nationally notable.

The priority species and species of concern are highlighted in table 3.3.3. Additional species information is given in section 2.2.2. Sustainable management of these woodlands should bring benefits to a wide range of species, not just priority species, and an overall enhancement in the biodiversity of the site.

Improving diversity within the woodland and the opportunities for BAP species depends to a large extent on the availability of dead wood and open space in the woodland. Adequate dead wood provision is vital for general habitat enhancement as well as improvements for specific species. The survival of almost a third of European forest dwelling species is threatened by the removal of dead wood from forests. Many of the long red list of endangered species are directly linked to dead wood (WWF 2004). With average forests in Europe having less than 5% of the volumes of dead wood expected in natural conditions (WWF 2004) the need to increase quantities of dead wood is critical. Different forest types will naturally have different volumes and types of dead wood present. In unmanaged European broadleaved forests volumes of dead wood would be between 5 and 30 percent of the total timber volume, or 40 to 200 cubic metres per hectare. This contrasts sharply with an average of 8.5 cubic metres per hectare across Western Europe. Within the Hawks Wood complex the average volume is around 5 cubic metres per hectare, particularly large diameter dead wood is very low in volume. Much of the dead wood is small diameter resulting from branch wood and thin pole stage self thinned trees in the beech and pine plantations. Within the Regional Forestry Strategy for The Yorkshire and Humber Region 'The value of trees in our changing region' the maintenance and, where necessary, the restoration of ancient woodland is a high priory (theme 5 of the Strategy). Increasing the volume of dead wood when carrying out safety and silvicultural work should therefore be a priority. However, the location of dead wood next to paths and tracks must be considered owing to the monitoring commitments at these locations. The amount of open space within the woodland is very limited. There are quite substantial areas of open space around the woodlands, principally agricultural land, however the quality of this space for a lot of wildlife may be quite limited.

Table 3.3.1 Open space monitoring

Open space recommended in woodland by the Forest Stewardship Council.	**Percentage of open space considered by Forestry Commission**	**Actual percentage of the woodland that is open space.**	**Desired percentage of the woodland that is open space by 2012.**
10%	20%	Hawks Wood 0.5%	5%
10%	20%	Old Meadow Wood 4%	10%
10%	20%	Low Thorpe Wood 2%	2%

Table 3.3.2 Dead wood monitoring

Recommended volume of dead wood by WWF	**Minimum volume recommended by UKWAS**	**Actual volume of dead wood per hectare**	**Desired volume of dead wood by 2012**
50m³/ha	20m³/ha or 5-10% of average stand volume	Hawks Wood 5m³/ha	25m³/ha
		Old Meadow Wood 5m³/ha	25m³/ha
		Low Thorpe Wood 5m³/ha	10m³/ha

Table 3.3.3 Recorded UK and regional BAP species of principle importance.

Species	**Rotherham List**	**National List**	**Habitat**
Great crested newt	Yes	Yes	Rough grass and scrub land for distribution and large still ponds for breeding.
Brown hare	No	Yes	Grassland and open woodland.
Badger	Yes	Yes	Woodland for setts normally but feed over a wide range of territories.
Bellflower stem-miner	Yes	Yes	Damp limestone grassland and woodland. Larvae feeds on giant bellflower.
Song thrush	No	Yes	Gardens, parkland, thick hedgerows, woodland, rough ground with cover.
Spotted flycatcher	No	Yes	Woodland-edge, parks, large gardens.
Tree sparrow	No	Yes	Arable farmland with old trees, hedgerows, ruined buildings.

Table 3.3.4 Delivering National Criteria for sustainable forest management at Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Low Thorpe Wood

Criteria for sustainability	National level indicators	Evidence of national criteria being delivered in the management plan	Plan section
Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification is awarded on the basis that all elements of management including silviculture, health and safety, ecology, history, recreation, education and community involvement are appropriate, sustainable and all encompassing.			*Throughout the plan*
Nature conservation in and around forests	*Biodiversity in and around woods is conserved or enhanced.*	Nature conservation as a main objective for site management.	3.3, 5.1.2, 5.4.5
		All species of conservation importance will be maintained and protected.	3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4
	Species and habitats subject to EU Directives and The UK BAP are conserved or enhanced	Guidance on biodiversity matters will be taken from the UK BAP, The Rotherham BAP and Natural England.	3.3.3, 3.3.4
		Where possible, woodland management will be timed for late July to December period to reduce disturbance to wildlife.	4.2.3
		All recorded species listed on the UK, Regional or Local BAP have been taken into account in the management plan.	3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4
		Areas within the site are identified as wildlife refuges.	3.3.3
		Work with South Yorkshire Badger Group and the police wildlife liaison officer to reduce the opportunities for wildlife crime such as badger baiting.	2.2.2.1(f)
	Important but previously disturbed semi-natural habitats are restored where practical.	Silvicultural management aims to develop well structured woodland sustainable over the long term.	5.4
		Native species will be favoured where possible.	5.4
		Continuous cover forestry techniques will be used to replace much of the plantations of Corsican pine, Scots pine and beech to native species.	5.4

Rural development	Opportunities are actively being enhanced for each of the criteria: *-rural development*	Woodland work such as footpath improvements, thinning and coppicing will be carried out by local companies, generating income in the local economy. The woods contribute to the overall desirability of the area helping to attract companies and tourism to the area.	4.1.2 4.1.2, 2.2.7
Access and recreation	*-access and recreation*	Maintenance of good quality but low key access on a permissive footpath network will improve the quality of access for users. Regular safety inspections of trees, particularly close to footpaths. Maintenance of existing site entrance signs will make the woodland more welcoming to visitors.	5.4.6 5.4.4(a) 5.4.7
Quality of life in and around forest.	*-quality of life*	Removal of litter as necessary to continue to give the site a cared for appearance. Support of police and community in attempts to combat anti-social activity if it arises.	5.4.4(g), 5.4.6 5.4.8
Increased awareness and participation	*-increased awareness and perception*	Public consultation throughout the development of the management plan.	5.4.8
Community involvement.	*-community involvement*	Support local people in taking an active part in the running of the site.	5.4.8
Other land uses		A multifunctional and sustainable approach to land management will be adopted to ensure all land uses and interests are carefully integrated	5.3 (all)
Conservation of heritage features	*Important heritage features are protected*	Further research into land use history and the condition and necessary protection of monuments would be beneficial. Continue to seek advice from South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	5.4.10 5.4.10
Landscape Quality	*Due account is taken of cultural, historic or designed landscapes.*	Work will minimise impact on the landscape. Continuous cover forestry techniques will be applied to the woodland. A full landscape assessment will be made of the site.	5.4.9 5.4.9

Forest soil condition	*Forest soil condition is stable or improving towards stable (not to the detriment of important Semi-natural habitats)*	Silvicultural work will be carried out at the appropriate time of the year to minimise soil disturbance (July to October would be optimal but continuation to December may be appropriate depending on the year).	4.2.3
Water condition	*Water quality is protected or improved, water yields are maintained above critical levels and discharge patterns are disturbed only when unavoidable.*	Silvicultural work, especially felling, will take due account of the internal wet woodland areas and streams. Brash will be kept away from edges and a mix of light and shade on the waters surface will be maintained.	4.2.3
Air pollution and net carbon sequestration	*Net carbon sequestration by forests increases and air pollution is avoided*	Where ever possible lop and top will not be burned, but will be chipped or mulched and left in the wood as dead wood habitat. Management will ensure a good age class distribution of trees, including promotion of coppicing, and conversion to high forest where appropriate.	4.2.3
Timber and other products	*Supply of timber and other forest products for industrial use is available at the levels indicated in long term forecasts, or is increased without reducing annual increment.*	Timber production is not a main objective, but where possible, recoverable income will be used to offset the costs of management. With the exception of open space creation, any tree removal will be replaced by new regeneration to maintain long term site potential.	5.3 (aim 8) 5.4.1
Forestry workforce competency and safety	*Safe and effective practices are promoted and their effectiveness kept under review.*	All contractors working on site will have correct qualifications, training and experience. Local community will be informed of forthcoming works. Hazard signs will be positioned around working areas.	4.2.3 5.4.8 4.2.3

4.0 The Administration and Economy

4.1.1 The administrative organisation

Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Low Thorpe Wood are owned by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and are managed by the Trees and Woodlands Section of Streetpride. Other Council services will be consulted on relevant issues as appropriate.

4.1.2 Labour sources

Several sources exist:

(a) Contractors.

Tree work at the site is included within the Grounds Maintenance Contract. However, the organised felling of trees with a marketable value is excluded. Where this occurs tenders will normally be invited from forestry/timber merchant specialists. The grounds maintenance contractor will also be asked to quote using its own employees. Other large scale management projects, for example hedgelaying, will be tendered to contractors following normal procedure.

(b) Rotherham Borough Council direct labour.

Services such as Streetpride or the Estate Team within Green Spaces are available for a wide range of small scale projects including dead hedging, path maintenance, waymarking, rubbish removal and some access related works.

(c) Community involvement and volunteers.

Where appropriate, the use of volunteers will be encouraged and co-ordinated by Trees and Woodlands, Streetpride.

(d) Other programme areas within the Council

Environment and Development Services requests support from other Programme Areas to finance and initiate projects from time to time. Other resources outside RMBC will be utilised as appropriate.

4.2 The forest industry

4.2.1 Markets, present and future

At present, there is a reasonably healthy market for the top grades of broadleaved timber, particularly oak and sycamore. Prices for low-grade material slumped dramatically in the mid 1990's as a result of cheap foreign imports, over-supply, use of timber alternatives such as UPVC and to an extent the increase in recycling of wood produces. Timber markets are recovering with steadily increasing timber prices.

Locally the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership have been working in recent years to stimulate markets in and around South Yorkshire for biofuel, connecting growers to suppliers.

The coniferous stands are predominantly suited to pulpwood markets at present. Their sawlog potential should increase with active management.
Increasingly biofuel is being utilised for the production of green energy. This is a developing market, particularly in the South Yorkshire area where the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership are working to develop supply and demand. Biofuel is increasingly becoming a market for low grade thinnings. The developing market for timber as a form of biofuel to produce green energy is helping to increase local demand for timber and therefore price.

The authority holds a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate being certified under the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme. This means that all timber, and other products from the woodland, can be sold with the FSC Trademark and a unique identification number that insures the timber is from woodland managed in a responsible and sustainable manor. As consumer demand for certified timber increases the Council will have a competitive advantage to exploit these markets.

At present, the majority of trees are at pole-stage and only suitable for pulpwood and firewood, including biofuel (Quality class IV). The maturing sycamore within the site, particularly sub-compartment 32i are suitable for prime timber – planking/furniture/joinery (Quality class I), and fencing materials (Quality Class II). Sycamore is currently a fashionable timber for domestic use.

4.2.2 Methods of sale

It is Council policy to sell timber “standing” following preliminary mensuration, i.e. the trees to be felled are marked by Council staff but all felling and extraction work is undertaken by a contractor. Each “parcel” to be felled/thinned is described individually, giving estimated number of trees (where appropriate) and estimated total volume.

4.2.3 Methods of conversion, extraction and transport

In most cases, timber removed from the site will be sold standing and hence conversion, extraction and transportation will be organised by the contractor, subject to the Council’s conditions. In each case, the methods of working expected of the contractor will be specified, for example, height of stump, disposal of branch wood, avoidance of damage to remaining trees, drains, ditches, streams, fences and walls, etc.

Brash will not be burned where at all possible. Instead it will be either chipped or cut to 1-2m lengths and left in situ to degrade naturally.

All contractors working on the site will have to provide evidence of correct qualifications, training and experience. Adequate safety clothing to be worn at all times and hazard warning signs will be positioned around the work area. The local community will be warned of the timing of proposed works via letters, signs and where appropriate, press releases.

All operations will take place from late summer to early winter where possible. Felling from late July onwards through to December avoids the wettest times of the year, reducing the potential for extraction damage. In addition, by working no earlier than these dates, birds will have bred and most plants flowered and set seed,

reducing disturbance to wildlife. Working after February would also have implications for migrating great crested newt.

Extraction routes will be agreed between the contractor and the Council prior to commencement of works. Rides and paths lying across areas of archaeological interest and those representing important wildlife areas will be avoided, as will the watercourse in compartment 32b.

Extraction routes will be agreed between the contractor and the Council prior to commencement of works. Important areas of wildlife and archaeological interest will be avoided. Timber extraction is possible by two main methods, vehicular and horse. As the woodland is of major natural history importance, the use of draught horses is a serious consideration, particularly in areas easily saturated during autumn and winter rainfall. Their impact on the ground vegetation is generally limited. However, horse extraction is not generally cost effective where the extraction distance is more than 150 metres (Waterson, 1994) and is not suited to uphill extraction, even on gentle inclines. For longer distances, an integrated horse/tractor system is best. For example, using draught horses to extract felled timber in-situ to a load-bearing track for final extraction by tractor skidder/forwarder to roadside.

At Hawks Wood, the thinning and felling operations proposed during this plan period may be best suited to tractor skidder/forwarding systems because of the very long extraction distances involved. Potential damage to the ground vegetation could be limited by undertaking work from as early as the end of July, at which time the ground conditions are generally dry, the local bird population had bred, and most plants have flowered and set seed. Operations within the southern part of Old Meadow Wood could be undertaken using a combination of approaches with horses extracting timber to the edge of the woodland, and vehicles taking it from here to roadside.

A major constraint to woodland management at the site is access. Vehicular access via Back Lane and Old Spring Wood is possible but restricted as the access route into Hawks Wood is narrow. However, draught horses could easily negotiate this entrance. Vehicular access is only possible from Lady Field Road into the western edge of Hawks Wood, and from Thorpe Salvin village into the southern part of Old Meadow Wood. At present, the latter is overgrown with vegetation, and space for stacking timber is extremely limited. The former requires the crossing of privately owned arable land. Any resulting extraction damage would have to be repaired by the Council, and compensation for loss of crops/potential earnings would probably also be necessary if this route was used. Refer to figure 1.4.

Within the site, a variety of management rides were laid out by the Forestry Commission. The majority have fallen into neglect, although little vegetation clearance would be required to re-open them. The proposals for this plan period predominantly concern thinning of the beech, sycamore and pine plantations, and thinning and group felling within the maturing sycamore stand at the far western end of Hawks Wood. Whilst the permissive footpath (and old ride) running adjacent to the southern boundary of Hawks Wood may appear to form the most suitable access and extraction route, two active badger setts lie either side of this path whilst the Romano-British earthwork lies to the immediate north-east of the setts. Due to these factors, and the steep nature of the woodland north of the earthwork, vehicular or horse-drawn access across the middle section of Hawks Wood is impractical. However, this ride would still provide access to the western half of Hawks Wood via

Lady Field Road, allowing proposed management works in sub-compartments 32h and 32i. No work will be permitted within 20m of active setts, in accordance with English Nature's Badgers and Development guidelines (2002) and Forestry Commission's Forestry Operations and Badger Setts (1995) guidelines.

Access to the eastern half of Hawks Wood may be obtained from the access point at Pudding Dike Bridge under agreement arrangements with the neighbouring land owner, Mr. Greaves. An alternative is access via Old Meadow Wood, to Thorpe Salvin village. However, timber stacking room is extremely limited in this case, and for this reason, this route is not considered to be viable. A further option is to obtain agreement to cross adjoining private farmland from Thorpe Hall. Under this option access to the eastern half of Hawks Wood may be best secured as shown on Figure 1.5. This would require creating a new access point into the recently restored boundary wall.

At Old Meadow Wood, a similar arrangement may be possible, out of the far western end of the woodland onto adjoining private farmland, to roadside. Clearly this will require detailed discussion with the relevant landowners.

4.3 Sources of grant aid

At present there are limited sources of grant aid available for works connected with countryside management at the site. Funding opportunities for Hawks Woods, Old Meadow Wood and Low Thorpe Wood are more restricted than for woodlands in the west of the borough, largely because the area falls outside the South Yorkshire Forest boundary.

4.3.1 Forestry Commission - Woodland Grant Schemes

The three woodlands have been eligible for an annual management grant in previous years under the old Woodland Grant Scheme. The last payment under this scheme was in 2006. The grant was available to help with the maintenance of woodlands, particularly related to public access. The Woodland Grant Scheme was replaced in 2006 by the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS). Grant is available for a wide range of operations associated with management planning, public access, nature conservation, particularly conservation associated with Biodiversity Action Plan Species (BAP species) and planting and restocking woodland. Many of the grants pay a percentage of an approved cost of operations. This is generally between 50 and 75%.

The total grant aid made available to the Yorkshire and Humber region is limited and much of it will be awarded on a first come first served basis. Much more detail of the grants available and rates of payment can be found in the English Woodland Grant Scheme application pack available from Forestry Commission England.

Grants that these woodlands may be eligible for under EWGS are:

Woodland Regeneration Grant (WRG) contributes to the cost of planting or natural regeneration (regeneration in the case of these woodlands) following felling works that are designed to improve the woodland's capacity for sustainable management. Thinning and group felling of the beech and conifer plantation areas in the woodland might therefore be eligible.

Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) will pay a percentage of approved standard costs for management works (typically 50 - 80%). In the Yorkshire and Humber Region WIG may be paid at a rate of 50% of costs for public access works, 50% of costs for UK Biodiversity Action Plan target works, 80% of costs for works to red squirrel reserves and 80% of costs for SSSI woodland condition works.

Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Low Thorpe Wood may not qualify for access works due to the selection criteria for this grant. For woodland to qualify for this grant there should be less than 1 hectare of publicly accessible woodland per 500 people within 8 km of the said woodland.

The woodland may benefit from the Biodiversity Action fund as this is targeted at the protection of ancient and semi-natural woodlands and the restoration of woodland sites.

The woodland would not benefit from the Red Squirrel Reserves fund as the area is not within a designated red squirrel reserve. Neither would the woodland qualify for grant under the SSSI heading. However, this demonstrates that designation as SSSI would benefit the woodland.

Finally Woodland Management Grant (WMG) is available to contribute to the additional costs necessary to provide the benefits that arise from meeting the UK Forestry Standard requirements. Again, this woodland area is most likely to benefit from grants available for work that will benefit its ancient woodland status (UKBAP woodland type).

4.3.2 National Lottery; Big Lottery Fund

The south eastern part of Rotherham borough around the Chesterfield Canal/Cuckoo Way is included in the recently successful Sustrans' Connect2 bid for National Lottery funding as part of the Big Lottery Fund's: The People's £50 Million Contest. The award is designed to improve access in the local area on and around the Cuckoo Way.

4.3.3 English Heritage

Grant aid may be available from English Heritage for the conservation of sites of archaeological value. However, site surveying involved in evaluating sites and features is not eligible for grant aid in most cases. There may be other opportunities for grant to maintain and protect the kilns along the edge of the canal. South Yorkshire Archaeology Service will be able to advise of possible funding sources.

4.3.4 English Nature - local nature reserve grants

Again, depending on the nature of the property and the works proposed, English Nature will consider meeting 50% of the costs of habitat management, however funding is generally restricted to Sites of Special Scientific Interest, etc.

5 Aims, Objectives and Management Prescriptions

5.1 Summary of the present position

5.1.1 Silviculture

Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood are ancient overwhelmingly semi-natural woodlands and, with the exception of Anston Stones Wood, represent the largest woodland block in the local area.

Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood were mostly clearfelled, just after or during World War II, and subsequently owned by the Forestry Commission until 1986. The woodland here is characterised by 20-50 year old naturally regenerated sycamore, with ash, and scattered mature broadleaves, particularly Pedunculate oak, ash, beech and large-leaved and small-leaved lime. These overlay rich and varied shrub and field layers.

