

## **Notice of a public**

### **Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change**

**To:** Councillor Widdowson (Executive Member)

**Date:** Wednesday, 8 September 2021

**Time:** 3.00 pm

**Venue:** The George Hudson Board Room - 1st Floor West Offices (F045)

### **AGENDA**

#### **Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:**

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item\* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00 pm on Friday 10 September 2021**.

\*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent, which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any called in items will be considered by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00 pm on Monday 6 September 2021**.

### 1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member is asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which she might have in respect of business on this agenda.

### 2. **Minutes**

(Pages 1 - 2)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on Wednesday 7 July 2021.

### 3. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at remote meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is **5:00pm on Monday 6 September 2021**.

To register to speak please visit [www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings](http://www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings) to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact the relevant Democracy Officer, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

### **Webcasting of Public Meetings**

Please note that, subject to available resources, this public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at [www.york.gov.uk/webcasts](http://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts).

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates ([www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy](http://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy)) for more information on meetings and decisions.



**4. York Community Woodland – Final woodland design and woodland creation** (Pages 3 - 116)

The Executive Member will consider a report which sets out the recommended final woodland masterplan showing the suggested spatial layout and key features of York Community Woodland following public consultation and co-design. The masterplan is accompanied by indicative outline costs and a suggested phased implementation schedule.

The report also sets out options for the external capital funding source to support the physical creation of York Community Woodland and for appointing a woodland creation delivery partner to lead this work on behalf of City of York Council.

**5. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer: Joseph Kennally  
Telephone No- 01904 551573  
Email- joseph.kennally@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

**This information can be provided in your own language.**

**我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)**

**এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)**

**Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim (Polish)  
własnym języku.**

**Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)**

**یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی میا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)**

** (01904) 551550**

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change
Date	7 July 2021
Present	Councillors Widdowson
Apologies	Councillors

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### **33. Declarations of Interest**

The Executive Member was asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests or any prejudicial or discloseable pecuniary interest that she might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

### **34. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 5 May 2021 be approved and signed by the Executive Member as a correct record.

### **35. Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak at the session under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. The registration was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

### **36. Restricting the use of Sky Lanterns on Council Property**

The Executive Member considered a report setting out the proposal for the ban on releasing of sky lanterns on City of York Council owned/controlled property. The Head of Corporate Policy and City Partnerships outlined the report, detailing the rationale for the policy statement included at paragraph 17 of the report:

“City of York Council has banned the release of sky lanterns from its land.

We are committed to encouraging businesses, communities, landowners, schools, residential homes and individuals to switch to alternative ways of celebrating and commemorating events.

City of York Council has pledged to:

- Promote the restriction of the release of sky lantern on property and land owned by the Council. This includes those that are made from bamboo or claim to be biodegradable.
- Ask all Parish and Town Councils within York to ban the release of sky lanterns on Parish or Town Council land.
- Incorporate the ban into all future residential tenancy and land lease agreements.
- Ban the use of sky lanterns in any council-approved events.
- Proactively engage with businesses, landowners, schools, residential homes, council tenants, social housing providers, charities and community groups, to raise awareness of safer and more environmentally friendly alternatives that people can celebrate with, through promotion and campaigns. “

He explained the environmental and health and safety risks posed by the release of sky lanterns. The Executive Member welcomed the policy statement, then;

Resolved: That approval be given to the policy statement included in paragraph 17 of the report and that officers be requested take forward the necessary actions to implement it.

Reason: To reduce the environmental risks of sky lanterns within York and its surrounding area.

Cllr Widdowson, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 3.05 pm].



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**Executive Member Decision Session****8 September 2021**

Report of the Assistant Director of Policy and Strategy  
Portfolio of the Executive Member for the Environment and Climate Change

**York Community Woodland final design, external capital funding source and delivery partner****Summary:**

1. The report sets out the recommended final woodland masterplan showing the suggested spatial layout and key features of York Community Woodland following public consultation and co-design. The masterplan is accompanied by indicative outline costs and a suggested phased implementation schedule.
2. The report also sets out options for the external capital funding source to support the physical creation of York Community Woodland and for appointing a woodland creation delivery partner to lead this work on behalf of City of York Council (“the council”).

**Recommendations:**

3. Approve the final woodland design masterplan as the basis for woodland creation and for submission to Forestry Commission for woodland approval and note the associated indicative outline costs and phased woodland creation implementation schedule.

**Reason/s:** The masterplan meets the design brief and will guide the creation of York Community Woodland and ensure it meets the community woodland vision, agreed project objectives and Forestry Commission regulatory requirements

4. Approve the recommendation to select Forestry England as the external capital funding source to support York Community

Woodland and act as the council's woodland creation delivery partner, based on the options appraisal set out in this report.

**Reason/s:** The external funder and woodland creation deliver partner will work with the council to create and manage the woodland in line with shared objectives, priorities and timescales. Approving the recommendation will enable the Director of Place in association with the Director of Governance and relevant officers to negotiate and enter into a formal lease agreement with Forestry England under Delegated Authority granted by the council's Executive on 26 August 2021.

5. Approve the publication of any necessary 'open space' disposal Notice under S.123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972. If any comments are received from the public in response to such Notice, these will be referred to the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change for consideration.

**Reason/s:** to ensure compliance with the Council's obligations pursuant to S.123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **Background:**

6. Executive considered a report in August 2020 setting out the council's vision and objectives for York Community Woodland in pursuit of its ambition to reduce carbon emissions and plant 50,000 trees by 2023. The report paved the way for a significant land purchase to the west of York near Knapton village using c£1.61m capital funding from the council's £3m Northern Forest budget.
7. Project objectives include a nature based solution to climate change mitigation, a new amenity woodland connecting more people with nature to improve peoples' health and wellbeing, more diverse habitats to support wildlife and the recovery of threatened species and new green employment, volunteering and nature based learning opportunities.

8. Executive called on officers to minimise further call on the Northern Forest budget by securing as much external revenue and capital grants as possible to cover woodland design, woodland creation and ongoing management.
9. As part of the woodland community co-design process, a public consultation ran from 14<sup>th</sup> April – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The goal of this phase was to receive feedback on the vision, objectives and concept plans, and to guide the final stage of woodland design.
10. The consultation aimed to reach a wide and diverse audience from across the City of York. Access points were provided through an online survey, online meeting/webinars, postal surveys, school surveys and direct contact with a wide range of community & local interest groups, including parish councils, local ward councillors, local businesses, schools, colleges and universities.
11. The project's Stakeholder Advisory Group held its first meeting in March 2021. Made up of woodland experts, interest groups, local businesses, landowners and local members, the group provides advice and support for the co-design and overall project. An internal council officer group representing a wide range of service areas has also met regularly to help steer the project forward and ensure shared objectives are maximised.
12. Responses gathered through the community co-design process were analysed by the woodland design team (Pegasus Planning Ltd) appointed to produce the final woodland design and reported to Executive on 26 August 2021.
13. The council's Executive, at its meeting on 26 August 2021, granted Delegated Authority to the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change to approve the final woodland design for submission to Forestry England for woodland approval and to approve the selection of an external capital funding source and woodland creation delivery partner to support woodland creation and ongoing woodland management.
14. Executive also granted Delegated Authority to the council's Director of Place in association with the Director of Governance

and relevant officers to agree the appointment of a woodland delivery partner through open procurement or to negotiate and enter into a formal lease agreement with a funding and delivery partner once confirmed by the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change.

## **Consultation**

15. This report has been developed in consultation with partners from within the White Rose Forest and Community Forest Trust. Extensive stakeholder and community consultation has shaped the final woodland design masterplan. Colleagues within the council's Legal, Property, Finance, Planning, Carbon Reduction and Procurement teams were consulted during the drafting of this report. An Equalities Impact Assessment relating to the woodland design has been completed in consultation with the Woodland Stakeholder Advisory Group.

## **Final woodland design, indicative outline cost and indicative phased implementation plan**

### Final woodland design masterplan

16. The recommended final woodland design masterplan is attached as Annex 1 (associated annexes at 1a, 1b and 1c show the masterplan explanatory notes, woodland mood board and woodland visualisation respectively). The masterplan delivers the woodland design brief (see below) and will be the basis of an application to the Forestry Commission for woodland approval as part of a Woodland Creation Planning Grant Stage 2 submission.
17. The woodland design brief specified that the woodland masterplan should:
  - Deliver the community woodland vision and project objectives, including carbon reduction, biodiversity net gain, active travel and leisure opportunities, green skills development and volunteering opportunities
  - Meet Forestry Commission United Kingdom Forestry Standard and Forestry Commission Environmental Impact Assessment requirements
  - Remain within external capital funding criteria



- Enable achievement of agreed project success measures
18. The woodland design masterplan achieves a new multi-functional, predominantly native mixed broadleaf woodland, comprising 65% tree canopy cover and 35% open space. It delivers the Council Plan commitment to plant 50,000 trees by 2023 and incorporates the following key features:
- New pond creation, wood meadow and wayleaves/rides to support wildlife and new habitats, increase biodiversity and the protection and enhancement of endangered species
  - New tracks, trails (incl. horses) and cycle routes to enable public access and encourage leisure and active travel. The paths/trails will be of different lengths and surfaces to cater for all needs (incl. disabled provision) and colour coded/waymarked to encourage exploration
  - Easy access from existing sustainable transport infrastructure such as the Knapton to Rufforth bridleway – and access points/linkages to surrounding settlements
  - Forest school facilities and coppice areas to support nature based learning, education and green based skills development
  - Wood/area names relating to existing field names to reflect local heritage
  - Community agroforestry and foraging opportunities in the form of a community orchard
  - Non-public wood and pond area to the south of the B1224 for wildlife
  - Low key events space
  - Commemorative / contemplative wood area
  - Signage and interpretation, benches and seating
19. The woodland design masterplan includes the following mitigations in response to issues raised during project development and public consultation (see summary at Annex 2 – Community consultation feedback report):
- Provision for the potential future dualling of York Outer Ring Road at Knapton

- Future potential expansion of York Community Woodland westward to incorporate areas of the former Harewood Whin landfill site
  - Tree protection that avoids use of single-use and non-reusable plastics during the establishment phase
  - Access routes and car/bike parking provision, with an emphasis on sustainable transport modes in line with community feedback and expressed travel intentions
  - Tree planting scheme taking into account the nearby Rufforth airfield operations
  - Recommendations resulting from the following surveys and reports:
    - Site assessment and concept design report
    - Preliminary Ecological Assessment report
    - Archaeological survey (Phase 1) report<sup>1</sup>
    - Breeding bird survey report
    - eDNA (Great Crested newt) survey report
    - Interim Water vole and Himalayan Balsam mapping report
20. The design masterplan includes proposals for a visitor centre, cafe and associated car parking. These are indicative and subject to further development and any required planning approval. These features will be detailed as the woodland establishes and matures and when visitor demand can be better assessed.
21. The woodland design masterplan is subject to variation for operational purposes. Any variations will align with the design brief.
22. The Executive Member is recommended to approve the final woodland design masterplan to guide the physical creation of York Community Woodland and act as the basis of a Woodland Creation Planning Grant Stage 2 submission to Forestry Commission for woodland approval. The recommendation is in

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<sup>1</sup> The council is commencing a Phase 2 (final) archaeological survey in early September 2021 at points of interest in the south east of the site and further mitigations may be required should anything significant be found. Any required mitigations will not change the design masterplan in any significant way and resolved at a localised level.

accordance to the Delegated Authority granted to the Executive Member for the Environment and Climate Change by the council's Executive on 26 August 2021.

Indicative outline costs:

23. Pegasus Planning Ltd has identified an indicative outline capital cost of woodland creation as set out in the design masterplan specification of c£1.74m. Removing later phase visitor centre/café/toilet structure costs brings this figure to c£1.17m. This overall cost is broken down into key components in Annex 3.
24. A modular approach will be adopted to developing the visitor centre and café facilities as the woodland matures and visitor numbers increase. Additional funding will be sought to support delivery, with provision being made for basic facilities to be included in Phase 1.
25. These indicative costs will form the basis of negotiations with external funding bodies to secure the required external capital funds and legal agreements to support implementation of the masterplan.
26. The Executive Member is recommended to note the indicative outline cost schedule to guide the physical creation of York Community Woodland and support external grant funding applications.

Indicative phased implementation plan:

27. Pegasus Planning Ltd produced an indicative woodland masterplan implementation schedule showing woodland creation over 3 key phases. (Annex 4). Phase 1 would commence in the 2021/22 tree planting season (October-March) and involves the planting of 36,000 trees. Phase 2 would commence in the 2022/23 tree planting season and involves planting 17,500 trees. These two phases combined would ensure the Council Plan commitment to plant 50,000 trees by 2023 is met. Phase 3 involves a further 26,500 trees to reach the plan total of 80,000. This indicative plan is subject to confirmation of Forestry

Commission woodland approval, external capital funding and appointment of a woodland delivery partner able to deliver within these broad timescales.

28. The schedule proposes subsequent phases based around delivery of the indicative forest school area, visitor centre/car park area and 'woodland entranceway' area from Knapton village via the underpass, subject to further development and required planning permissions.
29. The Executive Member is recommended to note the indicative phased implementation schedule to guide the physical creation of York Community Woodland and to support discussions with delivery partners.

**External capital funding to support woodland creation and management, and selection of a woodland creation delivery partner**

30. Officers have pursued a number of capital funding opportunities to support woodland creation and ongoing woodland management. In May 2021, officers sent a Request for Information questionnaire to known funding bodies (Annex 5 provides a summary of responses).
31. Analysis of the responses enabled officers to undertake an initial evaluation of the funding opportunities against project objectives and timescales. Two funding sources offered the best alignment; the White Rose Forest Trees for Climate grant fund and the Forestry England Woodland Partnership 'offer'.<sup>2</sup> (Annex 6 provides a summary of the evaluation).
32. The funding opportunities represent two different propositions:
  - a) The Trees for Climate opportunity is a capital grant, funding 100% of woodland creation and 15 years' woodland management costs. It involves the council retaining full control and responsibility for procuring the services of a

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<sup>2</sup> Both funding opportunities are backed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 'Nature for Climate' fund to support the England Tree Strategy.

woodland creation delivery partner to physically create and then maintain the woodland on its behalf.

- The Forestry England Woodland Partnership offer involves Forestry England taking control and responsibility for woodland creation and ongoing management/maintenance to a design/specification agreed with the council through a long-term lease (60-120 years), for which the council would receive rental income.
33. The council has received 'in-principle' offers from both potential funding organisations. The offers are subject to final woodland design, Forestry Commission regulatory woodland approval and negotiated legal agreements.
34. Since the report to Executive on 26 August 2021, officers have completed a detailed options appraisal of these in-principle offers:

Option 1. White Rose Forest Trees for Climate fund

35. This offer is of a capital grant to support 100% woodland creation costs and 15 years' ongoing woodland management and maintenance. It would require the council to procure the services of a woodland creation and woodland management delivery partner(s) through open procurement and actively manage the contract(s).
36. White Rose Forest has indicated that Trees for Climate would fully support York Community Woodland project objectives, on the assumption that the list of eligible expenditure covers all the items featured in the woodland design masterplan. Trees for Climate objectives closely align to those for York Community Woodland, including carbon sequestration, biodiversity net gain, public access and engagement.
37. The list of eligible cost items under Trees for Climate allows for flexibility and should cover most expenditure directly linked to the delivery of the woodland design masterplan. In respect of tree

establishment and ongoing woodland management, Trees for Climate support is broken down into two main elements:

- Woodland creation and establishment payment(s):  
Payments of Grant funding made under the scheme in respect of successful tree planting and tree establishment, as specified in the Offer Letter and Agreement Document. Inspection of the area may be required by the Local Community Forest or Authorised Representative before any payment is authorised. Tree planting means the physical planting of trees and shrubs into suitable ground conditions in order to facilitate the creation of new woodland. Tree establishment means successful growth and development of healthy trees and shrubs, with the achievement of the minimum stocking density stated in the Agreement. The establishment period is typically 3-5 years following tree planting.
- Woodland support payments: These would be made under the scheme in support of ongoing woodland maintenance operations and ongoing delivery of ecosystem services, as specified in the Agreement.

38. The council is able to specify woodland creation and management terms within its contract(s) with any woodland creation and woodland management delivery partner(s), enabling retention of benefits like carbon credits and any shared income from timber or other commercial activities put in place or subsequently developed. Community engagement, green skills development and volunteering opportunities would need to be specified and monitored as part of these arrangements.
39. Risk management would be a key feature within the contract(s) with any woodland creation and woodland management delivery partner(s), the council having opportunity to transfer elements of delivery risk but retaining the overall risks associated with woodland creation (subject to negotiation of terms). A major risk currently affecting the whole woodland creation industry is tree supply. Minimising exposure to this risk could be done through procurement and contract arrangements.

40. The grant funding can also be used for required officer capacity/resource associated with delivery.
41. On the assumption that the council agrees to the fully costed woodland design masterplan, Kirklees Council (the accountable body for White Rose Forest) could issue, under the Terms and Conditions of 'Nature for Climate' funding, an Offer Letter within 1-2 weeks. Any offer of grant funding is conditional on the council securing regulatory approval for woodland creation from the Forestry Commission.
42. Once all necessary approvals are completed, a procurement exercise would commence to secure the services of a woodland creation and management partner fully supported by Trees for Climate funding. This process could take several months and represents a risk to the delivery timeline.

#### Option 2. Forestry England Woodland Partnership offer

43. The Forestry England Woodland Partnership offer involves Forestry England taking full responsibility for woodland creation and ongoing management to a design/specification agreed with the council. Delivery and ongoing management requirements would be detailed in formal legal agreements to be negotiated between the Council and Forestry England, including a long-term lease (60-120 years) of the site to Forestry England, for which the council would receive an annual rental income assessed in the region of between c£10,000 - £12,500 per year (depending on the duration of lease).
44. The Forestry England Woodland Partnership offer fully supports council objectives for carbon sequestration, biodiversity net gain, public access and ongoing engagement and achievement of a predominantly native mixed broadleaf woodland. Eligible cost items are similar to Trees for Climate funding, including site infrastructure, trees and their protection, access and signage, wood meadow creation, open space and wet woodland. Officers have consulted Forestry England on the emerging woodland design masterplan and Forestry England has confirmed all items specified are eligible for 100% support.

