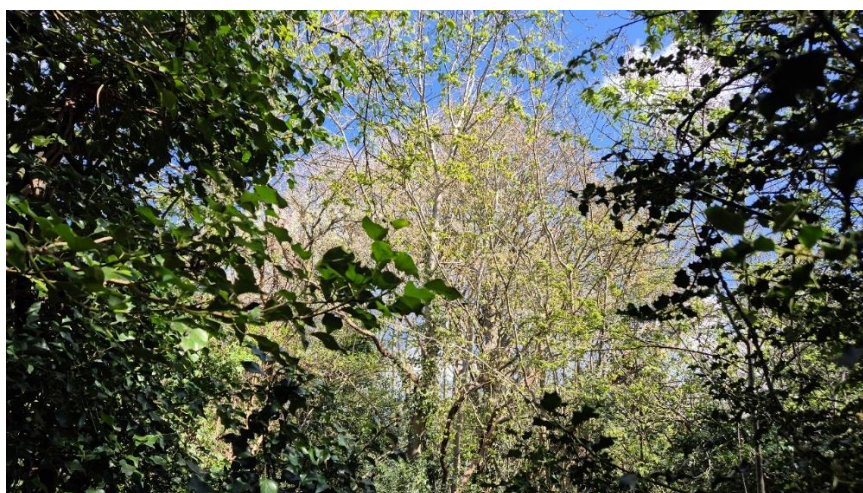




Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Belper Community Woodland

Assessment & Management Recommendations



Created By	Dom Greatorex, Nature Recovery Assistant
Date Created	12/05/2026
Reviewed By	Dr Jordan Holmes, Nature Recovery Advisor
Date Reviewed	19/05/2025

Contents

1	Executive Summary	4
2	Introduction	5
2.1	Purpose and Scope	5
2.2	Site Context	5
3	Methodology	7
3.1	Surveyors	7
3.2	Field Survey	7
3.3	Limitations	8
3.4	Report Lifespan	8
4	Results	9
4.1	UKHab Classification and Overview	9
4.2	Canopy	10
4.3	Secondary Storey and Understorey	10
4.4	Ground Flora	11
4.5	Overall Condition and Ecological Value	12
5	Management Actions & Recommendations	14
5.1	Tree Safety, Veteranising Trees and Deadwood	14
5.2	Access and Community Use	14
5.3	Glade Creation and Woodland Edge Structure	15
5.4	Selective Thinning of Wild Cherry and Dense Young Growth	15
5.5	Cherry Laurel Management	16
5.6	Native Shrub and Understorey Enhancement	16
5.7	Ground Flora Protection and Enhancement	17
5.8	Orchard Heritage and Fruit Tree Management	17
5.9	Dog Fouling, Litter and Recreational Pressure	17
5.10	Wildlife Boxes and Artificial Features	18



5.11	Timing of Works and Ecological Precautions	18
6	Conclusion	19
7	References.....	19
	Appendix A. Target Notes	20
	Appendix B. Vascular Plant Species List	21
	Appendix C. Site Photographs.....	23

1 Executive Summary

Wild Solutions, the ecological consultancy arm of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, was commissioned to undertake a baseline ecological survey of Belper Community Woodland, located to the rear of Belper Community Hall. The survey aimed to provide a basic species list, assess the woodland's current ecological value and condition, and provide recommendations to support future management for wildlife.

The survey was undertaken by Dom Greateorex, Nature Recovery Assistant at Wild Solutions, on 12 April 2026. It comprised a UK Habitat Classification survey, woodland condition assessment, incidental species recording and an appraisal of the site's suitability for protected and notable species.

The woodland was classified as w1f7 – Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland and assessed as being in moderate condition. Although the site has historic orchard origins and is located in an urban setting, it now functions as developing secondary broadleaved woodland, with a canopy largely dominated by wild cherry and ash. Cherry laurel is present in localised stands but does not dominate the woodland as a whole.

A total of 60 species / taxa were recorded, including trees, shrubs, vascular plants, birds and grey squirrel. The woodland's main ecological value lies in its mature and veteranising trees, deadwood, cavities, holly and hazel understorey, bramble scrub, ivy, localised woodland ground flora and common bird assemblage. Factors limiting condition include limited native regeneration, variable understorey structure, nutrient enrichment, dog fouling, urban edge pressures, ash dieback, grey squirrel impacts and disturbance associated with access and community use.

The proposed operations in the Forestry Commission management plan are considered broadly appropriate, including glade creation, selective cherry thinning, access improvements, dangerous tree works, permissive footpath maintenance, beech monitoring and retention/use of felled timber. These works should be delivered sensitively to retain deadwood, protect veteranising trees, avoid disturbance to nesting birds and potential bat roost features, control cherry laurel, enhance native shrub structure and maintain quieter areas for wildlife.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose and Scope

Belper Community Hall stakeholders are preparing to manage the woodland at the rear of Belper Community Hall. The community group's intention is to improve the woodland for wildlife and repeat survey work bi-annually to assess whether management is having a positive effect. Wild Solutions was commissioned to provide a clear ecological baseline and practical management advice. The scope of the work was to:

- undertake a UKHab survey and condition assessment of the woodland;
- compile a baseline species list from the survey visit;
- assess the current ecological value of the woodland;
- identify obvious evidence of protected or notable species encountered during the walkover;
- consider the site's suitability to support wider species assemblages; and
- provide recommendations for management interventions or changes that would benefit nature.