In the long term, these areas are developing in the direction of a uniform and even-aged high forest within which sycamore may dominate if natural processes are allowed to continue without interference. However, a combination of thinning, small group felling, small-scale coppicing and ride management could be employed to maintain the present structural diversity and field layer communities, encourage predominantly native tree and shrub species, and contribute towards the conservation of the associated woodland fauna.

The woodland margins facing towards the village of Thorpe Salvin support narrow linear belts of plantation beech, sycamore and both Scots and Corsican pine, established during the 1950's and 1960's. Densely spaced and unthinned, these would benefit from a programme of light thinning to improve their timber producing potential. Thinning also offers the opportunity to promote the small numbers of locally native tree and shrub species present within them, and may rejuvenate the damaged ancient woodland flora beneath. In the long term, consideration should be given to the restoration of these areas to semi-natural woodland. English Nature's Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area Profile has identified the restoration of ancient woodlands planted with introduced species back to semi-natural vegetation, as a key issue.

Access for woodland management is very restricted, and to be workable, may require agreements to cross private farmland.

5.1.2 Nature conservation

All three woodlands are ancient. Ancient semi-natural woodlands are a declining habitat of national importance, with only 1.5 – 3% of the natural area still supporting this habitat. Isolation and fragmentation of ancient woodland within the natural area is also a key issue. Hence, the large extent of the site, together with its close proximity to Old Spring Wood increases its importance.

The modest number of natural history surveys undertaken to date indicate that the woodland is of regional importance for natural history with Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood classed as Grade I heritage sites, and Thorpe Low Wood as Grade II.

One of the largest, predominantly semi-natural ancient ash-wych elm woodlands in the local area, the site is important for its diverse field and shrub layers, which mostly correspond with the National Vegetation Classification community W8 *Fraxinus excelsior – Acer campestre – Mercurialis perennis* (ash - field maple - dog's mercury). Small areas of W13 *Taxus baccata* (common yew), and W7 *Alnus glutinos – Fraxinus excelsoir – Lysimachia nemorum* (common alder - ash - yellow pimpernel) woodland are also present. Combined these communities support a range of plants and associated wildlife uncommon in the borough, including the Red Data Book (RDB3) moss *Thamnobryum alopercurum*. A large number are included within Rotherham's list of "key" species.

Preliminary investigations point to a significant invertebrate interest, including a range of regionally notable, and local species in the UK. In addition, the Red Data Book (RDB2) fruit fly *Platyporea discoidea* has been recorded from Hawks Wood. Several species, including the latter, have only been recorded in Rotherham Borough from this site complex.

The woodland is of borough importance for its breeding population of badger, and also supports pipistrelle bat, and probably other bat species. Goshawk was recorded from the site in 1997. All are protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, as is great-crested newt, first recorded at the site in 1991.

The Common Bird Census of the 1990's has confirmed that the woodland supports a typical selection of bird species found within pole-stage to mature broad-leaved woodland on the Southern Magnesian Limestone. Survey in 2006 by RSPB also confirmed that the willow tit, a nationally declining species was also present in the woodland.

Brown hare, water vole, pipistrelle bat, song thrush, grey partridge and great-crested newt, which have all been recorded from the site in the last ten years, are included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) short-list of globally threatened/declining species whilst spotted flycatcher, turtle dove, linnet, corn bunting and bullfinch are included on the middle-list. All these species are therefore priorities for conservation and protection. Tree sparrow was last recorded from the woodland in 1989. This is also included on the middle list. Linnet, grey partridge, spotted flycatcher and corn bunting are not currently breeding within the woodland.

Overall, the site supports a large number of plant (and animal) species characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland on the Southern Magnesian Limestone natural area. The ancient woodlands of the natural area also have a particular abundance of the nationally scarce large-leaved lime, and this is no exception within Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood. Wood barley, false oxlip, stinking hellebore, oak bush cricket and great-crested newt are other "notable" species found within the site.

Further research into the bryophyte, moss, fungi, invertebrate, and amphibian interest is required.

Due to its high natural history status, management activities, particularly those related to silvicultural operations, as well as recreation and access, must be planned and implemented in ways which maintain and where appropriate, increase the wildlife interest and opportunities.

Nature conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are a major aim for the whole woodland area. Managed using continuous cover forestry techniques the woodland in its entirety is managed as long-term retention. In order to give the woodland's conservation aims priority over the other management aims in some areas of the woodland, principally access and recreation, access will continue to be rationalised. Certain areas away from footpaths will continue to be maintained as areas where access will be discouraged by blocking of desire lines that begin to open up. These areas are identified in figure 2.2. Areas of conservation interest that are particularly sensitive to access will also have access rationalised and, where necessary, footpaths diverted.

5.1.3 Recreation and access

Situated next to the rural village of Thorpe Salvin, Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood provide a variety of opportunities for informal recreation and enjoyment of the countryside via a permissive footpath network, linked to the existing public rights of way from the village to South Anston.

At present, recreational use of the site is low-key with few related problems. The site is visited predominantly by local residents, although the Chesterfield Canal is followed by a long distance footpath, the Cuckoo Way, and therefore the site does attract visitors from a wider area. The Ryton aqueduct to Kiveton section of the canal was opened in June 2003 following restoration by British Waterways. Since then there has been an increase in visitor numbers along the towpath past the woodland and into the woodland from the two bridges. This may be leading to increased disturbance to wildlife, particularly the badger population. The occasional digging-up and picking of unusual wild plants may also be a concern.

There is a desire amongst some locals to increase opportunities for more direct access into the woodland from Thorpe Savlin village. Agreement of the private land owners in question would be necessary for this to be possible. If at any point in the future new access points are agreed any resulting increase in access will need to be considered and managed accordingly. I.e. an agreed waymarked permissive footpath that links to the main path and ride network.

5.1.4 Archaeology and historic interest

Hawks Wood contains several features of major archaeological importance.

A presumed Romano-British earthwork is present on the edge of the escarpment within Hawks Wood. A concentration of finds, including potsherds, brooches and coins have been found in the vicinity of the structure. A detailed topographical survey has been proposed by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) to determine the exact nature, shape and condition of the earthwork and allow more detailed recommendations for its protection. At present, the site is in a moderate state of preservation and suffers little visitor pressure, although slight erosion is taking place where a casual unpermissive footpath crosses the earthwork.

Four eighteenth century beehive limekilns are also present, within a large, long-disused quarry on the edge of the canal. No detailed archaeological evaluation has been undertaken, although they are in a relatively good state of preservation, and are considered by SYAS to be of Scheduled Ancient Monument status. Very recent damage has occurred to two of the kilns (probably 2006) whereby partial collapse of

the kiln walls has taken place. It is unclear whether this has been the result vandalism or natural collapse, although anecdotal evidence does suggest the latter. As land owner the authority is responsible for the structures, however, until any scheduling takes place there are no statutory responsibilities for the monuments. Detailed survey of these structures would be worthwhile to determine the extent and significance of the damage, whether further damage is likely and whether anything could be done to prevent further damage.

Both these features are likely to be suffering from root damage by trees growing in situ. Whilst trees and other vegetation affords some screening protection to the features, these should not be allowed to reach maturity. Some large tree removal from the tops of the kilns took place during the 1990's. A number of trees are again becoming well established and quite large on and around the kilns. Further tree removal should be considered a priority during this plan period.

Other features of interest include a derelict hydraulic ram, a post-medieval well, strong woodbanks, and possible lime burning and charcoal making pits. In the long term, further field walking reconnaissance of the whole site would be useful, and may identify further features and direct future detailed survey.

Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood are all ancient woodlands, recorded in a variety of historical documents.

5.1.5 Landscape

The woodlands lie within arguably the most attractive part of the Borough, the limestone, predominantly rural, country of the east. The valley followed by the Canal is dominated by an east-west fault line which has allowed the land to the north to drop vertically. Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood are situated at the top of the escarpment that the fault line has created, making them a prominent part of the local landscape. The woodland also lies within the Sandbeck-Harthill area of County Landscape Value.

The landscape within the woodland is also important. Whilst maturing ash and sycamore predominate, a number of scattered, mature trees, for example large-leaved lime and introduced beech, contribute greatly to the amenity value of the area. For nature conservation and amenity reasons, the majority of the mature trees within the woodland should be retained as long as possible. Consideration should also be given to encouraging replacements of the large growing species, for both amenity and historic reasons.

5.1.6 Community involvement

The local community has a healthy, positive interest in the woodland and surrounding countryside. A good relationship has been built-up with local wildlife groups and other interested parties, including the South Yorkshire Badger Group, and the SK58 Bird Group, and this will be maintained and encouraged further.

It is essential that any management works carried out in the woodlands has the support of the local community and other interested groups and that they are involved in the decision making process. Consultation with the local community, Parish Council, representative groups and other interest groups concerning the

management proposals, will take place prior to the plan being reported to Committee for approval. Consultation will continue as implementation proceeds.

5.1.7 Education and interpretation

Over many years the woodland has been used by groups, including school groups for outdoor learning and for positive promotion of the countryside and woodland management. This should be encouraged to continue in an organised manner.

There are no schools in Thorpe Salvin. The nearest schools would need organised transport to take pupils to the woodland, these are Todwick Junior and Infants and Wales High School. Schools in North and South Anston may also wish to use the woodland, however there are closer woodlands to these areas such as Anston Stones Wood, owned by Anston Parish Council.

5.2 Policies of the Council

Council policies relating to woodland management are set down in the Statutory Green Belt and Unitary Development Plan documents. More specific policies relating to woodland management are contained in the non-statutory council Policy CS8 (Countryside Study, 1989), which is given below.

POLICY CS8

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL IN RESPECT OF TREES AND WOODLANDS IN ITS OWNERSHIP PROMOTE, MANAGE AND SUSTAIN A HEALTHY AND SECURE STOCK OF TREES AND WOODLANDS WHILE RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVIOUS MANAGEMENT HISTORY AND ENSURE THAT THE SPECIAL FEATURES, IN PARTICULAR THE CONSERVATION, HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST OF THE SEMI-NATURAL ANCIENT WOODLANDS ARE RECOGNISED AND PROTECTED.

5.3 Aims and objectives of management

The following management aims and objectives have been drawn up in accordance with CS38, United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (2006), the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (HMSO, 1995), Rotherham's Biodiversity Action Plan (2004), the UK Forestry Standard (2004), A Strategy for England; Trees, Woods and Forests (2007), The Yorkshire and The Humber Regional Forest Strategy; the value of trees in our changing region and the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area Profile.

Aim 1 To manage the trees, woodland and subsidiary habitats in ways which will compliment their nature conservation value, whilst retaining their timber producing potential where appropriate, and maintaining the genetic integrity of native species, so far as is practicable.

Objectives

- To identify minimum intervention areas, for species intolerant of disturbance.

- To allow the extensive sycamore and ash woodland to develop naturally whilst conducting ecological survey before introducing a suitable silvicultural programme to promote a more uneven-aged and structurally diverse woodland.

- To identify suitable areas for long term retention of trees and map these areas for recording and monitoring purposes.

- To introduce a programme of light thinning and selective group felling to the plantations of beech, Scots and Corsican pine established in the 1950's and 1960's, with the long-term objective of restoring these areas to semi-natural woodland vegetation communities typical of the site, whilst retaining an element of these species for diversity purposes.

- To introduce a combination of thinning and group-felling to the maturing sycamore woodland at the western end of Hawks Wood, promoting structurally diverse woodland.

- To favour native tree and shrub species typical of ancient woodland within the Southern Magnesian limestone Natural Area during all operations, for example ash, Pedunculate oak, field maple, wild cherry, large and small-leaved lime, hazel, guelder rose, spindle and hawthorn.

- Promote and encourage the small and large leaved lime populations within the woodland.

- To introduce a ride widening and scalloping programme along the route of the permissive path in Hawks Wood.

- To maintain the wildlife value of the Pudding Dike wetland.

- To reintroduce traditional management to the boundary hedgerows.

Aim 2 **To conserve and promote the semi-natural characteristics and natural history of the woodland in accordance with the UK and local Biodiversity Action Plans and other policies and guidelines, maintaining or increasing populations of key species.**

Objectives

- To promote the predominantly semi-natural woodland vegetation communities present within the site during all habitat management, in turn benefiting associated fungi, birds, invertebrates, mammals and amphibians.

- To implement where appropriate specific management to maintain or increase populations of the BAP short and middle-listed species recorded at the site and populations of notable or declining species within the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area, recorded from the site and the RDB3 moss *Thamnobryum alopecurum*

- Monitor the effectiveness of the Rotherham Species Action Plan for the RDB2 bellflower stem-miner *(Platyporea discoidea).*

- To undertake survey and research of the existing lime population in the woodland.

- To investigate the feasibility of the site being included in the local project to introduce dormice into woodland in the area.

- To retain standing and fallen deadwood wherever possible, including representatives of each of the native species found on site, promoting associated fungi, invertebrates, hole-nesting birds and bats.

- To organise bat surveys of all areas where mature tree-felling is proposed to ensure that the interests of bats are incorporated into all management implementation. To undertake a bat survey of the whole site during the plan period.

- To monitor the effects of all habitat management, wherever possible.

- To promote Local Nature Reserve status for Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood, together with the adjoining Council-owned site Old Spring Wood, and consider their promotion to a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

- To continue monitoring of the badger population in consultation with the South Yorkshire Badger Group, including the protection of all unprotected active and inactive setts within the site.

- To determine the breeding location of the local great crested newt and palmate newt populations.

- To assess the value of the site for goshawk, locate any local breeding populations in conjunction with local bird groups, and implement specific management as required.

- To encourage local naturalists to visit and record the site, with particular respect to under-recorded groups i.e. bryophytes mosses, fungi, invertebrates, and amphibians.

Aim 3 To provide for safe and appropriate public access and informal recreation.

Objectives

- To maintain and keep secure all formal access points, discourage the use of informal entries.

- To maintain site entrance signs at the main entrance points to show that the public is welcome.

- To continue to manage/restrict access around the quarry areas before a more structured site safety plan can be produced.

- To maintain and waymark the permissive footpath through Old Meadow Wood and Hawks Wood, discouraging access elsewhere within the woodland because of its sensitive ecological interest.

- To patrol and monitor the woodland, as resources allow.

- To monitor the impact of visitor usage on the wildlife interest of the woodland, particularly the badger population, and take action as necessary.

- To undertake any necessary tree safety works, and to ensure that all access structures, permissive routes, etc., comply with the appropriate health and safety legislation.

- To carryout a full safety assessment of the site and produce a safety plan.

Aim 4 To actively involve the community in the care and management of the woodland, to continue its use as an educational resource, to encourage the enjoyment of wildlife and the countryside by the community, and increase their appreciation of nature conservation.

Objectives

- To consult the local community, specialist interest and user groups during the preparation and implementation of the management plan and prior to major works taking place.

- To organise events concerning the natural history and historic interest of the area, subject to available resources and at a scale appropriate to the sensitive wildlife interest of the site.

- To encourage local groups such as South Yorkshire Badger Group to continue their work in the woodland.

- To organise practical management tasks involving the local community and volunteer groups where appropriate.

- To encourage visitors to report any concerns or problems at the site, acting as the “eyes and ears” of the Council.

Aim 5 To protect, and to encourage further research into, features of archaeological and historic interest.

Objectives

- To take account of all known archaeological features during management operations, avoiding damage wherever possible. The South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) will be consulted on all operations affecting such features.

- To facilitate further research into the archaeological interest through the SYAS.

- To complete survey work of and investigate the potential Scheduled Ancient Monument status of the eighteenth century lime kilns in consultation with the SYAS and English Heritage.

- Undertake the necessary protection work to the kilns that may result from survey, including removal of a number of mature trees from the monuments.

Aim 6 To conserve and promote the benefits associated with these woodlands in respect of personal well being and sense of place.

Objectives

- To promote the woodland as a valuable setting for taking regular exercise to enable healthier lifestyles, improving the Borough's poor health statistics.

- To develop access and awareness of the natural, cultural and historic features of the site to improve the sense of place and identity for individuals and local communities.

Aim 7 To perpetuate and promote the predominantly broadleaved character and place of the woodland in the landscape.

Objectives

- To promote predominantly native broadleaved tree and shrub species typical of ancient woodland within the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area such as ash, small and large leaved lime and to some extent beech as it has become characteristic of the area.

- To minimise the landscape impact of felling and regeneration works, protecting the amenity afforded by the woodland.

- To complete a landscape assessment of the woodland.

Aim 8 To maximise income to offset expenditure.

Objectives

- Subject to the interests of wildlife, archaeology, access and recreation, and landscape, income from the sale of produce resulting from agreed silvicultural operations will be maximised.

- To maximise grant aid, and investigate alternative sources of funding.

Aim 9: The performance of management planning and operations at Hawks Woods, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood will be subject to monitoring, review and regular reporting to meet the other aims and objectives of the management plan.

Objectives

- To monitor all areas of management at the woodland complex, taking account of all of the above aims and objectives.
- To collect monitoring information through regular management visits to the woodland, supervision during management operations, specific surveys and long-term study.
- To collect information appropriate to the intensity of operations, levels of access, according to reports and information received from the community and the other management aims and objectives.
- To maintain monitoring records in a form that will allow them to be analysed, compared over the long-term and the findings used in the management of the woodland complex, including review of the management plan.
- To include monitoring results in the annual woodland estate management report to the Council's Cabinet Member for Streetpride.

5.4 Management prescriptions

These aims and objectives will be achieved by the following management prescriptions (refer to section 6 management implementation for further details). The advice laid out by the UK Forestry Standard for the management of semi-natural woodlands will be followed where possible. The proposed silvicultural operations will be included in the new English Woodland Grant Scheme application to meet the requirements of the Forestry Acts in respect of the necessary licences to fell growing trees.

5.4.1 The woodland habitats

Compartment 32a Semi-mature sycamore and ash woodland

The 20-50 year old ancient semi-natural sycamore and ash woodland, representing the majority of the site has been divided into sub-compartments so that management can be more tailored to specific areas (see figure 1.2). As described in section 3.1.3 much of the compartment is open with high light levels. Therefore, silvicultural work over much of the compartment will not be necessary in this five year work programme. In time, be it the 2013 to 2018 work programme or one of the later programmes, silvicultural work should be considered to favour native tree species over the ubiquitous sycamore. This will give understorey species like hazel, hawthorn, *Salix* species (important as sources of nectar) spindle, dogwood, wild privet and Guelder rose, as well as advance ash regeneration, more room to reach its potential. The silvicultural work will also be tailored to the needs of other vascular plant species, fungi and fauna that may be identified as being valuable in the

woodland through survey undertaken in this plan period. Critically, at this stage in the development of woodland planning, developing a better understanding of the biodiversity resource over this five year work programme will be the greatest priority. Based on this information silvicultural systems will be selected accordingly.

Silvicultural work may include bringing parts of the compartment back into active coppice management.

However, selected tree removal from on and around the lime kilns in the southern parts of sub-compartments A1, A2 and A3 will need to be done as a matter of priority during this plan period. A number of semi mature trees appear to be causing damage to the kilns through root ingress into the structures. A number of others also have the potential to cause damage if blown over. These trees will be removed early in this plan period.

The areas including the abandoned main quarry and disused lime kilns, and the limestone crags forming the south-eastern quarter of Old Meadow Wood, are very inaccessible. Even on foot access can be dangerous. Therefore, access will continue to be discouraged into these two stands and they will form minimum intervention areas, acting as refuges for species intolerant of disturbance.

Compartment 32b Pudding dike and ephemeral stream

Input of permitted nutrients into the wetland by the adjoining Severn Trent sewerage plant is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. As such, any measures taken to return the wetland to a pond are unlikely to be sustainable. Nutrient rich water will only encourage an abundance of great willowherb and nettle, as at present.

