

## Staghill Wood Newchurch Woodland Management Plan Year 1 (winter 2021-22) operations.

Ecological Estates is appointed by Vistry to implement the approved Woodland Management plan ref: EER-4500-01. This plan and our appointment covers a five-year period ending in 2027. The purpose of management plan is to improve the habitat condition of long unmanaged plantation woodland in Newchurch, Rossendale.

Ecological Estates is a specialist ecological management company run by professional ecologists The project manager and chief Ecological Clerk of Works appointed to this project is Peter Brooks BSc (Hons), MA, MCIEEM, CEnv. Peter has over 25 years' experience of habitat creation, restoration and management.

Prior notice of works was given to the public by Rossendale Council publicising the management on their website. Additionally Ecological Estates created and erected explanatory signage in the woodland.



Actions committed to in the WMP taken this year are set out below:

<b>Canopy thinning works</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Carried out?</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Reduce crowding of trees to be no closer together than 4m	30% of total thinning carried out.	Insufficient light gaps for good underplanting. Thinning will be completed in 2022/23.
Beech thinned by 40%		
Create 2 coups of at least 15m by 15m.	Yes	Timber left in situ to make protected planting areas and deter people from wet ground.

<b>Dead wood habitat</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Carried out?</b>	<b>Notes</b>
15 trees left as ring barked standing dead wood with crown removed for safety.	No	We will monitor light gaps in growing season 2022 and will select the trees that give the best opportunity for understory development. Will be completed in 2022/23.
All felled wood from thinning is retained on site.	Yes, all left in situ. Most left whole to reduce opportunities to take wood off site.	Where paths were crossed by fallen timber we have moved this to allow access. Some timber is deliberately felled to deter access from some areas.
Zero carbon emissions from taking wood off site to burn		

<b>Tree and woodland planting</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Carried out?</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Plant with locally sourced trees and shrubs from the schedule. plant in non-grid, naturalistic patterns.	200 planted sourced from Beardsworth Nurseries <a href="https://beardsworths.co.uk/">https://beardsworths.co.uk/</a>	Insufficient canopy gaps away from felling coups. Many trees planted with a view to opening canopy through additional felling in 2022/23/.
Set out in liaison with Ecologist/ECOW.	Yes	Planting has been carried out exclusively by Ecologists to ensure right species right location.
Plant in staked tree shelters (deer gauge).	No-	No evidence of deer browsing. Used rabbit gauge. Will monitor and any additional planting needed will used Deer gauge is needed.

Seeding and herbaceous		
Objectives	Carried out?	Notes
Bring in woodland plants to take advantage of light gaps.	Although not specified the WMP we have in suitable places planted native herbaceous plug plants. 20 <i>Luzula sylvatica</i> , 10 <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> , 8 <i>Caltha palustris</i> , 10 <i>Ajuga reptans</i> , 5 <i>Carex pendula</i> , 100 <i>Primula vulgaris</i> .	Seeding with 10 grammes of <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> will be carried out in March.  Additional planting and seeding to be carried out in autumn 2022.

'Slow the flow' dams		
Objectives	Carried out?	Notes
Intercept areas where rain water runs off and erodes soils.	Five log dams have been installed.	Monitoring of effectiveness will be ongoing. Additional dams will be considered following thinning works in 2022/3.

Next report Due Winter 2022/23.

## Photos



Cover of Management plan showing original wood condition.



Felling the large coupes to make light gaps.



Clearing main path of fallen timber.



Creating 'slow the flow' dams



Tree planting in coupes



Tree planting in coupes.