WHITE CLIFFS
COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP

SPINNEY WOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN

2021 – 2027

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1 Introduction

Spinney Wood is a small woodland of approximately 11.2ha adjacent to the village of Aylesham in the district of Dover in Kent. Approximately 5.6ha of the woodland is ancient woodland with additional areas of hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice, planted beech *Fagus sylvatica* and some planted conifers, predominantly black pine *Pinus nigra*. Past records of notable species include hazel dormice *Muscardinus avelanarius* and lady orchid *Orchis purpurea*. Past management has included coppicing with standards. As well as being home to wildlife, the wood is enjoyed by local people and visitors.

This management plan outlines the objectives, opportunities and constraints for the management of Spinney Wood for the six-year period from summer 2021 – summer 2027. A programme of monitoring and operational works is included to achieve each objective.

It is expected that this plan will form the basis for management and monitoring for the next six years. The plan is a working document and should be revised as necessary.

2 Vision

By 2027 Spinney Wood will have an established coppice rotation with woodland habitat in favourable condition and able to support notable species. The woodland will be accessible for visitors and provide ecosystem services for those living in the parish of Aylesham and beyond, with an established volunteer network helping to manage the woodland.

3 Site Information

Protection status	There are no statutory designations covering Spinney Wood. Approximately 5.6ha of the eastern side of the wood is designated ancient woodland. All trees within the woodland are covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).
Ownership & local planning authority	Spinney Wood is owned by Dover District Council and leased to Aylesham Parish Council. Dover District Council are also the LPA.
Site management	Managed on behalf of Aylesham Parish Council by White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (WCCP).
Area	11.2 ha
Location	Spinney Wood is located south of the village of Aylesham, immediately east of the B2046 and immediately west of Spinney Lane. Spinney Wood is within the district of Dover.
OS grid reference	TR225513 (*furthest SW point*) TR228519 (*furthest N point*).
Access	Spinney Wood is accessed on foot. There is a public bridleway which follows the north-eastern boundary of the site and links the B2046 to Spinney Lane. A gap within the fence at the southern corner allows further access from Spinney Lane. There is an entrance point with an information board at Wilcox Close and a path runs adjacent to Spinney Lane and links the south-eastern corner of the site to Cooting Road. There is a tree trail with six carved posts along it. Additional unmarked paths are present within the woodland.

Habitats	Deciduous woodland.
Geology	Chalk bedrock with free draining, lime rich loamy soil.
Funding	Aylesham Parish Council.

4 Site Description

4.1 Surrounding Habitats

Spinney Wood is bounded by roads to the west and south-east and the buildings of Aylesham industrial estate immediately north-east. Beyond this are Aylesham village to the north-east and arable fields in all other directions. The site is considered to be relatively well connected to the wider landscape with thick field hedgerows linking to other nearby woodland, the closest being Well Wood and Willow Wood approximately 370m south, Ackholt Wood approximately 500m south-east and Ileden and Oxenden Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) approximately 730m west.

4.2 Habitats on Site

4.2.1 Woodland

The majority of Spinney Wood is deciduous woodland and can be classified as Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat (see Figure 1 in Appendix 1 and Photograph 1 in Appendix 2). The eastern half comprises 5.6ha of ancient woodland (zone 1). The south-western end of the wood (zone 2) is dominated by beech with a more open area present at the south-western corner where grasses dominate the ground flora (see Photograph 2 in Appendix 2). Mature black pine and beech have been planted in this corner and likely limit the light levels resulting in a different understorey. It is also believed that this area was once an arable field before succession led to the present woodland habitat, which may further explain the variation in habitats. The western side of the wood (zone 3) comprises hazel coppice. European larch *Larix decidua* and black pine have also been planted across the site. Scarlet bonnet toadstool *Mycena adonis* and hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* have been associated with the conifer trees in the past.

The woodland can be separated into three zones of distinguished habitat structure (see Figure 1 in Appendix 1).

- Zone 1 comprises a canopy of ancient, semi-natural broadleaved woodland with beech, sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*, hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* and birch *Betula pendula*. The understorey is dominated by hazel and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and the ground flora includes dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.
- Zone 2 is secondary broadleaved woodland with an open canopy of beech and oak *Quercus robur*. The understorey is sparse with hazel, hawthorn, Norway maple *Acer platanoides* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. present, except in the far southern corner where wood meadow-grass *Poa nemoralis* and false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* dominate. The southern boundary contains Scot's pine along the roadside.
- Zone 3 is ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland. The woodland is old hazel coppice with a canopy of sweet chestnut, birch, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and beech and an understorey of elder *Sambucus nigra*, hazel and hawthorn. Ground flora includes

bramble, dog's mercury, ivy *Hedera helix* and bluebell. This zone was most recently coppiced in 2012.

