

Plan for the use of the Woodlands as a Forest School Site - year 1

| Factor | Area | Current Situation | Action | Monitor | Resources needed | Person responsible & timescale |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Ground Layer | All over | Leaf covering and deadwood. | To maintain ground layer in its natural state but safe for children to use. | Check for overgrown brambles, stinging nettles and trip hazards. | Strimmer or hedge cutters | Forest school leaders & grass cutters. Routine check before each FS session with monthly thorough checks. Fire circle logs to be acquired as soon as possible. |
| | Fire Circle | New fire circle, newly cut paths & new fire pit. | To add larger logs round the outside of fire circle for the children to sit on. | Keep nettles and pathway cut back. | Grass cutters | |
| | Pathways | Cut out pathways to fire circle, smaller pathways cut back but not worn in. | Newly cut larger paths to be worn in and smaller ones cut back to be useable but to appear more natural. Grass cutters to be asked to cut fire circle paths & area when needed. | Children encouraged to use pathways, but not to use if too wet and muddy. Activities to be carried out in different area to prevent too much wear on same pathways. | | |
| Field Layer | All over | All cut back and not overhanging onto pathways. | To cut back from pathways as needed. | Field layer to be monitored to prevent overhanging onto pathways. Look out for and leave any birds nests. | Strimmer Scythe Secateurs | Forest School leaders Routine check before each FS session with monthly thorough checks. |
| | Brambles | Not overhanging onto paths | Keep paths clear. | Monitor and cut back as necessary. | | |
| | Sticks and branches on ground | A little on trees and on ground. Few broken branches. | Enough deadwood to use but not to be a hazard. Children to use dead wood for firelighting and activities. Not to be removed from site. | Check for trip hazards and remove. Broken /fallen branches removed if unsafe. | | |

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|-----------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Shrub Layer | All over | All cut back | Cut back when needed. | Check regularly and cut back as needed. | Strimmer Scythe Secateurs | Forest School leaders & grass cutters. Routine check before each FS session with monthly thorough checks. |
| | Nettles | Lots of nettles cut down for new paths | To keep nettles cut back. Children aware of nettles and to avoid. | Grass cutters to cut back on main paths and around fire circle. | | |
| | New trees | Approximately 1m tall and protected. | To monitor protection around trees in order to expand the woodland. | Protected and children to be aware. Grass cutters to be careful when cutting around new trees. | | |
| Canopy Layer | All over | No concerns or overhanging trees onto fire circle. | To monitor and remove accordingly. | Check regularly for obvious signs of danger. | Loppers | Forest school leaders. Monthly checks. |
| | Deadwood | All deadwood causing concern removed from trees | | | | |
| Wildlife & birds | | Signs of wildlife & birds. | To leave wildlife as undisturbed as possible. Educate children on helping wildlife and not touching birds nests. | Identify wildlife signs and leave as found to avoid damage | | Forest School leaders. Monthly checks. |

Plan for the use of the Woodlands as a Forest School Site - year 2

| Factor | Area | Current Situation | Action | Monitor | Resources needed | Person responsible & timescale |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Ground Layer | All over | Leaf covering and deadwood. | To maintain ground layer in its natural state but safe for children to use. Cut back as required. | Check for overgrown brambles, stinging nettles and trip hazards. | Strimmer or hedge cutters | Forest School leaders & grass cutters. Routine check before each FS session with monthly thorough checks. |
| | Fire Circle | Fire circle complete and in use. | Replace logs around fire pit when worn, replace outer logs as needed, adding larger logs for seating if larger groups of children are using the area. | Keep nettles and pathway cut back. Remove all logs to allow grass cutters in periodically. | Grass cutters | |
| | Pathways | Pathways worn in, keeping smaller ones in natural state. | Cut out new paths and areas for the children to use, giving variety and more hiding places. | Monitor use of paths, if becoming too muddy, use alternative paths to allow these to dry out. Activities to be moved around using different areas to prevent too much wear on same pathways. | | |
| | Area around new trees | All grass cut regularly by grass cutters. | Identify an area & plant wild flowers using seeds. Plant winter bulbs in area next to wild flower area. | Ensure grass cutters do not cut the grass in this area. | Seeds Bulbs | Forest School leaders and children. Ongoing |
| | Area at edge of woodland area | Part nettles and part grass. | To make into a bird feeding area by clearing away long grass and nettles and adding bird table and feeders. This area will allow children to observe the birds from the fire circle/ base. | Ensure the nettles are cleared back properly to prevent stings. Observe birds and keep an inventory and photos. | Strimmer bird table bird food | Forest school leaders and children. Ongoing |

