

# Dane Valley Woods Work Plan 2022 - 2031





This plan has been prepared by White Horse Ecology on behalf of Dane Valley Woods.

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Dane Valley Woods

## Work Plan

This work plan is designed to guide the work of Dane Valley Woods over the next ten years. It contains a number of recommended actions that can be:

- Carried out by monthly work parties and other volunteer groups;
- Carried out by contractors when resources allow;
- Developed by the group when time and resources allow.

All actions were developed in consultation with the Steering Group and follow the guiding principles of the group that are outlined in the land management plan document. The recommendations in this plan are not designed to be fixed for the ten year duration of the plan. Things change, priorities change and global events (such as climate change) may cause the group to rethink what happens at Dane Valley Woods. As such, this plan should be reviewed by the Steering Group on an annual basis to ensure that the activities still reflect the requirements of the group.

The plan is split into two tables. The first is a list of recommendations and enhancements to Dane Valley Woods that have been suggested by stakeholders and White Horse Ecology. This table contains recommendations for which either additional funding or additional volunteer effort will be required. Funding will have to be raised either by Dane Valley Woods or with the assistance of volunteers.

The second table contains a set of management prescriptions for the wood that ideally should be carried out. The management prescriptions in the second table are largely activities that can be carried out by volunteers. It is important that the group do not take on responsibilities (such as the long-term, regular watering of large trees) that will overstretch the capabilities and resources of the group.






Maps that help to pinpoint the exact locations of management prescriptions are found at the back of this work plan.



The rationale and objectives for the management recommendations, as well as more detailed information about some of the prescriptions can be found in the land management plan.

## Dane Valley Woods Recommendations

The table below contains recommendations for actions that should be taken as and when financial and time resources allow. They have been identified following discussions with the Steering Group and public consultations. They are outside of the scope of the day to day management prescriptions that need to be carried out to maintain the woods but should be used to inform and prioritise future actions and funding applications. Not all these recommendations will necessarily be achieved within the lifetime of this management plan.

### Dane Valley Woods Recommendations

What (map name if appropriate)	How/rationale	When (season)	3 <sup>rd</sup> party involvement	Where	Map	Complete?
Installation of benches (Features)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sturdy, robust benches to be located in areas that are close to the main routes through the woodland. Additional sites may be identified in the future.</li> </ul>	Anytime	Contractor if needed	1b & 2a		
Reinstate equinox circle (Features)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reinstate circle of willows and corridor of trees pointing towards equinox sunrise.</li> <li>Clear trees and brambles where necessary</li> <li>Replant to reinstate</li> </ul>	Winter	None	1c		
Create reptile glade (Glades)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove woody material and most brambles to create clear area with basking opportunities for reptiles</li> </ul>	Winter	None	1a & 1b		
Tree planting (Tree planting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant trees in areas identified where there are large gaps between trees. Be sure not to plant in glades.</li> </ul>	Winter	None			
Create wildflower glades	Two possible methods for creation 1. Regularly mow area through late autumn	Autumn/	None	1b, 2a &		



(Glades)	and winter. Remove any woody material. Stop mowing in April.	winter		2b	
	2. Remove top soil and sow with meadow mixture and possibly yellow rattle. Mow regularly in first winter as above.	Autumn/ winter	Contractor		
<b>N.B. There is a lot of information about this in section 6.2 of the management plan.</b>					
Reinstate new paths and establish new paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worth using a contractor with a flail mower to cut these paths to a width of at least 2 metres before regular mowing</li> </ul>	Winter	Contractor	1b & 1c	
(Paths)					
Bramble management	Only to be considered if it is possible to carry out repeat mowing to keep back regrowth and only small areas at a time to trial effectiveness	Anytime	Contractor or group use of ride on mower	2b as priority	
(Brambles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use flail mower to remove existing bramble</li> <li>Regularly cut regrowth so that plant eventually dies back</li> <li>Plant with trees or develop as meadow/open space</li> </ul>				
Events programme	To be held as and when resources allow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Events can range from Halloween parties for children to training for aspiring botanists. Anything that inspires people to go to the woods.</li> </ul>	Anytime	Education and events specialists as resources allow	All	
Tree removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut or pull out non-native trees. This may</li> </ul>	Anytime	None	All but	