The woodland has a long history of use and Zone 1 is designated as ancient woodland, the area having been continually wooded since before 1600 and with ancient woodland indicators present in the ground flora such as bluebell, wood anemone and yellow archangel. Traditional management of the woodland has included coppicing. Until the start of this management plan, the last area cut by coppicing was in zone 3 in 2012 (see Photograph 3 in Appendix 2). Elsewhere many of the trees had not been coppiced for some time. Prior to the start of this management plan, there were areas where wood has been coppiced more recently and it is presumed that this has been done by local people.

4.3 Site History

Spinney Wood was originally called Aylesham Wood and extended north to where the southern end of the village of Aylesham now sits. Historically the southern end of the wood was poor quality farmland which was abandoned and consequently succession led to woodland. Aylesham village was established in 1926 as a mining town with the northern part of Aylesham Wood cleared and the current woodland area, now called Spinney Wood, retained.

The woodland has a history of hazel, hornbeam and sweet chestnut coppice rotation with oak standards. It is thought that the beech and pine trees in Zone 2 were planted in the 1950's.

Before the start of this management plan, the last known coppice was carried out between 1998 and 2012 with four stands cut in Zone 3 and one in Zone 2. Additionally, at this time some safety works were carried out on some of the large trees across the site. It is also understood that the local community cut and remove timber from the wood.

4.4 Implications for Management

The following are factors which have been considered in the production of the management plan.

4.4.1 Public

Spinney Wood is a popular site for visitors, especially the residents of Aylesham with the woodland used for activities such as walking, cycling and outdoor play. It is important that the site remains a place for both people and wildlife and maintaining the balance for both is key. It is an important aim to raise people's awareness of the history, wildlife value and management of Spinney Wood.

It is understood that motorbikes are ridden in the woodland and that this can cause some conflict between users. There is also evidence of fire use.

4.4.2 Volunteers

Historically the local community have assisted with helping to manage Spinney Wood and there has been renewed interest, since the start of WCCP management. Opportunities for volunteering include reinstating voluntary wardens, who keep a watchful eye on the wood and report any issues to the ranger, and conservation volunteer task days, where local people

could join the ranger to assist with the practical management of the wood, including activities such as coppicing.

4.4.3 Site Access

The access to Spinney Wood is on foot via four different entrance points. It is possible to park one vehicle at the public footpath entrance on Spinney Lane (see Photograph 4 in Appendix 2). Volunteers and visitors will need to park on Cooting Road but it is possible for contractors to park a vehicle on site.

4.4.4 Tree Preservation Orders

There is a TPO in place for Spinney Wood meaning permission must be sought before works are carried out.

4.4.5 Protected Species

The following protected species have either been recorded at Spinney Wood or are thought likely to be present given the habitat. Survey and monitoring of these species should inform this management plan.

Hazel Dormice
A dormouse nest was found in 2011 within hazel coppice in zone 3 and the dormouse population should be assumed to still be present. Protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It is illegal to:

- damage or destroy a resting place or breeding site.
- deliberately or recklessly disturb an animal while it is in a structure or place of shelter or protection.
- block access to structures or places of shelter or protection.

Implications for timing and extent of coppicing and tree works. The prescriptions in this management plan should be followed to reduce disturbance and retain suitable habitat.

Bats
Trees of an age and type likely to support bat species are present in the wood. Bats are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (see above for restrictions). Implications for tree works - trees of an age and type likely to support bats should be identified and surveyed before felling.

Badgers
Protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. It is illegal to Intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy a badger sett or obstruct access to it and it is illegal to disturb a badger when it is occupying a sett. A visual check for badger setts should be made prior to any habitat works, especially during the badger breeding season (December – June). The location of any badger setts must remain confidential.

Wild Birds
Multiple species recorded historically with nesting habitat present. Protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is illegal to:

- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

More recently spotted flycatcher has been recorded nesting on this site. Spotted flycatcher is on the UK's Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern. This is an important species to have discovered at Spinney Wood.

Works to any habitat suitable for nesting birds should avoid the bird nesting season which is taken to be 1st March to 31st August.

5 Aims and Objectives

The aims of this management plan are to:

- Maintain and enhance the woodland habitat.
- Maintain and enhance access to the site.
- Engage with the local community.

This section outlines the objectives necessary to achieve these aims.