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| Field Layer | All over | All cut back and not overhanging onto pathways. | To cut back from pathways as needed. | Field layer to be monitored to prevent overhanging onto pathways. Look out for and leave any birds nests. Make inventory of birds and look at different nests in more detail. | Strimmer Scythe Secateurs | Forest School leaders Routine check before each FS session with monthly thorough checks. |
| | Brambles | Not overhanging onto paths | Keep paths clear. | Monitor and cut back as necessary. | | |
| | Sticks and branches on ground | A little on trees and on ground. Few broken branches. | Replace sticks and branches as needed, especially for fire lighting. | Check for trip hazards and remove. Broken /fallen branches removed if unsafe. | | |
| Shrub Layer | All over | All cut back | Cut back when needed. | Check regularly and cut back as needed. | Strimmer Scythe Secateurs | Forest School leaders & grass cutters. Routine check before each FS session with monthly thorough checks. |
| | Nettles | Lots of nettles cut down for new paths | To keep nettles cut back. Children aware of nettles and to avoid. | Grass cutters to cut back on main paths and around fire circle. | | |
| | New trees | Approximately 1m tall and protected. | To monitor protection around trees in order to expand the woodland. | Protected and children to be aware. Grass cutters to be careful when cutting around new trees and wild flower area. | | |
| Canopy Layer | All over | No concerns or overhanging trees onto fire circle. | To monitor and remove accordingly. | Check regularly for obvious signs of danger. | Loppers | Forest school leaders Monthly checks. |
| | Deadwood | All deadwood causing concern removed from trees. | | | | |
| Wildlife & birds | | Signs of wildlife & birds. | To leave wildlife as undisturbed as possible. Educate children on helping wildlife and not touching birds nests. | Identify wildlife signs and leave as found to avoid damage | | Forest school leaders Monthly checks. |

Plan for the use of the Woodlands as a Forest School Site - year 3

| Factor | Area | Current Situation | Action | Monitor | Resources needed | Person responsible & timescale |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| Ground Layer | All over | Leaf covering and deadwood. | To maintain ground layer in its natural state but safe for children to use. Cut back as required. | Check for overgrown brambles, stinging nettles and trip hazards. | Strimmer or hedge cutters | Forest School leaders & grass cutters. Routine check before each FS session with monthly thorough checks. |
| | Fire Circle | Fire circle complete and in use. | Replace logs around fire pit when worn, replace outer logs as needed, Extend fire pit if needed to enable more cooking options. | Keep nettles and pathway cut back. Remove all logs to allow grass cutters in periodically. | Grass cutters | |
| | Pathways | Pathways worn in, keeping smaller ones in natural state. | Cut out new paths and areas for the children to use, giving variety and more hiding places. | Monitor use of paths, if becoming too muddy, use alternative paths to allow these to dry out. | | |
| | Wooded area | Natural habitat. | Make a hedgehog sanctuary/ area. Add hedgehog houses in an area away from the main paths but hidden under greenery / shrubs. | Look out for signs of droppings or evidence of hedgehogs, take photos to identify changes in natural area. | Hedgehog houses Food for hedgehogs Camera | Forest School leaders and children. Ongoing |
| | Area around new trees | All grass cut regularly by grass cutters, but not in wild flower or bulb area. | Plant more wild seeds; and bulbs if needed. | Ensure grass cutters do not cut the grass in this area. | Seeds Bulbs | Forest School leaders and children. Ongoing |
| | Area at edge of woodland area | Part nettles and part grass. | To make into a bird feeding area by clearing away long grass and nettles and adding bird table and feeders. This area will allow children to observe the birds from the fire circle/ base. | Ensure the nettles are cleared back properly to prevent stings. Observe birds and keep an inventory and photos. | Strimmer Bird table Bird food | Forest School leaders and children. Ongoing |

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| Field Layer | All over | All cut back and not overhanging onto pathways. | To cut back from pathways as needed. | Field layer to be monitored to prevent overhanging onto pathways. Look out for and leave any birds nests. Make inventory of birds and look at different nests in more detail. | Strimmer Scythe Secateurs | Forest School leaders Routine check before each FS session with monthly thorough checks. |
| | Brambles | Not overhanging onto paths. | Keep paths clear. | Monitor and cut back as necessary. | | |
| | Sticks and branches on ground | A little on trees and on ground. Few broken branches. | Replace sticks and branches as needed, especially for fire lighting. | Check for trip hazards and remove. Broken /fallen branches removed if unsafe. | | |
| Shrub Layer | All over | All cut back | Cut back when needed. | Check regularly and cut back as needed. | Strimmer Scythe Secateurs | Forest School leaders & grass cutters. Routine check before each FS session with monthly thorough checks. |
| | Nettles | Lots of nettles cut down for new paths | To keep nettles cut back. Children aware of nettles and to avoid. | Grass cutters to cut back on main paths and around fire circle. | | |
| | New trees | Over 1m tall and protected. | To monitor protection around trees in order to expand the woodland. Plant or replace any new trees as needed. | Protected and children to be aware. Grass cutters to be careful when cutting around new trees. Inspect protection around trees to ensure room for growth or remove if not needed. | | |
| Canopy Layer | All over | No concerns or overhanging trees onto fire circle. | To monitor and remove accordingly. | Check regularly for obvious signs of danger. | Loppers | Forest School leaders Monthly checks. |
| | Deadwood | All deadwood causing concern removed from trees | | | | |

| Factor | Current Situation | Action | Monitor | Resources needed | Person responsible & timescale |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|--|------------------|---|
| Wildlife & birds | Signs of wildlife & birds. | To leave wildlife as undisturbed as possible. Educate children on helping wildlife and not touching birds nests. | Identify wildlife signs and leave as found to avoid damage. Monitor evidence of hedgehogs and other wildlife, ensure area is left as natural as possible to encourage wildlife. | | Forest School leaders & children Monthly checks. |