45. The woodland design masterplan shows plans for future inclusion of a visitor centre/café facility in later phases, as the woodland establishes and matures and visitor demand is better understood. These features are subject to any required planning permissions. Facilities will be developed on a modular basis as need develops with consideration for toilet facilities included in the initial phase. Forestry England has confirmed that visitor centre and café facilities often feature within their existing managed sites. Forestry England holds a central infrastructure funding pot (currently c£9m annually) that local woodland managers can apply to support the creation of features such as these, so long as a business case can be made. Forestry England's current model for such facilities is to sub-contract the running of cafés/shops to local suppliers and to specify the use of high quality local produce/goods.
46. Officers have commenced discussions with Forestry England regarding potential Heads of Terms and Legal/Lease Agreements to govern any contractual relationship between the council and Forestry England should this be the preferred funding source and delivery partner. These discussions are non-prejudicial and designed to shorten timescales. Discussions have centred around the use of formal legal agreements to ensure that the delivery of York Community Woodland is created to the design and specification agreed by the council.
47. Further control can be retained by the council through requirements set out within any legal agreement(s) entered into with Forestry England including (subject to negotiation with Forestry England):
- the council retaining all carbon credits for its own internal accounting purposes
  - the council retaining naming rights for the site
  - the council adopting and using the agreed community woodland vision and objectives to underpin project delivery and ongoing management
  - Avoidance of 'single-use' plastics wherever possible



- Ongoing community engagement to support and enable green skills development, nature based learning and community volunteering opportunities
  - Ongoing participation and representation from elected members to ensure the woodland's management reflects local views
48. Forestry England has indicated that, should they be chosen and confirmed as the council's delivery partner, they can move swiftly to put the required legal agreements, capacity and resources in place to commence woodland creation in line with the council's agreed woodland design masterplan and indicative implementation schedule, subject to the council securing Forestry Commission regulatory approval.

### **Options appraisal:**

49. Both in-principle funding offers would deliver the council's ambition for the woodland and provide preferable alternatives to the 'do nothing' position of using the Northern Forest budget for delivery. This option has not received further consideration in this report as it would fail to meet the requirement to minimise further calls on council budgets.
50. While there are similarities across the two offers, notably in the alignment with council objectives, a direct comparison is difficult due to the different nature of the propositions. There are, however, some important points of difference:
- White Rose Forest support the creation of new woodland through their Delivery Pathway; however, delivery is outsourced to an external organisation through an open procurement process. Forestry England are the largest forest managers in England and possess significant experience of woodland creation and land management. Delivery and management is locally led with Forestry England and the council entering into a long-term lease agreement.
  - The White Rose Forest (WRF) capital grant places responsibility for delivery and overall control with the council. Some of this responsibility and associated project risk could

be passed on to contractors/any woodland creation and woodland management delivery partner(s); however, the council would retain overall accountability. Alternatively, a lease to Forestry England could (subject to negotiation of terms) transfer significant responsibility and project risk to FE, while also transferring day-to-day control of the woodland. Important requirements of the Council could be specified in any lease to Forestry England (FE) (subject to negotiation of terms) and the council could have continued involvement through the management board.

- WRF capital grant covers maintenance costs for 15 years. This would be outsourced to a management partner but would need to be resourced by the council (either internally or through a management contract) at the end of this period. Under proposed lease to FE if their offer is chosen, FE would undertake all land management for the duration of the lease (60-120 years). At completion, the lease could be re-negotiated or the land transferred back to council control at which point continued management would need to be resourced by the council.
- WRF offer would cover 100% of the indicative costs, excluding the visitor centre and café facilities. Further potential expansion is also not included in the grant but could be eligible for separate grant applications. FE have a central pot of infrastructure funding that can be used to fund visitor centre/café facilities, subject to a business case.
- FE lease arrangement provides guaranteed rental income for the council of between £10,000-£12,500 per annum. FE would retain any income from commercial activity; however, they operate all their sites as not for profit undertakings meaning that any revenue is reinvested into the woodland. Through the WRF capital grant, the council would be free to negotiate a profit sharing agreement under a management contract for any commercial activity; however, this income is uncertain.

51. The White Rose Forest Trees for Climate offer has been evaluated to include the following potential benefits:

- a) Aligns well with the council's aims and objectives

- b) Eligible items within the recommended woodland design masterplan funded at 100% rate
- c) the council retains primary ownership and full control of the woodland, ensuring local accountability to residents and retaining a key say in how the woodland develops and is managed over time
- d) the council retains all carbon credits
- e) the council can access potential income from timber production (from thinnings etc.) and other commercial operations, so long as specified in woodland management contract(s)
- f) the council would work with the White Rose Forest Partnership on a flagship woodland creation scheme for York and the region, and to reap reputational benefits from this direct association

52. White Rose Forest Trees for Climate offer has been evaluated to include the following potential disadvantages:

- a) Full responsibility for woodland creation and management sits with the council. This responsibility can be mitigated in some way through our ongoing partnership with White Rose Forest (drawing on the resources and expertise they provide) and through the contract/procurement of a woodland creation delivery and management partner, working to clear contract specifications. However, this process comes with additional risks and responsibilities:
  - i. Requires the council to get the contract specification right, in order to secure the desired outcomes and timescales. It could be challenging to anticipate every eventuality up-front given woodland creation is a very long-term undertaking (contract review clauses could be factored in to address this)
  - ii. Procurement of a delivery partner can take time and the council is not guaranteed to secure the quality and pace it requires to hit project outputs and timescales
  - iii. Procurement timescales pose a real risk to tight project deadlines
  - iv. Tree supply would remain a key project risk
- b) Responsibility of the council to manage delivery and maintenance contracts (requiring staff resourcing). Although

costs of doing so covered for the first 15 years by Trees for Climate funding, this would require significant resourcing beyond that period.

- c) Large-scale woodland creation and management is not a current area of expertise for the council or part of operation.
- d) Development of any future visitor centre/cafe/toilet facilities would be the council's responsibility to finance and manage
- e) No regular income through rents

53. Forestry England funding and delivery offer has been evaluated to include the following potential benefits:

- a) Responsibility and risk for woodland creation and management transfers to Forestry England via a partnership (lease) arrangement with the council
- b) Reduces risks associated with procurement and tree supply as Forestry England have access to their own tree nurseries
- c) Minimises ongoing resourcing requirement for the council to low level contract management (currently a standard function of Property Services)
- d) Guaranteed annual income to the council of c£10,000 to c£12,500 per annum (Retail Price Index linked) depending on length/duration of lease
- e) Forestry England would adopt the agreed community woodland vision, objectives and woodland name. The woodland would benefit from co-branding of both FE and CYC
- f) the council to retain all carbon credits
- g) Ability to deliver at pace backed by significant organisational expertise and in-house resources
- h) Agreement from Forestry England to adopt project timescales, including commencing tree planting this winter and delivering minimum 50,000 trees by 2023, in line with Council Plan commitments
- i) Forestry England would deliver the agreed woodland design masterplan and key feature as specified and agreed (and specified in the lease agreement subject to negotiation of terms)
- j) Potential for future infrastructure and expansion to be financed through Forestry England capital funding resource

- k) Organisational commitment and expertise, as demonstrated through Forestry England woodland sites across the country, to community engagement, nature based learning and volunteering opportunities
- l) Potential for additional Forestry England recreation and leisure facilities and activities
- m) Willingness for Forestry England to consider, within legal framework, ongoing role of local representatives in woodland management
- n) Extensive volunteer network and opportunities for community participation in woodland delivery and management
- o) Forestry England's strong, high-profile reputation as a trusted brand

54. Forestry England funding and delivery offer has been evaluated to include the following potential disadvantages:

- a) the council effectively passes control (and responsibility) to Forestry England, with Forestry England becoming the day-to-day operator. Elements of control can be retained through the lease agreement
- b) Long tenancy with no break (early termination) clause – subject to terms of the lease
- c) All income from commercialisation of the space will belong to Forestry England. However, Forestry England operate their woodlands as not for profit and any surplus income is re-invested back into the site
- d) Forestry England brand could dominate and detract from the woodland's local connection. This could be mitigated through lease terms requiring ongoing co-branding (subject to negotiation with Forestry England)
- e) Minimal rental income for the council in relative terms
- f) Under the terms of the transfer deed pursuant to which the Council bought (part of) the proposed woodland site last year, the consent would need the written consent of the seller/former owner to grant a lease to Forestry England – albeit they are obliged by the transfer deed's provisions to give such consent.

## **Conclusion and recommendation**

55. Overall, the Forestry England offer appears to provide most significant benefit with minimal disadvantages. For this reason, the recommendation to the Executive Member is to approve Option 2 and select the Forestry England offer as the primary funder and delivery partner for York Community Woodland creation and ongoing woodland management.
56. The Forestry England offer will meet our delivery timescales, reduce project risk and liability for the council, create an exciting new partnership between Forestry England and the council for the benefit of local people and provide the council with a guaranteed (small) annual income for the duration of any lease.
57. York Community Woodland is one of only nine woodland creation schemes nationally to be offered Forestry England Woodland Partnership support and Forestry England has confirmed it is by far the most advanced project they are working on. The Forestry England approach is for the national team to initially develop and support the project and then, after three years of woodland establishment, transfer the woodland to the Yorkshire regional area team.
58. Following approval, the Director of Place, in association with the Director of Governance and relevant officers, will begin negotiations and agree a formal lease agreement with Forestry England under Delegated Authority granted by the council's Executive on 26 August 2021

## **Council Plan**

59. The project accords with the Council Plan 2019-2023 in regard to the following core outcomes of the Plan:
  - A greener and cleaner city – Carbon sequestration and amenity green space
  - Getting around sustainably – New pedestrian and cycle routes

- Good health and wellbeing – Creation of new open spaces to support healthy lifestyles for residents, businesses and visitors.
- Safe communities and culture for all – A range of leisure opportunities for residents
- Well paid jobs and an inclusive economy – Green skills development

## Implications

- **Financial** – The council funded the land purchase cost of £1.61m in 2020/21. Accessing external grant to fully fund the capital costs of woodland creation and ongoing woodland management will meet the council's objective to minimise call on the City of York Council capital budgets. The two funding offers being considered for woodland creation and management means the project can continue without council subsidy.
- **Human Resources** – Appointment of Forestry England as the woodland delivery partner may require an assessment of current staff resourcing dedicated to the project.
- **Equalities** – An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the woodland masterplan and is attached as Annex 7. The key conclusions arising from the assessment are:
  - The EIA has not found any negative impacts and has been designed to have a positive impact on several protected groups
  - The Woodland is an ongoing project and will continue to assess impacts and effects as the project progresses
- **Legal** – Detailed negotiations will be required to agree terms of any lease or other contracts/legal agreements with third parties to enable the council to ensure woodland delivery and management remains in accordance with agreed plans and timescales.
- **Crime and Disorder** – Consideration need to be given to the ongoing security and surveillance of the site to avoid instances of anti-social behaviour. This will need to be incorporated into the lease agreement.

- **Information Technology** – Consideration will be given to connectivity requirements for any future visitor centre and cafe facilities. This will be elaborated at the planning stage.
- **Property** – Property implications are contained within this report
- **Other** – None associated directly with this report

## Risk Management

60. The various funding streams featured in this report involve different levels of project risk with the Forestry England offer assessed as delivering the lowest woodland creation and ongoing management risks. The requirements for legal agreements to underpin the proposed woodland partnership with Forestry England could take time to put in place, with potential risks to project timescales.

## Contact Details

### Authors names

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*Shaun Gibbons*

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 27/08/2021

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*Title: Director of Governance*

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*Implication - IT*

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*Title: Head of ICT and Digital Services*

*Tel No. 01904 551966*

**Wards Affected: All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

- Creating a new woodland stray for York – Executive report 27 August 2020
- York Community Woodland community co-design vision and process for selecting capital funding and delivery partner – Executive report 26 August 2021

**Annexes**

Annex 1: Woodland design masterplan

Annex 1a: Woodland design explanatory notes

Annex 1b: Woodland design mood board

Annex 1c: Woodland design visualisation

Annex 2: Community and stakeholder consultation feedback report

Annex 3: Indicative outline costs

Annex 4: Indicative implementation schedule

Annex 5: Summary of responses to funders' questionnaire

Annex 6: Initial evaluation exercise

Annex 7: Equalities Impact Assessment

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- KEY
- EXISTING
- Site boundary
  - Overhead powerlines and 10m offset
  - River Foss
  - Existing vegetation
  - Public Rights of Way

- PROPOSED
- Broadleaf woodland
  - Wet woodland
  - Riparian zone planting
  - Tree planting
  - Orchard tree planting
  - Foraging planting
  - Native mixed hedge
  - Marginal scrub zone
  - Herbaceous vegetation zone
  - Grass & wild flower zone
  - Wood meadow
  - Mown grass
  - Bare ground scrapes
  - Deadwood piles
  - Wildlife ponds
  - Surfaced riding route (waymarked & made with locally sourced stone to vary depending on soil conditions)
  - Surfaced riding route (waymarked & made with locally sourced stone to vary depending on soil conditions)
  - Boardwalks
  - Grasscrete parking surface
  - Perimeter fencing
  - Deer proof fencing
  - Entrances to site
  - Interpretation boards & signage
  - Bridges
  - Woodland sculpture
  - Seating area
  - Community mural
  - Primary riding route
  - Secondary walking route
  - Informal mown or 'as-dug' route

ANNEX 1



Plant numbers and woodland coverage

109,213 trees and shrubs in total

80,632 trees in dense woodland blocks alone

Over 65% tree cover by area

Approximately 35% 'open space' cover by area which also comprises further tree and shrub planting

C	17.08.21	VR	Minor amends
B	06.08.21	KG	Minor amends
A	20.07.21	VR	Woodland layout changes
Rev	Date	By	Note

Landscape Masterplan

York Community Woodland

Client: City of York Council

DRWG No: P21-1688.001 REV: C

Drawn by : VR Approved by: KC

Date: 13/07/2021

Scale: 1:2,000 @ A0





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## Woodland Design, Implementation and Management, Principles & Guides

### KEY DOCUMENTS CONSULTED (not exhaustive)

- **UK Forestry Standard (UKFS)**, Forestry Commission
- **Managing your woodland for wildlife**, David Blakesley & Peter Buckley
- **Managing Rides, Roadsides and Edge Habitats in Lowland Forests**, Richard Ferris and Clive Carter
- **Plastic Tree Tubes – Who needs them?** Yorkshire Dales National Trust
- **Keeping Rivers Cool: A Guidance Manual** Keeping Rivers Cool
- **Woodland management for butterflies and moths** Butterfly Conservation

### CORE CLIENT GOALS FOR CYC WOODLAND

- **plant 50,000 trees by 2023**
- **increase & enhance access to green space**
- **enhanced health & wellbeing outcomes**
- **habitat diversity & biodiversity increase**
- **effective carbon sequestration**
- **green skills & volunteering development**

### SOURCING PLANTS

Provenance should generally be as local as practically possible and from a broad genetic base to increase resilience to pests and climatic changes. Comply with standard plant sourcing regulations.

Potential local suppliers:

- **Thorpe Trees, York** 01423 330977
- **Johnsons of Whixley** 01423 330234

The UKFS recommends drawing material from broad genetic base and using well-adapted local or regional origins from similar elevations. The UKFS also recommends encouraging the natural generation of desirable local tree and shrub species with ongoing woodland management.

### GROUND PREPARATION AND CULTIVATION

The fields within the site area are currently in arable cultivation which is ensuring that there is not a build-up of unwanted vegetation and weeds across the area. This management should continue prior to the phased meadow seeding and tree planting but the agricultural application of pesticides\* and fertilisers should be removed as part of these operations. Prior

to the planting of trees and shrubs it is envisaged that the field areas will be seeded with appropriate wildflower mixes in the spring/ autumn and the subsequent tree planting undertaken during the winter planting seasons, (November to March).

Prior to seeding, any unwanted vegetation will be removed using repeated cultivation as required. The ground should be ploughed, then raked or harrowed to produce a medium tilth and then rolled to produce a firm surface. The seed must be surface sown in overlapping sections applied by machine.

Wildflower mixes/ seeds are to be sown in either August-September or March-April, but timing and application can differ depending on the specific mix and where it is to be applied; consult supplier for details.

\*The UKFS recommends using artificial pesticides (including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) and fertilisers as a last resort in practising sustainable forest management – they should only be deployed in a reactive way when a problem has been identified or is highly likely, and alternatives should be sought if possible. They should match the needs of the stand and be planned with careful attention given to buffer and storage areas, weather and ground conditions and risk to water supplies. Particular care must be taken near to water bodies, where field application of pesticides and herbicides should be excluded, unless approved for use near water. No pesticide or herbicide should be applied within 1m surface of any water body. Check that drainage channels do not convey pesticides, herbicides, fertilisers to water bodies before application and do not apply during rainfall or wind conditions where spray will drift. Appropriate regulators, agencies and authorities may need to be consulted before the application of pesticides or herbicides, especially in or near water or in or near designated sites or priority habitats or species.

Minimising both pesticide and fertiliser applications reduces the operational carbon footprint of the woodland. UKFS further recommends minimising the use of inorganic fertilisers as much as possible and to plan any fertiliser applications to minimise risk of nutrient loss.

### **TREE PLANTING AND INITIAL MAINTENANCE**

It is envisaged that planting will be into establishing areas of meadow. Manual screefing in rows on the proposed planting grid would provide an optimum planting surface. (This would be in preference to spot spraying to minimise herbicide application.)

Trees should be planted within the grids in small species groups. The notch planting technique is to be employed. Shelters are to be employed immediately after planting.

### **Weed Control**

In woodland creation schemes any plant growing within 50cm of a young tree can be regarded as a weed. A 1m diameter weed free zone should be maintained around each tree for years 1-3.

### **UNWANTED / INVASIVE VEGETATION**

Bracken and bramble in particular should be carefully controlled / removed on an ongoing basis where it is unwanted in a woodland context so as not to out-compete other woodland

species and reduce plant diversity. Cutting or rolling can be used to control these plants as can the careful application of a suitable, selective herbicide such as 'Asulam' where it is necessary. Ivy, common nettle, thistles and sward grasses should also be carefully controlled throughout the site on an ongoing basis so as not to out-compete other woodland species. The same applies to other invasive or pernicious plant species.

In general:

- control invasive / pernicious vegetation before sowing / tree planting and throughout early growth stages of desired plants; minimise use of herbicides and spot treat as much as possible
- control invasive / pernicious vegetation on ongoing basis and at an early stage with cutting, rolling, or the careful application of selective herbicide

UKFS recommends taking early action against invasive species when populations are small and minimising the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers to as little as possible. See guidance above.

### SEED MIXES / GROUND COVER

Distinct areas for sowing include: wood meadow; general grassland through rides, along hedgerows etc.; herbaceous woodland edge, riparian zone and shaded woodland areas under tree canopy. All identified as separate mixes as below. Sowing rates vary from 1g / m<sup>2</sup> for grass/herb mixes to 0.5g / m<sup>2</sup> for herbs alone. Seeds are to be sown in either August-September or March-April, but timing and exact application can differ depending on the specific mix and where it is to be applied. In addition to seed sowing, the natural regeneration of desirable woodland species is to be encouraged as and when this occurs throughout the site.

#### Wood meadow:

Dan Carne (Wood Meadow Creation Officer for Wood Meadow Trust) is to use local seed from Derwent Valley Nature Reserve for the predominantly sandy, existing north-eastern field (Bell Field), however, due to large scale of site – he has recommended that **Emorsgate** be contacted for a **bespoke wood meadow seed mix** for any other areas of wood meadow indicated across the site (also predominantly sandy). Any mix should certainly include yellow rattle. As Bell Field is already sown with an appropriate mix, this area can be left to develop as-is with pernicious vegetation control applied where necessary.

