

Woodland Management Plan

(WMP)

NAME OF SITE:	Huyton
PROJECT No:	11897
CLIENT NAME:	Davos Property Developments Ltd
SPECIALIST:	Amenity Tree Care Ltd
DATE PREPARED:	29.02.2024
PREPARED BY:	SB
REVIEWED BY:	SB
DATE REVIEWED:	11.02.2025
VERSION CONTROL:	V2

Contents

1.0	Introduction and instructions.....	4
2.0	Site: location and descriptions	4
3.0	Woodland Survey – Species, Habitat, Landscape.....	5-6
4.0	Proposed Developments	6
5.0	Stakeholder engagement and threats to woodland protection	6-8
6.0	Outline Woodland Management; aims and objectives	8-11
7.0	Outline Woodland Management Plan; management recommendations ..	11-12
8.0	Funding	13
9.0	Conclusions	13

Woodland Management Plan

Prepared by ATC Ltd on behalf of Davos Property

Contact details for Owner/Occupier	Contact details for ATC Ltd	
Grwp Llandrillo Menai	Mr Simon Brain, Willow Hill Cottage, School Lane, Burwardsley, Chester, CH3 9NX. 01829 770075	
Date Woodland visited: 28.02.2024	Weather Conditions: Blustery sunshine	
Address of Wood	Approx Grid Reference	Revision status
Cronton Rd	SJ 45554 89430	Version 1
Administrative Boundary	Total Area of woodland (app)	Area Soil type
Knowsley	Approx 1.2 hectares	Soilscape 18: Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils
Woodland Management Plan Period	Review dates	Public Access
Thirty years upon commencement of development	(2, 5 and 10 year intervals prescriptive).	Yes
Site Designations/Constraints TPO applies		
European Protected Species All EPS and priority 1 species require confirmation of absence or presence and impact / mitigation details if required before any tree works can commence.		

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Instruction

This preliminary Woodland Management Plan (WMP) has been prepared for Davos Property Developments Ltd to support the management and development of the woodland areas at the Huyton site. My name is Simon Brain; I have thirty years professional experience as an arboricultural and woodland consultant and have attained Chartered status with the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

2.0 Site location and description

2.1 Location

The site is located on the southerly, eastern and northern boundary of the development application site and is adjacent to Cronton road. The appended habitat plan details the position of the woodland (shown as semi natural woodland and scrub)

2.2 Descriptions

The study area consists of approximately 1.2 hectares of semi natural broadleaf woodland with a scrub edge in the central area of the northern boundary of the woodland. The site consists generally of an even aged high canopy tree species dominated by Sycamore in the eastern areas of the woodland and a planted linear strip to the southern site boundary extending to the junction with Wilson Rd.. Oak, Sycamore and Ash are also present in the high canopy and in addition; Lime, Horse Chestnut, and Thorn are all present but in smaller numbers. Natural regeneration occurs in the central areas, occasional *Ilex aquafolium* (Holly) and *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) are present. There are several 'honorary' native species such as *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore) that have developed in the high canopy. A herb / ground vegetation layer is present but it is dominated by ivy.

3.0 Woodland Survey – Species, Habitat, Landscape

3.1 Species

Those tree species listed below have been identified in the woodland.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Code	Group (Broadleaf, Conifer)
Alder	<i>Alnus</i> spp	AR	B
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	AH	B
Austrian pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i> var <i>nigra</i>	AUP	C
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	BE	B
Birch (downy/silver)	<i>Betula pubescens/pendula</i>	BI	B
Bird cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	BCH	B
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	PSP	B
Common alder	<i>Alnus gultinosa</i>	CAR	B
Common lime	<i>Tilia europaea</i>	CLI	B
Elm	<i>Ulmus</i> spp	EM	B
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	FM	B
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	GWL	B
Hawthorn species	<i>Crataegus</i> spp	HAW	B
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	HAZ	B
Holly species	<i>Ilex</i> spp	HOL	B
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	HCH	B
Lime	<i>Tilia</i> spp	LI	B
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	NOM	B
Pedunculate/common oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	POK	B
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	ROW	B
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	SP	C
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	SBI	B
Sweet chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	SC	B
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	SY	B
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	WHI	B
Wild cherry/gean	<i>Prunus avium</i>	WCH	B

3.2 Habitat

The following habitat types are present: woodland, and scrub. As a result of such habitat, we anticipate potential for European Protected Species to be present. This may include bats, nesting birds, overwintering amphibian/reptile. Priority species such as Badger may also be present at the time of woodland works.