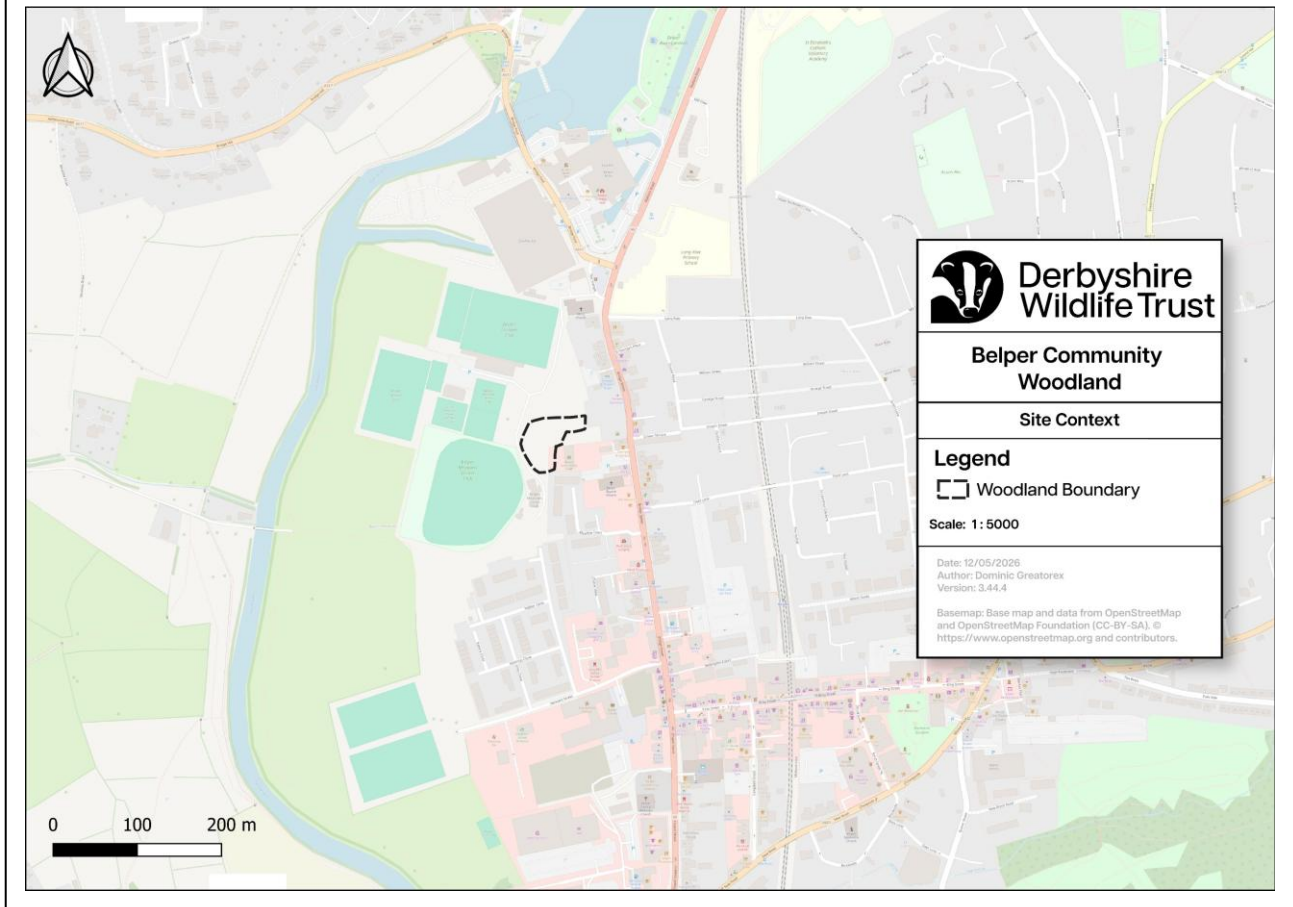
2.2 Site Context

Belper Community Woodland is a small woodland of approximately 0.29 ha located to the rear of Belper Community Hall, along Bridge Street, Belper, Derbyshire. The site lies in an urban setting and is bordered by residential properties, the community hall to the south-east, sports/recreational land to the west and access routes. A permissive footpath runs along the northern edge of the woodland. See Figure 1 for site location and context.

The site is described as having originated as an orchard garden. The site has subsequently developed into woodland through growth of self-set and planted trees. The woodland retains some orchard influence, including existing and newly planted fruit trees, but the dominant current habitat is broadleaved woodland.

The site is also used by the local community and is subject to some recreational pressure, particularly along the permissive path and in areas used for community activities. The woodland therefore has both ecological and social value. Future management should seek to balance safe and positive community use with retention of areas that remain structurally complex and relatively undisturbed for wildlife.

Figure 1. Site Context



3 Methodology

3.1 Surveyors

The survey was undertaken by **Dom Greatorex**, Nature Recovery Assistant at Wild Solutions, the ecological consultancy arm of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Dom is an early-career ecologist with experience in UKHab surveys, habitat condition assessments, and protected species surveys. He is a **Qualifying Member of CIEEM** and has undertaken ecological monitoring and baseline habitat survey work across a range of nature recovery sites in Derbyshire, including woodland and mixed-habitat sites.

3.2 Field Survey

The site was subject to a full UKHabs Survey as per the UKHabs 2.1 Classification Guidelines (UKHab Ltd., 2023), and Habitat Condition Assessments using the DEFRA Statutory Habitat Condition Assessment sheet, following guidance in the DEFRA publication 'The Standard Biodiversity Metric User Guide' (DEFRA, 2024). The survey was conducted to identify and record the composition of vegetation and habitat types present, and to assess their habitat condition as per Natural England guidelines. These surveys also sought to identify the presence of any UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat types.

The survey focused on recording higher plant species and their associated vegetation communities and habitats. Whilst on site, the land was split into distinct habitats, the areas of which were allocated an appropriate UK Habitat code and mapped. All flora species and their abundance within these habitat groups were recorded with the DAFOR scale being used as a measurement:

- D – Dominant
- A – Abundant
- F – Frequent
- O – Occasional
- R – Rare

During the survey, observations, identification and signs of any species protected under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA), the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) were noted. Any sightings, evidence of, or suitable habitats for other protected fauna, species of principal importance under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act

2006 or local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) or otherwise notable species including breeding birds were recorded during the visit. The survey was completed during sunny conditions with temperatures of approximately 10°C and a light breeze.