#### General grassland through woodland rides, along hedgerows etc.:

Propose **Emorsgate EH1 – Hedgerow Mixture** in areas near broadleaf woodland blocks  
Details and management notes: <https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/12>

Propose **Emorsgate EM8 – Meadow Mixture for Wetlands** in areas near wet woodland (pine- and alder-dominant woodland areas)

Details and management notes: <https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/9>

#### Herbaceous woodland edge:

Propose using **Emorsgate EM10F - Tussock Wild Flowers** for herbaceous woodland edge

Details and management notes: <https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/32>

**Riparian Zone:**

Propose using **Emorsgate EP1 – Pond Edge Mixture** directly after pond establishment and before tree planting in riparian zone

Details and management notes: <https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/13>

**Shaded woodland areas under tree canopy:**

Propose initially using **Emorsgate EH1 – Hedgerow Mixture** before planting of new trees as tree canopy will not be developed enough to support shade-loving woodland species.

Details and management notes: <https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/12>

As canopy cover begins to establish over the years, begin to introduce areas of appropriate shade-loving woodland plants in group tree selection and individual tree selection areas (see woodland management) while also encouraging natural regeneration of suitable local woodland groundcover species in these areas. If possible, **Emorsgate EW1F – Wild Flowers for Woodland** can be sown as the canopy begins to close in.

Details and management notes: <https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/33>

**WOODLAND MANAGEMENT**

The overall goal for the site is to create a diverse, uneven-aged structure in time including: mature trees, some dense regrowth, numerous sunny rides and glades, and patches of recently cleared and regenerating open areas with sparse ground vegetation and warm unshaded conditions.

A **continuous cover selection system** is suggested over extended rotations (with cutting intervals in selected areas anywhere from 5 to 10 years), which should be applied throughout the woodland itself, using both the **group tree selection** and **individual tree selection** approach over time. Elsewhere, minimum or no intervention to be considered where appropriate in order to attempt the eventual, natural creation of an uneven-aged structure, though this could take 50-100 years to achieve. Non-intervention areas could be valuable for species requiring old-growth conditions. The increased risk of windthrow should be considered when creating natural regeneration gaps near the woodland edge.

**Group tree selection** involves the creation of natural regeneration gaps in broadleaf woodland of approximately 0.25 ha within suitable areas over time which are then continually managed to gradually increase mixed age and size classes. This approach is gradually applied throughout the woodland. Smaller gaps can be created within pine-dominant woodland.

**Individual tree selection** involves the removal of just the crown area of a mature tree; natural regeneration can then occur in this area. As with the group tree selection approach, thickets grow in this area and then are thinned over time until mature trees grow in place and the process is repeated throughout the site to provide mixed age and size classes over time, including seedlings, saplings, semi-mature and mature trees.



As time progresses, review the ongoing suitability and diversity of tree species in regeneration areas in line with changing parameters as further evidence on climate change and the emergence of pests and diseases becomes available.

UKFS recommends carrying out all woodland operations during dryer periods (but outside of bird nesting season) to minimise soil compaction. Soil disturbance should also be minimised as much as possible.

### **RIDE AND GLADE MANAGEMENT**

Sinuuous woodland rides have been designed in order to provide a range of habitats and shelter for a diverse range of species, with a particular focus on east-west rides as the more ecologically beneficial arrangement. East-west ride width in particular has been considered so that ride width is generally at least the ultimate height of surrounding tree species on either side (c. 30 metres), ensuring sunlight can reach the central area of the ride as well as the south-facing shrub edge. Ride widths should be maintained as such in the future.

Ends of the woodland rides have been narrowed and 'pinch points' have been created along the rides to decrease the risk of windthrow and creation of wind tunnels. These should be maintained as such. Scallops have been created along the rides, with a particular focus on scallops along the east-west rides' northern edges which receive more sunlight and are more beneficial to wildlife. Individual trees planted at low density across rides have been specified from time to time to increase the mobility of certain tree-dwelling species between distinct woodland blocks. Several glades and box junctions have also been created to provide more varied wildlife habitat at key locations.

Woodland rides and glades all include a graded edge to woodland, comprising:

- central zone of grasses and wildflowers (*turf*)
- tall herbs bordering central zone (*approximately 5m width each side of ride*)
- outer zone of scrub (*of varied density: some low, some high*) grading into high forest (*approximately 5m width each side of ride*)

Rides and glades should be continually maintained to provide open, sunny conditions and a structurally diverse woodland edge, as below.

### **The rides should be managed on a three-zone system:**

- the central turf zone should be mown at least once, possibly twice per year, retaining or creating new areas of bare ground in the process
- up to 25% of the tall herbaceous zone should be cut on rotation throughout the site each year, to create a mosaic of herbs of four different ages (*ideally cut late July-early August; cuttings must be removed*)
- Lengths of the shrubby woodland edge should be cut or coppiced outside of bird nesting season on a rotation every 8-20 years to retain structural diversity. Ideally, the rotation period will match the point at which an area of scrub has reached its

maximum size and density. Some brash can be retained in localised piles along the cut areas as a source of deadwood.

Big blocks of even-aged vegetation greater than 50m should be avoided in both the tall herbaceous zone and the shrubby woodland edge. Cuts should be evenly spread out along the network of rides and should alternate from one side of the ride to the other. Bracken and bramble should not be allowed to encroach on rides or glades and should not be allowed to develop at high densities. Bare ground scrapes should be provided here and there in sunny areas (i.e. northern scallops of woodland rides) for habitat enhancement.

The same management principles as above should be applied to graded vegetation of glades and box junctions, with traditional meadow management also applied to larger open spaces. A scatter of tall trees in glades and box junctions can add diversity but should not take up more than 10% area.

### **WOOD MEADOW MANAGEMENT**

Wood meadows should support a mosaic of habitats and create a variety of different microclimates, from the woodland edge to the meadow centre. Scattered trees and shrubs should be present within the wood meadow but mainly concentrated around the meadow edges, with ideal canopy cover at around 5-15%. These trees and shrubs should eventually be uneven-aged, with some larger standards left in amongst smaller trees and shrubs. Small, scattered coppice coupes are beneficial in a wood meadow (hazel, aspen, birch, etc.) and these should be managed on a long rotation (7-15 years) in a cyclical pattern, leaving some coppice plants to develop into standards.

#### **Year 1**

There will likely be a flush of weeds and ruderal species in the first year which may obscure the meadow plants; these should be topped or mowed and cuttings removed. Mow newly sown meadow regularly throughout the first year to a height of 40-60mm, removing cuttings. Avoid cutting in spring and early summer if the meadow contains yellow rattle or if cornfield annuals have been used as nurse cover.

The 'hay cut' of wood meadow should not be done too late (late July from autumn sowing; early August from spring sowing) so that grasses do not dominate and out-compete wild flower species. The 'hay cut' should be cut to 50mm – hay should be left to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days and then removed from site.

#### **Management once established**

Meadows should be cut on rotation each year in late July/early August and again in the autumn. This will extend the flowering season and help suppress grasses. Meadow grassland should not be cut from spring to late July/early August to give species an opportunity to flower.

N.B. It may be necessary to sow cornfield annuals as nurse cover in the first year in addition to the bespoke wood meadow mix in order to help suppress weed growth.

<https://wildseed.co.uk/page/cornfield-annuals-as-nurse-cover>

**WOODLAND POND MANAGEMENT**

Ponds shown are to a size previously recommended by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT): 150m<sup>2</sup> with central depth of 1m. Ongoing pond management will be advised by YWT / specialist, including any control of invasive or pernicious species.

UKFS recommends any fertiliser and pesticide applications be carefully planned with careful attention regarding their risk to waterbodies. Avoid forest drains discharging to waterbodies. Do not cultivate land within 2m of existing waterbodies.

**RIPARIAN ZONE MANAGEMENT**

The riparian zone should extend to approximately 10m width around water bodies and should be managed to develop a rich herb and shrub layer with a light, broken tree canopy. Tree canopy cover should be continually limited to approximately 50% within the riparian zone to provide light shade, and evergreen tree species should not be present within this zone due to the risk of over-shading.

UKFS recommends limiting the planting/presence of alder to less than 10% of the area within riparian zones. Keep riparian areas clear of brash and avoid felling trees into waterbodies. Restrict application of inorganic fertiliser as much as possible within riparian zone and only apply by hand, do not apply inorganic fertiliser within 2m of waterbodies. Application of organic fertiliser within riparian zone should be totally excluded.

**HEDGEROW MANAGEMENT**

The majority of existing hedgerows on site are to be retained and managed as separate elements from the woodland. Where existing hedgerows are sparse and gappy, suitable infill planting has been specified to strengthen field boundaries and enhance habitat. Hedgerows are to be maintained at approximately 4m high and cut on rotation (1 side per year) outside the bird nesting season.

**TREE / SHRUB PROTECTION**

It is understood that an existing population of deer as well as rabbits are a potential threat to the establishment of the new woodlands. A mixture of protective deer fencing and tree tubes is proposed across the site in order to protect young trees and shrubs. It is noted that there is a desire to reduce the use of plastic tree protection as much as possible, but this must be balanced with the potential for significant losses of stock if grazed by deer. Areas where perimeter protective deer fencing is proposed are demonstrated on accompanying plans—these areas are limited to undisturbed woodland blocks which have no through-paths. Protective deer fencing around these woodland blocks should sit between the woodland tree planting and the woodland shrub layer. Elsewhere, 1.8m high tree shelters should be used for all trees and shrubs throughout the site with the specific intent to remove, re-use and/or recycle these tree tubes once they have served their purpose. Temporary fencing of recently coppiced coupes may also be required to provide protection against deer.

**COPPICE MANAGEMENT**

Two main coppice areas are proposed including more formal, productive willow coppice to south-west of the site and more informal coppice areas within wood meadows. However, large areas of woodland shrub edge should also be coppiced on rotation as part of good-

practice ride management.

- **willow / productive coppice:** divide this coppice area into coupes, separating short-rotation coppice species (willow varieties – one, two or three years, once established depending on use of the arisings e.g. basketry to willow structures) from long-rotation coppice species (hazel & sweet chestnut – eight to fifteen years, once established) & manage accordingly for productive coppice
- **informal / dispersed coppice in wood meadow and in shrub edge:** place random, long-rotation species coupes in wood meadows concentrated on outer edge and manage accordingly for maximum biodiversity; coppice areas of woodland shrub edge on long rotation throughout site to retain ongoing habitat mosaic
- **keep a range of standard trees within coppice areas to maximise structural benefit:** retain some trees as standards within informal / dispersed coppice areas to about 20% cover density, and coppice some plants on a longer rotation to maximise benefits for wildlife (approx. 20 years)
- **all coppicing to be undertaken between late autumn and early spring; robust protection of coppice growth / re-growth against deer and rabbits for 2-3 years is to be provided**

### DOGS ON LEADS

Dogs should be kept on leads as much as possible so as not to disturb wildlife throughout the woodland. Dogs should be kept away from, and out of, ponds reserved for wildlife. Signage and interpretation will assist in this aim.

### UNDISTURBED AREAS

Some areas of the site are to be left undisturbed by human activity to increase value for wildlife. These include the woodland blocks separated by deer fencing as well as Whinny Woods, located to the south-west of the larger site area.

### MOVEMENT AROUND FORAGING PLANTING

Foraging planting in Banana Woods can be planted in groups of three to five plants, with sufficient width for informal mown routes for movement between planting clumps.

### DEADWOOD

Deadwood is a valuable habitat resource. Deadwood is to be retained on site in each woodland block (including tree stumps *in situ*) to provide important habitat for a range of species. Leave some deadwood – such as tree stumps, trunks and limbs – in situ where appropriate and safe. Otherwise, move deadwood and brash piles to concentrated, high-value areas of ecological benefit, including in sunny areas near wildflowers, along northern edges of woodland ride scallops and within wet woodland areas to create ‘debris dams’. Additionally, create ‘old growth’ conditions in some areas of the woodland and retain veteran trees.

UKFS recommends 20m<sup>3</sup> of deadwood per hectare.

**BIRD / BAT NEST BOXES**

Could be specified in time once woodland matures to improve ecological outcomes

**PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME**

Suggestions for public art informed by natural materials have been made as part of the proposals including a mural in the underpass and individual woodland themed wood sculptures and could be extended to willow sculptures and structures. This work could be undertaken by local artists as the woodland evolves. This element could also form part of the signage, interpretation and seating elements within the site.

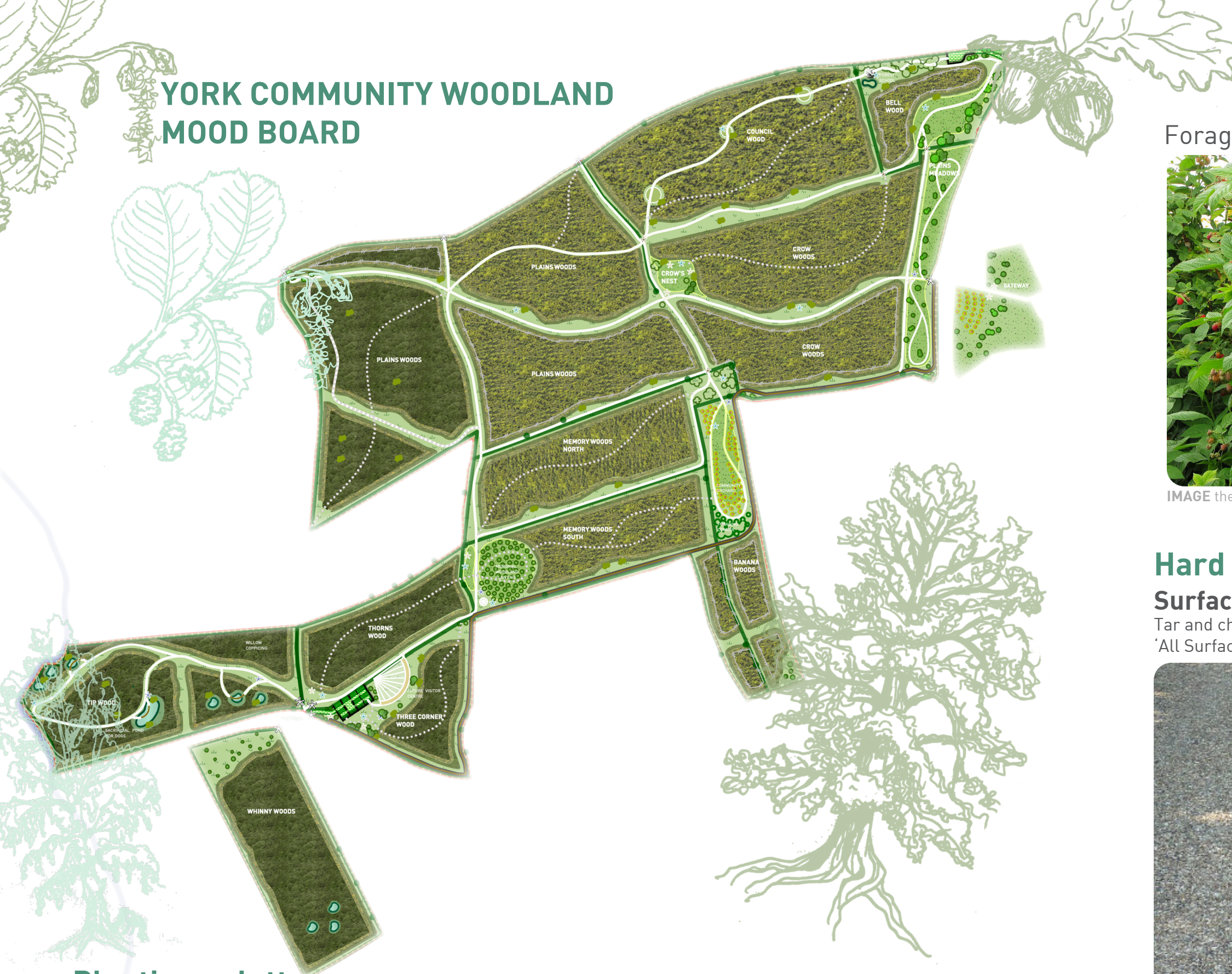
**OTHER FEATURES**

Beyond the implementation of the woodland suggestions for a layer of additional features such as car parking areas, visitor centre, forest school location, and a play area have been made.

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## YORK COMMUNITY WOODLAND MOOD BOARD



### Planting palette Oak-dominant broadleaf woodland



### Community orchard



IMAGE south-woodham-ferrers.co.uk

### Woodland shrub edge



IMAGE golfenvironmentawards.com

DESIGN | ENVIRONMENT | PLANNING | ECONOMICS | HERITAGE

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### Alder-dominant wet woodland



### Interactive woodland



IMAGE woodlandburialwestmill.co.uk

### Wood meadow



IMAGE wildmag.co.uk

## ANNEX 1b

### Foraging opportunities



IMAGE thespruce.com

### Woodland craft



IMAGE musgrovewillows.co.uk

## Hard material palette

### Surfacing

Tar and chip surfacing  
'All Surfacing' or similar & approved

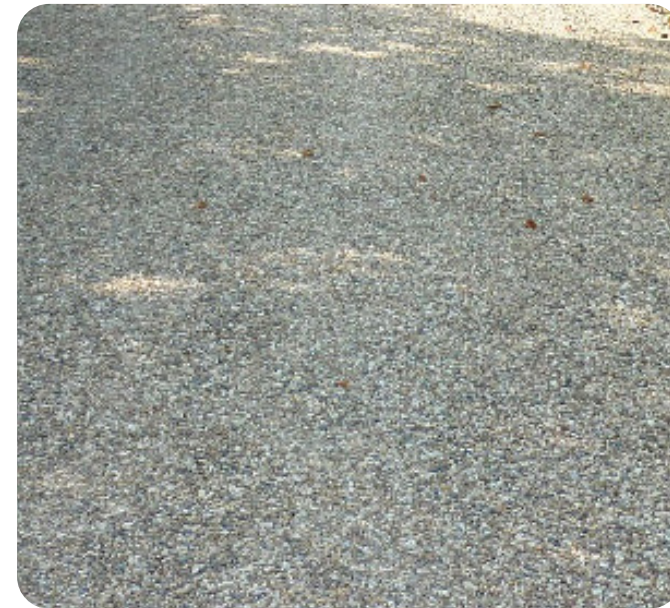


IMAGE allsurfacing.co.uk

Landscape hoggin / self-binding gravel  
'Riverside Quarry' or similar & approved



IMAGE riversidequarry.co.uk

'As dug' informal paths

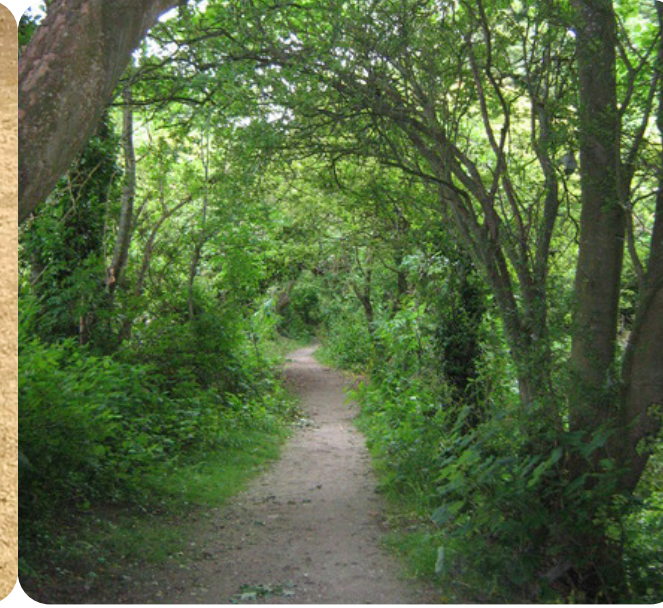


IMAGE e-voice.org.uk

### Perimeter fencing

Cleft chestnut post and rail fencing  
'AVS fencing' or similar & approved



IMAGE avsfencing.co.uk



IMAGE externalworksinde.co.uk

NB: all precedent images & palettes are for indicative use only and may not reflect the final design outcome for the site.