A baseline ecological survey will be required before any woodland management works can be implemented to ascertain the extent of European Protected

Species and or Priority species. In addition, this can identify aims and objectives that shall guide the implementation of management plans.

Species and Habitat - Significance

All these habitats contribute to the current level of species abundance and richness across the site. Each will contribute to niche habits of plants and animals associated with the woodland such as land mammal's connection to the woodland itself and bird and bat species also being attracted by the habitat diversity.

4.0 Proposed development

4.1 Description

The client is proposing the partial demolition, reconfiguration and refurbishment of the existing floorspace of site in Wilson Road, Tarbock Green, Huyton requiring refurbishment of the existing buildings.

5.0 Stakeholder engagement and woodland protection

5.1 Stakeholder

The stakeholders shall implement the WMP and fund the improvements.

5.2 Woodland protection - Threats to the Woodland

Plant Health

The only notable tree disease present in the woodlands is Ash dieback, which is minor as the extent of ash is limited to smaller trees and smaller amounts of trees. This is a disease that is defoliating several Ash trees across the UK and specific management of dying ash trees is required over the management plan length. In addition, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *aesculi*, is also present even though the number of *Aesculus hippocastanum* trees present in the study area is very limited.

Mammal predation, particularly Grey Squirrels is however a significant threat to the woodland and the extent of natural regeneration. Planting is therefore required for the future sustainability of the woodland. Tree damage from

predation is present throughout the woodland and a control programme is preferred to maintain the viability of introduced woodland trees and plants. A control programme of Grey Squirrels needs to consider a ratio of <5 per Ha, prior to April which is maintained by trapping or poisoning in baited cages throughout the active period when damage is caused (Apr-Jul).

Detrimental environmental change caused by pollution; flooding / soil erosion is considered unlikely. There was no evidence of significant anti-social behaviour across the site although litter requires management.

Invasive species have been found to be absent from site.

Climate change has proven to very recently challenged traditional forest management techniques largely due to the identification of an extensive list of new tree disease and pest outbreaks in the UK (FC England Managing Risk Fig 9)

Practical advice to combat climate change in this woodland shall consist of:

- Planting a wider range of species for future tolerance of climate change but also to reduce a reliance what is a small species range in the UK (72% of hardwood forest are reliant on five species FC Managing Risk 2014)
- Tree species selection capable of resilience based on future climatic predictions

6.0 Outline Woodland Management Plans

6.1 Aims and Objectives.

The following outline objectives shall apply:

- To engage the landowners in active woodland management
- Improvement of species abundance and species richness within those areas of semi natural woodland
- Accounting for the needs of species associated (or potentially associated) with the woodland that require a mosaic of habitats
- Maintenance of a woodland that is suitably safe for pedestrian access
- Maximise woodland structure by selective intervention

The following specific aims shall apply:

- Maintenance of high canopy
- Arboricultural management for individual trees to create niche habitat
- Control of undesirably invasive species throughout the site, should they appear through monitoring
- Development and protection of veteran trees
- Tree planting using species to create woodland structure throughout the site
- Progressively re-structuring of the even aged areas to achieve an improved range of age classes
- Re-structuring by coupe felling, this shall apply to selected areas of low-quality natural regeneration.
- Establish monitoring intervals to allow repeatable data gathering to allow analysis for change in local distribution of species
- Maintain stakeholder partnership programme

The techniques by which these specific aims shall be delivered are:

- Natural regeneration of Sycamore predominately dominates the woodland and management will seek to increase tree species richness by planting mixed species trees and thinning areas of more Sycamore coverage.
- Veteran trees are not present in the woodland but selective larger trees shall undergo individual management aimed at improving the longevity of these trees and their contribution to biodiversity. Some exhibit arboricultural defects such as deadwood, cavity, decay etc and because of non-intervention exhibit subsiding limbs, deadwood and broken parts that require removal / management for safety. All such works require consultation with ecologists and cannot be undertaken until formal permission from the ecologist has been approved. The installation of bird and bat boxes is provided on veteran trees.
- Woodland structure shall be reinforced and improved by installing suitable plants that form an intermediate layer in the woodlands structure such as *Sorbus*, *Corylus* and *Crataegus*.
- The scrub area shall be left to develop with minimal intervention. The review dates for the woodland management plans are year 4 and year 8 following implementation of the WMP.
- A stakeholder partnership with landowner is envisaged in the form of fiscal assistance during the implementation of aspects of the works, for example tree planting.

7.0 Outline Woodland Management Plans

7.1 Outline Management Strategy.

Cronton Road Woodlands – Woodland work programme

Activity, scope and Specification	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	30
Progressive re-structuring of honorary native species such as Sycamore to create wider glade in nominated areas. This shall consist of a 10% thinning ratio of standing trees. Halo thinning for conifer, if present.		Yes			Yes 10%		Yes 10%		Yes 10%
Tree planting shall be undertaken as follows: In areas dominated by Sycamore intermediate layer species shall be introduced at approximate 2m intervals with adequate rabbit and stem protection and Beech and Oak will be planted at 5m intervals throughout the Woodland. Native conifer shall be planted throughout and intermediate layer planting of hazel, mountain ash and thorn The planted areas shall be inspected and 'beaten up' / failed trees replaced		Yes Yes		Yes (monitor and replant) Yes (monitor and replant)		Yes (monitor and replant) Yes (monitor and replant)		Yes (monitor and replant) Yes (monitor and replant)	
Development of veteran trees Several examples of trees that are likely to be lost over the next twenty years due to their condition but if pruned the deadwood resource could be extended significantly. Where potential veteran trees can be identified halo thinning shall be undertaken around the tree very gradually and throughout the WMP		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (monitor)		Yes (monitor)	Yes (monitor)
Coupe felling. It is intended that several small areas (20m square) can be created by coupe felling a cluster of tree stems. Given the resultant development of ground vegetation.	Yes	Yes (monitor veg. types)			Yes (dep on monitoring result)		Yes (dep on monitoring result)		Yes (dep on monitoring result)

8.0 Funding

- 8.1 A management commitment would be established by the developer whom shall be solely responsible for the funding of the WMP for the lifetime of the development.

9.0 Conclusions

- 9.1 The woodland area is small. It is uneven aged semi natural broadleaf woodland dominated by honorary species such as Sycamore. It exhibits poor levels of natural regeneration, scrub, and field layers. It has attained a high conservation value status by virtue of size, species, and habitat range as well as for its significant wider amenity value in the landscape.
- 9.2 As a result of the existing high levels of biodiversity it is generally accepted that minimal intervention will be used as a management strategy. Such minimal intervention is aimed at increasing the overall biodiversity of the woodland through simple woodland management techniques as expressed in section 6.

Appendix 1 – Habitat plan showing woodland and scrub

PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP

KEY

A.1.1.1 Semi Natural woodland

A.2. Scrub

A.3.1 Broadleaf scattered trees

J2 Amenity grassland

J4 Introduced shrub

J5 Building

J5 Hard standing urban sealed surface

①

Target Notes. Refer to Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Client:		
QUOD		
Project:		
Sovereign Phs 2		
Detail:		
Phase One Habitat Map		
Drawn By:	Date:	Scale:
SB	10.10.2023	NTS
Drg No:		Revision:
TR-01		V1

The map displays a large, irregularly shaped site. A central area is filled with dark grey, representing buildings (J5). Surrounding this central area are various other zones: a large green area on the left and bottom-left, representing semi-natural woodland (A.1.1.1); a yellow area on the left and bottom, representing amenity grassland (J2); and a light grey area on the right, representing hard standing urban sealed surfaces (J5). A red line outlines a specific boundary within the site. Numerous small green circles with a central dot are scattered throughout the site, particularly along the right and bottom edges, representing broadleaf scattered trees (A.3.1). The map also shows some smaller, hatched areas representing introduced shrubs (J4).