5.1 Maintain and Enhance the Woodland Habitat

5.1.1 Coppicing

The woodland has historically benefited from a coppice rotation and this should be re-established to enhance the woodland structure and biodiversity, especially the ground flora, as well as to maintain and enhance the presence of notable species. Coppicing is an ancient woodland management method and is known to prolong the life of a tree. It has historically been used to enhance the amount of timber that can be harvested from a tree. Trees such as hazel and sweet chestnut are suitable for coppicing. The trees are cut close to ground level and consequently regrow several shoots from the same stump. These shoots can then be cut when they reach the desired age and size and once another set of shoots regrow the process is repeated. For coppicing to be successful the regrowth must be cut close to the ground and at an angle, allowing rainwater to run off the stump, with works done during the winter months.

Coppicing benefits wildlife by temporarily opening up areas within the woodland canopy allowing light to reach the woodland floor. This in turn stimulates the growth of ground flora, such as bluebells and provides warm, sunny basking areas for reptiles, butterflies and other insects. If areas are coppiced on a rotation then it will ensure that the woodland contains habitats of varying age and structure and their associated wildlife, therefore maximising the biodiversity of the woodland. Additionally, a 10-15 year coppice rotation allows hazel trees to mature and fruit before they are coppiced, providing a valuable food source for wildlife such as dormice, which have historically been recorded on site.

Figure 2 in Appendix 1 shows a suggested 10-15 year coppice rotation. To maximise the wildlife benefits, it is recommended that no more than 0.3ha is cut in each zone per year and that adjacent coppice areas are not cut in the same year. Additionally, the rotation should not be over a period of less than 10 years as this will not be enough time for hazel to fruit or for a suitable understorey to develop which may adversely affect the dormouse population in terms of food availability and habitat connectivity. Standards, trees larger than 20cm at chest

height, should ideally be left at 20m spacings. Mature oaks should be retained for their wildlife value, where possible.

Hazel is an important food source for dormice and is well suited to coppicing. Layering hazel will help to increase its cover within the woodland where it is particularly sparse. To layer hazel, one of the longer rods of a hazel coppice stool is selected and cut three quarters through before being secured in the ground with a peg made from the coppiced hazel. In time the shoot will become an independent hazel tree which can be coppiced.

Works should be carried out from November until end of February to ensure nesting birds are not disturbed and that dormouse food sources are available for as long as possible before hibernation. Care should be taken around tree bases during works as dormice may be hibernating. Additionally, some coppiced material should be retained on site to create dead wood habitat and efforts should be made to retain climbing plants, such as honeysuckle, ivy and clematis, and standing dead wood where possible.

5.1.2 Woodland Edges

Gaps within the boundary (see Photograph 7 in Appendix 2) should be planted up with a mixture of native species, including species which will help to increase food availability for dormice – e.g. hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. This should be complimented with dead hedging on the woodland side (material from coppicing used) to provide a more robust boundary and provide additional habitat. Cut material should be added in subsequent years and the hedges maintained.

The southern tip of the woodland contains a small area of open woodland and the flora likely benefits from the increased sunlight the lack of woodland edge allows. Tree planting should not be carried out here and instead, dead hedging should be used alongside the fence to increase shelter habitat without reducing light levels.

Given the small size of Spinney Wood it is important that the woodland is connected to the larger landscape, this is especially true of any dormice population which is likely part of a wider population which uses other nearby woodlands and hedgerows. Consequently, it is important that Spinney Wood is well connected to the wider landscape, in particular nearby hedgerows which link to nearby woodlands. Currently overhanging branches connect the wood to hedgerows along the B2046 and Spinney Lane and, where possible, these should be retained and encouraged. Although usually arboreal (tree dwelling), dormice will occasionally cross short stretches of open ground such as roads and adding dead hedging along the boundaries will be of benefit as it will increase arboreal shelter habitat for dormice at crossing points, making the crossing distance shorter and safer.

5.1.3 Maintain and Enhance Numbers of Notable Species

These objectives focus on specific works which could affect notable species considered likely to be present, either due to historical records or the presence of suitable habitat. It also treats Spinney Wood as an important habitat within a landscape context, acknowledging that the site forms a wildlife network creating links to and between other nearby habitats. Surveys considered necessary to inform management works are included.

<u>Hazel Dormice</u>

A survey to establish if a dormouse population is still present is recommended. This could consist of a nut hunt, looking for hazelnuts opened by dormice to give presence/likely absence, in zone 3 where a nest was previously found and where the abundance of hazel trees makes this a viable method. If presence cannot be detected using this method, then dormouse nest tubes could be erected, in areas out of view from paths. If presence is detected then more permanent wooden dormouse next boxes could be erected, which would allow the population to be monitored. Surveys would be an effective way to monitor if the

coppice rotation is providing suitable habitat for dormice and other species. Furthermore, dormice are a popular animal and could be a good flagship species for the site, with surveys allowing the local community to be kept informed about the animals.