### Entrances

FSC hardwood timber boom-type swing gate  
'Woodscape' or similar & approved



IMAGE woodscape.co.uk

Medbourne mobility timber kissing gate  
'Secure-a-Field' or similar & approved



IMAGE externalworksinde.co.uk

Naturalistic entrance protection could also be used, such as tree trunks & large boulders

### Seating

Naturalistic carved logs

'The Wild Deck Company' or similar & approved



IMAGE thewilddeckcompany.co.uk

Rustic log bench

'Caledonia Play' or similar & approved



IMAGE caledoniaplay.com

### Signage

Laser etched wooden finger posts  
'DAB Graphics' or similar & approved



IMAGE dabgraphics.co.uk

Wildlife habitat panels  
'DAB Graphics' or similar & approved



IMAGE dabgraphics.co.uk

### Natural play

Crow's nest

'Davies White' or similar & approved



IMAGE bbc.co.uk

Stepping logs

'Nature play supplies' or similar & approved



IMAGE natureplaysupplies.com

### Woodland sculpture

Naturalistic chainsaw art at key site locations, similar to work by Simon O'Rourke and Rachel Joynt



IMAGE treecarving.co.uk



IMAGE racheljoynt.com



IMAGE treecarving.co.uk

### York Community Woodland

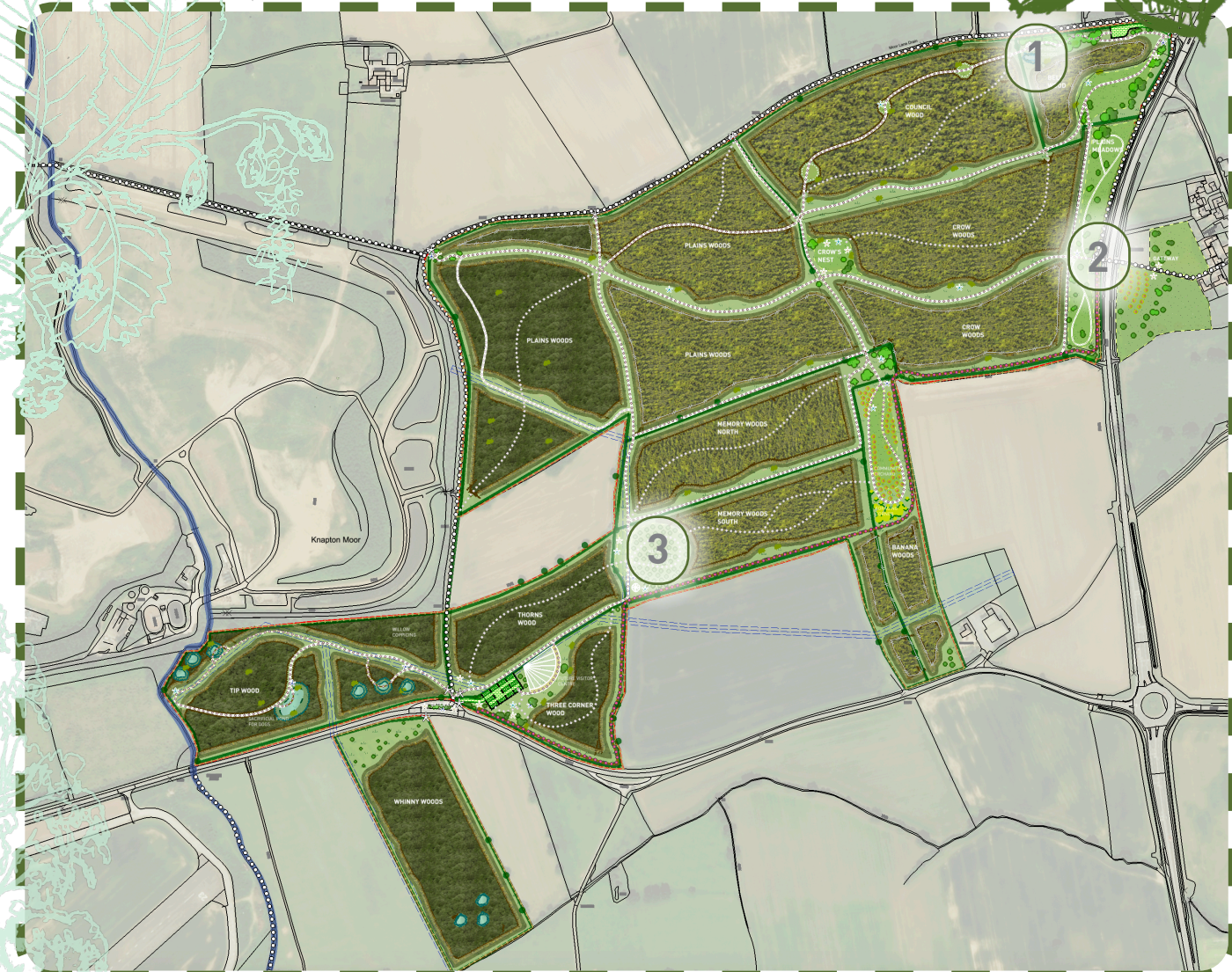
Client: City of York Council  
DRWG No: P21-1688.003A  
Drawn by: VR  
Date: 20/07/2021  
Latest Rev: 03.08.21



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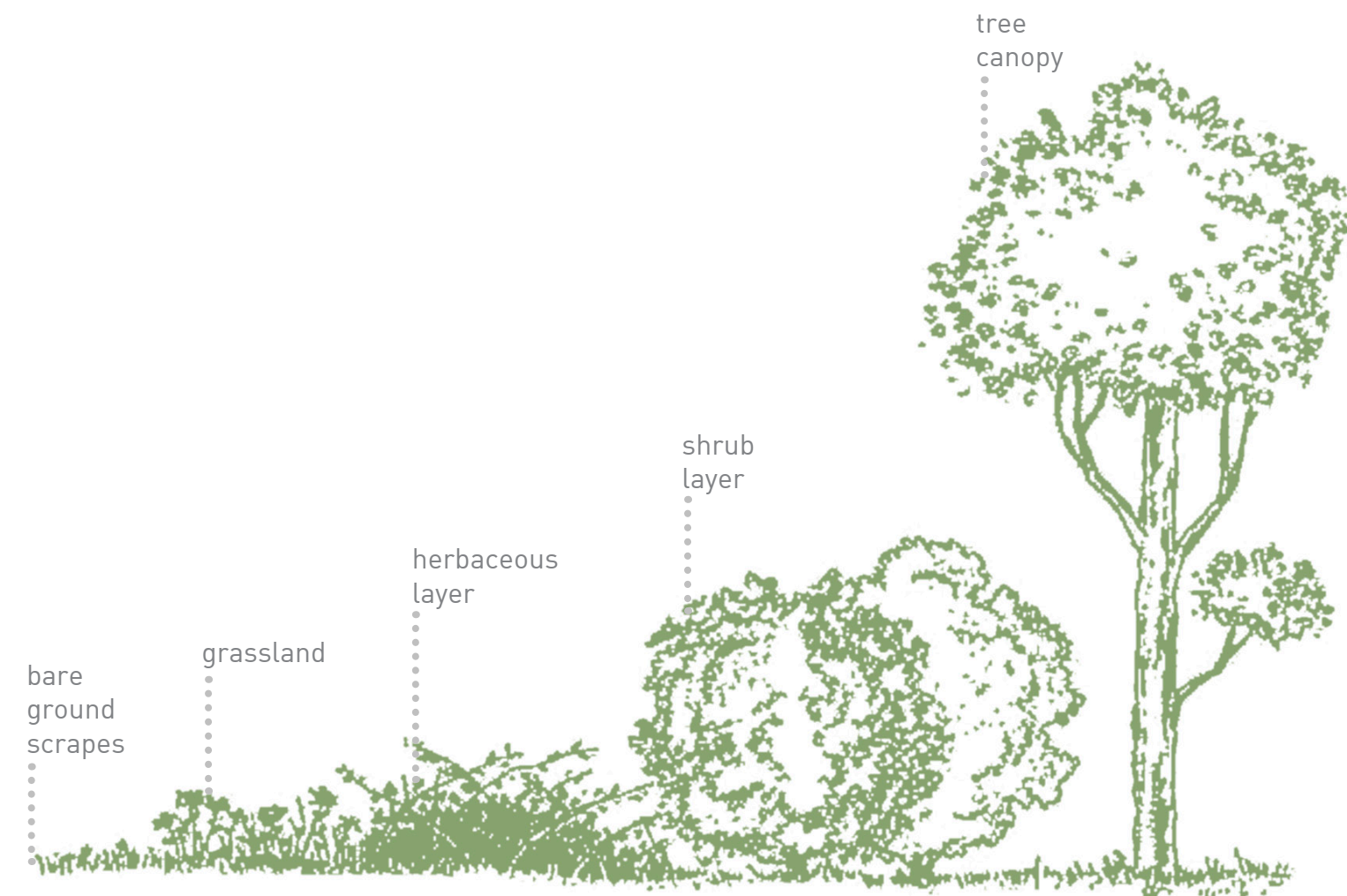


# YORK COMMUNITY WOODLAND VISUALISATIONS



Scale: 1:10000 at A1

Illustrative cross-section of suggested, graded woodland edge habitat applied throughout the site



DESIGN | ENVIRONMENT | PLANNING | ECONOMICS | HERITAGE  
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## ANNEX 1c

### 1. Forest school at northern border of Bell Field



Forest school at the northern border of Bell Field comprising wood meadow; learning and activity shelter; surfaced path; wildlife pond; naturalistic play opportunities and winding woodland trail

### 3. Interactive community woodland in centre of site



Interactive community woodland in centre of site allows community members to plant trees on an ongoing basis on behalf of local charities or to mark special occasions within the community; also includes willow bowers for seating, appropriate signage, woodland sculpture and wild flower meadow

### 2. Woodland mural design through underpass at eastern gateway



Potential for woodland-themed community mural and sculpture through existing underpass, ensuring the eastern entrance to the Community Woodland is a creative, inviting and safe space

#### Learning & activity shelter By 'Wild Deck Company' \*



IMAGE thewilddeckcompany.co.uk

The Octagon outdoor gazebo (seats forty)  
'P&A timber buildings' \*



IMAGE pandatimberbuildings.com

\* 'or similar & approved'

#### Wildlife mural By 'ATM'



IMAGE wanderlust.co.uk

By 'Jane Mutiny'



IMAGE janemutiny.com

#### Signage 'Fitzpatrick Woolmer' \*



IMAGE externalworksindex.co.uk

Woodland signs  
'Make me something special' \*



IMAGE makemesomethingspecial.com

#### York Community Woodland Visualisations

Client: City of York Council  
DRWG No: P21-1688.004A  
Drawn by : VR  
Date: 27/07/2021  
Latest Rev: 03.08.21  
Scale: as shown at A1



P21-1688.004A | VISUALISATIONS | YORK COMMUNITY WOODLAND | CITY OF YORK COUNCIL



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YORK COMMUNITY WOODLAND

# COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT RESPONSE REPORT

## OUR SERVICES



DESIGN



ENVIRONMENT



PLANNING



ECONOMICS



HERITAGE





Nether Poppleton

Hessay

Roman Road

A1237

Knapton

Rufforth

Wetherby Road

Beckfield Lane

Bradley Lane

Askham Lane

A1237



## ANNEX 2

# Contents



Pavilion Court, Green Lane,  
Garforth, Leeds LS25 2AF

Prepared by **Pegasus Design**  
Pegasus Design is part of Pegasus Group Ltd.

Prepared on behalf of **City of York Council**  
July 2021 | Project code P21-1688

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# 1.0

## Introduction

**1.1** City of York Council is creating an extensive community woodland on 194-acres of land to the West of York with the ambition to plant 50,000 trees by 2023. The project is currently known as York Community Woodland (YCW), with a new name to be decided as part of the engagement process.

**1.2** The Council's high-level vision for the woodland is as follows:

---

***"The new woodland will be a well-designed, bio-diverse, green space providing a place for peaceful contemplation and leisure for the people of York. This will create a new stray for the city, enhance the setting of the city and make York an even greater place to live, work and visit."***

---

**1.3** 150 acres / 61 hectares of land have been purchased in the west of York for the creation of York Community Woodland and an additional 30 acres of land next to the A1237 is being considered for additional tree planting.

**1.4** Together with adjoining land already owned by the council this has the potential to create around 194 acres / 78 hectares of new amenity woodland for York.

**1.5** The land was purchased using part of a £3m Northern Forest budget, agreed at Budget Council in February 2020. In July the council joined the government's Northern Forest initiative which aims to plant 50 million new trees across the north of England. The initiative is a partnership between the Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission and other organisations committed to tree-planting across the North of England including the White Rose Forest which covers the Leeds City Region and York.



### Purpose of Report

**1.6** This report will summarise the recently completed phase of public engagement, known as the “co-design” phase. The purpose of the report is to:

- Set out the engagement process undertaken including who responded;
- Summarise the key themes and messages emerging from the 6-week community and stakeholder engagement process;
- Identify woodland design features to be carried forward into the final woodland design masterplan;
- Identify the key issues and concerns raised by the public and to suggest suitable council responses and mitigations.

**1.7** The findings of this report will play a key role in the next steps of the design process.



## 2.0 Consultation Programme

**2.1** The co-design phase of public engagement ran for 6 weeks, from 14th April to 26th May 2021. This phase is expected to be the key phase of engagement during the wider design process and the main goals were as follows:

- To provide the public with a series of platforms to express opinion on the concept designs of the YCW, with a focus to reach all audiences across the city of York;
- To provide the public accessible and simple channels to express opinion and feedback;
- To deliver a communication plan that promotes this engagement phase with a clear, holistic, co-design approach;
- To evidence all consultation feedback in a clear, streamlined way.

**2.2** Ensuring that the consultation was accessible to all was key to its success, particularly as the exercise was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic. The main form of feedback was through an online survey, online webinars were also undertaken, and various community groups were targeted directly. A postal option for the survey was also made available.

**2.3** The consultation was promoted through a number of channels, providing details of how to access the survey or to join the webinars, these included:

- York City Council website & social media channels;
- The YCW newsletter and social media channels;
- Local media pieces (newspapers, etc);
- Community groups (including online forums, social media, etc);
- Ward and Parish Councillors;
- Local Schools, Colleges and Universities;
- Sports clubs;
- Charity groups (including those representing older and disabled people).

### Survey

**2.4** An online survey was hosted on the YCW website, alongside details of 3 Concept Designs to encourage feedback. The full survey is provided at **Appendix 1**. A mix of quantitative and qualitative questions were used to encourage wide ranging feedback.



### Webinars

**2.5** Members of the public were invited to attend online webinars where members of the project team were available to discuss the project and respond to questions. Feedback from these sessions was recorded and is included in the analysis in Section 4 of this report.

### School Surveys

**2.6** Alongside the full survey, a small survey was put together for school children and completed by classes at Rufforth Primary School and St Paul's Primary School. The survey is provided at **Appendix 2** and the feedback is included in Section 3.

### Email Responses & Stakeholder Engagement

**2.7** Additional community groups and stakeholders were contacted directly by the project team for feedback. A full list is provided in **Appendix 3**.

**2.8** As part of the stakeholder engagement members of the project team attended the Knapton with Rufford Parish Council meeting on 4th May 2021 to present the project and answer questions.

**2.9** Team members also attended a York Environment Forum meeting (Attendees list provided at **Appendix 4**) and hosted a Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting (Attendees list provided at **Appendix 5**). Feedback from all of these meetings was recorded and is included within the analysis in Section 4.

### Responses

**2.10** Full details of the responses received are provided below. The numbers received through the different engagement methods were as follows:

Survey	710
School survey	54
Webinars	8
Other events	2
Additional responses	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>783</b>

**2.11** Overall the consultation programme is considered to have been wide reaching and successful in engaging people from all walks of life, including harder to reach groups. The variety of feedback methods was appropriate for the scale of the scheme and there was plenty of time for respondents to provide their feedback.



# 3.0

## Statistical Analysis

**3.1** The figures presented in this chapter come solely from the questionnaire responses. Other responses submitted by email, in the webinar, etc are covered in section 4 and section 5 of this report.

**3.2** It is clear from the amount of responses that the engagement exercise was thorough and worthwhile. Members of the public have shown a great level of support and interest in the project and the majority of the responses align closely with the vision and objectives set out by the Council.

### Headlines

- Over 780 responses.
- Over 550 people confirmed they had considered the three proposed concept designs.
- 98% support the creation of a new community woodland.
- 78% agree with the council's high-level vision for the woodland.



### Monitoring

**3.3** Respondents completing the survey were asked to provide their age (within a range of options) and postcode so that the reach and representation of the engagement exercise could be monitored.

### Age

**3.4** In terms of age, the responses given have been shown on the pie chart below, alongside a chart showing the age distribution of York (taken from the 2011 Census). These charts show that young people were less well represented within the main survey, and the 40-55 year olds group slightly over represented. It should be noted that these charts do not include the school survey respondents, all 54 of whom were under 16. With this in mind it is considered that the overall engagement exercise did reach groups of all ages, but that some younger people did not feel so strongly about the proposals that they felt the need to comment. This is not uncommon for a consultation of this type.