It is therefore recommended that the wetland be managed for its existing wildlife value. Minimal work is required at present. As the wetland is surrounded on all sides by trees and is situated at the northern end of Old Meadow Wood, it does not receive much sunlight, reducing its value for many invertebrates. This has been the case for decades. However, further encroachment into the wetland by invading trees and scrub will be discouraged by their periodic removal/coppicing, to prevent the wetland drying out.

Some tree and scrub removal will be carried out throughout the compartment whilst thinning and felling is taking place in other parts of the woodland during this plan period. The number of trees removed will be agreed with the Council's ecologist.

A photographic record of the wetland will be taken in Years 1, 3 and 5 to monitor vegetation change.

Compartment 32c - under powerlines in Old Meadow Wood

This compartment will continue to be coppiced at intervals necessary to maintain a safe operating distance between the powerlines. Coppicing of smaller sub-compartments on a rotation basis by YEDL would be preferable to maintain a range of age structures to the compartment and varied habitat. The compartment should preferably be split into three sections for coppicing and cut on an equal rotation.

Compartment 32d - sycamore plantation

Thinning will be undertaken throughout this compartment to remove the poorer formed trees with limited future prospects, giving the better formed trees more room to develop. Approximately 100 trees will be removed from across the sub compartment.

Compartments 32e

This compartment remains relatively open. Given the level of works proposed close by in compartments 32d, f, g and h over the five years of the plan it is not proposed to undertake any silvicultural work in this compartment in the next five years.

Compartments 32f, g and h - beech and pine plantations

Established between 1958 and 1962, the majority of these narrow, linear belts forming the southern boundary to the woodland, will be managed by a programme of light selective thinnings, to improve stand quality by ensuring that growth is concentrated on the best formed trees and to promote healthy crown development. The thinning cycle will be 6-8 years. The thinning must be light to reduce as much as possible the risk of wind throw on this exposed edge.

Thinning offers an opportunity to favour the small number of locally native tree and shrub species growing within these stands, and may promote the recovery of the badly damaged field layer and, in time, the natural regeneration of native trees like ash. In the long-term, these areas will gradually be converted back to semi-natural vegetation, principally National Vegetation Classification type W8 *Fraxinus excelsior – Acer campestre – Mercurialis perennis* woodland. However, the retention of a small proportion of beech and pine would provide a continuity of habitat and food resources for several bird species recorded from the site. Consideration will be given to promoting a small number of replacement Scots pine for similar reasons.

It is proposed that the beech and sycamore plantations be thinned twice over the next ten year period.

Access agreements for management to the eastern half of Hawks Wood, and Old Meadow Wood are unclear. Discussion will begin with adjoining private landowners to establish the situation with regards access rights.

Compartment 32i - maturing mixed-aged sycamore woodland

The maturing sycamore of sub-compartment 32i could be managed by thinning and small-group felling. Confirmation of this will follow survey of ground flora and limes and fauna within the compartment in this plan period with a view to doing the work in one of the future plan periods.

Compartment 32j - Thorpe Low Wood

Other than essential safety works there are no proposals to complete any silvicultural works in this compartment in the next five years.

Glades, open space and ride management

The wayleave in compartment 32c will always, for statutory reasons, be maintained as open space. Presently this open space is maintained by coppicing the trees on a rotational basis. This approach provides a good variation in woodland structure. The plan will seek to maintain this management regime in conjunction with the utility company.

The creation of additional open space within the woodland would however be valuable. See table 3.3.1 above for recommendations on desired amounts of open space. The reintroduction of ride management where this was once done by Forestry Commission may be the most logical starting point for increasing open space. This would however be subject to the results of the various survey work that has been discussed above. Therefore, the intention will not be to undertake any new ride management in this five year work programme.

Non-native tree species and climate change

Retaining an element of all the non-native tree species in the woodland will provide a better habitat diversity and help to ensure the woodland is better able to respond to any possible adverse effects of climate change, provided the species are not detrimental to the native woodland habitat. Current predictions suggest that tree species growing in the Yorkshire area, with the exception of the East Riding, will be relatively unaffected by a changing climate and that species such as sweet chestnut will respond favourably to predicted changes. (Forest Research, Forestry Commission, 2007).

Table 5.1 Outline planned felling and regeneration over the next 20 years.

Compartment	**Activity**	**Fifteen year period from 2012 to 2027**
A	Thinning of sub compartment A1	2017 to 2022 or 2022 to 2027
	Thinning of sub compartment A2 and A3	2022 to 2027 or beyond
	Removal of regenerating trees from the brick kilns	2013 to 2017
B	Tree removal from the pond edge to increase light levels.	2022 to 2027
C	Coppicing to maintain line clearance	2013 to 2017 and 2023 to 2027
D	Further thinning of the sycamore stand	2022 to 2027
E	Low level thinning	2017 to 2022
F	Low level thinning of the pine	2017 to 2022
G	Light thinning of the pine and beech.	2017 to 2022
H	Light thinning of the beech	2017 to 2022
I	Light thinning to compliment works undertaken in 2007 to 2012 period.	2022 to 2027
J	Some light thinning of the compartment.	2017 to 2022

Shared boundaries with other woodland owners

There are no shared boundaries with woodlands in third party ownership.

Non-native plant and animal species

There are no proposals to introduce non-native plant and animal species into the woodland over the period of the plan, this includes the introduction of non-native tree species. However, an element of the already present non-native tree species, principally beech, sycamore and Corsican and Scots pine will be retained. An element of each of these species helps to add diversity to the woodland, providing an additional food source for bird and mammal species. Beech also forms part of the character of the woodland. Increased diversity of species may also help the woodland to be better able to adapt in the future to a changing climate.

Burning of woody arisings

There will be a presumption against burning of arisings such as branch wood following thinning and felling operations to limit atmospheric pollution. Woody arisings from silvicultural operations will ordinarily be dealt with in the following ways; extracted from site, chipped on site or left as whole wood in the woodland as large stems or habitat piles to undergo natural decay processes.

Management of wild animals, excluding deer

There is little evidence of wild animals, principally grey squirrels causing damage to the woodland. The woodland has a resident population and possibly a transient population from other nearby woodlands. Damage to the tree stock is however limited. There is little evidence of damage that is threatening the development of natural regeneration of any of the main species. Similarly, damage to young naturally regenerating trees by rabbits and hares does not appear to be a problem. For these reasons there is no need at this stage to consider control of wild animals in the woodland.

Management of wild deer

There is evidence of a wild deer population in the woodland. Whether any are resident is unclear. However, of all the woodlands in Council ownership this woodland, together with the neighbouring Old Spring Wood, are the largest and the quietest in terms of visitor numbers and are most likely to support resident deer populations of any Council owned woodland. There is however no evidence of the population being problematic to the tree stock, including young regenerating trees, making the management of wild deer unnecessary at this stage. This situation will be monitored over the course of the plan.

Use of chemicals in the woodland

Occasionally it may be necessary to use chemicals in some form to protect the important habitats of this woodland from aggressive pests, diseases or invasive vegetation that may threaten biodiversity or compete with newly planted trees. In addition, fertilisers may be considered to control mineral deficiencies during plant establishment. Rotherham Borough Council has a policy statement regarding the use of chemicals which addresses issues of appropriate and responsible use to safeguard the health of the general public, operators and the environment, together with a desire to use alternative control measures and reduce the amount used.

No operations have currently been identified during this plan period that will require chemical or fertiliser application. However, this position will continue to be assessed and reported upon as part of monitoring during this plan period. Should chemical use need to be considered then the need will be assessed against possible alternatives and the least hazardous chemical used. No chemical on the Forest Stewardship Council's highly hazardous list that does not have a current UK derogation will be used.

Ride management and open space

The margins of the permissive footpath through Hawks Wood will be managed by a phased coppicing programme to create a scalloped, graded margin, from high forest, scrub, to low herbaceous vegetation, providing well-lit conditions for wildlife, particularly invertebrates and the flowering plants. Where possible, ride management will be combined with nearby silvicultural operations.

Coppiced edges will be cut on a rotation of 6-8 years, depending on the rates of regrowth. Each scallop created will be 5m wide, and 50m in length. In total, the permissive path is around 800m in length, equivalent to 1600m of path margin. It is proposed to widen 200m in length each year.

Subject to further consultation with Yorkshire Electricity plc, the regrowth beneath the overhead transmission line in Old Meadow Wood will be cut over three phases to provide a mixture of growth stages and light conditions, favouring a variety of wildlife. Overall, the coppice growth here will be managed on an 8 – 10 year rotation, again depending on the rates of regrowth. The first phase will begin in Year 3.

5.4.2 Boundary and access management

Old Meadow Wood and the western end of Hawks Wood are demarcated by hawthorn hedgerows. The majority of the boundary hedge at Old Meadow Wood shows clear signs of laying in the past. However, some sections are a little gappy in places. The hedge along the western boundary of Hawks Wood is much more gappy and leggy. This hedge is quite shaded by overhanging trees from the woodland. The hedge would benefit from improved light levels and some sections of the hedge would definitely benefit from laying. At some points new planting would be necessary where the gaps are large.

These are historic features, of landscape and wildlife value. Alongside the western edge of Old Meadow Wood, they are also important for keeping stock grazing the adjoining fields out of the woodland. Left unmanaged or annually flailed, they will become increasingly leggy and gappy, deteriorating in value.

It is proposed to re-introduce active management to the hedges via a mixture of laying, coppicing and the replanting of gaps with a mix of locally native species, viz. hawthorn, blackthorn, wild cherry, field maple, hazel and holly. To promote the healthy development of the hedges removal of a number of trees on the edge during thinning would also be beneficial. The re-introduction of management will be phased to ensure that all stages of growth are represented, providing a continuity in habitat for breeding and feeding birds, and minimising the impact on the landscape. Expenditure will also be spread in this way. Alongside the western edge of Old

Meadow Wood, some stock-proof fencing will be required to ensure no animals from the adjoining pasture can enter the woodland once the boundary hedgerows are laid.

The drystone wall forming the southern boundary of Hawks Wood has been mostly restored. If resources allow, the remaining 230m will be repaired up using original stone on site. For the most part the work will only involve repairing gaps in the wall but there is a section approximately 30 metres in length that requires rebuilding. This may require additional stone which would add to the cost of the work. Retention of some piles of collapsed stone walling will provide a continuity of hibernating habitat for great-crested and palmate newt. All associated operations will be undertaken between May and September to avoid hibernating (and migrating) newts.

It is important during all boundary work that access points for badgers are retained.

There are no proposals to strengthen the boundaries of Thorpe Low Wood. However, the situation will continue to be assessed during this plan period due to an increase in the number of visitors in the area following re-opening of the canal.

5.4.3 Over-mature trees and dead wood and areas of long-term retention

A rich invertebrate fauna is present within the site, including many species dependent on dead and decaying wood. Standing dead and rotting wood provides nesting sites for hole-nesting birds, and roosts for bats. Dead wood and other decaying vegetation is also important for fungi. Apart from providing wildlife habitat, old trees and dead wood can have considerable intrinsic appeal and add diversity to woodland structure.

At Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood, old and mature trees are a scarce resource. It is important therefore to retain as many as possible, allowing time for the woodland as a whole to mature and provide replacement habitat. In general, all mature and over mature trees within the woodland will be retained indefinitely except where they conflict with public safety, boundary structures and statutory obligations. However, where necessary and practical, footpaths will be diverted away from important trees to prevent safety conflicts, rather than carrying out remedial tree work which can often be the preferred option. For similar reasons, a proportion of mis-shapen trees will be retained during all silvicultural operations. Where possible, dead wood, both standing and fallen, will be left where it is to undergo natural decay processes. Large diameter timber is particularly valuable, and will be left uncut where possible. Representatives of each of the native species found in the woodlands will be utilised.

In the northern half of the woodland frequent dead, standing wych elm has made up a large proportion of the dead wood resource across the site complex. However, as these continue to collapse, the amount of standing dead wood is likely to diminish in the short-term. It is therefore important to increase the volume of dead wood from other species. This will be achieved during thinning operations by leaving standing dead wood cut at 4 to 12 metres. These trees will principally be in areas away from public access. In many cases, this would be highly appropriate in areas where timber extraction would prove difficult. In addition, a proportion of timber felled during all silviculture operations will be retained on site and left uncut where possible.

The richest fauna is supported by material in partial shade. However, a mixture of dead wood in sunlight, partial and full shade, and in wet and dry conditions is best

(Kirby, 1992). Standing dead wood will be individually tagged and recorded allowing better records to be maintained of old and dead trees in the woodland. Tagging will also assist in undertaking wildlife surveys and will provide a better safety monitoring record for the older trees in the woodland.

The locations of the largest and most mature trees, principally large and small leaved lime and beech are identified in figure 1.3. The mature limes in compartment 32i will be favoured for long-term retention. Over the course of this plan period specific areas will also be identified as long-term retention. This will be done in conjunction with marking for silvicultural operations.

Due to the age of the age of the trees in the woodland it will be some years before veteran tree management will need to be considered. Veteran trees can require quite specialist attention, particularly when senescence is well developed, to ensure they provide the maximum benefits associated with them. Light levels are important in veteran tree management and minimum light levels can be critical depending on the condition and vigour of individual trees. It is also beneficial for different invertebrate species living in the dead wood of these trees if both cool, shaded and warm sunny areas are maintained. Management may require pollarding or careful pruning that is quite specific to individual trees. English Nature's guidelines *Veteran Trees: A Guide to Good Management* will be followed in the management of these trees.

5.4.4 Site safety

a) *Dangerous trees*

There are a number of natural or manmade features or circumstances that may have implications for the safety of site users and how these issues should be managed at present. It is important however that these and other risks are identified and fully assessed in order that they are properly managed. In the third year of the management plan a comprehensive safety plan will be written to include all issues that may have implications for user safety.

All trees close to definitive and permissive paths, and formal access points, will be inspected annually for signs of disease and damage. Trees away from these areas will be inspected during routine visits, wherever possible. Action will be taken as required.

The Council may be liable for any damage caused where its trees adjoin private property. Again, appropriate action will be taken as necessary. This is particularly important in respect of areas adjoining the canal.

b) *Natural features - slopes, quarries and rocky outcrops*

Access to areas with steep slopes and the quarry area in particular will be discouraged by taking advantage of ground vegetation such as bramble. Desire lines that begin to appear close to the quarry edges have been blocked off in the past. This practice will be continued as necessary in the future using felled trees and dead hedging.

The dense vegetation, including coppice regrowth from under the powerlines, that results from the higher light levels will continue to be taken advantage of to restrict access to the rock outcrops in the area.

Rock climbing is potentially also a hazard on the quarry sides and the rock outcrops although it has not been quantified how much climbing activity there is in the woodland. Access to the areas in question should be discourages as described above.

c) *Natural features - watercourses, wet woodland areas*

As above for slopes and quarries, discouraging access from these areas using natural vegetation would be most effective without the need for fencing which would be costly and out of keeping with the woodland.

d) *Overhead powerlines*

A Yorkshire Electricity power line passes through Old Meadow Wood. There is a statutory obligation to maintain a safe clear distance between the trees and the lines. Trees below and adjacent to the power lines must be pruned or coppiced as appropriate to maintain the clear distance. This is usually done by the Yorkshire Electricity Distribution Limited following inspection be their field wardens. Any work should be done in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive's safe working practices; *Electricity at Work: Forestry and Arboriculture.*

e) *Manmade hazards*

Rope swings can be a hazard it not tied properly or tied to branches that are not strong enough, causing the potential for injury. For this reason all rope swings will be removed.

f) *Conflicting recreational uses*

Conflict between user groups within this woodland is limited. There are no bridleways to cause conflict between horseriders/cyclists and pedestrians. The woodland is a quiet woodland with relatively low numbers of visitors.

g) *Flytipping and dangerous rubbish*

Fortunately the woodland suffers very little from flytipping and dangerous rubbish owing to its rural location and being some distance from the public highway. However, should flytipping be reported it shall be dealt with as follows:

General waste will be removed by the Council's contractor. Asbestos removal will arranged by the Council's Health and Safety Officer. Drugs litter will be removed within three hours at any time of day or night, seven days a week by the Council's contractor. In the case of other dangerous waste advice will be taken from the Council's Environmental Health Officer and disposal carried out promptly by appropriately trained staff.

h) *Fire plan*

A fire plan for all Council owned woodland and other countryside sites was produced by the then Culture, Countryside and Amenities Services in consultation with the South Yorkshire Fire Service. A fire plan location and access map for Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood has been prepared. The main access

points are identified in Figure 1.4 with a description of the access provisions at each point in table 2.5.

5.4.5 Sustainability and biodiversity

All UK, regional and local BAP priority woodland habitats and species present in the woodland complex will be managed (see Table 3.3.4) to meet the sustainable forest management criteria laid out in the UK Forestry Standard (2004) whilst taking into account the guidelines laid out in the Forestry Commission Practice Guides for the management of semi-natural woodlands of each type. All species protected by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 that are or may be present in the woodland will be protected in accordance with the legislation. The species that are or could be present in the woodland are any species of bat, great crested newt, otter and dormouse. Sustainable management should bring habitat improvements and an overall enhancement in biodiversity at the site to benefit a range of species. Water voles are suspected, in the past, to have been present in the woodland. Water vole habitat is currently protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the law may soon be changed to protect the mammals themselves. A water vole survey should therefore be carried out during the course of the plan.

Monitoring of management implementation will provide useful information to feed into the Rotherham BAP monitoring process and into the UKBAP reporting system.

The following species have all been recorded from the site and are included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan of globally threatened/declining species.

Although not dependent on woodland, preferring thick hedgerows and shrubby cover, **song thrush** will use dense cover in woodland, particularly along woodland edges, and this is where it breeds in Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood. Woodland glades, and open, unimproved grassland are important for feeding. The first is very scarce within the site, whilst the later survives in small areas, for instance close to Pudding Dike Bridge. Increasing the area of open-space within the woodland could benefit this species. Shrubs like hawthorn provide valuable sources of berries for food, and as part of the silvicultural objectives shrubs will be encouraged through thinning operations.

Brown hare is dependent on extensively managed farmland landscapes, rather than woodland, which provides shelter more than anything else.

Pipistrelle bat feeds predominantly in woodland clearings and along woodland edges, particularly those with hedges and scrub. Feeding on insects, its food resources are enhanced by a diverse field layer. The Chesterfield Canal is known to be an important feeding zone. Much of the woodland is too dense and closed to provide feeding areas, except perhaps along the Yorkshire Electricity low-voltage overhead transmission line. Proposals to manage the permissive path by scalloping should increase the area of suitable feeding habitat. Further survey is required to fully determine the presence or absence of additional species, and the full extent of the known Pipistrelle population. This will be organised through the Sheffield Bat Group.

Water Vole has been recorded from the adjoining length of the Canal. It breeds and feeds predominantly in waterways. Avoiding disturbance to the Council-owned canal edge would be of benefit here. The Council has to maintain a 2.5 metre high

clearance over the Canal, and in general this will mean preventing the growth of any medium to large trees within a metre of the canal edge. In effect, the edge will be managed as coppice, encouraging low, scrub vegetation.

Great-crested newts have been recorded from the site. They have been recorded in the canal between Pudding Dike Bridge and Devil's Hole Bridge and recorded hibernating along the stone wall forming the southern boundary of Hawks Wood. It is therefore suggested that they spend the summer months in the woodland (Green Spaces, 2007). To date the breeding sites have not been located, although it seems probable they do not lie within the Council's land-holdings. Further survey, following licensing from English Nature, would be useful to identify the breeding areas, and promote appropriate management as necessary.