Bats

Where trees are not being removed urgently due to public safety, a bat survey to identify any potential roosts in trees prior to felling would ensure trees are felled sensitively for bats. Ivy should be retained on trees, where possible, as it can provide bat roosting habitat.

Badgers

Active setts should be identified and works carried out sensitively in these areas. Paths should be deterred away from active setts. The presence of active setts must be kept confidential.

Orchids

There is a record of lady orchid from zone 1, close to the industrial estate boundary. Lady orchids typically grow in more open areas of woodland including woodland edges, and therefore the southern tip, which is generally more open, and woodland edges are likely important for the species. Records should be kept of lady orchid locations and any works, particularly between April and June, carried out sensitively in these areas.

A large patch of white helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium* were found in zone 3 in 2021. These orchids take eight years to develop from seed and are designated as 'vulnerable' as well as being on the UK list of Biodiversity Action Plan species.

5.1.4 Other

Invasive, non-native plant species such as rhododendron and sycamore could reduce the cover of native species if allowed to spread. If found, any invasive non-native plant species should be removed to stop their spread.

Litter should be removed from the woodland on a regular basis, with volunteer wardens recruited where possible. The majority of the litter is found along the road edges (see Photograph 6 in Appendix 2) and it is hoped that dead hedging and hedge planting along the boundaries, will limit the amount of litter which enters the woodland.

Summary

- Re-establish a coppice rotation.
- Carry out hazel layering alongside coppicing.
- Plant boundary gaps, excluding the southern tip, with native species.
- Create dead hedge habitat and if funding allows, plant/lay a hedgerow along the woodland road boundaries.
- Create dead wood habitat and retain understorey and standing dead wood habitat where possible.
- Maintain and enhance connectivity to adjacent hedgerows.
- Carry out survey for presence of hazel dormice. If present establish a monitoring programme.
- Survey and monitor where appropriate other notable species and update management plan as appropriate.
- Identify and remove invasive non-natives.
- Remove litter.

5.2 Maintain and Enhance Access

5.2.1 Paths

There are several paths throughout the site and there is a risk that too many paths could negatively affect the woodland habitat, impact on sensitive areas, affect protected species and create large areas of bare ground. New paths or paths leading to sensitive areas should be deterred by dead-hedging or redirected. Likewise, any paths which become over widened through use should be restricted with dead hedging or similar. It is hoped that a reduction in over widened paths will deter heavy use by motorbikes. Given that the wood is regularly used by local people it will be necessary to sacrifice some areas to trampling (see Photograph 5 in Appendix 2). There is also evidence of fire use in well trampled areas and this should be monitored with notices/fire pits put in place as necessary. The main paths on site should have vegetation cut back to allow ease of access to visitors and the public right of way should remain clear as a priority.

5.2.2 Boundaries

There are gaps within the woodland edge which lead on to roads along both Spinney Lane and the B2046. This poses a health and safety risk to users of the woodland, especially to dogs and children. The combination of hedge planting, laying and dead hedging in Wildlife Objective 2 will help to reduce the risk. The wooden post and rail boundary fence in the south of the site (see Photograph 8 in Appendix 2) should be maintained with repairs made as necessary.

5.2.3 Pedestrian Access

Figure 1 shows the access routes into Spinney Wood. Four pedestrian access points are present; from Cooting Road, Wilcox Close and Spinney Lane and one via a public footpath from Spinney Lane (see Photographs 9 and 10 in Appendix 2).

The access route from Cooting Road, informally cuts through a wooded area running parallel to Spinney Lane (see Photograph 11 in Appendix 2). The owner of this strip of land should be consulted and where possible, the route made formal. Once this has been established, the path should be maintained and cut back as it provides a safer access route for the residents of Aylesham than walking along Spinney Lane. The route should be promoted to the residents of Aylesham and a sign-post installed on Cooting Road, if possible.

5.2.4 Vehicle Access

The public footpath route is wide enough to be suitable for vehicle access off Spinney Lane (see Photograph 4 in Appendix 2). Vehicle access would be useful for access by the ranger (for volunteer tasks and for events, allowing tools etc to be bought straight on to site) and contractors. A moveable swing gate with a fixed lock is recommended to prevent access by unauthorised vehicles and to deter fly-tippers.

5.2.5 Risk Assessment

A risk assessment of the trees on site has been carried out by Tim Moya Associates (TMA, 2021). Following the advice of the report works should be carried out as soon as possible on all trees classified as ‘urgent’. Works to trees classified as ‘necessary’ should be assessed and carried out within 1 year, as needed. Trees classified as ‘appropriate’ should be assessed individually and either works carried out as needed or the tree monitored. Works may include removal of limbs only or complete removal of the tree, where it is at risk of falling on paths or roads. Where trees are removed by contractors, the cut wood can be left as habitat piles.