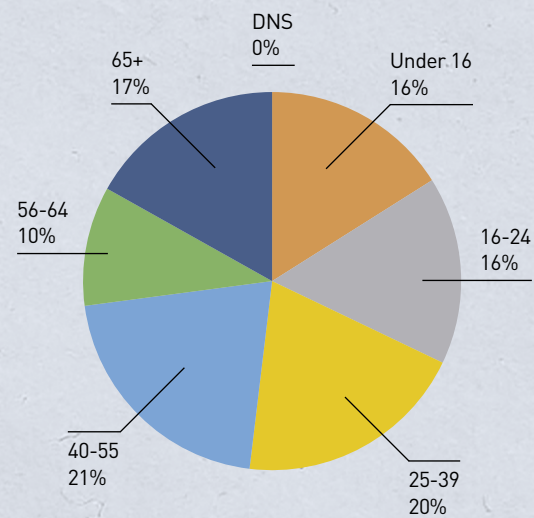


Chart 1 – Census Age Data

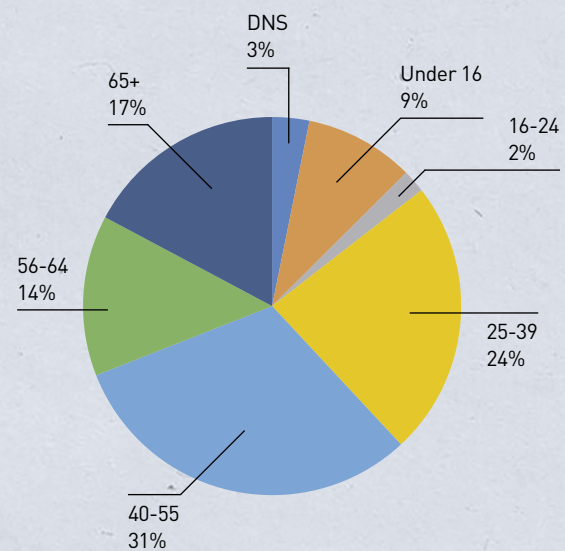


Chart 2 – Survey Age Data



### Geographical Reach

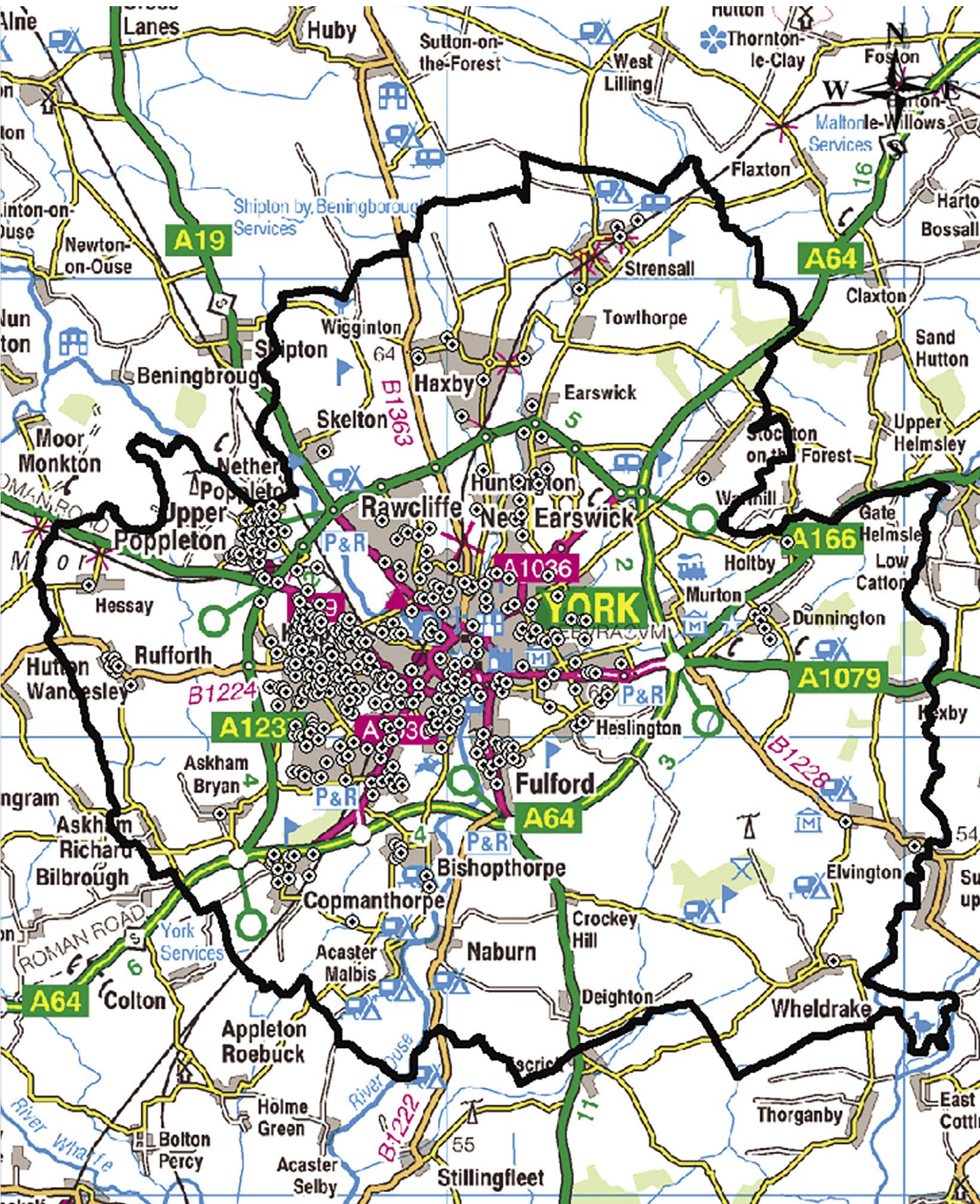
**3.5** In terms of geographic reach, the below map shows the postcodes of those who responded. The map shows that members of the public from across the City of York engaged in the consultation, with some up to 15km away from the site, as well as a higher density of responses coming from the area nearest the woodland.

**3.6** It was key that the consultation reached all areas of the City as the Woodland will be used by all, not just those closest to it. Engagement with those nearest the site was also key, to ensure a good understanding was gained regarding local issues, in particular concerning access, transport and parking. These issues are detailed later in the report.

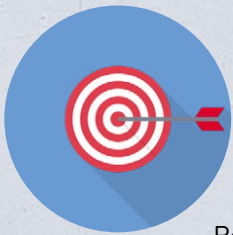
**3.7** Overall, the distribution of respondents shows that the consultation exercise was effective in engaging the wider community but also had a local emphasis on those who will be most affected by the proposals.

<b>Y026</b>	Holgate, Upper Poppleton, Nether Poppleton, Green Hammerton, Whixley, Hutton Wandesley, Cattal, Great Ouseburn, Moor Monkton Moor, Knapton, Little Ouseburn, Kirk Hammerton, Chapel Fields, Bilton Hags.	<b>35%</b>
<b>Y024</b>	Acomb, Holgate, South Bank, Chapelfields, Knavesmire, West Field, Dringhouses, Nunthorpe, Woodthorpe.	<b>20%</b>
<b>Y023</b>	Bilbrough, Nunthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Angram, Acaster Malbis, Bolton Percy, Rufforth, Acaster Selby, Ryther, Middlethorpe, Askham Bryan, Askham Richard, Holme Green, South Bank.	<b>12%</b>
<b>Y010</b>	Layerthorpe, Fulford, Heslington, Osbaldwick, Walmgate Stray.	<b>7%</b>
<b>Y031</b>	Heworth, Tang Hall, Huntington, New Earswick.	<b>6%</b>
<b>Y030</b>	Clifton Moor, Skelton, Overton, Rawcliffe, Shipton, Beningbrough, Linton-on-Ouse, Newton-on-Ouse.	<b>6%</b>
<b>Y032</b>	Stockton on the Forest, Moor End, Haxby, New Earswick, Earswick, Towthorpe, Stensall, Huntington, Wigginton.	<b>4%</b>
<b>Y019</b>	Holtby, Escrick, Crockey Hill, Warthill, Riccall, Moor End, Thorganby, Wheldrake, Grimston, Kelfield, Hall Garth, Dunnington, Stillingfleet, Naburn.	<b>2%</b>
<b>Y08</b>	Harlthorpe, Osgodby Common, Camblesforth, Newland, Hambleton, West Haddlesey, Bubwith, Barlby, Skipwith, Gateforth, Temple Hirst, Foggathorpe, Cliffe, Chapel Haddlesey, Drax and North Yorkshire in East Riding of Yorkshire.	<b>1%</b>









### Objectives

Respondents were asked to identify which of the five objectives were most important to them. The results were:

**96%** see increasing biodiversity and creating habitats as an important function of the woodland.

**91%** see carbon capture as an important function of the woodland.

**91%** see access to green space for health and wellbeing as an important function of the woodland.

**Over three quarters (76%)** want to see York's active travel network enhanced to include new walking and cycling routes as part of YCW.

**74%** see the creation of new green jobs and the development of skills/volunteering opportunities as an important function of the woodland.

### KEY OUTCOMES

It is clear that the biodiversity and ecological value of the woodland, along with its environmental function are key for respondents. The space should be useable, but trees, habitats and wildlife should take priority.

The project design will be sensitive to the importance of the plants and wildlife, whilst maintaining useable areas for leisure and mindfulness.

The public responses aligned well with the objectives given so these should be retained to drive the project forward.





### Woodland Features

Respondents were asked to rank woodland features in order of importance, providing feedback on what elements they would like to see included in the final design. The results were as follows:

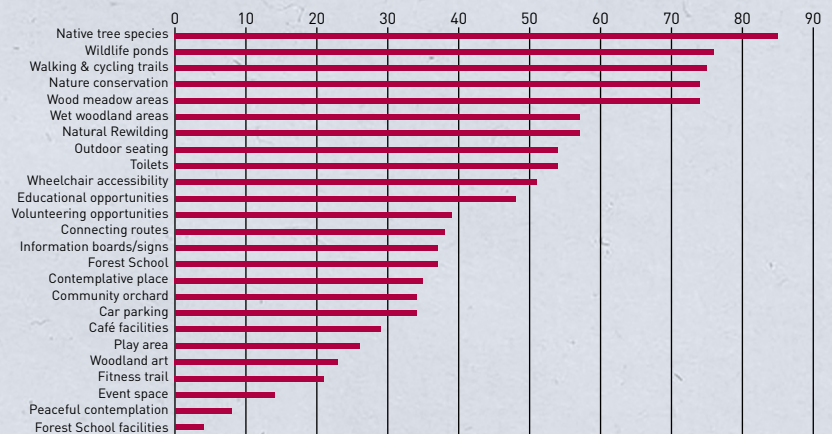
- Native tree species **85%**
- Wildlife ponds **76%**
- Walking & cycling trails **75%**
- Nature conservation **74%**
- Wood meadow areas **74%**
- Wet woodland areas **57%**
- Natural Rewilding **57%**
- Outdoor seating **54%**
- Toilets **54%**
- Wheelchair accessibility **51%**
- Educational opportunities **48%**
- Volunteering opportunities **39%**
- Connecting routes **38%**
- Information boards/signs **37%**
- Forest School **37%**
- Contemplative place **35%**
- Community orchard **34%**
- Car parking **34%**
- Café facilities **29%**
- Play area **26%**
- Woodland art **23%**
- Fitness trail **21%**
- Event space **14%**
- Peaceful contemplation **8%**
- Forest School facilities **4%**

### KEY OUTCOMES

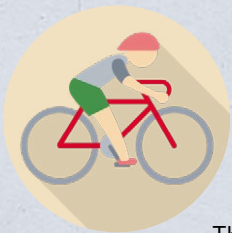
It is clear that respondents valued natural features above built forms and hardstanding areas. Planting, ponds and trails will be included in the design, alongside areas of different habitat types to support a variety of wildlife.

Educational and volunteering opportunities will be provided for using low impact facilities and no formal events space, visitors centre or café will be included.

An accessible network of paths will also be included for all user groups.



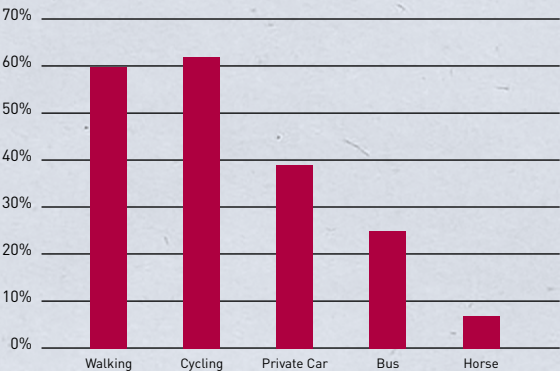




Transport

The survey asked how people were most likely to travel to the Woodland and the responses were as follows (more than one mode could be selected):

- 60% anticipate walking to the woodland.
- 62% anticipate cycling to the woodland.
- 39% would travel by private car.
- 25% would travel by bus.
- 7% would travel by horse riding.



KEY OUTCOMES

The majority of respondents intended to walk or cycle to the woodland. The site is already well served by footpaths, cycle routes and bridle ways and these will be retained through the proposals to encourage sustainable travel.

Some visitors will drive, and a small amount of parking will be provided for this, away from local residents.

Provision will also be made for cycle parking, disabled parking, minibus parking and a drop-off point for visitors. All of these elements will be carefully incorporated to maximise accessibility whilst minimising the potential for disruption in the local area.





### Community Involvement

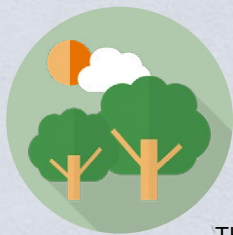
Respondents were asked if and how they would like to be involved in the creation of the Woodland, their responses were:

**Over half** of respondent want to be involved in tree planting.

**26%** want to be involved in citizens science projects.

**A quarter** want to help create trails.

**13%** would get involved in running events.



### Maintenance

The survey asked how respondents thought the Woodland should be maintained, the feedback suggested:

**28%** thought the woodland could be maintained by the community.

**22%** thought a "Friends of YCW" group could maintain it.

**23%** thought York Council could maintain it.

**13%** thought a social enterprise could maintain it.

**72%** thought a mixture of the groups above would be best.

### KEY OUTCOMES

Respondents are keen to be involved in the creation and ongoing maintenance of the woodland, fulfilling its purpose as a community facility.

The final design will include a management plan which will incorporate opportunities for volunteering and potential for on-going activities such as fruit harvests, forest schools and educational pursuits.

### KEY OUTCOMES

A mixture of groups should be involved in maintaining the woodland to ensure it is well managed in perpetuity.

The final design will include a programme and funding for this, to safeguard the Woodland for generations to come.



# 4.0

## Further Analysis

**4.1** This section of the report provides an overview of the qualitative data submitted as part of the engagement exercise. This includes responses to the open-ended questions from the survey, as well as feedback from the webinars and separate email submissions made during the consultation period. It also includes responses from the following groups:

- York Civic Trust;
- Friends of Fishponds Wood and Beech Grove;
- Knapton Allotments Association;
- Residents of North Field Lane;
- York Rotary Clubs;
- Knapton with Rufford Parish Council;
- York Environment Forum;
- Stakeholder Advisory Group.

### School Survey Responses

**4.2** The school survey utilised different questions, as shown in **Appendix 2**, targeting the key objectives, what children want to see in the woodland and how they would use it. The responses are summarised below and align well with the feedback from the main survey. The overall emphasis being that natural features were key, alongside space for leisure and exercise.

- Approximately half saw useable green space as the main function of the woodland;
- One third thought improving biodiversity was important;
- Roughly 15% thought carbon reduction was a key function;
- The following features were most important to the children:
  - Flowers and trees 25%;
  - Somewhere to learn about nature 20%;
  - Space to run around 20%;
  - Somewhere to ride your bike 18%;
  - Somewhere to play 18%.

### KEY OUTCOMES

The children's responses aligned with the vision and objectives – looking for a useable woodland space which can support a variety of wildlife, plants and trees.

Space for children's play areas should be included in the detailed design.



### The Council's High-Level Vision

**4.3** The Council's vision for the YCW, as stated in Section 1 of this report, was put to members of the public and stakeholders in the consultation. As set out in Section 3, 78% of those responding to the survey supported the vision as currently drafted. As part of the survey, participants were asked if they would make any changes to the vision.

**4.4** Some participants took this opportunity to make more general comments on the proposed designs and those points will be considered under the relevant section of the chapter.

**4.5** The list below summarises the additional elements which respondents felt should be included or given more emphasis in the vision statement. It is worth noting that most of these are included in the objectives proposed so may not need to be repeated here.

#### KEY OUTCOMES

The Woodland vision is widely supported and aligns with feedback from respondents.

An additional reference to carbon capture/environmental benefits should be added to reflect what members of the public consider to be the key objectives.

**4.6** Proposals to add into the vision statement:

- Reference Carbon Capture / environmental sustainability / climate change;
- Well-managed into the future;
- More emphasis on biodiversity;
- Stronger direction / use of objectives;
- The goal should be to provide a place where all people can engage with the natural world;
- Balance between biodiversity and leisure use, is one a priority?
- The number of trees to be planted;
- Accessibility for all, including disabled people, horse riders and people with dogs;
- It should be accessible by sustainable modes of transport;
- More emphasis on community use;
- Use it to encourage activity / exercise and healthy lifestyles;
- Reference to educational aspects.

**4.7** The majority of feedback from respondents aligned well with the vision which has been set out. Most requests for additions covered elements set out in the objectives and whilst linking these is key, it is not essential for them to be repeated in the vision.

**4.8** The detailed designs will need to balance the creation and long-lasting maintenance of new habitats and biodiversity assets, whilst ensuring the YCW is a useable space for all members of the public, from dog-walkers, to disabled users, to children, horse riders and runners.



## Objectives

**4.9** The consultation included sharing 5 key objectives with respondents. These have been ranked by importance in Section 3, however there was also an opportunity for respondents to add other objectives which they felt were important. Again, some respondents used this opportunity to make design suggestions, these will be dealt with later. The suggested objectives submitted are summarised below:

- For the woodland to be multi-functional and appealing to all;
- Providing open space for those living in high density areas;
- Opportunity for foraging, reducing food waste;
- For the woodland to be easily accessible for all and well linked with sustainable transport opportunities;
- A way to engage with charities and other community groups;
- Accessibility for horse riders.

**4.10** As shown in section 3, the key objectives for respondents were the nature and environment focused statements. This is a theme identified throughout the consultation, that respondents see the habitat creation and environmental benefits of the proposal as the most important aspect, with their use of the space coming second. Accessibility is important but respondents were clear that they do not want the woodland to be harmed by too much use.

**4.11** Accessibility is clearly a key theme from these first two sections. This relates both to people travelling to the woodland without over-reliance on private cars, as well as ensuring that the woodland can be used by all members of the public. As set out in the travel section below, provision will be made to encourage sustainable transport methods as much as possible.

**4.12** In terms of accessibility within the woodland, a network of different routes will be provided using a mixture of surfacing appropriate for different user groups. This will ensure there are paths for those with limited movement, families, cyclists and horse riders. This is considered further within the design feedback section below.

**4.13** Overall, the feedback clearly showed that respondents aligned with the objectives set out by the Council and supported their implementation through the design process.

