

Linghurst Lakes Management Plan

Area: Mature Woodland

Management Plan Objectives

1. Maintain and enhance the areas of mature woodland by encouraging the natural regeneration of native species.
2. Maintain and encourage the development of a diverse invertebrate community by creating varied microhabitats.
3. Encourage re-development of elms within the woods.

Management Procedures

1. Reduce or control levels of non-native species by clearing saplings rather than removing mature trees, which should be left to die and decay naturally on site.
2. The amount of dead wood on site is very important for providing habitats for a healthy invertebrate population. Both standing and fallen trees should be left to decay naturally provided they do not cause a safety hazard. (The Forestry Commission recommendation is for at least 3 standing and 3 fallen trees per Ha).
3. Any elms trees within the woodland which have been affected by Dutch Elm disease can be coppiced at breast height to encourage resprouting from the base. Such treatment will help maintain the fauna, especially insects.
4. Should any planting within the mature woodland be required a preference would be for native species planted at spacing of 3 – 5 mts or in clumps.

Common English Native Species		
Oak	Ash	Beech
Hazel	Willow	Alder
Lime	Poplar	Field Maple
Holly	Hawthorn	Yew

Common Non-Native Species	
Sycamore	Corsican Pine
Sitka Spruce	Sweet Chestnut
Norway Spruce	Horse Chestnut

Area: Grassland

Low maintenance Grass:

Once established these areas can be maintained by an annual mowing to create areas of rough meadow for amenity use.

Wildflower Meadows:

Once established these areas can be maintained by a single flail mow in early September after the wildflowers have set their seed.

Hedges:

Trimming of hedges should be carried out during the late Winter months (January/ February)

Trimming during the Summer months disturbs nesting birds.

Trimming in Autumn cuts off developing buds and berries which are winter food for many animals.

Area: Ponds and Wetlands

No management is required other than clearing of overgrown reed beds.