The Pudding Dike wetland within Old Meadow Wood may once have been suitable breeding habitat, but is currently lacking in sufficient open water and perhaps too shaded, to support newts. It is not proposed to return the area to pond habitat, as this would be detrimental to its current value. Away from the breeding sites, it is important to encourage suitable areas for shelter and frost-free hibernation. This can be provided in the form of piles of rock, as within the disused quarries in Hawks Wood, the limestone crags within Old Meadow Wood and the boundary stone wall as well as log piles, which will be created during ride management and thinning operations. Encouraging and maintaining a variety of insects and other invertebrates is necessary for the newts food supply. Promoting a well-structural, floristically rich woodland, dominated by native trees and shrubs as proposed, should satisfy this requirement. Major management operations will be avoided if possible during February-April, when newts are migrating to breeding sites.

The following species have all been recorded from the site and are included on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan middle-list. All these species are therefore priorities for conservation and protection.

Spotted flycatcher prefers open canopy, mature woodland, with open glades and tree falls. Not breeding at the site at present this species may do so in the future as the woodland gradually matures, helped by maintaining a relatively open canopy through thinning, and in due course group-felling.

Bullfinch is found predominantly along woodland edges, feeding either here or on adjoining farmland. As the woodland matures the available habitat for this species at Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood will reduce. However, encouraging thick, healthy hedgerows along much of the woodland edge, as proposed in section 5.4.2 would benefit this species. As well as coppicing in certain areas proposed in 5.4.1. Maintenance of generally low scrub growth immediately adjoining the canal will also be useful for both bullfinch and song thrush.

Turtle dove is found in thick scrub, mid-coppice growth, and the woodland edge. Management proposals for song thrush and bullfinch will be beneficial for this species.

Grey partridge, linnet, corn bunting and **tree sparrow** do not currently breed in the woodland, and the latter two have not been recorded from the site since the 1970's. The first three are also unlikely to utilise woodland for breeding, preferring other habitats. However, for all these species the woodland probably provides cover

and perhaps some feeding areas. The general principles of the management plan should ensure that the woodland continues to serve this role.

The following are all listed as “notable” species within the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area. All have been recorded from the site in the last twenty years.

Wood barley has no specific management requirements. **False oxlip** requires well-lit conditions, although it can be smothered by thick bramble and shrub growth. It has been recorded within a neglected ride in the Scots pine plantation of Old Meadow Wood. Thinning of the surrounding woodland may allow it to spread, as light levels are increased.

Larged-leaved lime is present as scattered mature individuals within the site. Young trees appear to be rare. This is probably because this species rarely sets seed under the contemporary climate conditions, regenerating vegetatively in most cases. It is proposed to map the present distribution of the species within the woodland, noting approximate age, diameter at breast height, condition and any past management of the trees. This will allow an objective assessment of its status to be made, as well as associated management recommendations.

Oak bush cricket is arboreal, with no specific management requirements. It is also widespread within ancient woodlands in the Natural Area. General maintenance of a semi-natural woodland environment will ensure its survival at the site.

Continuing research into the natural history interest of the woodland would be beneficial, particularly for those groups which to date have been little-recorded: bryophytes, mosses, fungi, invertebrates and amphibians. Local naturalists and wildlife groups will be encouraged to visit to aid this process.

Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood together with Old Spring Wood, form a proposed Local Nature Reserve, as identified in the Unitary Development Plan. Declaration implies a commitment to giving management for nature conservation a high priority, an implicit part of the Council’s countryside management approach. In addition, due to very high wildlife value of the woodland and the emphasis on management for nature conservation, promotion of the site to a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) should be encouraged.

A species action plan for the **badger** in Rotherham has been development. One of the main thrusts of this document is to seek protection for all active setts. At Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood, the active setts require continued protection, whilst several other inactive, unprotected setts are also known. During the period of this plan, it is proposed to maintain and protect all these setts and new ones as they arise. All protection works to active setts require a licence from Natural England. These will be requested as necessary.

All management operations, particularly tree felling and extraction, will take account of the badger interest. Forestry operations will be undertaken in accordance with the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act, English Nature’s guidelines for operations near to Badgers, and the Forestry Commission's Practice Guide 9, Forest Operations and Badger Setts. All active and inactive setts are regularly monitored by the South Yorkshire Badger Group and this often leads to signs of new activity being identified. Monitoring of this kind will continue, and adjustments to the overall management

plan work programme made as required as new information is gathered and assessed. Issues concerning the relationship between badgers and the recreational use of the site are discussed in Section 4.4.6 below.

The Red Data Book 2 fruit fly ***Platyporea discoidea*** has its only Rotherham record from Hawks Wood. A species action plan has been developed for the fly as part of Rotherham's BAP. Maintenance of optimum conditions for the giant bellflower are essential to maintain the plant as a food source for the larvae of the species.

The RDB3 Moss ***Thamnobryum alopecurum*** has been recorded from the site. Preferring shaded conditions, it is important that its locations are not excessively opened-up by thinning, or other management.

Goshawk was recorded from Hawks Wood during the 1997 Common Bird Census. Working with the SKS8 bird group and Sheffield Bird Study Group, it is hoped to identify any breeding sites within the local area. As the woodland matures, its potential as breeding habitat for this species will increase. Provision of some wide rides and open space within the site would also increase opportunities for feeding. This is outlined in Section 4.4.1 above.

5.4.6 Access and recreation

There is an understandably strong desire locally to improve access into the woodland for recreation. As discussed in 1.2.5 above access is currently restricted by the woodland being land locked on most sides by private land over which there is no public access. At the same time the low level of access through the woodland historically has undoubtedly helped maintain the high ecological value of this woodland and has assisted in helping to make the Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Old Spring Wood complex one the most ecologically important of all the woodlands in Rotherham Borough Council's woodland estate.

Within the woodland itself, together with access facilities through Old Spring Wood, the existing definitive and permissive footpaths within the woodland complex provide a good range of opportunities for visitors to enjoy Council-owned woodland in the area. Therefore, it is not necessary to increase access in the woodland itself and no new footpaths will be created, although some upgrading of the existing paths, including waymarking, may be necessary. Rather, there is a desire to improve access to the woodland and to create a new, more convenient, access point for walkers.

A new access point entering the woodland from over private land would give villagers a shorter alternative to the current route down the public right of way to the sewage works. The proposed routes would also be safer than the existing route as they would avoid the narrow stretch of public highway that has no footpaths, part of which is outside the 30 mile per hour speed limit.

There are two feasible options in principle to achieve this. These are:

The most direct route would be from the recreation ground on Worksop Road over a narrow strip of private land into Old Meadow Wood along its northern boundary. See route 1 shown on figure 2.2. A short link path to the existing footpath network, including a crossing over the stream, would be necessary.

The second route is longer and may not be very beneficial to villagers as it is some way out of the village to the west along a field edge from Lady Field Road opposite Stonefield Farm. See route 2 on figure 2.2. This would require a much longer route over private land.

Anyone of these options would however only be possible by kind agreement of the land owner for a permissive footpath or by formal designation of a public footpath by the Council's solicitors.

A footpath over private land could be fenced, at the expense of the Council to prevent walkers wandering off the path onto the rest of the land.

Should access through the woodland increase, as it is expected to do through time, even without a new access point, then this will need to be carefully managed to limit the risk of disturbance to the habitat and wildlife.

It is important that new desire lines do not open up through quiet areas for wildlife. Any new desire lines that begin to develop such as the path along the quarry edge in Hawks Wood will be discouraged by dead-hedging and fallen trees.

In the interests of badger protection at the site it may be necessary to divert this path if it helps protect the long term viability of the sett. This work will be done during the course of this plan if it is felt to be necessary. The advice of the South Yorkshire Badger Group will be taken as to when and exactly where the diversion route should be. Figure 2.2 shows the general route proposed for a path diversion should it be necessary. The exact route will be established with the badger group to ensure it does not affect runs etc.

Public access along the top path in Hawks Wood that runs parallel with the south east facing boundary may have caused disturbance to the adjacent badger sett causing it to become inactive (South Yorkshire Badger Group 2006). Much of this disturbance is likely to be inadvertent.

All formal access points into the woodland, including any new access points will be maintained secure using formal access furniture and maintained and replaced as necessary.

Litter is not a particular problem throughout the site. However, any litter that does appear will be removed to maintain a cared for feel to the woodland.

Access will not be actively encouraged into Thorpe Low Wood.

5.4.7 Education and interpretation

There is no intention to produce an interpretative leaflet for the woodland as this would probably lead to an increase in the numbers of visitors and disturbance to the sensitive wildlife of the site. However it is important that site users are aware of the value of the site and are provided with information about access. The development of an information sheet to provide to visitors on request rather than actively promoting the woodland should be considered. This could also include information on points of interest in the local area and the wildlife value of the woodland.

A range of guided walks take place in the woodland from time to time. The woodland will continue to be used for environmental education by departments within the Council, linking into the requirements of the National Curriculum where possible, raising awareness of wildlife and the countryside, the purpose of nature conservation, and the need to care for and manage the countryside in a sympathetic way.

5.4.8 Community involvement

Consultation with the local community and other interest groups, concerning the management proposals will take place prior to the subsequently finalised management plan being put to Committee for approval. Consultation will continue as implementation proceeds.

Where appropriate, local people, volunteer groups and interested organisations will continue to be encouraged to help in the care and management of the woodland through practical tasks and wildlife surveys. People will also continue to be encouraged to report concerns and act as the “eyes and ears” of the Council.

5.4.9 Landscape

Some changes in the visual appearance of the woodland, especially from within, will occur as a result of proposed works during this plan period, particularly the coppicing under the powerlines, and to a lesser extent thinning. Generally only relatively small parts of the woodland will be affected at any one time, the impact of management operations will therefore be minimised. The trees coppiced under the power lines are down in a locally deep, steep valley lessening further the impacts on the work on the landscape.

In future plan periods if more extensive operations are planned such are ride scalloping and management and small group felling then there may be more implications on the landscape. This can be mitigated to a certain extent by planning group felling operations so that they are well away from the footpath network and woodland edges by retaining a belt of acting as a screen to groups.

Scalloping to ride edges may have quite a localised impact immediately after the work has been completed. However the desired end result to these works; more open sunny areas with a gradient of shrubs to wild flowers from the canopy trees down to the track edge will, in the long term improve the internal landscape of the woodland.

A full landscape assessment of the site will be completed during the plan.

5.4.10 Archaeology and historic interest

Hawks Wood contains several features of major archaeological importance, including a presumed Romano-British earthwork site, and four eighteenth century beehive lime kilns.

Other, young semi-mature growth will need to be removed before it becomes a problem.

In the long-term, detailed field walking reconnaissance of the whole site is recommended by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS), but current resource levels severely limit what can be done at present. Further investigation of the kilns and earthwork would also be useful. The SYAS considers the lime-kilns to be of Scheduled Ancient Monument status. This proposal will be taken forward by the SYAS and English Heritage as part of their monuments protection programme.

Several mature trees were removed from the kilns in 1996, as they were causing structural damage. In the case of the kilns and the Romano-British earthwork, trees will not be allowed to reach maturity for similar reasons, although a semi-mature woodland cover will be maintained over the earthwork as this offers the site some protection from opportunist metal detectors, etc. Clearance of all the trees and maintenance of the earthwork site as a glade may draw attention to the feature. The kilns are relatively inaccessible to the general public because of the steep quarry faces on three sides, and the canal to the immediate north. The dense woodland vegetation within the quarry base also screens these features to a great extent. Here, developing trees will be removed from the kilns once they reach 20-30 years in age.

All tree-felling and, where required, extraction, close to or immediately upon these features will be planned and executed to avoid disturbance of the archaeological/historic interest. Felling of trees, particularly mature individuals, directly onto these features will be avoided where possible and all extraction from the Romano-British earthwork will be undertaken with either winches, avoiding the need for vehicular access, or by draught horse. Generally, it may be most appropriate to leave felled timber in-situ, in processed piles. The casual path crossing the earthwork has been discouraged by the use of dead-hedging (at points away from the feature).

The SYAS will be kept informed of all management activities involving these features.

5.4.11 Ecological survey and monitoring.

The flora and fauna of the woodlands will continue to be monitored, with particular emphasis on the effects of management proposals.

A bat survey of the site is programmed from year 2 prior to the thinning and felling work taking place. The local badger population will be monitored as at present, in partnership with the South Yorkshire badger Group.

Survey of the great-crested newt population in the area will identify breeding areas and populations in the local vicinity. This will require a licence from English Nature.

Local naturalists and voluntary groups will be encouraged to continue surveying within the site, particularly the little recorded invertebrate and fungi interest. A “before” and “after” photographic record will be kept during all major management operations. As required, basic floristic surveys of these areas where management is concentrated will be carried out to help identify/quantify the spread and distribution of plant species.

Repeat surveys will be carried out, particularly for species that are identified in the local BAP, or as threatened rare or declining species at a local, regional or national level. To ensure up to date species records are available specialist surveys of particular interest groups (birds, plants, fungi, invertebrates and mammals) will be periodically commissioned.

The distribution of the giant bellflower stem-miner will be monitored, particularly in relation to the affects of management operations.

The Biological Records Officer will be kept informed of all recording activities, and provided with copies of collected data for input into RECORDER where appropriate.

6. Management Implementation

6.1 Management implementation programme

Silvicultural Works	**Comps**	**Years**				
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Essential tree safety works.	All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thinning of the poorer formed sycamore.	32d			✓		
Thinning of the beech and pine stands.	32f, g and h			✓		
Removal of selected trees and coppicing on the edge of the stream and pond.	32b			✓		
Coppicing under powerlines in Old Meadow Wood.	32c			✓		
Removal of selected trees from the kilns.	32a	✓				

Access Works	**Comps**	**Years**				
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Undertake negotiations with adjoining land owners to create a new access route into Hawks Wood.		✓				
Subject to successful negotiations with private landowners of a link path to the woodland, create a new access point and associated foot path work.			✓			
Prepare an information sheet about the woodland that can be distributed to woodland users.	All			✓		
Discourage the development of new footpaths through new areas of the woodland with fallen trees and dead hedging as necessary.	All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Divert the footpath the passes close to the badger sett in Hawks Wood if necessary.	32a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain and repair access furniture across the site as necessary.	All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Other Site Improvements	**Comps**	**Years**				
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Laying and gap planting of hedges along the western boundary of Hawks Wood and the eastern and western boundaries of Old Meadow Wood.	32a, e, f and i			✓		
Restoration of the remaining sections of boundary wall in Hawks Wood, subject to available resources.	32h					✓
Removal of rubbish from within the woodland and any fly tipping at woodland edges.	All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Survey, Plans and Consultation	**Comps**	**Years**				
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Consultation on the preparation of the management plan.	All	✓				✓
Bat survey prior to thinning.	32d,f,g and h			✓		
Water vole survey	32a	✓				
Great-crested newt survey	All		✓			
Monitor the distribution of the giant bellflower stem-miner.	All			✓		✓
Monitor pond and stream area for excessive plant growth in the water.	32b	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor shade over the pond and stream from the trees.				✓		
Monitor the effect of silvicultural works in d,f,g and h on the development of the remaining trees.						✓
Survey to identify, record and assess limes throughout the woodland.	32a and i	✓				
Floral and faunal surveys of compartment 32a, including coppice area.	32a	✓				
Photographic monitoring of the site.	All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prepare site safety plan.	All			✓		
Monitoring and review of the impacts of five year work programme.	All					✓

6.2 Annual Work Programmes (years 1- 5)

Annual Work Programme Year One – April 2010 to March 2011

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Silvicultural works												
Essential tree safety works.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Selected tree removal from the lime kilns 32a.						✓						
Access works												
Undertake negotiations with adjoining land owners to create a new access route into Hawks Wood.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discourage the development of new footpaths through new areas of woodland with fallen trees and dead hedging as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Divert the footpath that passes close to the badger sett in Hawks Wood if necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain, repair and replace access furniture as necessary across the site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other Site Improvements												
Removal of rubbish from within the woodland and any fly tipping at woodland edges.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Survey, Plans and Consultation												
Consultation on the preparation of the management plan.	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Monitor pond and stream area for excessive plant growth in the water.				✓	✓							
Water vole survey			✓									
Survey to identify, record and assess limes throughout the woodland.												
Floral and faunal survey of compartment 32a, including coppice area	✓	✓										
Photographic monitoring of the site.			✓			✓			✓			✓

Annual Work Programme Year Two – April 2011 to March 2012

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Silvicultural works												
Essential tree safety works.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access												
Subject to successful negotiations with private landowners of a link path to the woodland, create a new access point and associated footpath work.		✓										
Discourage the development of new footpaths through new areas of woodland with fallen trees and dead hedging as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Divert the footpath that passes close to the badger sett in Hawks Wood if necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain, repair and replace access furniture as necessary across the site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other Site Improvements												
Removal of rubbish from within the woodland and any fly tipping at woodland edges.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Survey and Plans												
Great crested newt survey	✓	✓	✓									
Monitoring pond and stream area for excessive plant growth in the water.				✓								
Photographic monitoring of the site.			✓			✓			✓			✓

Annual Work Programme Year Three – April 2012 to March 2013

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Silvicultural works												
Essential tree safety works.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thinning of the poorer formed sycamore in sub-compartment 32d						✓						
Removal of selected trees and coppicing on the edge of the stream and pond.						✓						
Thinning of the beech and pine stands in sub-compartments 32f, g and h						✓						
Coppicing under the powerlines in Old Meadow Wood										✓		
Access works												
Prepare an information sheet about the woodland that can be distributed to woodland users.												
Discourage the development of new footpaths through new areas of woodland with fallen trees and dead hedging as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Divert the footpath passing close to the badger sett in Hawks Wood if necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain, repair and replace access furniture as necessary across the site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other Site Improvements												
Laying and gap planting of the hedges on the western boundary of Hawks Wood and on the eastern and western boundaries of Old Meadow Wood.										✓		
Remove rubbish and flytipping from within the woodland and woodland edges.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Survey and Plans												
Photographic monitoring of the site.			✓			✓			✓			✓
Bat survey prior to thinning				✓								
Monitor the distribution of the giant bellflower stem-miner.			✓									
Monitoring pond area for excessive plant growth in the water and shade from the trees.				✓								
Monitor shade from trees on the pond and stream.				✓								
Prepare site safety plan					✓							

Annual Work Programme Year Four – April 2013 to March 2014

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Silvicultural works												
Essential tree safety work.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access works		✓										
Discourage the development of new footpaths through new areas of woodland with fallen trees and dead hedging as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Divert the footpath that passes close to the badger sett in Hawks Wood if necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain, repair and replace access furniture as necessary across the site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other Site Improvements												
Removal of rubbish from within the woodland and any fly tipping at woodland edges.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Survey and Plans												
Monitoring pond and stream area for excessive plant growth in the water and for shade from the trees.				✓								
Monitor shade from trees on pond and water course following thinning operations in year 3.				✓								
Photographic monitoring of the site.			✓									

Annual Work Programme Year Five – April 2014 to March 2015

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Silvicultural works												
Essential tree safety works.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access												
Discourage the development of new footpaths through new areas of woodland with fallen trees and dead hedging as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Divert the footpath that passes close to the badger sett in Hawks Wood if necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain, repair and replace access furniture as necessary across the site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other Site Improvements												
Restoration of the remaining sections of boundary wall in Hawks Wood.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Removal of rubbish from within the woodland and any fly tipping at woodland edges.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Survey and Plans												
Consultation on the preparation of the revised management plan.											✓	✓
Monitor and review the impacts of the five year work programme.										✓	✓	✓
Monitor the distribution of the giant bellflower stem-miner.			✓									
Monitor the pond and stream area for excessive plant growth in the water.												
Monitor the affects of the silvicultural works in compartments 32d,f,g and h.					✓							
Photographic monitoring of the site.			✓									

6.3 Forestry operations

Table 6.3.1 Forestry operations - thinning

S.cpt	Spp.	P.Year	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
			Proposed		Actual		Proposed		Actual		Proposed		Actual		Proposed		Actual		Proposed		Actual	
			Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3
32a	MB	1958	0.5	10			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
32b	MB	2002	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.2	4			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
32c	MB	1958	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			Cop	pice			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
32d	SYC	1958	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			1.6	55			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
32e	SYC	1958	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
32f	SP	1958	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.5	18			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
32g	CP	1962	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.65	26			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
32h	BE	1958	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			1.0	30			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
32i	SYC /AH	1940-60	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
Total			0.5	10			0.0	0.0			3.75	133			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		

Table 6.3.2 Forestry operations - felling

S.cpt	Spp	P.Year	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
			Proposed		Actual		Proposed		Actual		Proposed		Actual		Proposed		Actual		Proposed		Actual	
			Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3	Area (ha)	Vol m^3
32a-h	MB/ MC	1940-2002	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
32i	SYC /AH	40-60	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		
Total			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0		

MB - mixed broadleaves, MC - mixed conifers, SYC - sycamore, SP - Scots pine, CP - Corsican pine, BE - beech AH - ash

Table 6.3.3 Sustainability of timber removal

Hectares	**Average volume per hectare**	**Total woodland volume**	**Average yield class**	**Total annual increment**	**Proposed total annual cut (M^3)**				
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
31.95	190	6100	6	190	10	0	133	0	0

7. Financial Statement

7.1 Financial forecast for years 1-5

The cost of the management works in Hawks, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood will be met largely by Rotherham MBC from existing resources for the five years of the work programme. There will be a small contribution to the management from the Forestry Commission over the five years from the English Woodland Grant Scheme. There may also be a contribution to some of the access works from the Lottery Funded Connect2 award managed by Public Rights of Way in EDS.