	include turkey oak near the HQ or other invasive species such as cherry laurel and sycamore saplings			more in 2a
Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An interpretation plan should be created to establish desire and need for additional interpretation (including virtual and high tech.)</li> </ul>	Anytime	Possibly an interpretation consultant but in house possible	All
Wildlife survey specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take up opportunities to invite experts in particular species groups to the site to build up knowledge of wildlife on site. This will help to inform future management</li> </ul>	Within season	Species experts	All
Archaeology digs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take up opportunities for local experts to carry out archaeological digs on the site.</li> </ul>	Winter	Archaeology group	
Wildlife friendly features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bat and bird boxes, insect hotels, beetle banks, log piles secured by wire and reptile hibernacula can all be installed and created relatively cheaply. Larger trees should be used as sites for boxes to limit disturbance</li> </ul>	Anytime	None (perhaps advice)	All
Local Wildlife Site status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is a haven for wildlife and should be recognised as such. These designations are managed by Kent Wildlife Trust (Lawrence Ball as of 2021) and should be contacted.</li> </ul>	Anytime	None	

## Dane Valley Woods Prescriptions


This table provides a list of activities that will maintain Dane Valley Woods and implement the ongoing management recommendations over the next ten years. It is hoped that all of these actions can be carried out by volunteers where Dane Valley Woods is the responsible organisation.

The 'who' column denotes who should be responsible for carrying out the action. The locations of activities and their timings are shown in the maps following this table.

Dane Valley Woods Management Prescriptions							
What (map name if appropriate)	How/rationale	When (time of year)	Who	Where (compartment)	Map	When (if not annual)	Complete? Y/N
Wildflower meadow management	N.B. this is an example of a three times a year regime. Others are detailed in section 6.2 of the plan			1b, 2a & 2b			
(Glades)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mow wildflower meadows to 15cm (to avoid damage to reptiles)</li> <li>Mow meadow to ground level</li> <li>Mow wildflower meadows to 15cm (to avoid damage to reptiles)</li> <li>Brushcut bramble if it encroaches glade</li> </ul>	August or September November April Winter	DVW DVW DVW DVW				
	N.B. Rake and remove arisings wherever possible						
Reptile glade management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uproot any trees or bramble present</li> <li>Brushcut bramble to prevent</li> </ul>	Mar to Oct	DVW	1a, 1b, 2a & 2b			

(Glades)	<p>encroachment, expand glade and create more edge habitat (wobbly interface)</p> <p>N.B. The grass does not need cutting in these areas. The aim is to prevent woody material from encroaching and developing</p>	Winter	DVW			
Path management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mow path routes to at least 1m wide</li> </ul>	Growing season	DVW	All		Whenever needed
(Paths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If resources allow, cut 2m strip either side of path annually</li> </ul>	Nov to Feb	DVW	All		
Cycle path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut 1m either side of cycle path (avoid planted hawthorn)</li> </ul>	Anytime	KCC	1b, 1c, 2a & 2b		Twice annually
(Paths)						
Tree aftercare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mulch newly planted trees</li> </ul>	Summer	DVW	All		When needed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove any tree guards/shelters present</li> </ul>	Winter	DVW			Once only
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove encroaching vegetation</li> </ul>	Summer	DVW			When needed
Tree removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut or pull out non-native trees. This may include turkey oak near the HQ or other invasive species such as cherry laurel and sycamore saplings</li> </ul>	Anytime	DVW	All but more in 2a		
Seed collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect seeds, nuts and berries to create a nursery. Seed may need careful preparation before sowing</li> </ul>	September	DVW	All		At least 3 years before planting