A full assessment of the trees along the paths and roads should be regularly carried out by a competent person. It is recommended this is done at least every other year.

A sites risk assessment will be kept, that covers Spinney, this is to be updated annually, or as accident or incident occurs. Regular monthly checks will be made for any risks present on site. Additionally, volunteer wardens should be asked to report any risks, potentially dangerous trees and incidents.

Summary

- Restrict paths to reduce impacts on woodland habitat.
- Cut back paths and use dead hedging/timber to manage routes through the wood.
- Monitor use of fire sites and fire damage.
- Maintain post and rail fence.
- Establish a maintained access route from Cooting Road.
- Erect a swing gate at the Spinney Lane footpath entrance.
- Identify and manage dangerous trees.
- Carry out regular risk assessment.

5.3 Engage with the Local Community

The community engagement objectives of this management plan aim to engage the local community and maximise use of the wood in a way that is sympathetic to the wildlife and woodland management. Additionally, they will allow the management, heritage and value of the wood to be promoted to enhance understanding of the site by the local community and visitors.

5.3.1 Information Board and Tree Trail

An information board and tree trail have been set up on site and should be maintained and updated as necessary with vegetation cut back. Some posts are no longer located next to the trees they represent as the individual tree species they were located next to are now missing. Given that the posts would likely not survive being moved, relevant saplings should be relocated from elsewhere in the wood to near the posts.

5.3.2 Woodland Management

It is considered possible that some woodland users and local residents will object to trees being cut down within the woodland. It is therefore important that the reason for doing this - to benefit the woodland structure and the wildlife benefits of coppicing - are properly explained. This will be done through a regular ranger presence on site, signs on site and local posters, news articles etc., with locals invited to volunteer their help where appropriate. Any contractors will also be briefed on the benefits of coppicing, specific to the wood, so that they are able to appropriately respond to any queries from members of the public.

It may also be necessary to install signs around habitat piles and dead hedging areas to explain the benefits of leaving dead wood in the woodland and avoid it being removed.

5.3.3 Educational Visits

Local primary schools, including the two in Aylesham (Aylesham Primary School and St Joseph's Catholic Primary) and local youth groups such as the scouts should be encouraged to use the woodland to enhance their learning. To assist with this information on the habitats and wildlife to be found at Spinney and access routes can be shared. Additionally, the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership can offer paid sessions led by rangers including Forest School. WCCP will liaise with these groups to understand what their needs are and how this can be progressed.

5.3.4 Events

Events should promote the woodland and encourage the local community to visit. Advertising will be done locally and via the WCCP website and social media. Events are limited by a lack of facilities on site and as such should be short (no more than 2 hours). Additionally, owing to the small size of the woodland and wildlife value, events should be kept small to reduce trampling and disturbance, booking will be necessary. There will be no large event in spring due to trampling of the ground flora.

5.3.5 Publicity

The site will be advertised via the WCCP website as a place to visit. Additionally, WCCP newsletters, social media and local news outlets, as advised by Aylesham Parish Council, will be used to further understanding of the site and to tell news stories relating to the site. A Spinney Wood information leaflet exists and should be shared as appropriate.

5.3.6 Establish and maintain a volunteer group

Historically a volunteer group has helped with practical conservation and wardening of the site and this should be re-established to assist the ranger with the management of the site. This will have the added benefit of helping to improve the understanding of the woodland management by the local community as well as have health and well-being benefits for the volunteers, as spending time outdoors is proven to improve both mental and physical health. Tasks which volunteers could help with are coppicing, dead hedging, hedge-laying, hedge planting, cutting back vegetation, litter picking and wildlife surveys. Volunteer wardens could be recruited to work independently to report any issues to the ranger and be eyes and ears on the ground as well as carry out site checks and litter picks.

Summary

- Maintain information board and update tree trail.
- Engage woodland users and local people with the reasons behind the management techniques at Spinney Wood.
- Work with local groups and schools about using the wood for activities.
- Include Spinney Wood within WCCP events programme.
- Advertise and promote the site.
- Establish a volunteer conservation task group.
- Establish a volunteer warden group.

6 Monitoring Plan

Sites that are being managed should be monitored. The process of monitoring enables checks to be made to ensure that management is being undertaken in accordance with the management plan and to assess the impact of the management on the habitat and species concerned, allowing for amendments to the management programme if necessary.