Table 7.1 Expenditure

Operation	Financial Year				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Silvicultural operations	£	£	£	£	£
Essential tree safety works (including maintenance of trees along the canal side).	250	250	250	250	250
Thinning of the poorer formed sycamore (32d)			2,000		
Thinning of the beech and pine stands (32f,g and h).			3,000		
Removal of selected trees and coppicing on the edge of the stream and pond.			1,000		
Coppicing under powerlines in Old Meadow Wood.			0		
Removal of selected trees from the kilns.	1000				
Access works					
Discourage the development of new footpaths through new areas of the woodland with fallen trees and dead hedging as necessary.	300	300	300	300	300
Divert the footpath the passes close to the badger sett in Hawks Wood if necessary.	500	500	500	500	500
Creation of a new access point on woodland boundary (subject to necessary agreements).		1,500			
Maintain and repair access furniture across the site as necessary.	300	300	300	300	300
Other site improvements					
Laying and gap planting of hedges along the western boundary of Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood.			2500		
Restoration of the remaining sections of boundary wall in Hawks Wood (subject to available resource).					4000
Removal of rubbish from within the woodland and any fly tipping at woodland edges.	282	300	318	336	354
Surveys, plans and consultation					
Bat survey prior to thinning and felling.			150		
Great-crested newt survey		400			
Water vole survey	250				
Monitor pond for excessive plant growth	150	150	150	150	150
Floral and faunal survey of compartment 32a, including coppice area	1000				
Monitor the distribution of the giant bellflower stem-miner.			150		150
Monitor the effect of silvicultural works of flora.					150
TOTALS	**4,032**	**3,700**	**10,618**	**1,836**	**6,154**

It is anticipated that the survey and monitoring work of the pond and limes will be completed using existing staff from Trees and Woodlands.

	Financial Year				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Silvicultural operations	1,250	250	6,250	250	250
Access	1,100	2,600	1,100	1,100	1,100
Other site improvements	282	300	2,818	336	4,354
Surveys plans and operations	1,400	550	450	150	450
TOTALS	**4,032**	**3,700**	**10,618**	**1,836**	**6,154**

7.2 Income

The cost of each management activity identified in Table 6.1 in the woodland will be met by Rotherham MBC from existing resources with an anticipated additional income from Forestry Commission for the five year work programme. This is anticipated to be around £960 per annum

Table 7.2 Net costs (estimated) Years 1-5

	Financial Year					Totals
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Income						
Forestry Commission	960	960	960	960	960	4800
Connect2		1500				1500
Expenditure	4032	3,700	10,618	1,836	6,154	26,340
Net costs	3,072	1,240	9,658	876	5194	20,040

7.3 Economic considerations

The financial statement outlined above reflects both the constraints imposed by the high heritage value of the site, for example the need to avoid important archaeological features, and the physical constraints of the site in relation to access for management and the value of the standing trees.

The management approach adopted is one of gradual change and improvement, spreading cost and any potential revenue over time. Felling and regeneration works could be implemented at a more rapid rate than proposed, increasing the potential for improved economies of scale. However, this could be detrimental to the other interests of the site, for example landscape and wildlife.

8. Monitoring and Review

8.1 Monitoring

Monitoring is important to ensure that management operations and their effects are properly considered during management planning reviews. Monitoring at the woodland complex will take place in accordance with the information outlined in the Council's policy statement for monitoring; *Statement for RMBC Woodland Estate - Monitoring* to ensure that monitoring of the woodland is appropriate, consistent and replicable over time.

(a) General management

The progress of the work programme for Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood will be constantly monitored and adjusted as necessary. An annual review of the management works implemented and progress towards targets will be produced.

Management work for which the Forestry Commission pay grant, such as management grant, may be monitored at any time to ensure the work is being carried out in accordance with the English Woodland Grant Scheme contract. A strict programme of monitoring, as described in section 1.2.3.1(h) is also carried out by the Forest Stewardship Council to ensure management of the woodland is in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council's strict requirements for sustainable woodland management.

All management activities will be monitored during and after implementation. Particular attention will be given to the following:

Public safety along the footpaths and the boundaries with private property.
Regeneration in the felling glades.
Affects of public access on the badger population.
Creation of additional unofficial footpaths throughout the woodland.
Condition and preservation of the lime kilns.
Trees alongside the canal.
BAP species and habitats.
Rubbish/flytipping.

(b) Natural history

The flora and fauna of the woodland will continue to be monitored, with particular emphasis on the effects of access and recreation and management operations. Any species present identified on the local, regional or UK Biodiversity Action Plan will be monitoring priorities.

Local naturalists will be encouraged to survey the site, and will be supported with compartment recording maps as appropriate. A "before and after" photographic record will be kept during all major management works.

All available records will be inputted in the Biological Records Centre RECORDER where appropriate.

A photographic survey of the site will be carried out throughout the five years, see section 5 management implementation.

8.2 Review

The management plan will be fully reviewed in 2015 at the end of this five-year plan period. The review will take into account monitoring work and progress reports prepared over the course of this plan. Unless there are serious unforeseen problems, the proposals in the next five-year plan will recognise the long-term aims and objectives approved in 2010. The reviewed plan will be effective for a further five-year period until 2020.

Provided there are no major changes to the aims and objectives the consultation process for the revised plan will be reduced to slightly ensure continuity in implementing plans of operations. The period of formal consultation with professional bodies will be 7 working days. The wider consultation phase with the community will continue to use the local Area Assembly meeting as a platform, together with letters to the Parish Council, Ward Members, local interest groups and residents. This is in accordance with the document *Consultation procedure for the development, review and implementation of management plans for council-owned woodlands,* prepared by Economic and Development Services (2001).

Copies of the reviewed management plan and new plan of operations will be made available for inspection at local libraries and in the Council's offices. Also, a plan showing the locations of tree felling or other sensitive works will be attached to the consultation letters.

Any adverse reactions that cannot be resolved by normal discussion will be reported to the Cabinet briefing meeting. Otherwise the work will continue.

Within the last year of this plan a visitor survey will be conducted to establish how the quality and user friendliness of the woodland has improved as a result of management works. Following very positive responses to the consultation on other management plans by local residents it would be a valuable exercise to invite comments from residents and user groups on how successful they perceive the management operations to have been. All comments and views will be considered for inclusion in the 2015 to 2019 plan.

9. Communications

9.1 List of contacts and consultees

The following matrix of contacts has been compiled so that those with particular knowledge or who have an interest in a particular area of management can be quickly identified. This includes departments within the Council, external organisations and interest groups in the across Rotherham. All management issues should be directed through the Trees and Woodlands Section, Streetpride.

Table 9.1

Contact Person				
Rotherham MBC Staff	**Position**	**Number/email**	**Department**	**Reason for Contact**
Streetpride	Call centre	336003 streetpride@rotherham.gov.uk	Streetpride	Primary contact for all issues in respect of management of the site.
Leonard, Paul	Assistant Projects Officer	2435	Green Spaces	Responsible for the Estate Team in Green Spaces that can undertake access improvement and maintenance work.
Barber, Carolyn	Ecologist	2462	Green Spaces	Ecological advice.
Mellor, Michelle	Assistant Tourism Officer	6892	RIDO	Contact for issues relevant to tourism
Donaldson, Jane	Assistant Rights of Way Officer	2932	Streetpride	Request to close Public Right of Way for management works.
Ely, Bill	Biological Records Officer	2437	Green Spaces	To access biological records of the site.
	Area Assembly Officer (Rother Valley South)		Policy and Partnerships	For consultation and developing links with the local community.
Temple, David	Development Control Officer	3837	Planning and Transportation Service	Issues regarding planning constraints.

Outside Rotherham MBC.	Organisation	Contact Details	Reason for contact
Mr Hill	Thorpe Salvin Parish Council	01909 563024	Consultation and links with the local community.
Grise, Chris	Forestry Commission	01904 448778	General enquiries relating to grants, Forestry Legislation etc.
Clough, Debbie	Forestry Commission	01904 448778	Enquiries specific to EWGS
Whiteley, Derek	Sheffield Bat Group		For bat surveys and general advice relating to bats, particularly what to do when bats are disturbed. Contact 01298 872318 in an emergency situation only when bats are found.
McNeil, Jim	South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	01142 736428	Advice regarding management operations in relation to archaeological features.
Ron Adams	South Yorkshire Badger Group		All matters in relation to the badger population of the site.
SY Police		01142 202020	In the event of repeated problematic behaviour
SY Fire Service		01142 727202	Notify the service of any controlled burning in accordance with the Councils' fire plan.
Carr, Len Riddley, Robin	South Yorkshire Forest	0114 2571199	Contact for objective 1 funding and EWGS queries. Sourcing markets for timber.
Police/Fire		999	In the event of an emergency situation.
Professor M. Jones	Landscape historian		Advice on historical matters and management of the site.
	YEDL	0845 6024453	Regarding management and maintenance of their power lines.
Hurley, Kate	Groundwork Dearne Valley	01226 740077	Possible links to regeneration projects in the area.
	Chesterfield Canal Trust	Latest contacts can be found at: www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk/contacts	Canal history etc
	British Waterways	0113 281 6860	Issues associated with the canal management.

10. Glossary of Terms

Ancient semi-natural woodland – woodland believed to have been in existence since at least 1600 AD, and which supports stands of **native** trees and shrubs.

Canopy – collectively, the mass of branches and foliage formed by the crowns of trees.

Characteristic species – those considered characteristic to the habitat feature within the Natural Area.

Clear-felling – the complete felling of a whole **stand** of trees at the same time

Coppicing – the periodic felling of broadleaved trees and shrubs to just above ground level, every 8-25 years, depending on the end use of the wood products. These are then allowed to re-grow forming many stems called poles. This process can be repeated many times.

Definitive footpaths – Statutory public rights of way.

Favoured tree – selected for retention during **thinning** and given favourable treatment by the removal of competing vegetation.

Glade – an area within a woodland managed as open space.

Group-felling – where a patch of trees covering less than 0.5 ha is cut down to open a gap in the woodland, providing light and space for young trees. The minimum size of a gap is generally 1.5 – 2 times the height of the adjacent woodland.

High forest – areas of trees, managed to promote woodland and of predominantly mature trees.

Natural regeneration – trees which have developed from natural seeding i.e. they have not been planted.

Native species – those tree and shrub species which have colonised Britain by natural means i.e. without the intervention of man. Species introduced (non-native or non-indigenous) by man include sweet chestnut and possible sycamore. Beech and hornbeam are native only to southern England. Elsewhere, they have been introduced through planting.

Notable species – those listed under international or national legislation.

Permissive footpaths – non-statutory access routes, actively encouraged by the Authority.

Rotation – the length of time between the establishment of an area of woodland and its removal. Mature broadleaved high-forest is normally managed on a 100-200 year **rotation**, coppice on an 8-25 year **rotation** and conifers on a 60-80 year **rotation**.

Silviculture – the growing and tending of trees.

Stand – a group of trees, often applied in groups of trees of the same age or species composition.

Thinning – the removal, at certain stages of growth, of a proportion of trees from a **stand**. For example, to allow the remainder more growing space, to favour a particular species mix, or to maintain or encourage a diverse ground vegetation.

Windthrow – the blowing down of trees by the wind.

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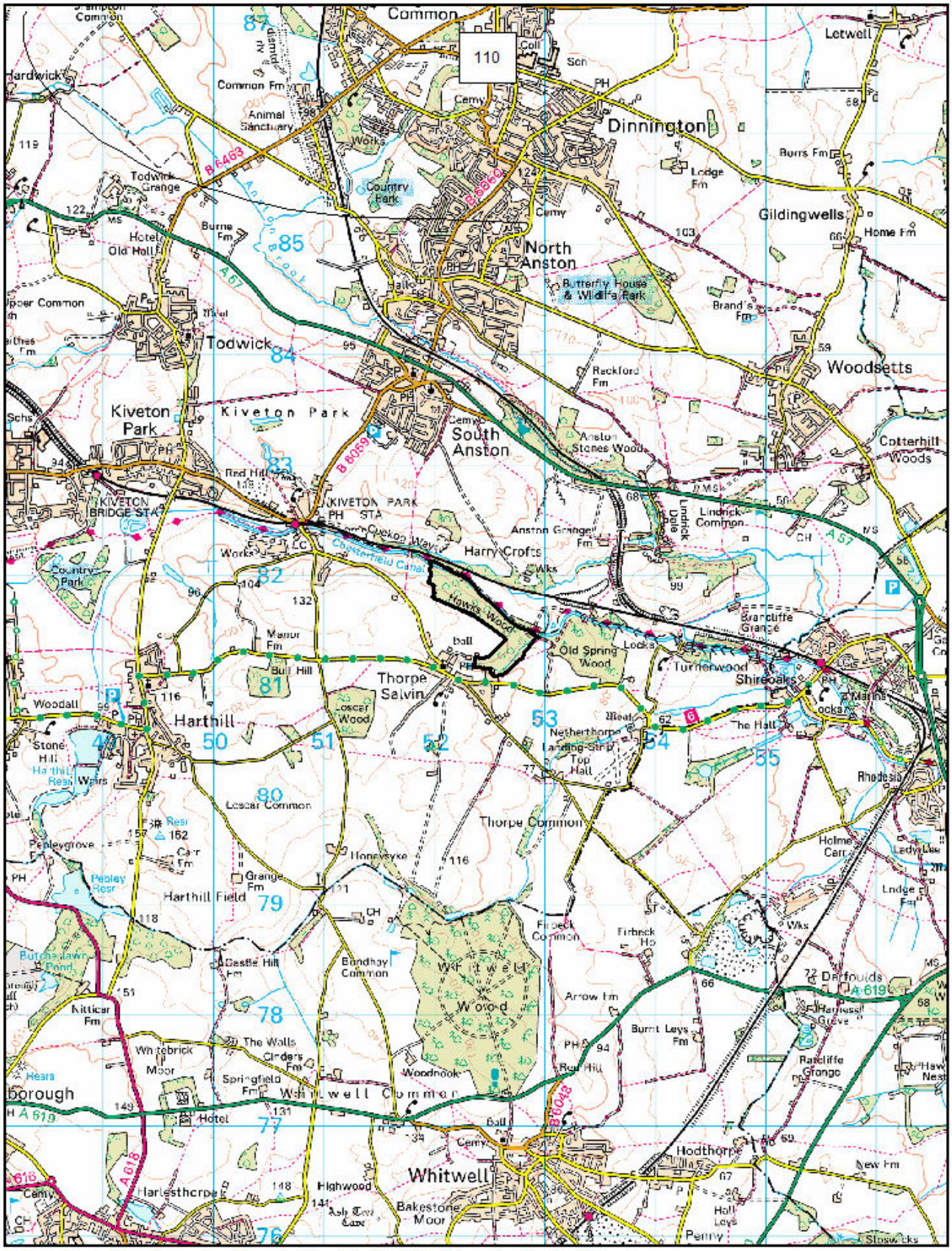

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Figure 1.1 Location of Hawks Wood Old Meadow Wood and Low Thorpe Wood

