**Action plan to improve the biodiversity of Park Wood.**

**Aims:**

To encourage a wider diversity of flora and fauna and improve the resilience of Park Wood to successfully

cope with threats to its survival such as disease and changes in the environment.

**Objectives:**

1. Improve the diversity of the future canopy layer.

2. Improve the diversity of the understorey.

3. Improve the diversity of the field layers.

4. Improve the diversity of ground layers.

5. Create new sustainable habitats.

1. **Improve the diversity of the future canopy layer.**

Support the development of mature canopy level trees by preventing them being dominated by Fagus sylvatica with particular emphasis on the areas of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland.

Identify areas where mature or semi mature trees are competing with Fagus and selectively remove encroaching Fagus.

1. **Improve the diversity of the understorey**

Identify areas where high canopy could be reduced to improve light to lower levels.

Encourage canopy trees that are less dense such as Fraxinus.

Remove more vigorous or dominant species such as Fagus and Acer Pseudoplanatus.

Identify open areas and selectively prevent encroachment by large tree species.

Identify and take action to increase valuable understorey vegetation such as Ilex (Holly) and Sorbus (Rowan).

1. **Improve the diversity of the field layers.**

As for 2 above.

Identify and take action to increase valuable field layer vegetation.

1. **Improve diversity of ground layers.**

As for 2 above.

Identify and take action to increase valuable ground layer vegetation.

1. **Create new sustainable habitats.**

As for 2 above.

Identify additional habitats that would enhance the woodland and fit with its structure and environment.

**Report on actions so far:**

1. Sites identified for the reduction of Fagus seedlings and the creation of a glade to meet objectives 1 – 5.
2. Site identified for the creation of an area of standing water by damning a natural but inconsistent water course.
3. Work agreed with Brad Met.

**Outstanding actions:**

Agree a plan for each site and schedule in to the overall work plan for Park Wood.

Identify simple measures by which to judge the effectiveness of the actions and whether or not

they are working towards achieving the overall objectives.

LF EY Nov 2014