Objective	Monitoring
Coppice rotation	Coppiced areas will be mapped and regrowth monitored to ensure the coppice is benefiting the woodland structure.
Woodland habitat condition	A record will be made of species found on site to monitor biodiversity. Invasive species will also be noted.
Bare ground	The creation of additional paths, widening of existing paths or creation of large bare areas will be identified.
Woodland edges	Areas where planting or dead hedging has taken place to be mapped.

Objective	Monitoring
Hazel dormice	An annual nut hunt will be conducted to look for hazel nuts which have been opened by hazel dormice. Five 10m x 10m squares within suitable habitat will be searched between September and December. Can be run as a volunteer/community event. If presence is re-established, five dormouse nest boxes will be put up within suitable habitat and checked (at least) in May/June and September/October. This can be extended with more boxes in to coppiced hazel areas once they become suitable. If boxes are removed/vandalised this will not be possible.
Bats	An assessment of trees to be felled of a suitable height and age to contain bat roosts will be made in 2021 following Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidelines. Any likely active roosts identified will be monitored (at least) every 2 years for signs of active use following BCT guidelines.
Badgers	Any badger setts will be identified by the ranger and mapped. This map and the presence and location of any setts must be kept confidential.
Other wildlife	Maintain a record of sightings of wildlife throughout the site. Open woodland and woodland edges will be checked annually for lady orchids.
Site safety	A full assessment for dangerous trees along the paths and road edges will be made at least bi-annually. Regular site risk assessments will be carried out.
Site accessibility	By 2023 a formal walking route from Cooting Road to Spinney Wood will have been established and a sign post erected on Cooting Road.
Information board and tree trail	An inventory of the condition of each to be kept.
Education visits	A record to be kept of school or group visits to the site.
Volunteers	A record to be kept of volunteer numbers and activities.

7 Work plans

7.1 Introduction

The following plans outline the works necessary to fulfil this management plan. The majority of habitat management works involve coppicing and related tasks (hazel layering and dead hedging) which will be carried out in the winter months, consequently this is also when the majority of volunteer tasks will be held. Volunteer tasks will also be held throughout the rest of the year to assist with other management works as well as provide a variety of tasks throughout the year and keep the volunteer group engaged with the woodland management.

It is expected that by working alongside volunteer wardens there will be a regular presence of either the ranger or a volunteer warden on site. The ranger will work closely with the volunteer wardens and communicate with them regularly which will enable any issues on site to be dealt with quickly. Ranger and/or volunteer warden presence can be increased on site as needed, for example if vandalism increases.

The next events programme will be planned for 2022 due to the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions. Events will be scheduled for inclusion in the White Cliffs and Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership's (WCRMCP) Summer Festival – a festival of events across WCRMCP sites during the school summer holidays.

7.2 Weekly works

Activity	Details
Liaising with volunteer wardens	The ranger will regularly communicate with volunteer wardens regarding any issues on the site.

7.3 Monthly works

Activity	Details
Health and safety check	Assess the site for health and safety issues including dangerous trees. A full dangerous tree assessment will be done at least bi-annually.
Infrastructure Inventory and Maintenance	Check infrastructure (tree trail, fence, signage, swing gate) and repair as necessary.
Pathway maintenance	Maintain to keep main paths open across the site.

7.4 Yearly Habitat Work Plan

Habitat Management	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Volunteer Task	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Coppicing & hazel layering works	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
Tree planting	✓	✓	✓									
Dead hedging	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓
Hedge laying	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
Path clearance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invasive species removal (as necessary)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure repairs (as necessary)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

7.5 Outline Six-Year Work Programme

Activity	Year						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Coppicing & hazel layering	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree planting, hedge laying		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Dead hedging, including maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invasive species removal (as necessary)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Install swing gate		✓					
Update tree trail posts	✓						
Establish contact with local schools & groups	✓						
Facilitate visits by local schools & groups		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Run an events programme		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Publicity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dormouse nut hunt (Sept-Dec)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dormouse nest box checks (if installed)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bat roost assessment	✓		✓		✓		

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9 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Figures