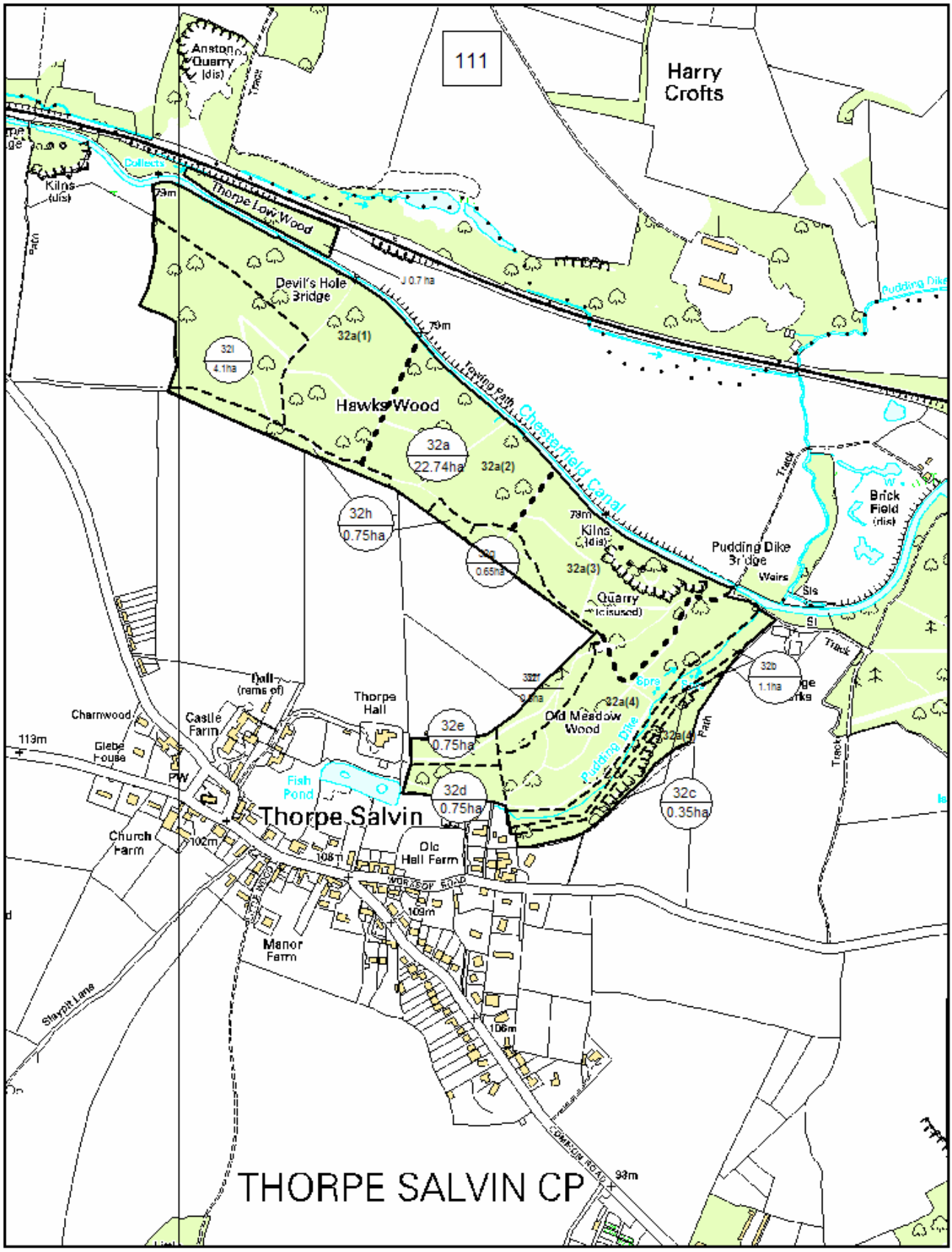


Figure 1.2 Management compartment map

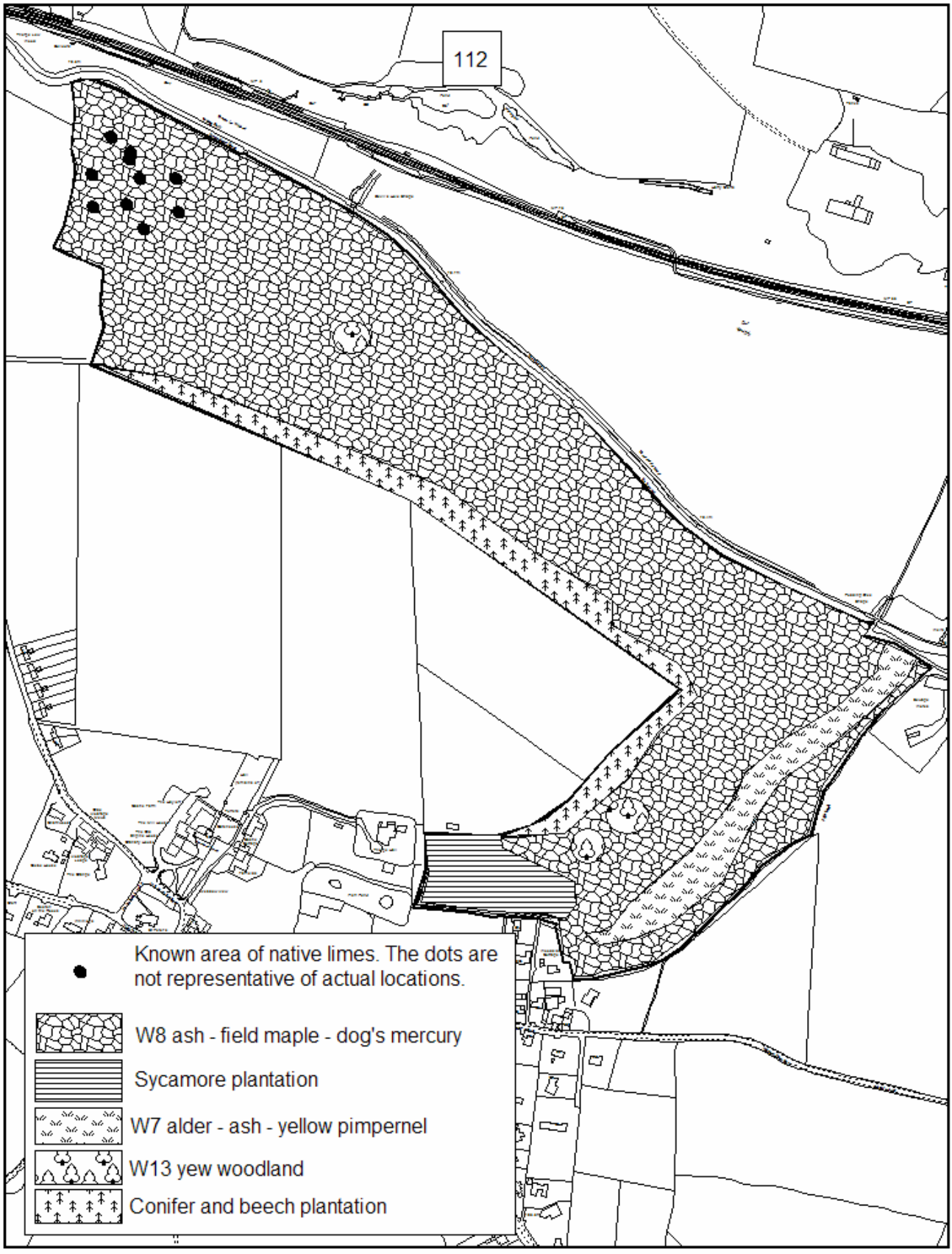


Figure 1.3 National Vegetation Classification communities

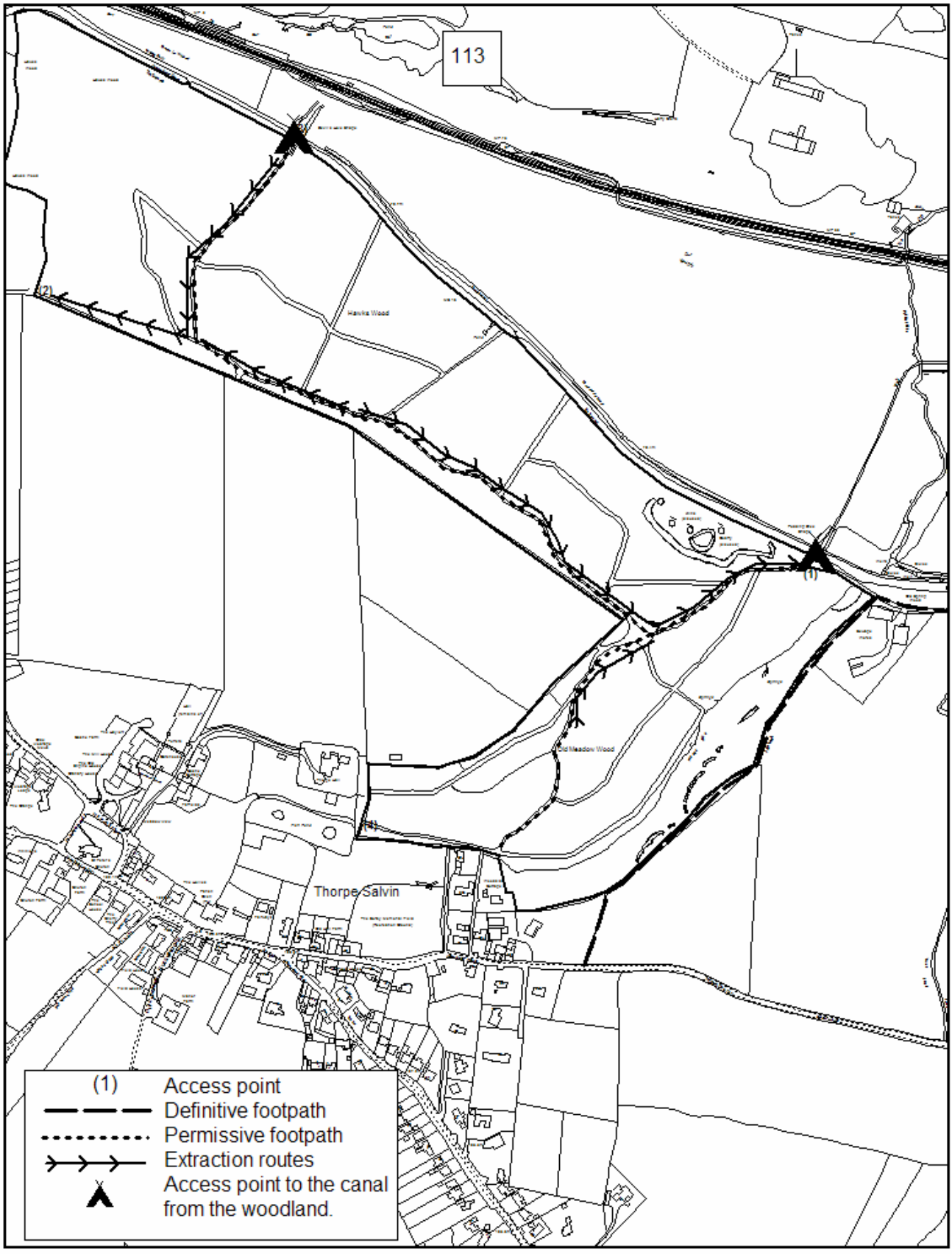


Figure 1.4 Definative, permissive and casual footpaths and access points.

