

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

The best way to get to know your wood is to ask a woodland specialist to visit and walk the woodland with you. The specialist can survey the woodland for you and help you identify your objectives. This can then lead to a management plan, which will suggest the most appropriate activities for your wood. A management plan can provide the following:

- Clear decision making to identify objectives
- Clear directive for prescriptions to meet those objectives
- All permissions and required stakeholder consultation including felling licences and European protected species survey reports identified in the plan.
- Manage the resource to improve the environmental performance of the farm - sustainable land management.
- Create revenue from marketing timber or use the resource to add value on the farm e.g. Fuelwood for Biomass or added value by milling timber for posts or cladding for example
- Maintain and improve the woodland in terms of economic return, private amenity, biodiversity and landscape.

At its most basic, a woodland management plan is a working document, which provides a central point to keep all of the paperwork associated with the management of a woodland, with information about the boundaries, features and woodland character. These are some of the points that should be discussed and incorporated into the plan:

- Vision and objectives – these should be specific to your site and realistic to the scale of woodland. Issues to think about are environmental, economic and amenity
- Brief description of all the woods under your control to include: Woodland type: e.g. ancient woodland, plantation; Soil type; woodland structure and existing open ground to include specific habitats e.g. peat, water courses or ponds.
- History of management. Look for any felling licences or report documents that are relevant to the woodland and ensure mapped boundaries are correct

The woodland specialist will be using a woodland management plan template to inform on survey results and list management proposals and work schedule.

Once completed, the cost of implementing the work program can be calculated and a projection of any timber revenue to be incurred to inform on the financial element of the project.



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