Figure 1: Map Showing Habitats and Features at Spinney Wood

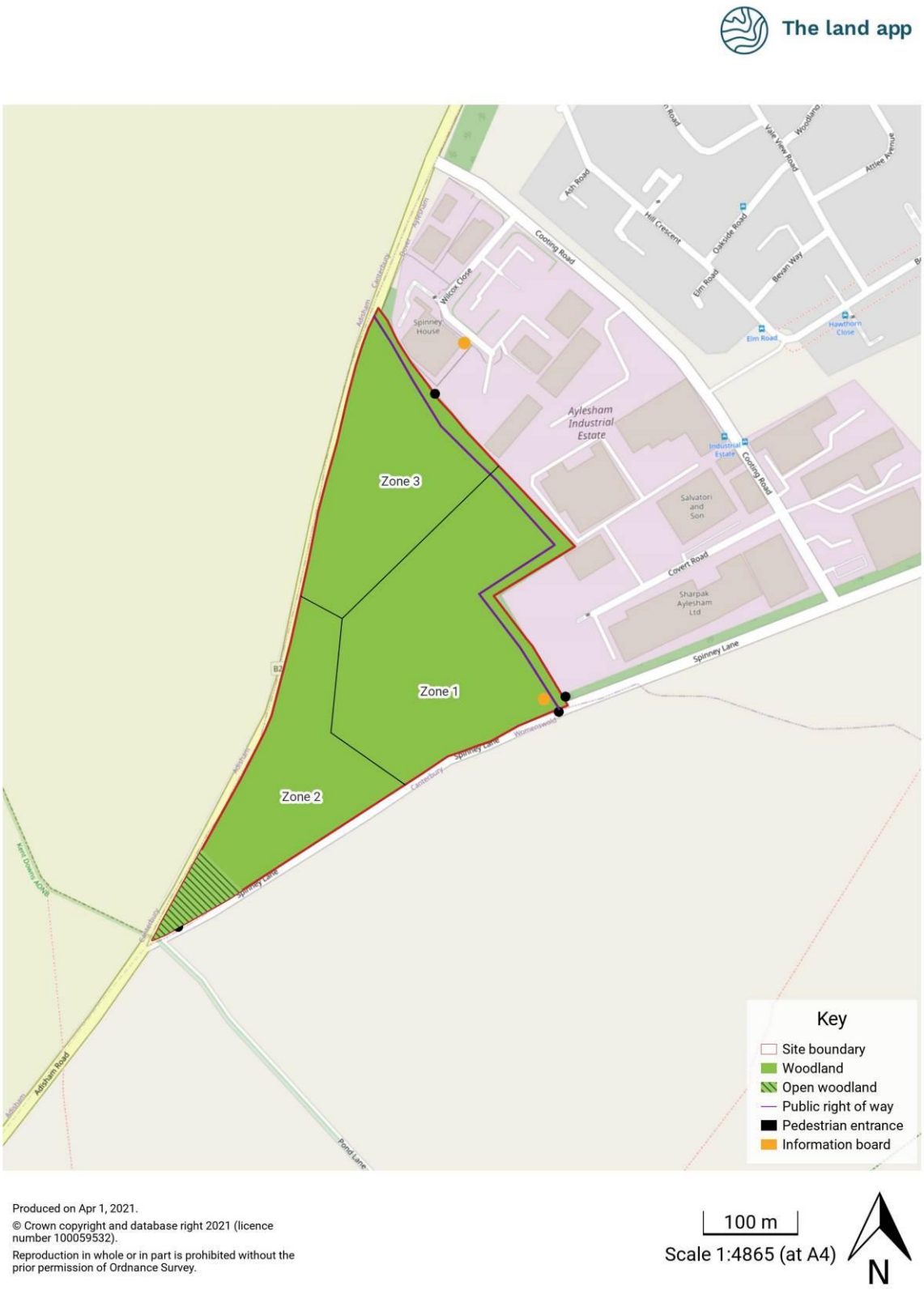

Figure 2: Map Showing Suggested Coppice Rotation at Spinney Wood
The coppice rotation may be reviewed if notable species are found or more favourable coppice areas, and years proposed are identified.

9.2 Appendix 2 - Photographs

Photograph 1: Deciduous Woodland Habitat

Photograph 2: Open Woodland Habitat

Photograph 3: Coppiced Hazel cut in 2012

Photograph 4: Vehicle Access off Spinney Lane

Photograph 5: Trampled Area without Ground Flora

Photograph 6: Litter Along the B2046

Photograph 7: Gaps within the Woodland Boundary

Photograph 8: Fence line at the Southern Corner

Photograph 9: Cooting Road Pedestrian Entrance

Photograph 10: Spinney Lane Pedestrian Entrance

Photograph 11: Cooting Road Entrance Route

9.3 Appendix 3 – Notable Species Lists

The tables below show notable species recorded at Spinney Wood.