3.3 Limitations

The survey methods used in this study are recognised as best-practice methodologies within the UK. However, it should be noted that no study can effectively account for the full complexity and unpredictability of the natural world, and that this assessment forms an overview of the site at a specific moment in time. The results and recommendations contained in this report are as comprehensive as is reasonably possible given this limitation. The survey was undertaken at the beginning of the optimal woodland survey window, generally mid-April to early June, and was based on a single spring walkover. Some seasonal or less visible species may therefore have been missed. No dedicated breeding bird, bat, badger, invertebrate, bryophyte or fungi surveys were undertaken, and the origin of some ground flora is uncertain due to the site's former orchard/garden context and surrounding residential gardens.

3.4 Report Lifespan

Due to the inherently transient nature of the subject matter, ecological survey data such as this can only be considered valid for a relatively short period. As such, the results and recommendations contained within this report should be considered valid for up to two years from the date of issue.

4 Results

4.1 UKHab Classification and Overview

The woodland was classified as **w1f7 – Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland** and assessed as being in Moderate condition. See **Figure 2** for the UKHab map of the site, and **Appendix A** for the full table of target notes referenced within the habitat description.

This is considered the most appropriate UKHab classification for the site. Although the woodland has historic orchard origins, the current habitat is a broadleaved woodland that appears to have developed over time from the former orchard. The canopy is largely dominated by abundant wild cherry *Prunus avium* and frequent ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, with additional broadleaved tree and shrub species including locally abundant beech *Fagus sylvatica*, as well as rarely occurring sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, silver birch *Betula pendula* and pear species *Pyrus* sp. Secondary and understorey species included rarely occurring field maple *Acer campestre*, common hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, elder *Sambucas nigra*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, and yew *Taxus baccata*. A small area of planted fruit trees was recorded at **TN1**, reflecting the site's former orchard influence and supporting the existing management objective to retain and develop orchard features.

Whilst the fenced community activity area at **TN5** in the lower wood was noted as an area that can flood seasonally, the vegetation present did not indicate particularly wet woodland habitat, therefore remains under the same classification as the rest of the site. The site was also not classified as orchard because, although former orchard influence remains relevant to the site's history and future management, the dominant current habitat structure is woodland rather than active traditional orchard.

A total of 60 species/taxa were recorded during the survey. This list of vascular plants, trees and shrubs was compiled, alongside incidental fauna records. The full species list is provided in **Appendix B**.

4.2 Canopy

The canopy is primarily broadleaved and dominated by wild cherry and ash. Beech is locally abundant, with other tree species recorded including sycamore, and silver birch. The lower woodland includes younger cherry trees, many of which appear to be at pole stage and may relate to previous coppicing and/or self-set regeneration. Wild cherry is an important component of the woodland, providing blossom and fruit resources, but selective thinning of dense, even-aged stands would help increase light penetration and structural diversity. An old outgrown beech hedge line was recorded at **TN3**. This feature has potential to be managed sensitively to increase light levels, for example through selective thinning where appropriate and subject to landowner agreement. Several ash trees show signs of ash dieback. A small number of larger ash trees have veteranising features, including cavities, deadwood, uplifted bark, ivy and fungal features. Notable trees were recorded, including a very large veteran ash with extensive ivy, hollows, cavities and fallen branches at **TN11**, and a large multi-stemmed ash with several veteran features at **TN13**. These trees are of high ecological value and should be retained wherever compatible with public safety.

4.3 Secondary Storey and Understorey

The secondary storey and understorey are variable across the woodland. Some areas support denser cover, including holly, hazel and bramble *Rubus agg.*, while other areas have a relatively sparse shrub layer. Bramble is frequent and provides useful cover, nesting habitat, blossom and fruit resources. An inaccessible dense bramble area was recorded at **TN12**, providing valuable cover and low-disturbance habitat. Dense bramble was also present around **TN5**. Holly and hazel provide additional structural diversity and should be retained where compatible with access and safety.

Native regeneration appears limited, with very few saplings recorded other than some sycamore saplings near the eastern boundary. This may be linked to shading, trampling, disturbance, browsing or mammal activity. Grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* was recorded during the survey, and the existing management plan also identifies grey squirrel impacts on tree health.

Invasive non-native Cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* is present in localised stands, including young growth and a large stand near the top of the woodland by the car park. The main dense cherry laurel stand was recorded at **TN4**, with young regenerating cherry laurel also recorded at **TN8**. Whilst it is not currently listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and

Countryside Act 1981 and does not currently dominate the woodland as a whole, it is a management concern due to its capacity to cast dense shade, suppress ground flora, outcompete native species, and spread further if left unmanaged. A small buddleia *Buddleja davidii* was recorded at TN2. This was not considered a significant constraint at the time of survey but should be removed if possible, and if not, it should be monitored to ensure it does not spread.

The native hedgerow planting along the northern path is a positive recent management action and should help improve structural complexity along this edge as it establishes, as well as preventing extensive disturbance into the woodland.

4.4 Ground Flora

The ground flora is variable and not especially diverse overall. Ramsons *Allium ursinum* was recorded as dominant, while snowdrop *Galanthus nivalis* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* were locally frequent. Other woodland or woodland-edge species were recorded including frequent ivy *Hedera helix*, and rarely occurring bluebell species *Hyacinthoides* sp., lesser celandine *Ficaria verna*, lords-and-ladies *Arum maculatum*, garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, and red campion *Silene dioica*. At the bottom of the woodland, where it gets seasonally flooded, there is locally dominant ground-elder *Aegopodium podagraria* (TN5).

Given the site's former garden/orchard history and surrounding residential gardens, the origin of some species, particularly bluebell and snowdrop, is uncertain. They may be naturally established, historically planted, or garden-derived. However, their presence still contributes to the current ecological character of the woodland and provides a useful baseline for future monitoring. Non-native bluebells in particular must be monitored closely, as they are considered a threat to native English bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. Non-native bluebells hybridise with the native species, and can outcompete them for light, space, and nutrients.