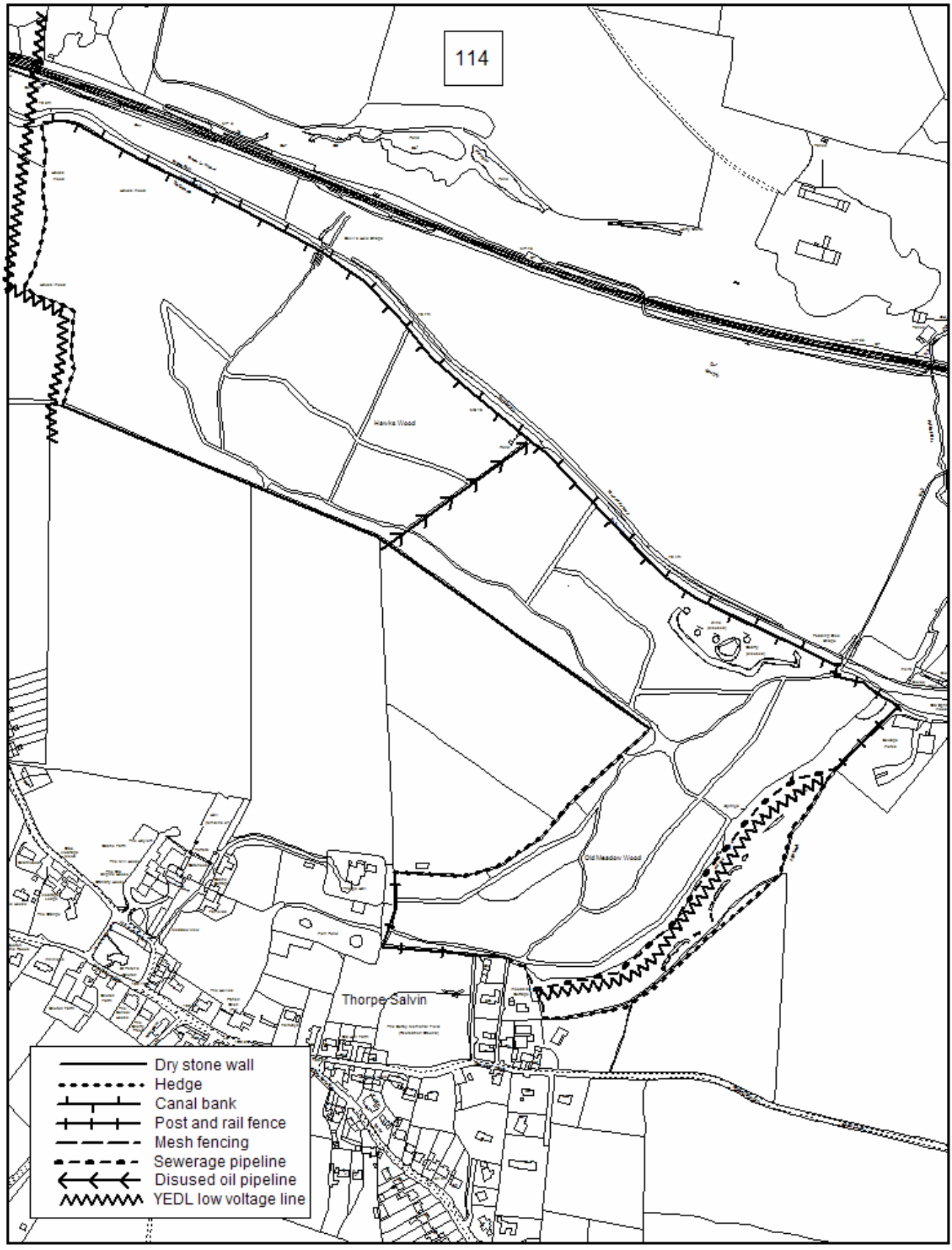


Figure 1.5 Site boundaries and wayleaves

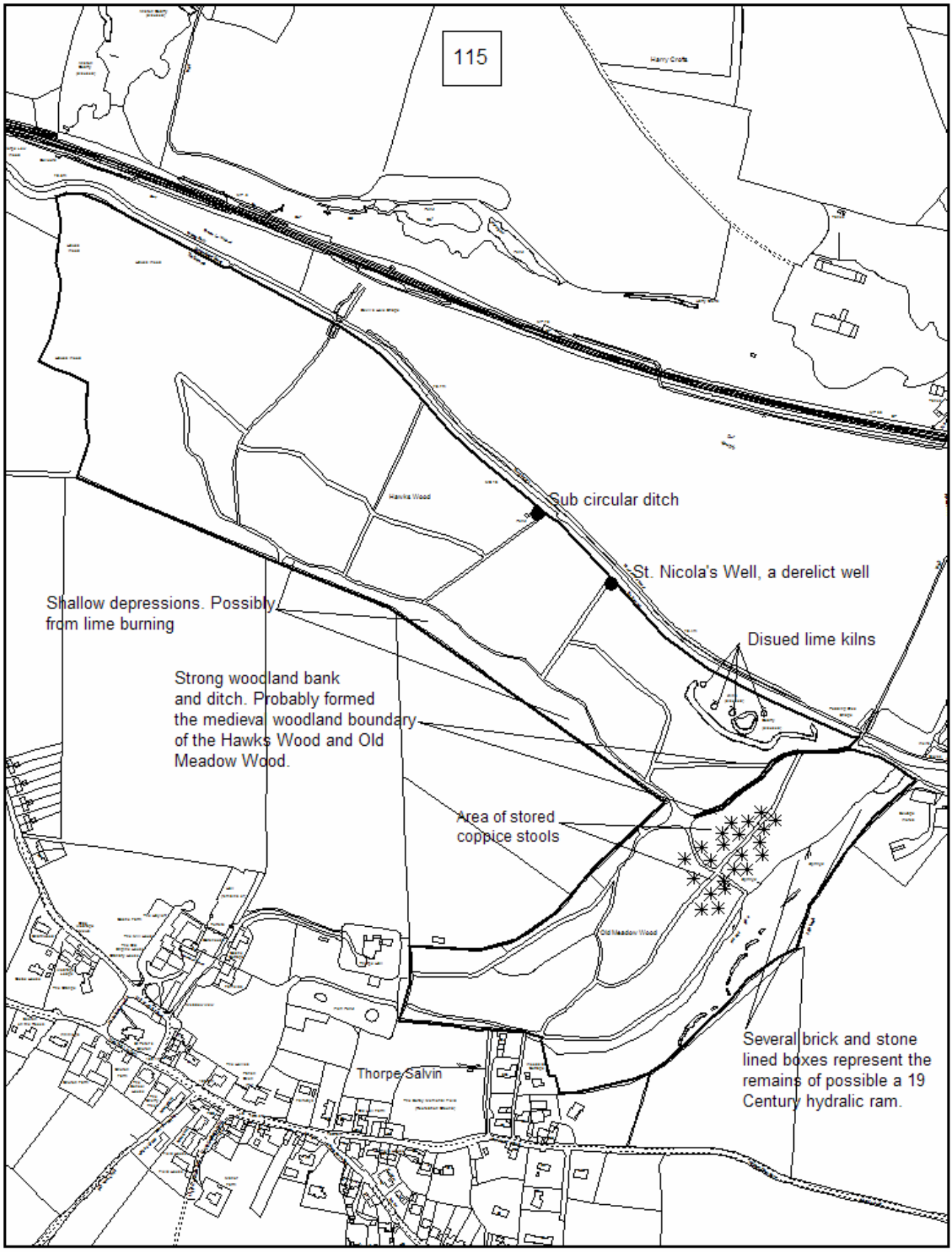


Figure 1.6 Features of archaeological interest

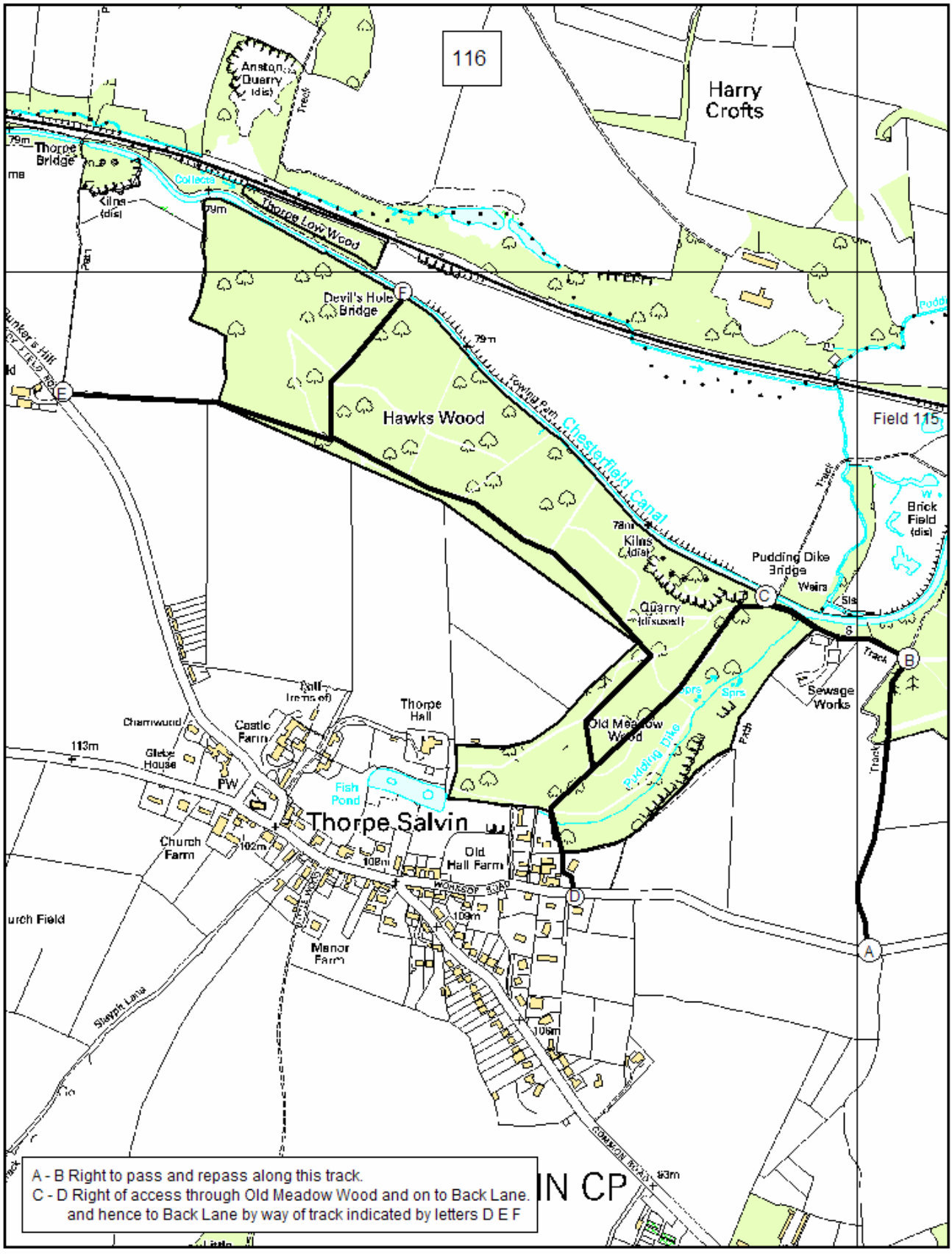
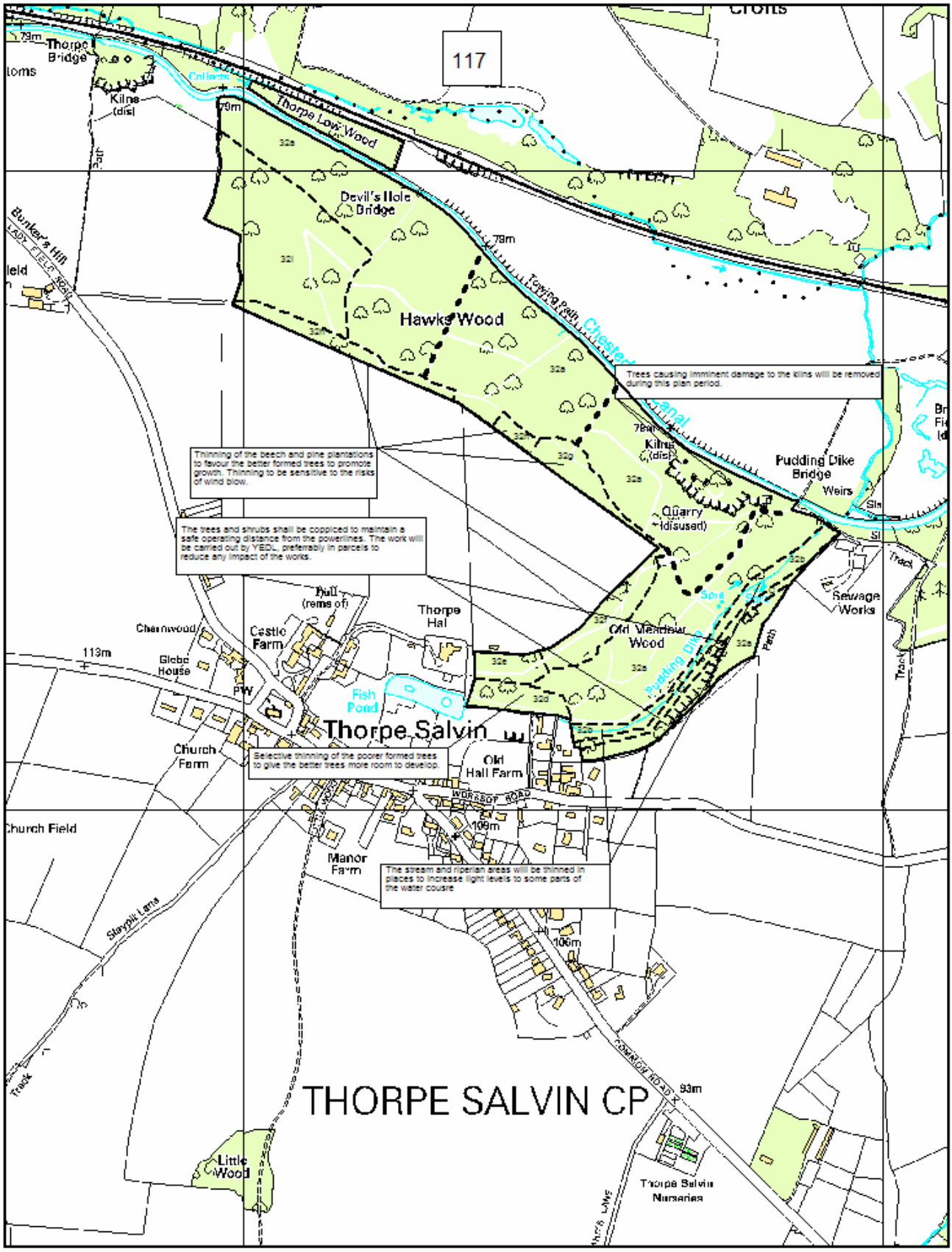


Figure 1.7 Ownership access rights for Hawks Wood and Old Meadow Wood as shown on Land Certificate RB16587 for the woodland.



This map is based on Ordnance Survey mapping with the sanction of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright Reserved.

Figure 2.1 Proposed vegetation management over the plan period.

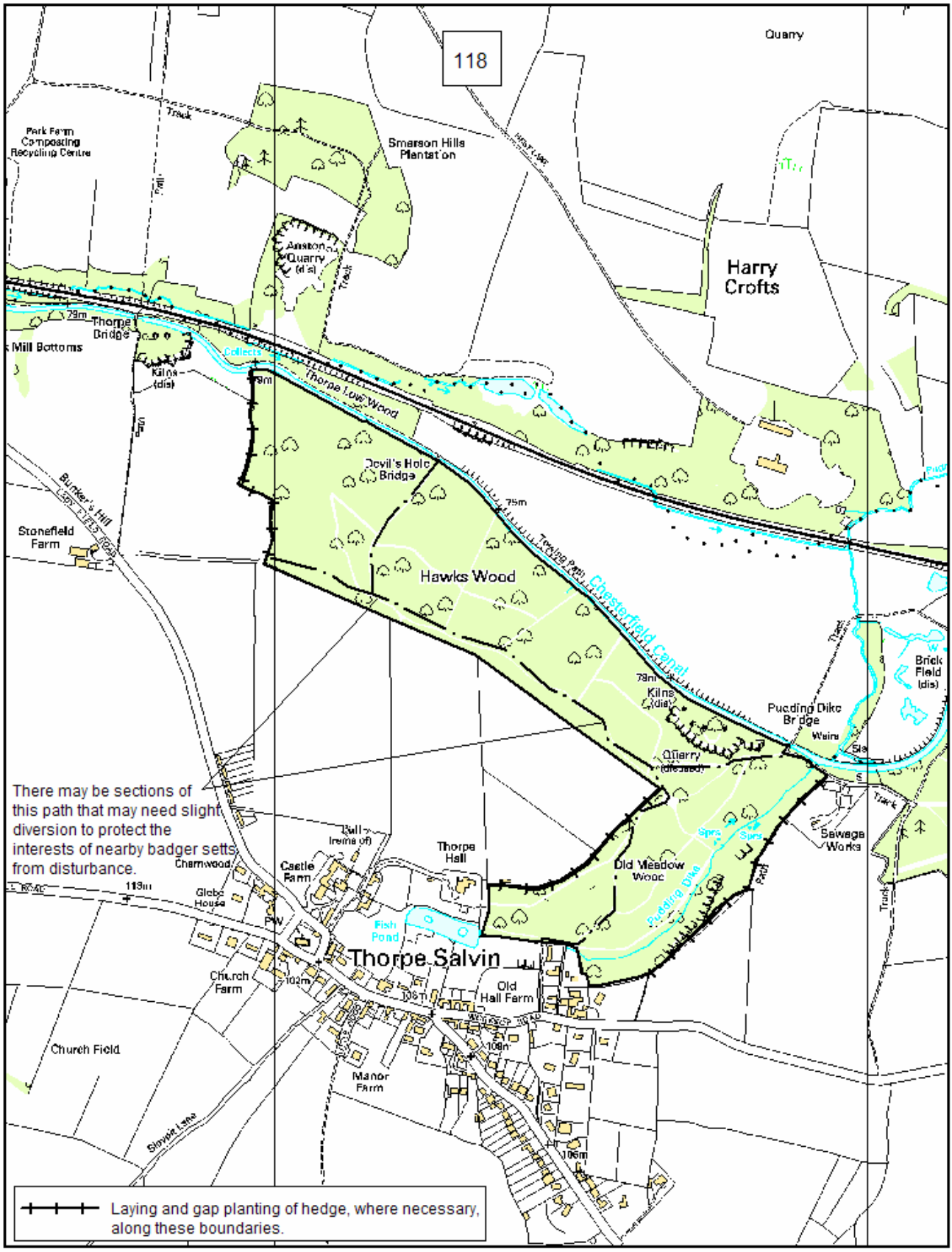


Figure 2.2 Proposed boundary and access management.

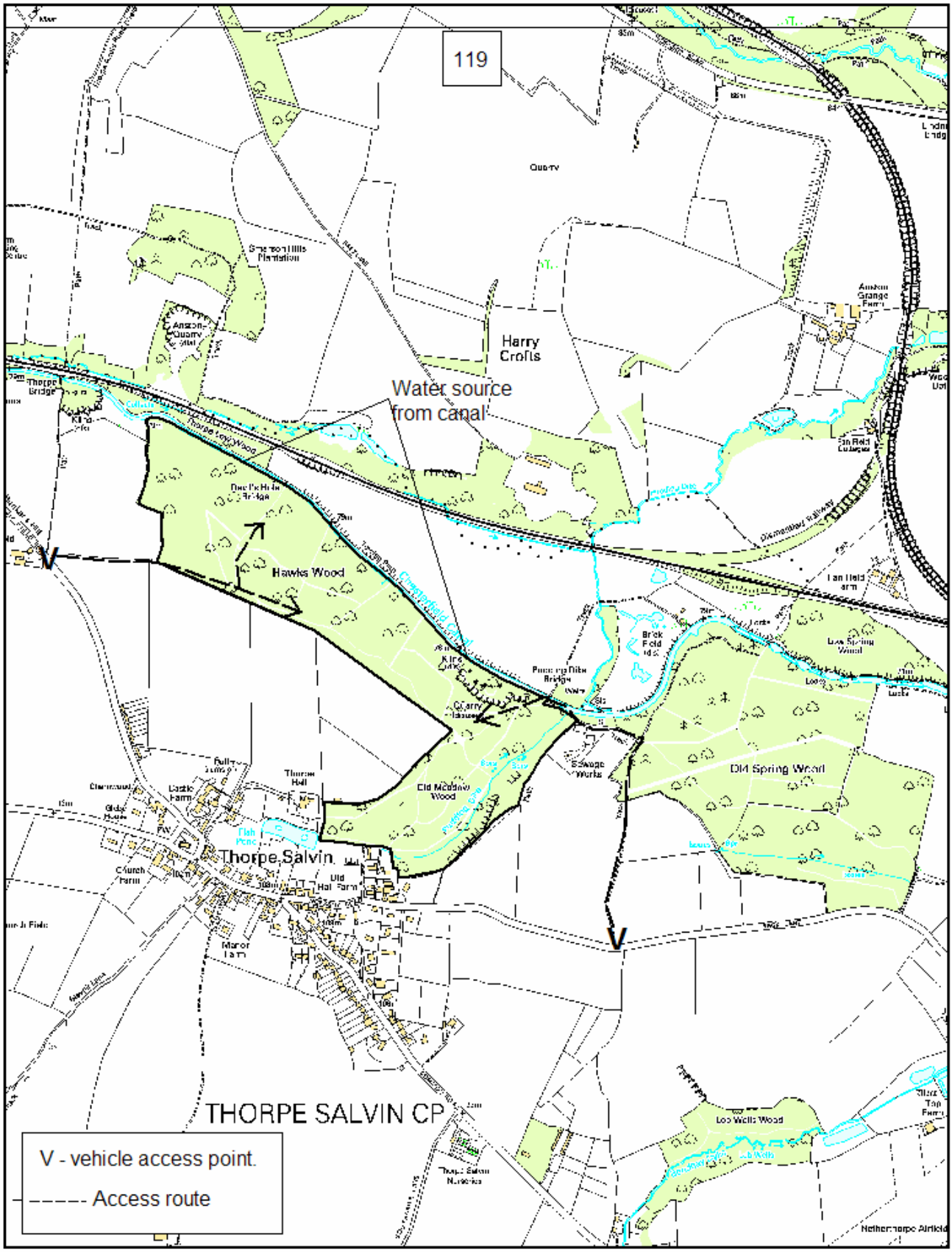


Figure 2.3 Fire Plan for Hawks Wood, Old Meadow Wood and Thorpe Low Wood

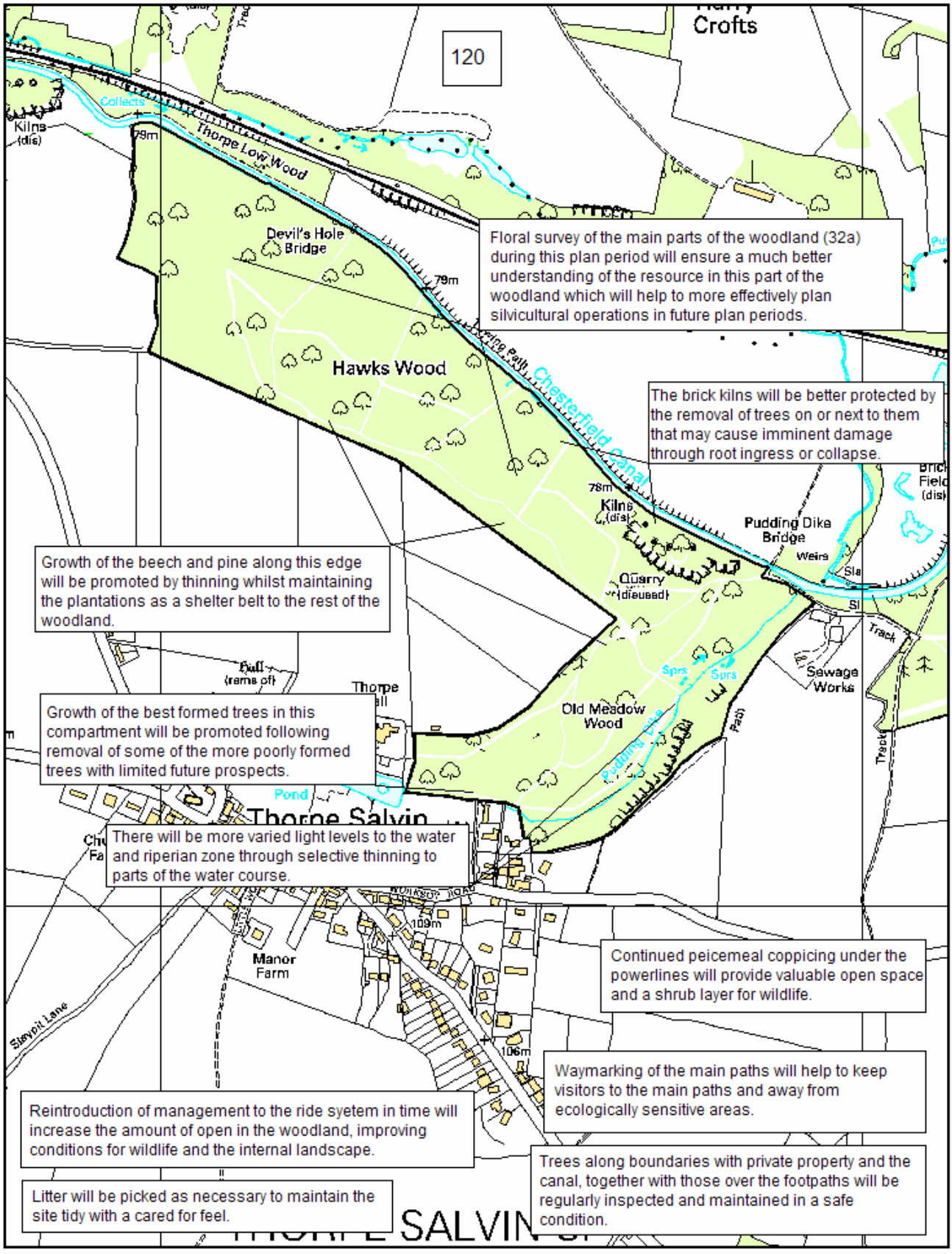


Figure 2.4 Desired end product

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	**Meeting:**	**Cabinet Member for Streetpride**
2.	**Date:**	**15 February 2010**
3.	**Title:**	**Bulky Items and Special Collections: Price Review 2010/11**
4.	**Programme Area:**	**Environment and Development Services**

5. Summary

5.1 This report outlines the prices to be charged to customers for the collection and disposal of bulky items and special collections from households with effect from 1st. April 2010.

6. Recommendations

6.1 CABINET MEMBER FOR STREETPRIDE IS REQUESTED TO APPROVE:

A). THE HOLDING OF PRICES CHARGED FOR THE STANDARD COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF BULKY ITEMS FROM HOUSEHOLDS IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/11 AT THE 2006/07 LEVEL.

B). THE PROPOSED PRICE CHANGES FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION FROM 1ST APRIL 2010.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 The Council has a statutory duty to collect household waste and if requested by the occupier of a premise to do so, may make a reasonable charge for the collection of bulky items. This price review takes account of the costs to be incurred by the Council during the review period, including the effect of inflation and the Government's announced increase in Landfill Tax by a further £8 per tonne to £48 per tonne.

7.2 In the 2006/07 price settlement, the 50% price subsidy previously given was removed and customers were asked, for the first time, to pay the full cost of standard collections. The removal of the subsidy was in consideration of meeting the corporate budget requirements for 2006/07**.**

7.3 The removal of the 50% price subsidy resulted in a reduced demand for the service during 2006/07 which has continued through subsequent years. The number of payments received for the collection of bulky items of household waste continues to be around 25% below the level prior to the removal of the 50% price subsidy.

7.4 In setting our prices for 2010/11 it is important that we do not further suppress demand for the service.

7.5 All "white goods" and "cathode ray tubes (CRT's)", collected on the service (including fridges, cookers, televisions and computer monitors) are segregated and taken to our Household Waste Recycling Centres for processing and recycling

7.6 The full implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations on 1 July 2007 has increased the number of items which can no longer be sent to landfill. The requirement to segregate more waste adds to collection costs, but the implementation of the WEEE Directive and the "producer pays" principle reduces our processing costs. All our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) are now registered as Designated Collection Facilities (DCF's) for WEEE. An agreement has been made with a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) which now meets the processing costs for fridges and televisions previously paid for by the Council.

7.7 The savings accrued on processing WEEE allows the additional costs incurred through extra segregation of items, the Landfill Tax Escalator and general inflation to be absorbed for standard collections of household bulky waste. **It is, therefore, proposed that the price charged to the customer for the standard collection of a bulky items of household waste is again held at 2006/07 levels.** Full details of these charges are included in Appendix 1.

7.8 The WEEE savings do not extend to Special Collections (DIY waste, House Clearances, etc.). Inflation and Landfill Tax increases in the subsequent years means it is no longer financially viable to continue to hold these prices at the

2006/07 level. **It is, therefore, proposed that the price charged to the customer for Special Collections be increased by 10% with effect from 1 April 2010.** Full details of these charges are included in Appendix 1.

7.9 It is recognised that specific members of our community may still find the charges difficult to bear. Therefore, a discounted price will continue to be offered to Rothercard holders at 50% of the normal rate.

8. Finance

8.1 The revised charges made to customers are intended to continue to meet the full costs incurred by the Council in providing the service.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

9.1 The list of waste items requiring separate collection is likely to increase in the future. The Bulky Items Collection Service provides the opportunity to segregate such waste items at source and contribute towards achieving our targets for landfill avoidance.

9.2 Demand for the Bulky Items Collection Service is price sensitive. A too high charge for the service may lead to some individuals considering alternative ways of dealing with their bulky items of waste, which at worst, may include illegal methods of disposal. Such illegal methods may include fly tipping. An increase in the incidence of fly tipping would undermine our aim to work with the community to maintain and improve the street scene to a standard which promotes civic pride and community responsibility.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

10.1 The Bulky Items Collection Service provides a convenient means by which householders without their own transport (and not able to access our Household Waste Recycling Centres) are able to dispose of their bulky items of waste. A discounted price is offered through Rothercard to assist those with less resource. This follows the Corporate Cross Cutting Theme of “Fairness” by providing open and accessible services.