9.3.1 Mammals

Species	Comments
Dormouse	Protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
Badger	Protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Fox	
Hedgehog	
Weasel	

9.3.2 Reptiles

Species	Comments
Viviparous lizard	Recorded 2000-2001

9.3.3 Birds

Species	Comments
Hawfinch	Associated with the conifer trees
Sparrow-hawk	
Tree-creeper	
Kestrel	
Green finch	
Brambling	
Greater-spotted woodpecker	
Green woodpecker	
Tawny owl	
Chiffchaff	
Willow warbler	
Song thrush	
Mistle thrush	
Spotted flycatcher	

9.3.4 Plants

Species	Comments
Lady orchid *Ophrys spegodes*	
Woolly thistle	
Wayfaring tree	
Guelder rose	Ancient woodland indicator
Butcher's broom	
Wild privet	
European larch	
Corsican pine	
Hornbeam	Ancient woodland indicator
Holly	Ancient woodland indicator
Crab apple	Ancient woodland indicator
Wild cherry	Ancient woodland indicator
Whitebeam	
Yew	
Gromwell	
Wood forget-me-not	
Pearlwort	
Mugwort	
Oxford ragowort	
White bryony	

Black bryony	Ancient woodland indicator
Wood spurge	Ancient woodland indicator
Dog's mercury	
Common centaury	
Hairy St. John's wort	
Imperforate St. John's wort	
Perforate St. John's wort	
Black horehound	
Yellow archangel	Ancient woodland indicator
Wood sage	
Bluebell	Ancient woodland indicator
White helleborine	
Common spotted orchid	
Common twayblade	
Early purple orchid	
Lady orchid	Ancient woodland indicator
Scarlet pimpernel	
Yellow pimpernel	
Wild mignonette	
Agrimony	
Wood avens	
Common figwort	
Great mullein	
Spurge laurel	Ancient woodland indicator
Sanicle	
Field maple	Ancient woodland indicator
Wild garlic	Ancient woodland indicator
Wood anemone	Ancient woodland indicator
Nettle leaved bellflower	Ancient woodland indicator
Primrose	Ancient woodland indicator
White helleborine	UK BAP species, vulnerable.

9.3.5 Fungi

Species	Comments
Scarlet bonnet *Mycena adonis*	Recorded beneath a conifer tree

9.3.6 Butterflies

Species	Comments
Holly blue	Recorded 2000-2001
Brimstone	Recorded 2000-2001
Large white	Recorded 2000-2001
Meadow brown	Recorded 2000-2001
Speckled wood	Recorded 2000-2001

9.3.7 Moths

Species	Comments
Angle shades	Recorded 2000-2001
August thorn	Recorded 2000-2001
Barred straw	Recorded 2000-2001
Black arches	Recorded 2000-2001
Brimstone	Recorded 2000-2001
Cabbage	Recorded 2000-2001
Clouded silver	Recorded 2000-2001
Codling	Recorded 2000-2001
Common carpet	Recorded 2000-2001
Common emerald	Recorded 2000-2001
Common wainscot	Recorded 2000-2001
Common white wave	Recorded 2000-2001

Copper underwing	Recorded 2000-2001
Dingy footman	Recorded 2000-2001
Double-lobed	Recorded 2000-2001
Double square spot	Recorded 2000-2001
Dun-bar	Recorded 2000-2001
Flame shoulder	Recorded 2000-2001
Garden carpet	Recorded 2000-2001
July highflyer	Recorded 2000-2001
Large emerald	Recorded 2000-2001
Large yellow underwing	Recorded 2000-2001
Lesser broad-bordered yellow underwing	Recorded 2000-2001
Lesser yellow underwing	Recorded 2000-2001
Mother of pearl	Recorded 2000-2001
Mottled beauty	Recorded 2000-2001
Peach blossom	Recorded 2000-2001
Pretty chalk carpet	Recorded 2000-2001
Purple-bar	Recorded 2000-2001
Riband wave	Recorded 2000-2001
Satin lutestring	Recorded 2000-2001
Scalloped oak	Recorded 2000-2001
Scarlet tiger	Recorded 2000-2001
Scarce footman	Recorded 2000-2001
Setaceous Hebrew character	Recorded 2000-2001
Shuttle-shaped dart	Recorded 2000-2001
Silver Y	Recorded 2000-2001
Small emerald	Recorded 2000-2001
Small ermine	Recorded 2000-2001
Small fan-foot	Recorded 2000-2001
Small waved umber	Recorded 2000-2001
Smoky wainscot	Recorded 2000-2001
Square spot rustic	Recorded 2000-2001
Snout	Recorded 2000-2001
Swallowtail	Recorded 2000-2001
The fern	Recorded 2000-2001
Treble-bar	Recorded 2000-2001
Treble brown spot	Recorded 2000-2001
Vapourer	Recorded 2000-2001
Willow beauty	Recorded 2000-2001

Other Invertebrates

Species	**Comments**
Lapidary snail	Recorded 2000-2001
Scorpion fly	Recorded 2000-2001
Emperor dragonfly	Recorded 2000-2001
Oak bush cricket	Recorded 2000-2001
Dark bush cricket	Recorded 2000-2001