Frequent common nettle *Urtica dioica* and occasional cleavers *Galium aparine* indicate nutrient-rich conditions in places. This is likely to be influenced by urban edge effects, disturbance and organic enrichment. Significant bare ground was also present in more heavily used areas. This is likely to be associated with repeated trampling and ground compaction, which can reduce soil structure and limit the availability of water and air pores within the soil. This can affect water infiltration, increasing surface run-off, and may reduce

the ability of plant roots and soil macroinvertebrates, such as worms and beetles, to access and utilise the soil effectively.

4.5 Overall Condition and Ecological Value

The woodland was assessed as being in **Moderate condition**. This reflects a woodland with clear ecological value, but with several pressures currently limiting its condition.

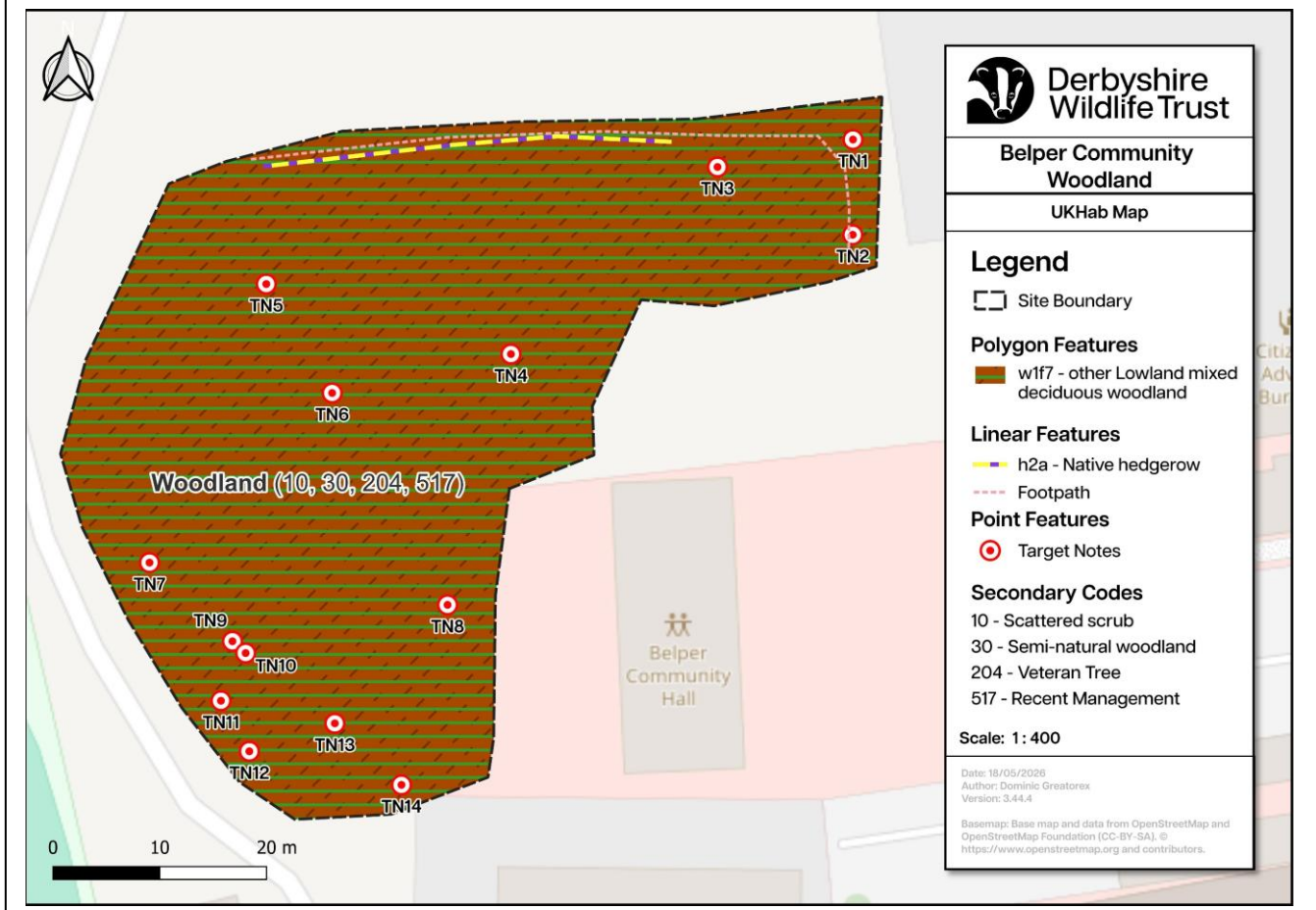
Positive ecological features include mature and veteranising trees, wild cherry blossom and fruit, ash, holly and hazel understorey, bramble scrub, ivy, deadwood, cavities, localised woodland ground flora and a range of common woodland and garden bird species. Bird species included blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, greenfinch *Chloris chloris*, long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*, willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, and wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. All birds recorded are listed in the full species list. The deadwood resource is particularly important and includes fallen branches, cut timber, occasional standing deadwood and trees with cavities.

Factors limiting condition include limited native regeneration and age classes, particularly of seedlings and saplings; localised cherry laurel; ash dieback; nutrient enrichment; dog fouling; urban edge pressures; and disturbance associated with access and community use.

The woodland supports suitable nesting habitat for common breeding birds in trees, shrubs, ivy, bramble and hedgerow vegetation. Trees with cavities, loose bark, ivy and decay features may also provide potential bat roost features, and the woodland is likely to provide foraging and commuting habitat for bats within the wider urban green network.

Badger *Meles meles* activity is referred to in the existing woodland management plan, and mammal tracks and fresh latrines were noted during the survey. A dug-out mammal gap beneath a fence was recorded at **TN7** and is presumed likely to be used by badger and other mammals. A badger latrine, comprising a series of shallow scrapes with faeces present in one scrape, was recorded at **TN9**. Potential badger activity seemed to be at its most prevalent at **TN10**, where mammal footfall was evident near other badger signs. No dedicated badger survey was undertaken. The woodland also has potential value for invertebrates and fungi associated with deadwood, veteranising trees, ivy, bramble, blossom, fruit, glades and woodland edge habitat.