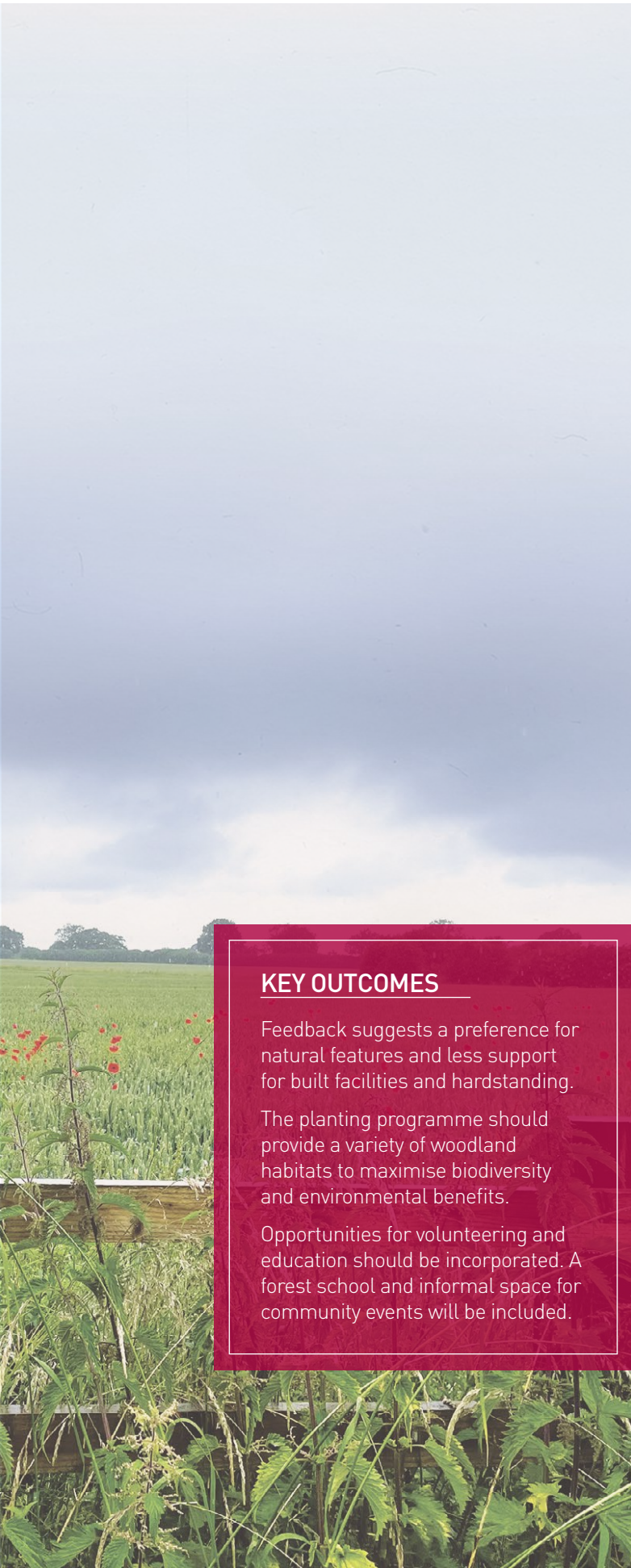
## KEY OUTCOMES

The objectives reflect the public's feedback. Respondents clearly felt that nature and the environment should take precedence over humans dominating the space.

The design should include accessible routes for all users, areas of "untouched" woodland and carefully considered parking provision.







### KEY OUTCOMES

Feedback suggests a preference for natural features and less support for built facilities and hardstanding.

The planting programme should provide a variety of woodland habitats to maximise biodiversity and environmental benefits.

Opportunities for volunteering and education should be incorporated. A forest school and informal space for community events will be included.

### Features of the Woodland

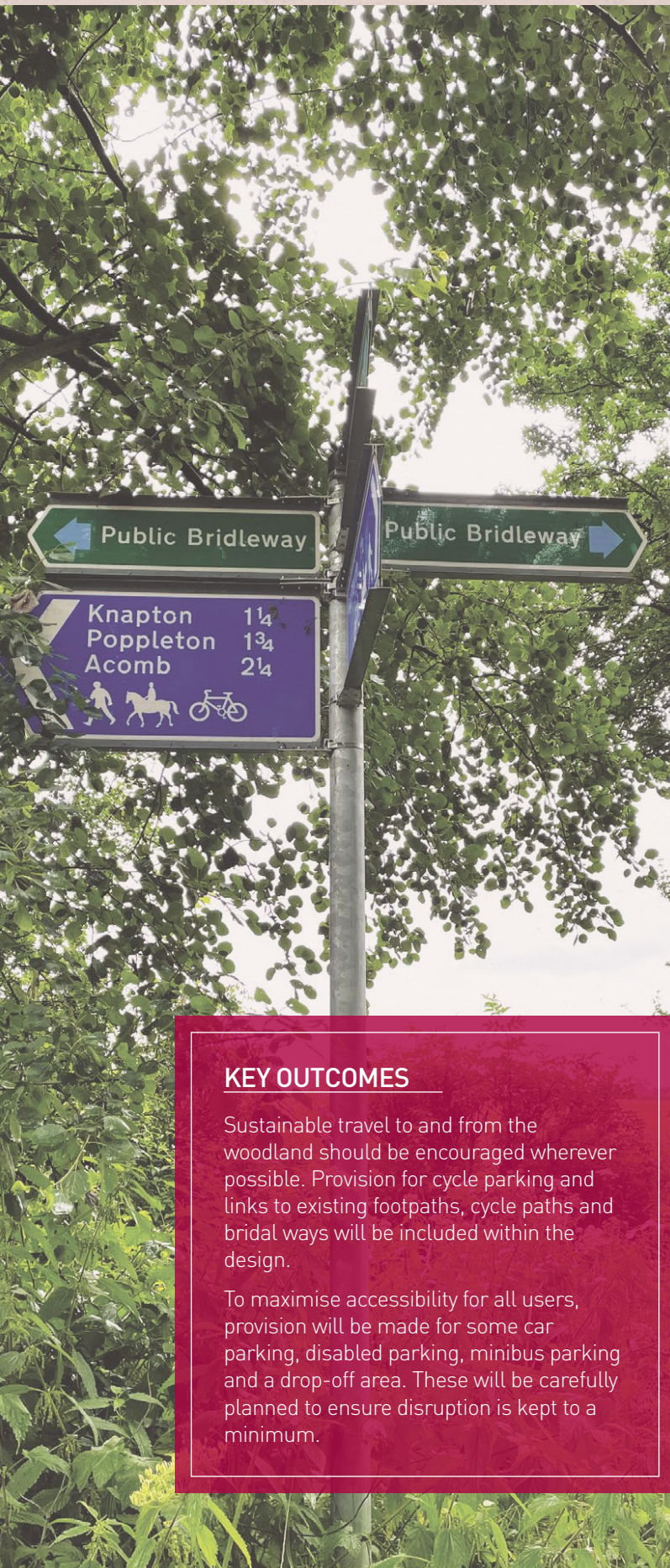
**4.14** As set out in section 3, respondents were asked to note the features of the woodland which were most important to them. The results will be carried through into the detailed design phase. Other suggested features are summarised under the Design feedback section.

**4.15** It is clear from the statistics set out in Section 3 that respondents were more drawn to the natural features suggested for the woodland and were less keen for built form and hardstanding to be introduced if it could be avoided. This direction has been clear across the survey and further feedback with respondents clearly valuing the environmental benefits the woodland can provide over a visitor centre for example. This clearly aligns with the feedback received on the objectives presented.

**4.16** In particular, feedback suggested that the woodland should provide a variety of habitat types and planting species to ensure the project can support the most wildlife possible. In line with the objectives, respondents also wanted to see opportunities for volunteering and education. Both of these key elements will be incorporated into the detailed designs.

**4.17** Particular features which have been suggested or had concerns raised regarding them have been addressed in the design feedback section below. As the responses set out, the design will focus on a careful balance between allowing natural habitats to thrive and providing controlled accessibility to ensure members of the public can use and enjoy the space. This feedback aligns well with the vision and objectives that the proposal set out to achieve.





## KEY OUTCOMES

Sustainable travel to and from the woodland should be encouraged wherever possible. Provision for cycle parking and links to existing footpaths, cycle paths and bridle ways will be included within the design.

To maximise accessibility for all users, provision will be made for some car parking, disabled parking, minibus parking and a drop-off area. These will be carefully planned to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum.

## Travel

**4.18** As set out above, the accessibility of the woodland has been a key theme in the responses received. As set out in Section 3, the majority of respondents intended to walk or cycle to the woodland. The site is already well served by footpaths, cycle routes and bridle ways and these will be retained through the proposals to encourage visitors to make use of sustainable transport options.

**4.19** It is acknowledged that some visitors will drive to the site and a small amount of parking will be provided for this, away from local residents.

**4.20** Provision will also be made for cycle parking, disabled parking, minibus parking and a drop-off point for visitors. All of these elements will be carefully incorporated to maximise accessibility whilst minimising the potential for disruption in the local area.

**4.21** There was an opportunity through the consultation to provide other responses not included in the options and the results are summarised below:

- Park & Ride/Shuttle bus/Tram system;
- Extended cycle paths;
- E-scooter;
- Parking provision for blue-badge holders.

**4.22** As noted above, requirements for cycle and car parking (including disabled provision) will be included within the detailed design and links to existing routes will be included wherever possible.



## Community Involvement

**4.23** As part of the engagement exercise, respondents were asked if they would like to be involved in creating the woodland. As set out in Section 3, members of the public are keen to be involved in a number of different aspects.

**4.24** In addition to the responses set out in those statistics, various respondents offered expertise in specific areas including:

- Practical assistance (planting etc);
- Educational input;
- Wheelchair use;
- Marketing & admin tasks;
- Donations and fundraising assistance;
- Horse riders safety & bridal ways;
- Cycle trails;
- Mindfulness;
- Tree climbing;
- Natural History;
- Events;
- Ongoing maintenance & litter picking.

**4.25** Local Scout leaders responded saying their groups could assist, others suggested local schools and students could get involved. Around 20 respondents expressed an interest in being involved but were concerned their age or mobility would restrict them from helping.

**4.26** This feedback aligns well with the objective for the Woodland to support jobs, education and volunteering opportunities, as well as ensuring that the Woodland is a genuine community asset in the long term.

### KEY OUTCOMES

Respondents are very keen to be involved in the creation and long-term use of the Woodland. Provision should be made for volunteers and educational pursuits within the woodland design, as well as informal community space.

## Maintenance

**4.27** Alongside the statistics provided in Section 3, other suggestions regarding maintenance were made through the engagement process. These included existing community groups like schools or young offenders in the locality. Some respondents suggested fundraising to allow for some jobs to be created.

**4.28** Overall, the majority thought the groups suggested in the survey would be best placed. Long-term maintenance and management will be key to the success of the Woodland and will need to be planned as part of the final design.

### KEY OUTCOMES

Respondents consider the long-term management of the woodland to be an important element in its success. Funding and provision for this must be secured through the proposal's development and accommodated within the detailed design.



# 5.0

## Design Feedback

**5.1** This section sets out the suggestions and concerns raised throughout the consultation process. It must be noted that the designs provided for comment were high-level draft options and that there is considerable research and planning to go into the more detailed design phase.

**5.2** Key themes from this section included sustainable travel options, accessibility for all, consideration of the species mixes and an overall focus on the ecological benefits of the scheme. Respondents were keen to ensure a balance is achieved between allowing members of the public to enjoy the space whilst protecting the habitats and biodiversity which will be introduced. Overall, there was preference for not providing the events space as other facilities are available and nature should come first.

**5.3** The most frequently mentioned concerns included vandalism, dogs, cyclists and the ongoing management of the project in perpetuity. Respondents wanted to see separate trails and paths for separate users allowing disabled visitors, families, cyclists, etc to enjoy the space without disrupting each other.

**5.4** Consideration of parking provision brought conflicting opinions. Some respondents were keen to see plenty of parking to ensure local roads would not be affected, but others thought less parking would encourage people to use more sustainable modes of transport. This will need to be further examined through the detailed design process.

**5.5** The below table further summarises the concerns and suggestions received. Responses have been made to the comments made showing how feedback will be incorporated as the detailed designs progress. Further surveys, including archaeological and ecological, will be carried out and the results will also feed into the developing design.



Feedback	Response
<b>Maintenance / Management</b>	
Concerned about potential vandalism and littering.	Robust detailing will form part of the design proposals to address potential vandalism. Provision of litter bins at the key entrance points for easy emptying will be considered.
Concerned about Dogs causing disruption and Dog mess.	A system of key routes will be laid out to guide the majority of visitors around the site. Provision of dog waste bins at the key entrance points for easy emptying will be considered.
Concerned regarding the costs of ongoing management and security provision.	Management and maintenance requirements form part of the project and are considered at all stages of the design. The final proposal will include a long-term management programme.

<b>Design comments / Features</b>	
The events area is not required and could cause disruption	A series of open spaces will be provided in the woodland to allow flexibility for a range of potential community events but it is envisioned that these would be low key and linked closely to the activities related to the proposed woodland. E.g. Nature days, Apple harvest etc.
The woodland should be accessible for all, including disabled people, older people and families / children of all ages. Cyclists and horse riders should be catered for.	It is proposed that there is a hierarchy of routes catering for a range of users from main surfaced routes of different distances through to less formal main routes to quieter parts of the woodland. Different features will be included to appeal to different users (e.g. play area, forest school, etc) Routes for cyclists and horse riders will tie into existing provision around the site periphery. Cycle parking will also be included.
Not too much provision for humans, nature should be the focus / The balance of accessibility vs biodiversity will be key	The concept is to be as light touch as possible in terms of infrastructure for visitors with the focus being on the planting of the woodland, habitat creation and the enjoyment of the woodland as a new community resource. The proposals are seeking a balance between public access for enjoyment and quiet areas for nature to flourish
Would like to see emphasis on mindfulness	Quieter, less formal routes will be provided off the main circulation routes including areas for quiet contemplation and woodland yoga etc.
Would like to see a picnic area	This will be included.
The pond is a nice addition but could be a hazard	This will be detailed with shallow sides and devices for safe supervised access such as dipping platforms and boardwalks.
There is no need for a café or events space.	Agreed, these are not currently proposed but could be included in future expansion if appropriate.
Concerned that the location isn't sustainable, parking will be a problem, other modes of travel should be encouraged	Links into the existing footpath and cycle networks will be provided as part of the layout to encourage sustainable transport choices and walking to the site. New dedicated parking and drop off areas will be integrated into the layout. A main parking area will be located off the main road link to the south west with a secondary parking area located off the existing road access to the north.



Feedback	Response
<b>Planting</b>	
The planting mix must be carefully considered and responsibly sourced. Fruit trees should be included.	There will be an emphasis on being reflective of local conditions and character and sourcing material as locally as possible. Fruiting species will form part of the proposals.
Agricultural land / is the soil right for a woodland to thrive?	The site soils and former arable use provide an excellent basis for the establishment of a woodland and associated habitats. Species will be selected to be locally appropriate and reflective of the local character.
The project should be in keeping with the existing landscape	Agreed, the planting mixes will be reflective of the local conditions/ landscape character and will include the integration of existing features such as the hedgerows.
Some part of the canopy should be open to encourage ground level biodiversity	Agreed there will be woodland glades and rides as part of the proposals

<b>Other</b>	
The woodland project should be protected from policy changes and future developments	Potential future expansion of the A1237 road has been fed into the constraints plan underpinning the layout and consideration given to future circulation within the woodland. Funding will be secured for the project through grants etc and this money will be ringfenced for the woodland and its long term management.
Nearby airfield to be aware of	This has been noted and will be taken into consideration during the detailed design phase.
A robust archaeological survey will be required	This has been undertaken including trenching and the results used to inform the design.
Ecological surveys should be carried out	These have been undertaken and the results used to inform the design.

### KEY OUTCOMES

The additional feedback provided on the design and management of the woodland remained in line with the key themes established throughout:

- The balance between nature and human use
- Accessibility and facilities for all
- The importance of long-term management and security
- The best mix of planting to support a wide variety of wildlife
- Encouraging sustainable travel whilst accommodating all users

These themes will be considered in detail through the design process.



### Technical Responses

**5.6** Alongside responses from stakeholders and member of the public, a number of more technical responses were submitted following engagement with relevant organisations. These included:

- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust;
- The Forestry Commission;
- Natural England;
- The Woodland Trust.

**5.7** Additional feedback was received from the Forestry England following the consultation to say that:

---

***‘Strongly support the feedback you received at consultation for ‘the simple enjoyment of woodland’***

---

**5.8** This quote is considered to tie in well with the overall woodland vision and serves as an important reminder that, as set out by many respondents, the woodland itself provides enjoyment and interest, other extravagant facilities and attractions are not needed.

**5.9** The comments and recommendations made by the above organisations were really positive and we will continue to engage with these organisations throughout the design process.

**5.10** The comments submitted are summarised below and provide useful feedback to incorporate into the ongoing site assessment works and detailed design stages. The surveys recommended, including soil and ecology, have either been completed or are underway, and Landscape Architects have been brought on-board to progress the detailed stage of design works.

**5.11** The majority of the points below have also been raised through the wider engagement programme and are addressed above. The organisations responding agreed with members of the public that the natural and environmental function of the woodland is key and that access for members of the public should be provided in a way that will not hamper the success of the habitat creation. They also noted that different users of the space may prefer separate routes, and this is being incorporated into the detailed design.



### The Forestry Commission

- Consideration of historic landscape could lead to a historic footpath network based on boundaries and landscape features.
- Categorisation of permission footpaths/public rights of way should be considered.
- Soil survey should be undertaken to identify best suited species.
- Permeability and drainage will need to be considered.
- The location is suitable for the proposals.
- The multi-functional design will need to balance public access and environmental goals.
- Landscape architects should provide design input.

The suggestions made by the Forestry Commission predominantly reflect feedback set out in the rest of this report. Footpath networks and historical features/boundaries will be carefully considered during the design process and incorporated where possible. The necessary surveys are underway or completed and are feeding into the design process which is being led by qualified landscape architects.

The balance between natural habitats and human impacts is being carefully considered.

Support for the location is acknowledged.

### Natural England

- Proposals of this type are supported by National Planning Policy.
- Comprehensive ecological surveys will be required to ensure existing assets are protected/replaced/mitigated.
- A long-term management plan should be established early on.
- Existing habitats on adjacent sites should also be considered.
- Defra Biodiversity Net Gain metric should be considered.
- Inclusion of ponds encouraged – the west/southwest area appears most suitable.
- Areas of the woodland should be left undisturbed by humans, a visitor strategy should be put in place to manage this.
- Native species should be used wherever possible.
- Planting specimens should be of local provenance.
- Potential use of plot south of Wetherby Road as an operations compound.
- Butterfly species have been recorded in the area and additional advice is provided to manage this.

Support for the scheme is acknowledged.

Agree that there are benefits of a “planned” recreational space to reduce impacts on other environmental assets.

Local community groups and projects are being reviewed as part of the design process and it is hoped that the woodland will bring about a variety of benefits for the local community.

Ponds will be included and their location will be carefully considered.



### The Woodland Trust

- Highest potential woodland cover possible should be aimed for.
- Trees will need to be protected from wildlife in early stages.
- Feedback should be requested on transport planning requirements for parking/access etc.
- Parking location will need to be carefully considered.
- Separate routes within the woodland for different users would be beneficial.

We are aiming to achieve approximately 60% canopy coverage due to constraints such as overhead lines, existing hedgerows, etc. The protection of young trees is being carefully considered as is parking provision. A network of routes for different users will be provided.

### Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

- Proposals of this type are supported by National Planning Policy.
- Comprehensive ecological surveys will be required to ensure existing assets are protected/replaced/mitigated.
- A long-term management plan should be established early on.
- Existing habitats on adjacent sites should also be considered.
- Defra Biodiversity Net Gain metric should be considered.
- Inclusion of ponds encouraged – the west/southwest area appears most suitable.
- Areas of the woodland should be left undisturbed by humans, a visitor strategy should be put in place to manage this.
- Native species should be used wherever possible.
- Planting specimens should be of local provenance.
- Potential use of plot south of Wetherby Road as an operations compound.
- Butterfly species have been recorded in the area and additional advice is provided to manage this.