10.2 The collection of bulky items contributes towards providing clean, green and well maintained neighbourhoods and is complementary to the Corporate Priority Theme “Rotherham Safe”.

10.3 All “white goods” and “cathode ray tubes (CRT’s)”, collected on the service (including fridges, cookers, televisions and computer monitors) are segregated and taken to our Household Waste Recycling Centres for processing and recycling. This reduces input to landfill, recycles more and is a positive development in achieving sustainable methods of waste management.

10.4 All household items collected and segregated for recycling count towards our recycling targets and contribute towards increasing our rating for *BVPI 82a "Percentage of Household Waste Recycled."*

11.1 APPENDIX 1 – Proposed Scale of Charges for Bulky Items and Special Collections of Household Waste – 2010/11

11.2 APPENDIX 2 – Bulky Items Collection Service – Benchmarking Information.

Contact Name : Belinda Travis, Waste Collection Manager, Telephone Ext. 3049, e-mail: belinda.travis@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL **APPENDIX 1**
Environment and Development Services
Waste Management
COLLECTION OF BULKY ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE
Proposed charges to be effective from 1st. April, 2010

CATEGORY	TYPICAL ITEMS INCLUDE			PROPOSED CHARGE	PREVIOUS CHARGE
Household furniture & Domestic appliances *STANDARD COLLECTION*	Wardrobe Chair Table Bed 3 Piece Suite	Fridge / Freezer Cooker Washing Machine Fire Television	Carpet Underfelt Vacuum Cleaner	£20 per order (up to 3 items) £10 per order (up to 3 items) for Rothercard holders thereafter an additional £15 for each further 3 items up to a maximum of nine items	£20 per order (up to 3 items) £10 per order (up to 3 items) for Rothercard Holders. thereafter an addit'l £15 for each further 3 items up to a maximum of 9 items
Garden / Recreational Equipment *STANDARD COLLECTION*	Lawnmower Bicycle Children's Slide Children's Swing	Pram Wheel Barrow	Garden Furniture	£20 per order (up to 3 items) £10 per order (up to 3 items) for Rothercard holders thereafter an additional £15 for each further 3 items up to a maximum of nine items	£20 per order (up to 3 items) £10 per order (up to 3 items) for Rothercard Holders. thereafter an addit'l £15 for each further 3 items up to a maximum of 9 items
D.I.Y. Items	Bath Wash Basin Sink Unit	Door Toilet	Window Frame Boiler	£36.30 per order (up to 3 items) thereafter an additional £25 for each further 3 items up to a maximum of nine items	£33 per order (up to 3 items) thereafter an addit'l £25 for each further 3 items up to a maximum of 9 items
Plastic Sacks	Excluding Soil, Rubble, etc.			£36.30 per order (up to 10 sacks maximum)	£33 per order (up to 10 sacks maximum)
House Clearances (ten items or above)	Removal of items stored neatly outside the property			£165 per order	£150 per order
Buildings, Building Materials (for asbestos, a licensed asbestos removal company should be used)	Sheds Garden Waste Fencing Fall Pipe	Garages Bricks Fireplace	Rubble Timber Guttering	To be inspected and priced individually	To be inspected and priced individually

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL **APPENDIX 2**
Environment and Development Services

Bulky items & Special Collections - Price Review 2010/2011

Comparison with neighbouring Local Authorities

Local Authority	Standard Collection (based on up to three items unless otherwise stated)	Based upon Financial Year:
Sheffield (free for Council tenants)	£36.65	2009/2010
Bassetlaw	£21.53	2009/2010
Rotherham (proposed)	£20.00	2010/2011(proposed)
Doncaster (up to 8 items)	£21.00	2009/2010
Barnsley (4 items)	£10.00	2009/2010

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	**Meeting:**	**Cabinet Member for Streetpride**
2.	**Date:**	**15 February 2010**
3.	**Title:**	**Clinical Waste Collection – Internal Customers: Price Review 2010/11**
4.	**Programme Area:**	**Environment and Development Services**

5. Summary

5.1 This report presents the proposed fees and charges for the Collection of Clinical Waste from other Council Directorates and Departments.

6. Recommendations

6.1 CABINET MEMBER FOR STREETPRIDE IS REQUESTED TO APPROVE:

A). THE PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR IMPLEMENTATION FROM 1ST APRIL 2010

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Our commercial clinical waste collection service for local business ceased in 2007/08, the Council's costs of providing the service made it no longer viable to continue in competition from specialist healthcare waste collection companies in the private sector. It was decided to concentrate our resources towards meeting our statutory duty to provide a Clinical Waste Collection Service to the increasing number of householders receiving healthcare at home and also continue to offer internal customers with the choice of either using our service or one in the private sector.

7.2 The prices charged to other Council Directorates and Departments (including schools, day centres, etc.) for the Collection of Clinical Waste have been reviewed to take account of the increasing cost of treating and disposing of clinical waste. During the previous year our provider for Hazardous Clinical Waste treatment has increased its charges from £650 per tonne to £666 per tonne. We have no alternative but to carry on with the current provider for Hazardous Clinical Waste treatment as they hold a virtual monopoly within the local area.

8. Finance

8.1 The proposed fees and charges for the service provided to internal customers are intended to fully recover all operational, treatment and disposal costs.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

9.1 The level of fees and charges set has a direct implication on both existing and new internal customers. Competition from the private sector may lead to some internal customers deciding to use private healthcare collection companies.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

10.1 The service provided contributes towards the themes and priorities of "Rotherham Safe" and the crosscutting "Sustainable Development" theme.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

11.1 APPENDIX 1 – Proposed Scale of Charges for Commercial Clinical Waste Collection from other Council Directorates and Departments – 2010/11

Contact Name: Belinda Travis Waste Collection Manager Telephone Ext. 3049,
E-mail: belinda.travis@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Environment and Development Services

Clinical Waste Collection

Price Review 2010/2011

Collection Charge (applied per premise per occasion)

Based on Refuse Collection Contract Day Works Schedule

					Proposed 2010/11 Price
Item 58	Driver Non - LGV	£	11.34	per hour	
Item 81	Light Van	£	16.21	per hour	
		£	27.55	per hour	
Allow 8 minutes per collection - travel to/from location		**£**	**3.67**		**£ 3.67**

Provision of Container

	Purchase		Store (13%)		Total		
Clinical Waste Sacks	£	0.13	£	0.02	**£**	**0.15**	**£0.16**
Sharps Container (0.645 litre) - small	£	0.65	£	0.08	**£**	**0.73**	**£ 2.26**
Sharps Container (1.630 litre) - medium	£	1.51	£	0.20	**£**	**1.71**	**£ 2.83**
Sharps Container (6.000 litre) - large	£	5.11	£	0.66	**£**	**5.77**	**£ 5.77**

Disposal of Waste

	2009/10 level		previous disp/tonne		SRCL disp/tonne		2007/08 level	
Clinical Waste Sacks	£	3.95	£	650	£	666	**£**	**4.05**	**£ 4.05**
Sharps Container (0.645 litre) - small	£	4.76	£	650	£	666	**£**	**4.88**	**£ 4.88**
Sharps Container (1.630 litre) - medium	£	11.99	£	650	£	666	**£**	**12.29**	**£ 12.29**
Sharps Container (6.000 litre) - large	£	16.39	£	650	£	666	**£**	**16.79**	**£ 16.79**

Hazardous Waste Consignment Notes

Between Producer - RMBC	£	-	
Between RMBC - White Rose	£	16.00	
	£	16.00	
Administration @20%	£	3.20	
	£	**19.20**	**£ 19.20**

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL **APPENDIX 1**
Environment and Development Services

Proposed Scale of Charges for Commercial Waste Collection from Other Council Directorates and Departments - 2010/11

Item	Unit	Proposed Charge	Previous Charge
Collection Charge	per occasion	£ 3.67	£ 3.61
Provision of Container			
Clinical Waste Sack	per container	£ 0.16	£ 0.16
Sharps Container (0.645 litre) - Small	per container	£ 2.26	£ 2.26
Sharps Container (1.630 litre) - Medium	per container	£ 2.83	£ 2.83
Sharps Container (6.000 litre) - Large	per container	£ 5.77	£ 5.77
Disposal of Waste			
Clinical Waste Sack	per container	£ 4.05	£ 3.95
Sharps Container (0.645 litre) - Small	per container	£ 4.88	£ 4.76
Sharps Container (1.630 litre) - Medium	per container	£ 12.29	£ 11.99
Sharps Container (6.000 litre) - Large	per container	£ 16.79	£ 16.39
Hazardous Waste Consignment Notes	per collection	£ 19.20	£ 18.70

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	**Meeting:**	**Cabinet Member for Streetpride**
2.	**Date:**	**15 February 2010**
3.	**Title:**	**Commercial Waste Collection: Price Review 2010/11**
4.	**Programme Area:**	**Environment and Development Services**

5. Summary

This report outlines the prices to be charged to customers for the collection and disposal of commercial waste with effect from 1st. April 2010

6. Recommendations

6.1 CABINET MEMBER FOR STREETPRIDE IS REQUESTED TO APPROVE:

A). THE PROPOSED PRICE CHANGES FOR IMPLEMENTATION FROM 1ST APRIL 2010.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Consideration has to be given to recovering our actual costs of operating the service whilst continuing to provide as wide a range of services as possible to meet customer requirements and comply with the duty imposed upon the Council by legislation.

7.2 **It is proposed to increase the scale of charges for Commercial Waste Collection by 6% overall**.(as shown in Appendix 1), This increase accommodates cost of living rises and incorporates the additional waste disposal costs resulting from the Government's further £8 per tonne on Landfill Tax, with effect from 1st. April 2010. The new prices also reflect the Government's decision to return the standard rate of VAT back to 17.5%

7.3 All waste currently collected on this service is taken to landfill for disposal. However, we are keen to promote commercial waste recycling and will continue to offer advice to local businesses on options for minimising their waste through recycling using other specialist organisations operating in the area. It is not feasible at the moment for our Waste Collection Operations Team to provide separate collections of other materials for recycling due to the complexity of collection arrangements and the prohibitive cost of acquiring specialist vehicles and equipment.

7.4 Each year a minority of customers fail to pay their accounts on time. This leads us to suspending collections and eventually terminating their agreement. At this stage the customer sometimes pays their bill and requests the agreement be reinstated. This incurs the Council with extra costs through additional administrative time and bin collection and delivery charges. **To persuade customers to pay on time and to cover our additional costs if we are asked to reinstate previously terminated agreements for non payment we intend to continue to levy a reinstatement fee:**

£37.00 for agreements up to 360 litre wheeled bins (previously £34.00)
£88.00 for agreements above 360 litre wheeled bins (previously £84.00)

The customer will have to pay this reinstatement fee and any outstanding debt in full before the agreement is restarted.

7.5 **It is proposed that the prices charged for the collection of waste from charities is increased by 2%.** The proposed revised scale of charges for the collection of waste from charities is shown in Appendix 2. These charges are in accordance with the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 which allow the Council to raise a charge for the collection of charity waste but not for its disposal.

8. Finance

8.1 The aim is to accommodate cost of living rises and the Government's further £8 per tonne on Landfill Tax; and to take account of the Government's standard rate of VAT.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

9.1 Demand for the Commercial Waste Collection Service is price sensitive. Therefore, any increase in price significantly above the rate of inflation will seriously affect demand for the service and risk losing business to competitors.

9.2 The element of price increase due to the higher rate of Landfill Tax imposed by the Government will be incurred by all our competitors who use landfill as a means of disposal.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

10.1 The Commercial Waste Collection Service is available to all businesses within our community.

10.2 The provision of advice on commercial waste recycling and waste minimisation opportunities is focussed upon reducing our input to landfill. This directs the service towards achieving the strategic objective to deliver a long term approach to waste and recycling to minimise the need for waste disposal, which in turn contributes to the delivery of the Corporate Priority "Rotherham Safe".

10.3 Statutory recycling targets are based upon household waste only and therefore, the recycling of commercial waste does not count towards these targets. However, any commercial waste that is not sent to landfill will contribute towards achieving our targets under the Waste Emissions Trading Bill for diverting biodegradable waste away from landfill.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

11.1 The Commercial Waste Collection Service operates in the open market with competition from private sector companies.

11.2 APPENDIX 1 – Proposed Scale of Charges for Commercial Waste Collection –2010/11

11.3 APPENDIX 2 – Proposed Scale of Charges for Charitable Waste Collection – 2010/11

11.4 APPENDIX 3 – Commercial Waste Collection Service – Benchmarking information.

Contact Name : Belinda Travis, Waste Collection Manager, Telephone Ext. 3049, e-mail: belinda.travis@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL **APPENDIX 1**

Environment and Development Services

Waste Management

COMMERCIAL WASTE COLLECTION

PROPOSED SCALE OF CHARGES WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST APRIL 2010

Commercial Waste Collection Contract Type	*Container Size (Litres)*		*Collection Point*	*Charge including Hire excluding V.A.T.*	*V.A.T. @ 17.5%*	*Proposed Total Annual Charge including Hire including V.A.T.*	*Previous Total Annual Charge including Hire including V.A.T.*	% Change	*2009/10 Charge including Hire excluding V.A.T.*
*** small bin or	90		Premise/Bin Store	£176.36	£30.86	£207.23	£195.50	6.00%	£166.38
*** sack equiv.	90	@Bulk site	Premise/Bin Store	£104.02	£18.20	£122.22	£115.30	6.00%	£98.13
240A	240	First Bin	Kerbside	£259.95	£45.49	£305.45	£288.16	6.00%	£245.24
240A	240	Additional Bin	Kerbside	£174.45	£30.53	£204.98	£193.38	6.00%	£164.58
240B	240	First Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£298.89	£52.31	£351.19	£331.31	6.00%	£281.97
240B	240	Additional Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£213.47	£37.36	£250.83	£236.63	6.00%	£201.39
360A	360	First Bin	Kerbside	£308.27	£53.95	£362.22	£341.71	6.00%	£290.82
360A	360	Additional Bin	Kerbside	£222.68	£38.97	£261.65	£246.84	6.00%	£210.08
360B	360	First Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£347.00	£60.73	£407.73	£384.65	6.00%	£327.36
360B	360	Additional Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£261.75	£45.81	£307.55	£290.14	6.00%	£246.93
660	660	First Bin	Premise/Bin Store or kerbside	£679.34	£118.89	£798.23	£753.04	6.00%	£640.89
660	660	Additional Bin	Premise/Bin Store or kerbside	£594.06	£103.96	£698.02	£658.50	6.00%	£560.43
1100	1100	First Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£773.67	£135.39	£909.07	£857.61	6.00%	£729.88
1100	1100	Additional Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£688.90	£120.56	£809.46	£763.64	6.00%	£649.91

VAT included @ 17.5%

****** Denotes container provided by the customer***

Any larger quantities of Commercial Waste will be charged per LOAD

Reinstatement Fees will apply for Agreements resumed after cancellation for non payment.

Commercial Waste accounts are payable in advance, following receipt of an invoice.

All charges are subject to the standard rate of V.A.T.

All charges include Landfill Tax.

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Appendix 2

Environment and Development Services

Waste Management

CHARITABLE WASTE COLLECTION

PROPOSED SCALE OF CHARGES WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST APRIL 2010

Commercial Waste Collection Contract Type	*Container Size (Litres)*		*Collection Point*	*Charge including Hire excluding V.A.T.*	*V.A.T. @ 17.5%*	*Proposed Total Annual Charge including Hire including V.A.T.*	*Previous Total Annual Charge including Hire including V.A.T.*	% Change	*2009/10 Charge including Hire excluding V.A.T.*
*** small bin or	90		Premise/Bin Store	£123.05	£21.53	£144.59	£141.75	2.00%	£120.64
*** sack equiv.	90	@Bulk site	Premise/Bin Store	£56.81	£9.94	£66.76	£65.45	2.00%	£55.70
240A	240	First Bin	Kerbside	£131.03	£22.93	£153.96	£150.94	2.00%	£128.46
240A	240	Additional Bin	Kerbside	£52.75	£9.23	£61.99	£60.77	2.00%	£51.72
240B	240	First Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£166.67	£29.17	£195.83	£192.00	2.00%	£163.40
240B	240	Additional Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£88.49	£15.48	£103.97	£101.93	2.00%	£86.75
360A	360	First Bin	Kerbside	£145.10	£25.39	£170.49	£167.14	2.00%	£142.25
360A	360	Additional Bin	Kerbside	£66.75	£11.68	£78.43	£76.89	2.00%	£65.44
360B	360	First Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£180.54	£31.59	£212.13	£207.97	2.00%	£177.00
360B	360	Additional Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£102.51	£17.94	£120.45	£118.09	2.00%	£100.50
660	660	First Bin	Premise/Bin Store or kerbside	£377.82	£66.12	£443.94	£435.23	2.00%	£370.41
660	660	Additional Bin	Premise/Bin Store or kerbside	£299.76	£52.46	£352.22	£345.31	2.00%	£293.88
1100	1100	First Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£379.19	£66.36	£445.54	£436.81	2.00%	£371.75
1100	1100	Additional Bin	Premise/Bin Store	£301.60	£52.78	£354.38	£347.44	2.00%	£295.69

VAT included @ 17.5%

****** Denotes container provided by the customer***

Any larger quantities of Charitable Waste will be charged per LOAD

Reinstatement Fees will apply for Agreements resumed after cancellation for non payment.

Charitable Waste accounts are payable in advance, following receipt of an invoice.

All charges are subject to the standard rate of V.A.T.

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Waste Management
COMMERCIAL WASTE COLLECTION PRICE REVIEW 2010/11

Base cost of service			**2009/10 Budget**	**Inflation Provision**	**LT Escalator per tonne**	**Cost of Inflation/LT**	**Overall % Increase**	**Round to:**	
			£			**£**			
Employees			251,120	1.0%		2,511			A two-year cap from 2011 of 1% on all public sector pay settlements (Treasury Pledge)
Transport			287,200	2.5%		7,180			RPI All Items @ December 2009 equals 2.4%
Supplies & Services			62,300	2.5%		1,558			
Collection Total			**600,620**			**11,249**	**1.873%**	**2.0%**	
	tonnes	***rate***							
Waste Disposal	5060	£ 21.77	110,156	2.5%		2,754			RPI All Items @ December 2009 equals 2.4%
Landfill Tax		£ 40.00	202,400		£ 8.00	40,480			LT Escalator due 1st April 2010
Disposal Total			**312,556**			**43,234**	**13.832%**	**14.0%**	
Service Total			**913,176**			**54,483**	**5.966%**	**6.0%**	

Commercial Customers	3218
Non-Commercial (Schools/Charities)	1842
	5060

Appendix 3

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

COMMERCIAL WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE – BENCHMARKING

Please find detailed below details of the prices levied by other South and West Yorkshire Council's for the collection and disposal of Commercial Waste from 240 litre and 1100 litre containers. **All prices are quoted at the 2009/10 level** to allow direct comparison.

AUTHORITY	240 litre (per annum)	1100 litre (per annum)
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (2009/10 price)	£137.28	£522.64
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (First Bin)(2009/10 price)	£259.95	£773.67
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Additional Bin at same location) (2009/10 price)	£174.45	£668.90
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (2009/10 price)	£133.24	£428.28
Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council (2009/10 price)	£183.00	£584.00
Bradford City Council (2009/10 price)	£163.28	£555.36
Chesterfield (2010/11price)	£224.10	£629.40

Prices are exclusive of VAT