Figure 2. UKHab Map



5 Management Actions & Recommendations

The existing Forestry Commission woodland management plan provides an appropriate framework for future management, and the recommendations below are intended to align with and complement it. The proposed works are broadly ecologically appropriate, particularly where they improve biodiversity, retain orchard heritage, improve safe access, create glades, selectively thin dense young growth, manage dangerous trees and retain/use felled timber.

These works should be delivered sensitively, with deadwood, veteranising trees, dense cover, ground flora and quieter wildlife areas retained wherever possible. The woodland should not be over-tidied, as much of its ecological value is linked to features such as cavities, ivy, bramble, leaf litter, uneven structure and natural regeneration.

5.1 Tree Safety, Veteranising Trees and Deadwood

The Forestry Commission management plan appropriately prioritises tree safety, particularly where ash dieback or dangerous branches occur near paths, boundaries and activity areas.

Deadwood and veteranising trees are, however, among the woodland's most valuable ecological features. Safety works should therefore be targeted, retaining trees and deadwood wherever they can be safely left in place.

Recommendations:

- Retain fallen deadwood and standing deadwood where safe to do so. Retain felled timber on site as log piles, habitat piles, dead hedging or standing monoliths where appropriate.
- Where safety works are required, consider options such as crown reduction, retrenchment pruning, monolith creation, habitat piles or exclusion zones before full removal.
- Map and monitor veteran ash and other late mature trees with veteran features including cavities, ivy, deadwood and fungal features. Seek ecological advice before works to trees with potential bat roost features.

5.2 Access and Community Use

The existing plan includes access improvements, path creation and use of the woodland for community activities. These aims are compatible with biodiversity enhancement, provided that access is designed to concentrate regular footfall along defined routes and activity

areas while retaining quieter areas for wildlife. Discussions with the client indicated that proposed community activities are expected to be largely passive, low-impact or directly beneficial to the woodland, rather than intensive recreational uses. This is positive and should help ensure that increased community engagement supports, rather than conflicts with, the woodland's ecological value.

Recommendations:

- Maintain clear, defined access routes to reduce informal trampling. Use logs, brash, dead hedging or subtle path edging to guide movement away from sensitive ground flora and regeneration areas.
- Avoid excessive clearance that would open up the whole woodland to regular disturbance. Retain some dense, less accessible areas for nesting birds, small mammals and invertebrates. Ensure new access routes avoid veteran tree root zones and important ground flora patches where possible.

5.3 Glade Creation and Woodland Edge Structure

The Forestry Commission management plan proposes glade creation in the lower woodland. This is supported and could benefit wildlife by increasing light levels, creating sheltered woodland-edge conditions and providing opportunities for flowering plants and invertebrates.

Recommendations:

- Create small, irregular glades rather than large formal clearings. Design glades with scalloped margins and soft transitions into surrounding woodland.
- Retain bramble, ivy, native shrubs and deadwood around glade margins. Use suitable cut material on site to create dead hedges or habitat piles. Avoid damaging existing ground flora patches.
- Manage glades on rotation so that some areas remain taller and structurally varied each year.

5.4 Selective Thinning of Wild Cherry and Dense Young Growth

The existing plan proposes thinning cherry trees and selecting cherry trees to become standards, by this it means selecting the best-formed wild cherry trees to retain as long-term mature canopy trees. This is supported. Wild cherry is an important component of the woodland and provides blossom and fruit resources, but selective thinning of dense or even-aged stands would help increase structural diversity and light penetration.

Recommendations:

- Select healthy cherry trees with a straight main stem, good vigour and a stable crown structure as future standards, avoiding trees with major defects such as severe lean, significant dieback or unstable limbs.
- Thin the dense, even-aged stands where they suppress understorey development. Undertake thinning outside the nesting bird season where possible. If it must be conducted during breeding bird season, a qualified ecologist must undertake a nesting bird check prior to works, and ecological clerk of works may be required to comply with law around bird protection.
- Retain some dense areas to provide shelter for nesting birds and small mammals, and retain felled material on site as deadwood habitat where safe.

5.5 Cherry Laurel Management

Cherry laurel is present in localised stands, including a larger stand near the top of the woodland by the car park. Its control aligns with the wider objective of improving the woodland's biodiversity value. Although it does not dominate the woodland as a whole, it should be managed to prevent further spread and shading of native ground flora.

Recommendations:

- Remove the large stand near the top of the woodland/car park area, and remove young cherry laurel regeneration before it becomes established.
- Treat stumps appropriately to prevent regrowth, using a competent contractor where herbicide treatment is required. Monitor annually for regrowth for at least five years.
- Replant or encourage native regeneration after removal. Replacing cherry laurel with native shrubs such as hazel, hawthorn, holly, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, field maple, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, and guelder rose *Viburnum opulum*, where suitable.

5.6 Native Shrub and Understorey Enhancement

The shrub layer is currently variable in diversity and condition, with good density in some areas and sparse structure elsewhere. Enhancing the native understorey would complement the woodland management plan's biodiversity objectives and improve habitat for birds, invertebrates and small mammals.

Recommendations:

- Encourage natural regeneration where possible by managing light levels and reducing trampling, but undertake targeted native shrub planting where natural regeneration is limited. Suitable species include hazel, hawthorn, holly, dogwood, field maple, rowan, guelder rose and spindle *Euonymus europaeus*.

- Plant in irregular groups and along glade/path edges rather than evenly across the woodland. Protect new planting from trampling and accidental cutting.
- Avoid excessive planting in areas with existing woodland ground flora.

5.7 Ground Flora Protection and Enhancement

The woodland supports localised ground flora interest, including ramsons, lesser celandine, lords-and-ladies, and other woodland species. These areas should be protected during future works.

Recommendations:

- Identify and protect existing ground flora patches before management works. Avoid storing timber, brash or materials on sensitive ground flora patches, and avoid heavy trampling and machinery access through sensitive areas.
- Use low dead hedging or brash barriers to protect recovering flora where necessary.
- If seeding is proposed near the car park, use an appropriate native woodland-edge or shade-tolerant mix of suitable provenance, and only in areas where soil disturbance and light levels make establishment realistic.