Support for the proposal is acknowledged. The necessary surveys are underway or completed and are feeding into the design process.

A long-term management plan will make up part of the final design.

Some natural spaces will be left undisturbed and ponds will be included in the scheme. Local, native planting will be key to the woodland's success and is being carefully considered.



# 6.0

## Conclusion & Recommendations

**6.1** Following a review of the consultation materials, it is clear that the vast majority of those involved support the York Community Woodland Project. The responses received align closely with the existing vision that the Council had agreed.

**6.2** The existing vision statement reads as follows:

---

***"The new woodland will be a well-designed, bio-diverse, green space providing a place for peaceful contemplation and leisure for the people of York. This will create a new stray for the city, enhance the setting of the city and make York an even greater place to live, work and visit."***

---

**6.3** It is recommended that this is amended slightly to better reflect the carbon capture / environmental benefits of the proposal as one of the project's key objectives.

**6.4** The objectives of the project which were put forward in the consultation were as follows:

- Planting trees for carbon capture, as part of a wider commitment to reach net-zero carbon by 2030;
- Increase access to green space to improve health and wellbeing;
- Increase biodiversity, wildlife habitats and protect endangered species;
- Enhance York's active travel network, including new walking and cycling routes;
- Opportunities for new green jobs, green skills development and volunteering opportunities.

**6.5** Overall, these were well supported by the public and stakeholders, although some noted they could be reflected in the overall vision statement. Starting with the objectives and then running as a clear theme throughout, respondents strongly supported the creation of natural habitats and the environmental benefits that this would bring. Whilst they were keen for the space to be useable, it was made clear that the use of the woodland should not restrict or harm the trees, plants and wildlife within it.

**6.6** The public have provided detailed and varied feedback to be considered during the continuing site assessment and design process. Throughout this report key outcomes have been identified relating to each theme. These have fed into the below recommendations which will lead the remaining stages of the design process:



### Key themes

- The balance between public access and biodiversity, habitat and environmental benefits;
- How parking provision will be incorporated to an extent which will reduce impacts on local residents, whilst encouraging sustainable travel;
- Ensuring the woodland is accessible for all users, whilst ensuring a peaceful visitor experience (potential separation of routes for different users);
- Achieving a sustainable mix of planting species which will be robust and provide biodiversity assets;
- That the woodland will be well managed and maintained, to be enjoyed by generations to come.

### Recommendations

- That access through and around the woodland is well managed through a network of paths and that built form and hardstanding is avoided where possible;
- That a small amount of parking is provided with a main parking area to the south west and a secondary (restricted) parking area located off the existing road access to the north;
- That a hierarchy of routes is provided to serve different woodland users and pockets of space will be made available for contemplation and quiet;
- That planting stock and seeds are sourced locally wherever possible and qualified experts are consulted on planting mixes;
- That the final design include a medium-long term management plan for the woodland.

**6.7** Overall, the feedback from the engagement exercise was extremely positive and aligned closely with the vision and objectives in place. The recommendations above will lead the detailed design process to ensure the scheme proposed evolves to reflect the feedback received through the consultation exercise.



# Appendix 1



## YORK York Community Woodland Survey

### Survey Information

Our survey asks for some personal information which you may choose not to give. We do not publish or share any information which can identify you. Please read our [privacy notice](#) to find out more about how we protect your personal information. We will ask for your consent to this at the start of the survey.

You can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting [business.intelligence@york.gov.uk](mailto:business.intelligence@york.gov.uk).

\* Do you confirm that you have read and understood the privacy notice? You must select 'Yes' in order to take the survey.

☐ Yes ☐ No



**YORK**  
COUNCIL

## York Community Woodland Survey

\* Have you already seen the concept design images regarding the woodland on the York Community Woodland Website?

☐ Yes

☐ No



## Appendix 1

**YORK**  
COUNCIL

## York Community Woodland Survey

The link to the York Community Woodland page is here: [York Community Woodland Concept Designs](#) . On the page you will see the concept designs and related landscape visualisations show some of the different ways we could design the woodland to meet the objectives we have set out. **Please click on the link and return to the survey afterwards.**



**YORK**  
COUNCIL

## York Community Woodland Survey

To what extent do you support the creation of a new community woodland in York?

☐ Strongly support

☐ Support

☐ Do not support

☐ Strongly do not support

☐ Don't know

☐ No opinion



## Appendix 1

**YORK**  
COUNCIL

## York Community Woodland Survey

**York Community Woodland High Level Vision**

'The new woodland will be a well-designed, biodiverse, green space, providing a place for peaceful contemplation and leisure for the people of York. This will create a new Stray for the city, enhance the setting of the city and make York an even greater place to live work and visit'.

Do you agree with the council's high level vision for York Community Woodland?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If your answer is no, please tell us what you'd like to change or see included:





**YORK**  
CITY COUNCIL

## York Community Woodland Survey

Which of the objectives are most important to you:  
(Rank 1 - 5)

	Very important	2	3	4	Not at all important
Planting trees for carbon capture, as part of a wider commitment to reach net-zero carbon by 2030	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase access to green space to improve health and wellbeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase biodiversity, wildlife habitats and protect endangered species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhance York's active travel network, including new walking and cycling routes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities for new green jobs, green skills development and volunteering opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)



## Appendix 1

What do you feel is most important for a community woodland?

(Tick all that apply)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native tree species        | <input type="checkbox"/> Wet woodland areas       | <input type="checkbox"/> Café facilities           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest School              | <input type="checkbox"/> Community orchard        | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature conservation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peaceful contemplation     | <input type="checkbox"/> Connecting routes        | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking and cycling trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Rewilding        | <input type="checkbox"/> Play area                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest School facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair accessibility  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor seating            | <input type="checkbox"/> Car Parking              | <input type="checkbox"/> Information boards/signs  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness trail              | <input type="checkbox"/> Contemplative place      | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilets                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife ponds             | <input type="checkbox"/> Event space              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood meadow areas          | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland art             |  |

Please note your top three woodland features below:

1

2

3



**YORK**

## York Community Woodland Survey

How would you prefer to travel to the woodland site?

(Please tick all that apply)

☐ Walk

☐ Cycle

☐ Car

☐ Public bus

☐ Horse

☐ Other (please specify)



## Appendix 1

**YORK**  
COUNCIL

## York Community Woodland Survey

If you have any concerns about the new woodland, please tell us below?



**YORK**  
COUNCIL

## York Community Woodland Survey

Would you like to be involved in creating the woodland? Please choose from the below options to tell us how you would like to be involved:

(Tick from the options below)

- ☐ Tree planting
- ☐ Wood meadow creation i.e. seeding
- ☐ Creating paths / trails
- ☐ Running special events i.e. nature conservation, forest school activities etc
- ☐ Citizens science projects i.e. monitoring changes in wildlife and plant life
- ☐ Not interested in being actively involved
- ☐ Other (please specify)

## Appendix 1

**YORK**  
COUNCIL

## York Community Woodland Survey

The woodland site will require ongoing management and maintenance. We would love to hear your thoughts as to how you think the woodland would be best maintained?

(Tick box options)

- ☐ Community based management and maintenance
- ☐ Joining a new 'Friends of' group
- ☐ City of York Council maintenance
- ☐ Social enterprise
- ☐ A combination of the above

Other (please specify)

York Community Woodland is the working title. We'd like to hear your ideas about what the woodland should be called. Please feel free to be creative! And tell us why you have suggested this name.

Have you answered this survey as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

- ☐ Individual
- ☐ Organisation (please specify)



**YORK**  
COUNCIL

## York Community Woodland Survey

## About you

Please provide your postcode:

**ZIP/Postal Code**

Your age: (please select the appropriate range)

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ Under 16

☐ 16-24

☐ 25-39

☐ 40-55

☐ 56-59

☐ 60-64

☐ 65+

# Appendix 2

## York Community Woodland



*York City Council are creating a woodland in your city! This will have lots of trees, plants, flowers, wildlife and green spaces to play! We would love to hear what you would like to see and do in the woodland and have created some questions for you below.*

Q1: You might have visited a woodland or seen one on the television.

What is your favourite thing about a woodland?

.....

Q2: Do you think that a new woodland in York would be a good idea? Please tell us why (including if you answer no):

.....

Q3: Using the ideas below, what do you think is most important to be found in a woodland? You can tick more than one box!

	✓
Open spaces with lots of space to run around	
Somewhere to ride your bike	
Lots of flowers and trees	
Somewhere to play	
Somewhere to learn about the woodland's trees, animals and plants	







Q4: What do you think is a good name for a woodland in York?

.....

Q5: What sort of animals do you think live in a woodland?

.....

**Thank you very much for filling our survey in!**

**The York Community Woodland Team**



# Appendix 3

## Groups & Stakeholders

- Friends of the John Lally Community Wood
- York Civic Trust
- St Nicks
- Minster Equine Vets
- Wild York
- York Rotary Clubs
- UPPC
- Ride Yorkshire
- 2nd Acomb Scout Group
- Primary Care Social Prescribers
- York Civic Trust
- Friends of Fishponds Wood and Beech Grove
- Knapton Allotments Association
- Residents of North Field Lane
- York Rotary Clubs
- Knapton with Rufford Parish Council
- York Environment Forum
- Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- The Forestry Commission
- Natural England
- The Woodland Trust
- Rufforth Primary School
- St Pauls Primary School



# Appendix 4

## YEF Attendees

**Ian Anderson**

The eco group at st Michael le belfrery church

**Rachel Tumman**

Head of Visitor Operations for the JORVIK Group of Attractions

**Phil Bixby**

(YEF Treasurer) and independent member (plus part of My Future York)

**Philip Birch**

York Archaeological Trust, individual & YEF member

**Rose Hilton**

Heslington Parish Council

**Caroline Lewis**

The Membership Secretary.

**Richard Smith**

Professional ecologist & Friends of Beech Grove and Fishponds Wood

**Penny Bainbridge**

Rep of Edible York

**Adrian Lovett**

Chair of Good Food York, a Trustee of St Nicks & One Planet York

**Graham Collett****Dave Merrett**

# Appendix 5

## Stakeholder Advisory Group

**Iwan Downey**

White Rose Forest

**Alistair Crosby**

Woodland Trust

**Jonathan Dent**

St Nicks

**Dan Carne**

Woodmeadow Trust

**Barry Otley**

Treemendous

**Marina Martignoni**

Forestry Commission

**Sam Cooper**

Forestry Commission

**Peter Rollins**

Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council

**Roger Rippon**

Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council

**Ken Groom**

Sustrans

**Mark Hoyle**

Askham Bryan College

**Alison Dyke**

University of York

**Caroline Ward**

University of York

**Olalekan Adekola**

York St John Uni

**Joe Bailey**

York St John Uni

**Richard Powley**

Lowfield Farm

**Steve Beckett**

Landowner local

**Chris Lancaster**

Landowner

**Keith Clarke**

Knapton Allotment Association

**Sheri Scruton**

Nether Poppleton and Upper  
Poppleton Parish Councils

**Shaun Gibbons**

Head of Carbon Reduction, CYC

**Paul McCabe**

Project Manager, YCW, CYC

**Laura Redhead**

Woodland Engagement Manager,  
CYC





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DESIGN



ENVIRONMENT



PLANNING



ECONOMICS



HERITAGE



YORK WOODLAND - OUTLINE INDICATIVE COSTS 06/08/21

Grand Total	£1,740,816.60
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Item	Outline Specification	unit	rate	length/no	Total
<b><u>Access</u></b>					
Surfaced shared cycleway and footpath	4m wide 1/2 crushed stone 1/2 tarmac	linear m	£65.00	1594	£103,610.00
Surfaced footpath	1.5m wide crushed stone surface	linear m	£40.00	6880	£275,200.00
Bridges	Timber bridges/ boardwalks over ditches inc handrail	each	£750.00	4	£3,000.00
Boardwalks	Timber board walks with railings	linear m	£250.00	79	£19,750.00
Kissing gates at entry points	Timber to include pushchair and disabled access	each	£400.00	6	£2,400.00
Low Waymarked (Trails through woodland)	Timber post with disk	each	£30.00	75	£2,250.00
Fingerpost Way marker	Square sawn and routed	each	£100.00	6	£600.00
Interpretation boards	A1 colour on hardwood frame	each	£1,200.00	6	£7,200.00
Woodland name boards	Timber and routed	each	£350.00	18	£6,300.00
Picnic benches	Timber 10 years durability	each	£600.00	9	£5,400.00
Benches	Timber 10 years durability	each	£175.00	20	£3,500.00
Car parking (informal including access tracks and turnaround)	Crushed stone surfacing and base plus grasscreate	m2	£50.00	771	£38,550.00
Post and rail fencing (adj to cycleway and carpark areas).	Timber three bar	linear m	£20.00	1723	£34,460.00
<b><u>Biodiversity</u></b>					
Small pond creation	As per YWT recommendations	m2	£3.00	1442	£4,326.00
Wildflower seeding	Allowing for cultivation and specialist seed mixes at 40kg/ha	ha	£2,500.00	77.2	£193,000.00
<b><u>Tree establishment</u></b>					
Supply and plant tree and shelter	Tree/shrub + 1.8m tube (plus .80p) stake & labour	each	£3.80	98072	£372,673.60
Deer fencing to blocks with reduced access	Forest fencing, deer proof for at least 10 years	linear m	£7.80	8365	£65,247.00
Deer Gate	Vehicle access gate swing type 3mx1.8m	each	£10.00	450	£4,500.00
<b><u>Public Art elements</u></b>					
Woodland sculptures	Timber chain saw type	each	£350.00	20	£7,000.00
Mural in underpass	TBC based on two sides and roof	m2	£50.00	180	£9,000.00
<b><u>Structures</u></b>					
Visitor centre	WC café/kitchen Shelter	m2	£1,900.00	300	£570,000.00
Forest school structure	8x6m Timber e.g. M&M Timber	item			£12,850.00

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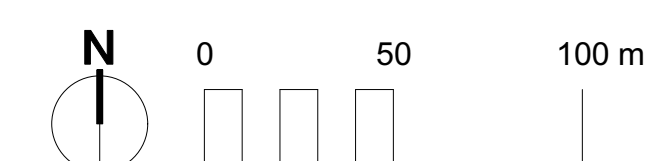
## PROPOSED LANDSCAPE DELIVERY PHASES

Landscape delivery stage 1: sowing grass seed mix, tree and shrub planting, pond creation, path and fence installation, cyclepath installation, paths linking woodland (autumn)  
 Landscape delivery stage 2: sow relevant seed mixes (autumn / spring)  
 Landscape delivery stage 3: plant all woodland blocks & individual trees & shrubs as indicated on DLD (winter)  
**(c.36,000 trees in woodland blocks alone)**

Landscape delivery stage 1: ground cultivation, pond creation, path and fence installation (autumn)  
 Landscape delivery stage 2: sow relevant seed mixes (autumn / spring)  
 Landscape delivery stage 3: plant all woodland blocks & individual trees & shrubs as indicated on DLD (winter)  
**(c.17,500 trees in woodland blocks alone)**

Landscape delivery stage 1: ground cultivation, path and fence installation (autumn)  
 Landscape delivery stage 2: sow relevant seed mixes (autumn / spring)  
 Landscape delivery stage 3: plant all woodland blocks & individual trees & shrubs as indicated on DLD (winter)  
**(c. 26,300 trees in woodland blocks alone)**

Indicative areas for future creation of Forest School; Visitor Centre; Eastern Gateway Entrance; Community Woodland Planting



A	16.08.21	VR	Phasing updates
Rev	Date	By	Note

Client: City of York Council  
 DRWG No: P21-1688.002 REV: A  
 Drawn by : VR/KG Approved by: KC  
 Date: 06/08/2021  
 Scale: 1:2,000 @ A0

**Pegasus**  
 Environment

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## Summary of responses to the CYC Funders' Questionnaire

Funder	Funding rate	Eligibility criteria	Eligible features	Ownership and control	CYC income	Maintenance	Carbon Offset	Timescales	CYC Key Risks
<b>WRF Trees for Climate (via Cheshire West)</b>	100% of costs (up to circa £15k-£20k p/ha cap)	Min 0.1 ha / Max 40% open space / Carbon / Biodiversity / Public access and engagement	Trees and protection / Surveys and planning / Access and interpretation / Signage / Open space / Infrastructure / Project delivery / Future management	CYC retains ownership and full control	Potential on-site income generation built into woodland design (TBC)	100% funded up to 15yrs	100% retained by CYC	Competitive bids. EoI submitted Nov 2020 - Decision pending. WRF can meet 2021/22 planting season	Funding / Delivery / Procurement / Income generation / Long term management
<b>Forestry Commission – England Woodland Creation Offer</b>	100% (£8,500 p/ha cap)	Min 1 ha / Native broadleaf / Public access	Trees and protection / Infrastructure like roads and tracks at 40% of quoted costs / Recreational access. <sup>1</sup> Separate grant process (WCPG) for surveys and planning support	CYC retains ownership and full control	Potential on-site income generation built into woodland design (TBC)	100% funded for 10yrs	100% retained by CYC	Competitive bids following WCPG Stage 2 and woodland approval –  Question mark re. meeting 2021/22 planting season	Funding / Delivery / Procurement / Income generation / Long term management
<b>Forestry Commission Countryside Stewardship</b>	80% if 20% open space included (£6,800 p/ha cap)	3 ha / Min 80% native broadleaf / Max 20% open space / Biodiversity / Water	Trees and protection up to unit cost cap. Separate grant process (WCPG) for surveys and planning	CYC retains ownership and full control	Potential on-site income generation built into woodland design (TBC)	None for LAs	100% retained by CYC	Competitive bids following WCPG Stage 2 and woodland approval Question mark re. meeting 2021/22 planting season	Funding / Delivery / Procurement / Income generation / Short and long term management
<b>Forestry England – Woodland Partnership Offer</b>	100%	Min 50 ha / Min 70% native broadleaf / Carbon / Biodiversity / Public access <sup>2</sup>	Trees and protection / Surveys and protection / Access and signage / Infrastructure Wood meadow / Open space / Wet woodland	Leased to FE for 60 - 120yrs (negotiable)	Annual FE grant paid to CYC between £200-£400 per/ha (negotiable)	Duration of lease (min 60yrs)	Negotiable up to 100% retained by CYC	Competitive bidding. EoI submitted 01.06.21 Decision pending. 'Can meet 2021/22 planting season'	Majority of risks transferred to FE

<sup>1</sup> There are additional contributions available for projects that deliver Nature recovery / Water quality / Flood risk / Riparian buffers / Close to settlements

<sup>2</sup> Forestry England indicate they are 'open to discussion with partners about inclusion of additional features and would be expected to be involved in ongoing community engagement and volunteering opportunities'

**NB.** The questionnaire was sent to Woodland Trust alongside other funders, but the Trust had not responded by the deadline so they could not be considered within this report. After speaking with industry experts, it appears Woodland Trust has yet to finalise the details of their capital grant programme and this may explain why no response was received.