						out
Bramble management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut back bramble where it is encroaching to maintain bramble free areas</li> </ul>	Winter	DVW	All		When needed
(Bramble)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mow area cut regularly for a season</li> </ul>	Anytime	DVW			
HQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mow lawn</li> </ul>	Summer	DVW	3		When needed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear pond</li> </ul>	Winter	DVW			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strim/mow grassland area</li> </ul>	Autumn	DVW			
Health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor potentially hazardous trees near areas with high levels of public access and fell if necessary.</li> </ul>	Anytime	TDC	All		
(Features)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the safety of installed structures such as benches, interpretation and log piles. Remove or repair as necessary</li> </ul>	Anytime	DVW			Quarterly
Fallen wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where fallen wood exists or is felled and can't be left in situ log piles and/or dead hedges to be created where possible and secured in place.</li> </ul>	Anytime	DVW	All		Whenever needed
Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pick litter from paths and other areas</li> </ul>	Anytime	DVW	All		Whenever needed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove fly-tipped waste</li> </ul>	Anytime	TDC	All		
Tree shelters/guards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove any tree shelters or guards, easiest to do in the winter</li> </ul>	Oct to Apr	DVW	All		
Wildlife recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bat surveys using detectors</li> </ul>	Summer	KBG/ DVW	All		Annual
(all records to be sent to Kent &	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roofing felt refugia placed in</li> </ul>	Mar to Oct	DVW	All		7 times a

Medway Biological Records Centre or added to iRecord and sent to relevant recording group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>grassland areas to check for reptiles</li><li>Wildflower and tree surveys</li><li>Small mammal surveys (mice, shrews, voles)</li><li>Ad hoc visual surveys (larger mammals)</li><li>Nest box or nesting tube surveys for dormice</li><li>Invertebrate surveys but particularly moth and butterfly surveys</li><li>Bird surveys</li></ul> <p>N.B. Licence required for dormouse and bat surveys if disturbance of animals likely to take place. However, Thanet out of known range of dormouse.</p>	Spring/summer	DVW	All	year	
			DVW/KM		April, June and August	
		Winter	G	All	Every five years	
		Anytime	DVW	All		
		Summer	Ecologist	All	Every ten years	
		Summer	DVW/KF	All	Every five years	
			C	All		
			DVW	All		
		Anytime		All		
Management Plan review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review and update management plan with particular reference to management prescriptions and key species</li></ul>	Autumn	DVW /White Horse Ecology	All	Annual if possible	Annual if possible
DVW = Dane Valley Woods		TDC = Thanet District Council (or their contractors)				
KBG = Kent Bat Group		KFC = Kent Field Club				
KMG = Kent Mammal Group		KCC = Kent County Council				



# Dane Valley Woods - Compartments




 Compartments

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0 30 60 90 120 m



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# Dane Valley Woods - Management



- Site Boundary
- Brambles
- Tree planting opportunities

## Glades

- Wildflower meadow Established
- Wildflower meadow Semi-established
- Wildflower meadow Unestablished
- Reptile glade - Established
- Reptile S

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0 30 60 90 120 m



Dane Valley Woods



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# Dane Valley Woods - Glades & other features



Site Boundary

## Glades

Wildflower meadow  
Established

Wildflower meadow  
Semi-established

Wildflower meadow  
Unestablished

Reptile glade - Established

Reptile glade  
Semi-established

## Features

Fido fox sculpture

Bench

Dane fox sculpture

HQ

Interpretation panel

Interpretive sculpture

Noticeboard

New bench

Equinox circle

Bike rack



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# Dane Valley Woods - Paths



 Site Boundary

## Paths

 Tarmacked

 Well established

 To reinstate

 To establish

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0 30 60 90 120 m



Dane Valley Woods



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# Dane Valley Woods - Brambles



-  Site Boundary
-  Areas dominated by brambles

Although brambles can be found throughout Dane Valley Woods, the areas shown on this map are overwhelmingly dominated by them. They are unsuited for tree planting as new trees become shaded by bramble regrowth. Brambles provide nesting and feeding opportunities for birds and shelter for mammals so are valuable in their own right.

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0 30 60 90 120 m



Dane Valley Woods





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# Dane Valley Woods - Tree planting opportunities



-  Site Boundary
-  Areas well suited to tree planting. Mostly places where gaps can be infilled

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0 30 60 90 120 m





# Dane Valley Woods - Glades



 Site Boundary

## Glades

 Wildflower meadow  
Established

 Wildflower meadow  
Semi-established

 Wildflower meadow  
Unestablished

 Reptile glade - Established

 Reptile glade  
Semi-established

© White Horse Ecology 2021

0 30 60 90 120 m



Dane Valley Woods



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