5.8 Orchard Heritage and Fruit Tree Management

The Forestry Commission management plan identifies the historic orchard character of the site and includes an objective to maintain existing fruit trees and develop orchard planning. This is supported. Orchard features can provide important blossom, fruit, deadwood and cultural value when integrated into a wider woodland mosaic.

Recommendations:

- Retain existing fruit trees where safe and continue appropriate fruit tree planting in suitable lighter areas. Use traditional or locally appropriate varieties where possible.
- Allow some fallen fruit to remain where it does not create safety or access issues, and retain deadwood associated with old fruit trees where safe.

5.9 Dog Fouling, Litter and Recreational Pressure

Dog fouling, litter and trampling are current pressures, particularly along the northern permissive path and boundaries. Addressing these issues would support both the ecological and community objectives of the woodland management plan.

Recommendations:

- Install simple, positive signage explaining that dog waste harms woodland flowers and soil health. Also, consider provision of dog waste bins or liaison with the local authority if feasible.
- Maintain clear paths to reduce informal trampling. Use logs, brash or dead hedging to guide access away from sensitive areas.
- Organise periodic community litter picks, avoiding disturbance to nesting birds and sensitive vegetation. Monitor litter and dog fouling hotspots annually.

5.10 Wildlife Boxes and Artificial Features

The woodland already contains natural nesting and roosting opportunities, particularly through mature trees, ivy, cavities, bramble and deadwood. Artificial boxes may provide supplementary value but should not replace habitat management.

Recommendations:

- Consider a small number of bird boxes and bat boxes targeted at common woodland species. Ensure boxes are installed away from excessive disturbance and artificial lighting. Follow guidance specific to the type of nest box and target species in selecting placement, to avoid increasing predation pressure on birds which take residence.
- Inspect and maintain boxes periodically. Any bat box monitoring must be undertaken by a suitably licensed bat worker. Outside of breeding bird season (in winter), nest boxes should be taken down, emptied of nesting materials, and cleaned with boiling water to kill parasites; gloves should be worn.

5.11 Timing of Works and Ecological Precautions

The timing of works should be carefully considered to avoid impacts on protected species and other wildlife. Tree works, scrub clearance, bramble management, cherry laurel removal and path creation should ideally avoid the main nesting bird season, generally March to August inclusive, unless a suitable pre-works check confirms that nesting birds are absent. Works affecting mature or veteranising trees, dense vegetation, ground features or areas with potential badger activity should be preceded by appropriate ecological checks, with advice sought where protected species constraints may be present.

6 Conclusion

Belper Community Woodland is a small but valuable urban woodland with strong potential for biodiversity enhancement and community engagement. The site is classified as **w1f – Lowland mixed deciduous woodland**, reflecting its current broadleaved woodland character, dominance of wild cherry and ash, and development over time from a former orchard.

The woodland is currently in **moderate** condition, reflecting a mix of positive woodland features and ongoing pressures. Its ecological value is supported by a good diversity and cover of native tree and shrub species, mature and veteranising trees, good levels of deadwood, areas of open space, wild cherry blossom and fruit, holly and hazel understorey, bramble scrub, ivy, woodland ground flora and the recorded bird species assemblage. However, the condition score is reduced by poor woodland regeneration, limited ground flora quality, the presence of localised cherry laurel, nutrient enrichment, dog fouling, trampling, ash dieback and wider urban edge effects.

The existing management direction is broadly compatible with improving the woodland for wildlife. In particular, planned access improvements, glade creation, cherry thinning, orchard development and cherry laurel removal could all provide ecological benefits if implemented sensitively.

The most important principle is to avoid over-tidying the woodland. Safe community access should be balanced with retention of deadwood, veteranising trees, bramble, native shrubs, ground flora and quieter habitat areas. With careful management and repeat monitoring, the woodland should be able to increase in structural diversity and wildlife value over time while serving as an important community greenspace.

7 References

Butcher, B., Carey, P., Edmonds, R., Norton, L. and Treweek, J. (2020). *The UK Habitat Classification User Manual Version 1.1*. at <http://www.ukhab.org/>

Appendix A. Target Notes

Target Note	Feature	Description
TN1	Planted fruit trees	Small area of planted fruit trees.
TN2	Buddleia	Small buddleia.
TN3	Beech line	Line of old outgrown beech hedge. All beech. Discussions with DCC have indicated the landowner could remove every other tree to increase light.
TN4	Cherry laurel	Large dominant patch of cherry laurel. Planned for removal. Very dense.
TN5	Community activity area	Forest schools etc. Dominant ground elder. Primarily cherry trees, seemingly historically coppiced. Deadwood piles, compost loo, dense patches of bramble and standing deadwood. Can get seasonally flooded.
TN6	Old dead veteran tree	Species uncertain, but with good veteran features.
TN7	Mammal run	Dug-out mammal gap under fence. Presumably badger, but used by several species.
TN8	Young cherry laurel	Young regenerating cherry laurel.
TN9	Badger latrine	Series of shallow scrapes, one with faeces present.
TN10	Peak badger/mammal activity	Area with mammal footfall surrounding it, near badger signs. Potential sett location nearby.
TN11	Veteran ash	Very large veteran ash with many veteran features, including extensive ivy, hollows, cavities and fallen branches.
TN12	Dense bramble	Inaccessible dense bramble.
TN13	Veteran ash	Large multi-stemmed ash close to boundary, with several veteran features.
TN14	Litter and deadwood pile	Substantial pile of old wood, cardboard and garden cuttings. Care should be taken to avoid introducing unwanted species.