CYC officers also held informal discussions with a private sector forestry consultant offering to take direct responsibility for woodland design, creation and ongoing management in return for a long term lease on the land for which CYC would receive annual rental income. The offer involved the consultant applying for one of the capital grant funding opportunities listed in this assessment on behalf of the landowner and for that reason the offer has not been included in this assessment. The offer is similar in nature to the Forestry England WCO, though with potentially higher annual rental payments (negotiable) to CYC.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund: An opportunity arose in September 2020 to apply for funding from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund up to a total value of £250,000 and, as previously advised, a funding application was submitted by the deadline 2 October 2020. CYC was informed by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on 3 November 2020 that this application had been unsuccessful.

A further application was made during Round 2 of the fund earlier this year, though this too was unsuccessful. Whilst the HLF don't provide formal feedback, an informal conversation with them suggested they felt the YCW project was better suited to other, more dedicated woodland creation funding streams.



## Assessment of capital funding opportunities

	External funding rate	Eligibility criteria	Eligible features	Ownership / control	CYC income	Maintenance	Carbon offset	Timescales	CYC Key Risks
Forestry England Woodland Partnership Offer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
WRF Trees for Climate (Cheshire West)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Forestry Commission – England Woodland Creation Offer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
City of York Council Northern Forest budget	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Forestry Commission Countryside Stewardship	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## Key:

- Strongly aligned
- Well aligned
- Aligned
- Minimal alignment
- Not aligned

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**City of York Council**  
**Equalities Impact Assessment**

**Who is submitting the proposal?**

<b>Directorate:</b>		Customer and Corporate Services	
<b>Service Area:</b>		Carbon Reduction Team, Corporate Policy & Strategy	
<b>Name of the proposal :</b>		York Community Woodland	
<b>Lead officer:</b>		Shaun Gibbons	
<b>Date assessment completed:</b>		18/08/21	
<b>Names of those who contributed to the assessment :</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Area of expertise</b>
Laura Redhead	Woodland Engagement Manager	CYC	Engagement strategy
Paul McCabe	Project Manager	CYC	Project management
Shaun Gibbons	Head of Carbon Reduction	CYC	Strategy & Management
Woodland Stakeholder Advisory Group		Woodland Trust Forestry Commission White Rose Forest	Experts Local Business Interest Groups

		Woodmeadow Trust Local Landowners Ward Members Rufforth with Knapton Parish Upper Poppleton Parish Council Ward Members – Rural West Ward, CYC York St John University University of York St Nicholas Field Treemendous York Environment Forum Askham Bryan College Knapton Allotment Association Sustrans	Local organisations Local landowners
Woodland Internal Officer Group		Officers representative of the below departments:  Design, conservation and sust' development Climate reduction Planning Transport Health and Well Being Procurement Finance Communities Skills Parks, open spaces and agriculture Communications	



## Step 1 – Aims and intended outcomes

1.1	<b>What is the purpose of the proposal?</b> Please explain your proposal in Plain English avoiding acronyms and jargon.
	<p>City of York Council is creating an extensive community woodland on 78 hectares of land to the West of York with the ambition to plant 50,000 trees by 2023 as a nature based solution to climate change mitigation.</p> <p>The new woodland will be a well-designed, bio-diverse, green space providing a place for peaceful contemplation and leisure for the people of York. This will create a new stray for the city, enhance the setting of the city and make York an even greater place to live, work and visit, as well as acting as a small 'carbon sink'.</p> <p>The Woodland's design has been shaped by extensive community and stakeholder engagement and will incorporate opportunities for ongoing community involvement.</p> <p>Key outputs of the woodland's creation include carbon sequestration, biodiversity net gain, improved public health and wellbeing outcomes and new green jobs, skills development and volunteering opportunities.</p>

<b>1.2</b>	<b>Are there any external considerations?</b> (Legislation/government directive/codes of practice etc.)
	<p>Woodland creation is subject to approval from the Forestry Commission. Approval is granted by assessing proposals against the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS).</p> <p>UKFS is the reference standard for sustainable forest management across the UK, and applies to all woodland, regardless of who owns or manages it.</p> <p>The standard ensures that international agreements and conventions on areas such as sustainable forest management, climate change, biodiversity and the protection of water resources are applied in the UK.</p> <p>The UKFS outlines the context for forestry in the UK. It sets out the approach of the UK governments to sustainable forest management by defining requirements and guidelines, and providing a basis for regulation and monitoring - including national and international reporting.</p>



1.3	<b>Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests?</b>
	<p><u>York Community Woodland team</u>, CYC : Delivery of the woodland and engagement strategy</p> <p><u>Woodland delivery partners</u>: In July the council joined the government's Northern Forest initiative which aims to plant 50 million new trees across the north of England. The initiative is a partnership between the Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission and other organisations committed to tree-planting across the North of England including the White Rose Forest which covers the Leeds City Region and York.</p> <p><u>Internal Officer Group</u>: A range of council services and teams reflecting the multiple objectives relating to the woodland project</p> <p><u>Woodland Stakeholder Advisory Group</u>: We are working in partnership with a number of experts, local business, interest groups, local organisations, local landowners who will be providing best practice advice and helping to shape the vision of the woodland.</p> <p><u>Woodmeadow Trust</u>: We have worked with the Woodmeadow Trust to establish a woodmeadow on part of the woodland site. We work with this expert group to receive advisory information.</p> <p><u>Local farmer</u>: We are currently working with the local farmer within the area to maintain the land on site.</p>

<b>1.4</b>	<p><b>What results/outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom?</b> This section should explain what outcomes you want to achieve for service users, staff and/or the wider community. Demonstrate how the proposal links to the Council Plan (2019- 2023) and other corporate strategies and plans.</p>
	<p>The woodland will enable the council to deliver the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plant 50,000 trees by 2023 for carbon capture (absorbing carbon from the atmosphere), as part of a wider commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2030</li> <li>• increase access to green space in York and improve the health and wellbeing of local residents</li> <li>• increase biodiversity, wildlife habitats and protect endangered species</li> <li>• enhance York's active travel network, including new walking and cycling routes</li> <li>• opportunities for new green jobs, green skills development and volunteering opportunities</li> </ul> <p>The woodland objectives clearly reflect the Council Plan in the following key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• good health and wellbeing</li> <li>• getting around sustainably</li> <li>• a greener and cleaner city</li> <li>• plant 50,000 trees by 2023</li> </ul>

## Step 2 – Gathering the information and feedback

<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>What sources of data, evidence and consultation feedback do we have to help us understand the impact of the proposal on equality rights and human rights?</b> Please consider a range of sources, including: consultation exercises, surveys, feedback from staff, stakeholders, participants, research reports, the views of equality groups, as well your own experience of working in this area etc.</p>
<b>Source of data/supporting evidence</b>	<b>Reason for using</b>
Public 'Co-design' Consultation with community	As part of the woodland community co-design process, a public consultation ran from 14 <sup>th</sup> April – 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2021. The goal of this phase was to receive feedback on



	<p>the vision, objectives and concept plans, and to guide the final stage of woodland design.</p> <p>The consultation aimed to reach a wide and diverse audience from across the City of York. Access points were provided through an online survey, online meeting/webinars, postal surveys, school surveys and direct contact with a wide range of community &amp; local interest groups, including parish councils, local ward councillors, local businesses, charities, schools, colleges and universities.</p>
Public Survey	<p>The questions within the survey were designed to understand the needs and requirements of people visiting a woodland. We asked the public for feedback on questions such as;</p> <p>Which of the objectives are most important to you?  What do you feel is most important for a community woodland?  How would you prefer to travel to the woodland site?  If you have any concerns about the new woodland, please tell us below?  Would you like to be involved in creating the woodland?  Age and Postcode</p> <p>The feedback provided has guided and impacted the final woodland design.</p>
School children survey	To reach a wide group through consultation phase.
Public Webinar session	<p>To enable to the public to ask questions, feedback thoughts and address any concerns regarding the woodland concept designs.</p> <p>To provide an extra platform for feedback for the public. Some people prefer to feedback through interaction rather than taking a survey.</p>
Woodland Stakeholder Advisory Group	Made up of woodland experts, interest groups, local businesses, landowners and local members, the group provides advice and support for the co-design and overall project.

Woodland 'Keep informed list' data base/ Woodland Public Inbox	<p>The woodland project 'Keep Informed List' is used to communicate with the public to provide project updates and information throughout the project. The public are able to sign up on the Woodland web page and receive information regarding project milestones and up and coming opportunities for involvement.</p> <p>The Woodland inbox is a dedicated email address for the Woodland Project and interested parties. The engagement manager is in regular contact with the public and addresses any questions, comments or concerns regarding the project.</p>
Woodland Internal Officer Group	An internal council officer group representing a wide range of service areas has also met regularly to help steer the project forward and ensure shared objectives are maximised.
Research reports? Views directly equality groups? Participants?	<p>During the Woodland Co-design phase we reached directly to different equality groups to raise awareness of the woodland consultation by working with the Minority Officer, CYC and the Communities &amp; Equalities team, CYC , made up of Community Involvement Officers. These roles represent a connection gateway through to equality groups across the city.</p> <p>Direct contact was made with equality groups such as community groups, young people, older people disabled people/ people with accessibility issues</p> <p>The consultation survey was anonymous, however, all feedback received has been acknowledged and led to an inclusive final woodland design.</p>

### Step 3 – Gaps in data and knowledge



<b>3.1</b>	<b>What are the main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your proposal? Please indicate how any gaps will be dealt with.</b>	
<b>Gaps in data or knowledge</b>		<b>Action to deal with this</b>
We are confident that we have assessed and factored in any potential impacts to the design at this stage of the project.		n/a

### Step 4 – Analysing the impacts or effects.

<b>4.1</b>	<b>Please consider what the evidence tells you about the likely impact (positive or negative) on people sharing a protected characteristic, i.e. how significant could the impacts be if we did not make any adjustments? Remember the duty is also positive – so please identify where the proposal offers opportunities to promote equality and/or foster good relations.</b>		
<b>Equality Groups and Human Rights.</b>	<b>Key Findings/Impacts</b>	<b>Positive (+) Negative (-) Neutral (0)</b>	<b>High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)</b>
<b>Age</b>	<p>The woodland has been designed to appeal to people of all age groups and abilities, a space that is welcome and has something for everyone.</p> <p>The woodland design includes a network of pathways that link, providing people with a choice to take shorter or longer routes and try out different routes and experiences each time they visit.</p> <p>The design has been influenced by people of different age groups and interest and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children's play area</li> </ul>	Positive	High

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commemorative / contemplative wood area</li> <li>- New tracks, trails (incl. horses) and cycle routes to enable public access and encourage leisure and active travel.</li> <li>- Forest school facilities and coppice areas to support nature based learning, education and green based skills development</li> <li>- Signage and interpretation</li> <li>- Benches and seating</li> <li>- Low key events space</li> <li>- Community agroforestry and foraging opportunities in the form of a community orchard</li> </ul>		
<b>Disability</b>	<p>We are focused on providing an accessible, welcoming and safe space, so that people have confidence in visiting the site and managing their own risks.</p> <p>The site has been designed to be inclusive, the most important aspects of this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signage that is at a height and position so it can be easily seen by everyone</li> <li>- Signs are in plain English (clear and straightforward as possible)</li> <li>- Colour coded/waymarked to encourage exploration and so people can plan appropriate routes</li> <li>- Cycle and bike paths are well signed posted</li> <li>- Braille /Large print/ Pictograms available on signs</li> <li>- Car parking/bike parking with designated spaces for people with a disability</li> <li>- The paths/trails will be of different lengths and surfaces to cater for all needs (incl. wheelchair users and people with mobility aids)</li> </ul>	Positive	High



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate number of benches and seating areas for people to rest</li> <li>- Easy access to amenities</li> <li>- Open areas with a good line of sight to feel safe</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access routes and car/bike parking provision, with an emphasis on sustainable transport modes in line with community feedback and expressed travel intentions. Bus routes will be clearly communicated.</li> <li>- Easy access from existing sustainable transport infrastructure such as the Knapton to Rufforth bridleway – and access points/linkages to surrounding settlements</li> </ul>		
<b>Gender</b>	<p>The woodland will welcome all genders and we will follow best practice to provide information on a safe visit to the site for everyone.</p> <p>Full site information will be available for visitors, this will also be available on the woodland website so that people can plan their visit and know what to expect, helping them to enjoy the area and stay safe.</p> <p>People visiting alone of any gender will be able to plan routes to feel confident – open areas with good line of sight and safe.</p> <p>Site management will be considered as the woodland establishes.</p>	Positive	Medium
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	<p>The woodland will welcome all members of the community. People visiting will be able to plan routes to feel confident, so open areas with good line of sight and where they feel safe.</p>	Neutral	

<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	The woodland will welcome all members of the community.	Neutral	
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	<p>Signage and interpretation, so that pregnant women or women on maternity can plan routes they feel confident doing and able to access amenities, where there is good line of sight and they feel safe.</p> <p>Benches and seating will be provided so pregnant women and women on maternity have the opportunity to take regular rests where necessary or perhaps find places in the shade to feed their baby.</p>	Positive	Medium
<b>Race</b>	No impacts identified- the woodland will welcome all members of the community. Option for signage and information available in different languages.	Neutral	
<b>Religion and belief</b>	No impacts identified- the woodland will welcome all members of the community.	Neutral	
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	No impacts identified- the woodland will welcome all members of the community. People visiting will be able to plan routes to feel confident with open areas with good line of sight where they can feel safe.	Neutral	
<b>Other Socio-economic groups including :</b>	Could other socio-economic groups be affected e.g. carers, ex-offenders, low incomes?		
<b>Carer</b>	<p>Full site information will be provided on site and on the woodland website for people to enjoy the area and stay safe.</p> <p>Provides a safe and welcoming outdoor place for carers to visit with the people they are caring for, giving enjoyment and health benefits to all</p>	Positive	Medium
<b>Low income groups</b>	The woodland will welcome all members of the community. Access routes and car/bike parking provision will be provided, with an emphasis on sustainable transport modes in line with community feedback and expressed travel intentions.	Neutral	



<b>Veterans, Armed Forces Community</b>	The woodland will welcome all members of the community.	Neutral	
<b>Other</b>			
<b>Impact on human rights:</b>			
List any human rights impacted.		Neutral	

### Use the following guidance to inform your responses:

Indicate:

- Where you think that the proposal could have a POSITIVE impact on any of the equality groups like promoting equality and equal opportunities or improving relations within equality groups
- Where you think that the proposal could have a NEGATIVE impact on any of the equality groups, i.e. it could disadvantage them
- Where you think that this proposal has a NEUTRAL effect on any of the equality groups listed below i.e. it has no effect currently on equality groups.

It is important to remember that a proposal may be highly relevant to one aspect of equality and not relevant to another.

<b>High impact</b> (The proposal or process is very equality relevant)	There is significant potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or public facing The proposal has consequences for or affects significant numbers of people The proposal has the potential to make a significant contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights.
<b>Medium impact</b> (The proposal or process is somewhat equality relevant)	There is some evidence to suggest potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or across services, but mainly internal The proposal has consequences for or affects some people The proposal has the potential to make a contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights
<b>Low impact</b> (The proposal or process might be equality relevant)	There is little evidence to suggest that the proposal could result in adverse impact The proposal operates in a limited way The proposal has consequences for or affects few people The proposal may have the potential to contribute to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights

## Step 5 - Mitigating adverse impacts and maximising positive impacts



5.1	<p><b>Based on your findings, explain ways you plan to mitigate any unlawful prohibited conduct or unwanted adverse impact. Where positive impacts have been identified, what is been done to optimise opportunities to advance equality or foster good relations?</b></p>
	<p>Our findings show that the final woodland design is positively represented. The Woodland is an ongoing project and will continue to assess impacts and effects as the project progresses.</p> <p>We have designed a woodland that will welcome all age groups and provided specific areas for all ages to enjoy. As the project progresses we will continue to provide opportunities for everyone to be involved in the woodland project. We will look to foster good relations by encouraging involvement in the woodland through volunteering, educational visits and once the woodland is established, a 'Friends of Group'. We are aware of the importance of maximising awareness for people who may not have visited a woodland before and aim to consider this throughout the project when communicating to the public.</p> <p>The woodland has been designed to welcome everyone. We have included easy access routes, sustainable travel and access routes through car/bike provision. Access on the site is designed to be safe and enjoyable for everyone- including paths/ trials / signage and interpretation and benches and seating. We are committed to making sure that this information is understood from the public and all relevant and required information will be in place, well communicated and easily accessed.</p>

## Step 6 – Recommendations and conclusions of the assessment

6.1	<p><b>Having considered the potential or actual impacts you should be in a position to make an informed judgement on what should be done. In all cases, document your reasoning that justifies your decision. There are four main options you can take:</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>No major change to the proposal</b> – the EIA demonstrates the proposal is robust. There is no potential for unlawful discrimination or adverse impact and you have taken all opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitor and review.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Adjust the proposal</b> – the EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. This involves taking steps to remove any barriers, to better advance equality or to foster good relations.</li> <li>- <b>Continue with the proposal</b> (despite the potential for adverse impact) – you should clearly set out the justifications for doing this and how you believe the decision is compatible with our obligations under the duty</li> <li>- <b>Stop and remove the proposal</b> – if there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you should consider stopping the proposal altogether. If a proposal leads to unlawful discrimination it should be removed or changed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Important:</b> If there are any adverse impacts you cannot mitigate, please provide a compelling reason in the justification column.</p>
Option selected	Conclusions/justification
<p><b>No major change to the proposal</b> – the EIA demonstrates the proposal is robust. There is no potential for unlawful discrimination or adverse impact</p>	<p>The EIA has not found any negative impacts. We have listened to the feedback from our community engagement co-design phase, stakeholder group, interest groups and woodland experts and implemented this into the woodland design. This is a working document that will be added to during the woodland project delivery.</p>



and you have taken all opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitor and review.	
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## Step 7 – Summary of agreed actions resulting from the assessment

7.1	What action, by whom, will be undertaken as a result of the impact assessment.		
Impact/issue	Action to be taken	Person responsible	Timescale
n/a			

## Step 8 - Monitor, review and improve

8. 1	<p><b>How will the impact of your proposal be monitored and improved upon going forward?</b></p> <p>Consider how will you identify the impact of activities on protected characteristics and other marginalised groups going forward? How will any learning and enhancements be capitalised on and embedded?</p>
	<p>Monitoring will be carried out against a Forest Management Plan (FMP) that will incorporate the proposals mention in the EIA.</p> <p>A FMP is a requirement of the UKFS and will be created by Forestry England under the terms of the lease agreement. The FMP provides a comprehensive basis for assessment and will be continuously monitored and periodically updated by the project delivery team. All publicly owned forests are managed using forest management plans which are available for public comment.</p>



	Additional public engagement and consultation will be carried out in addition to the requirements of the FMP. These will be undertaken at various stages of delivery and led by the Council. We will also use the Stakeholder Advisory Group to continuously monitor and make improvements to the project.
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