Appendix B. Vascular Plant Species List

	Derbyshire AWI
	General AWI
	WCA Schedule 9 INNS
	INNS (not Schedule 9)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Woodland
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	F
<i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>	Beech	LA
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird	IR
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap	IR
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit	IR
<i>Hyacinthoides sp.</i>	Bluebell Sp.	R
<i>Rubus agg.</i>	Bramble	F
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad Leaved Dock	R
<i>Plantago major</i>	Broad Leaved Plantain	R
<i>Buddleja Davidii</i>	Buddleia	R
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	R
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion Crow	IR
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch	IR
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Cherry	R
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel	LD
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's Foot	LO
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Collared Dove	IR
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Common Hawthorn	R
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	F
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	LF
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	R
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	Dandelion	R
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	R
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	IR
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	R
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	R
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	R
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	R
<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Greenfinch	IR
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Grey Squirrel	IR



<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground elder	LD
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	R
<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>	Hairy-brome	R
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	R
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	R
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	LF
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut	R
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	F
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved Speedwell	R
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Jackdaw	IR
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	R
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long-tailed Tit	IR
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-ladies	R
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	IR
<i>Pyrus sp.</i>	Pear sp.	R
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	R
<i>Vinca sp.</i>	Periwinkle	R
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	D
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	R
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin	IR
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	R
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	R
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop	LF
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	R
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	A
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	IR
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wood Pigeon	IR
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	IR
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	R

Appendix C. Site Photographs

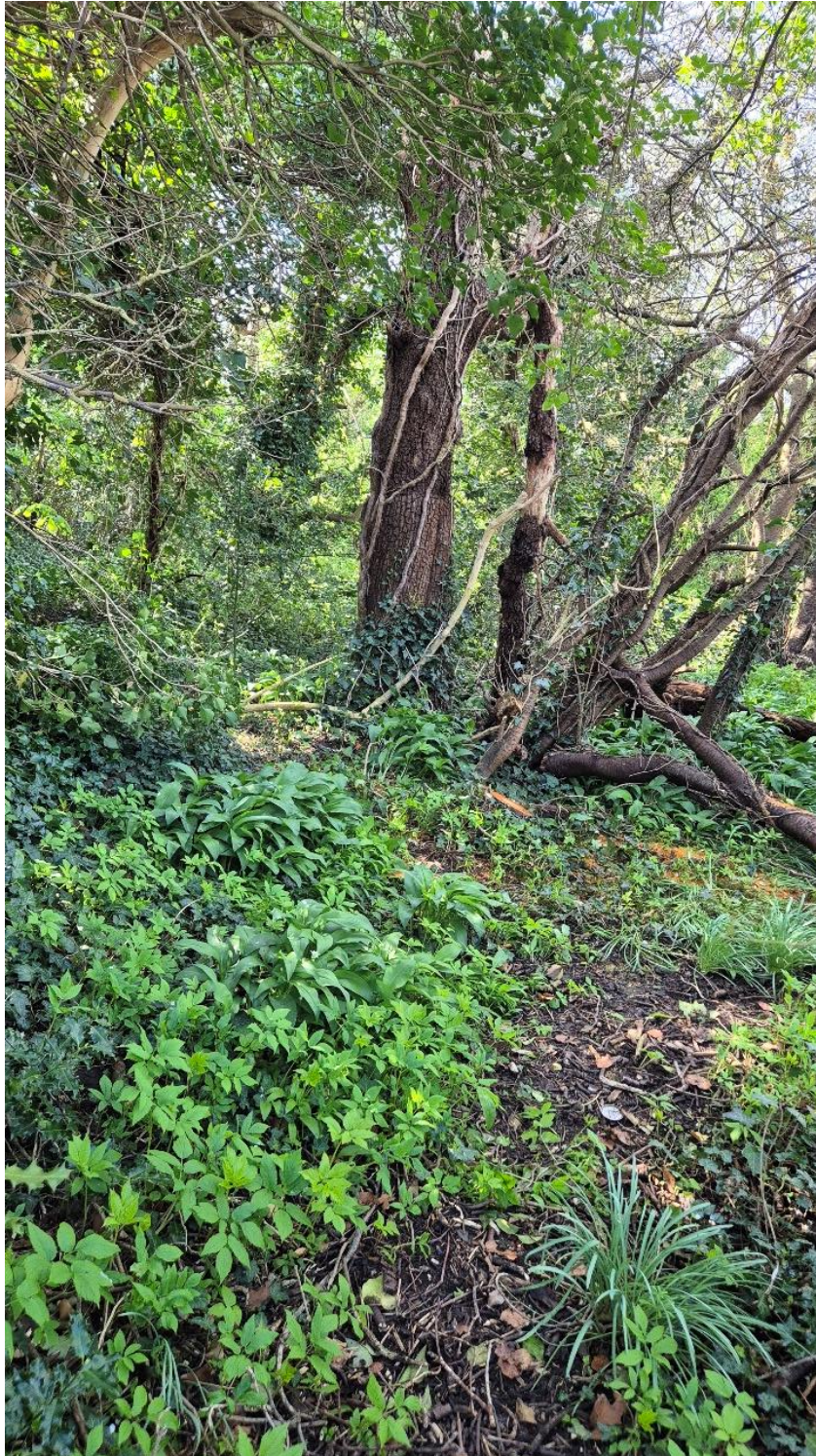


Figure 1 - Woodland Understory



Figure 2 - TN7 Mammal Run

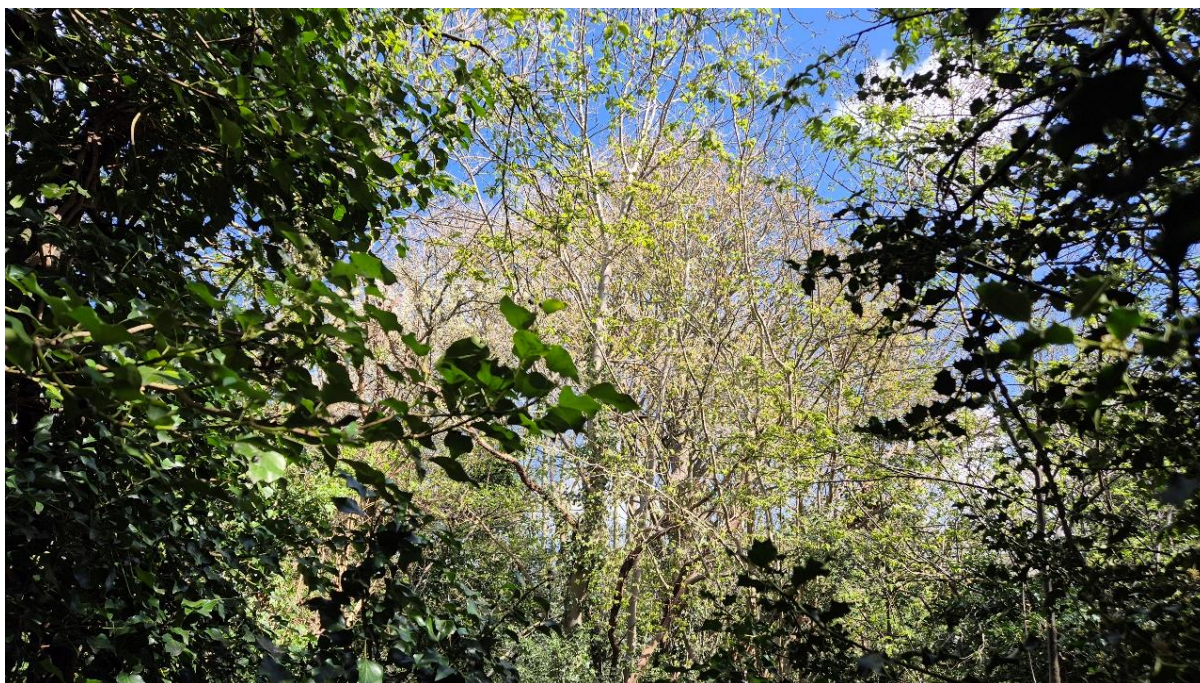


Figure 3 - Woodland (break in canopy)

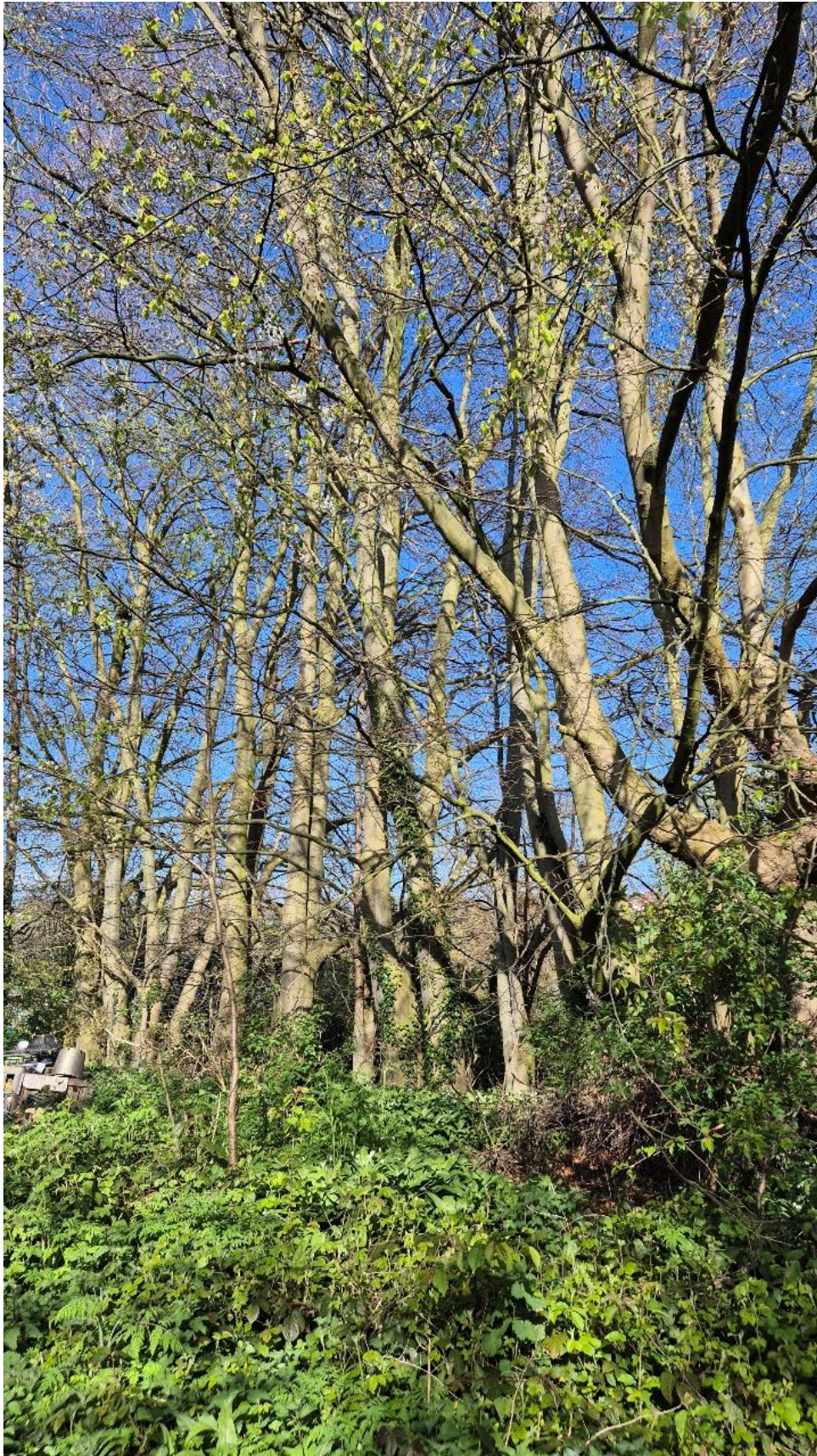


Figure 4 - TN3 Beech Line



Figure 5 - TN5 Community/Forest School area



Figure 6 - TN5 Community/Forest School area



Figure 7 - TN8 Young cherry laurel



Figure 8 - TN11 Veteran ash



Figure 9 - TN12 Dense bramble



Figure 10 – TN14 Litter and deadwood pile