

# W O O D S M I T H S

Tree surveyors

Tree surgeons

**Date** 11/09/2013

**Ref N.º** PWL13034

## Crinnis Wood Management Plan

### Objectives (Proposed)

The aim of the woodland management plan is to provide an amenity for the residents of Wheal Regent Park to enjoy as somewhere to walk and experience the traditional woodland. To provide a colourful backdrop for their homes and an environment for traditional wildlife.

That is to say, it is not for the production of timber, firewood, fruit or any other crop for commercial gain. It is also not the intention of the owners to pursue any other opportunities from the site. (I.e. opening to the public or other ventures)

The plan has to conform to "The UK forest standard" details can be read at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/theukforestrystandard>

This plan requires attention to Biodiversity, Climate change, Historical environment, Landscape, People, Soil and Water.

It also has to conform to the UK WAS, The UK Woodland Assurance Standard. Details of this can be seen here [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ukwasguide.pdf/\\$file/ukwasguide.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ukwasguide.pdf/$file/ukwasguide.pdf)

The description of the proposed woodland is "mixed lowland oak woodland" and bears the classification "NVC W10"

As a result of this conformation the plan makes Crinnis Wood eligible for the Forestry Commission grants and (as a result of the Forestry Commission being seen as a higher authority than local government) is exempt from the need to make TPO (Tree Preservation Order) exemption applications whenever tree work is scheduled.

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I would suggest the following program of activity for this site.

1. Clear ground; Remove timber, firewood and store centrally awaiting consent to sell. (FERA) Remove all shrubs, (cotoneaster, leycestaria, privet, brambles, gorse, hydrangea, aucuba.) debris and tipped waste.
2. Thin; remove overcrowding trees, reduce coppice to single stems, remove unwanted species (i.e. sycamore etc) in favour of relieving more desirable species.(i.e. oak, chestnut, beech etc)
3. Re-plant; species list to be determined.
4. Establish boundaries; using hedging plants (hawthorn, hazel, holly etc) to screen, define and prevent public access.
5. Access; provide additional access to the central area for tree work, timber/firewood removal and planting.
6. No open areas or public access points.

It needs to be noted that because rhododendron is known to secrete a chemical to prevent the germination of other species (as evidenced by the lack of plants in the cleared areas where it was most dense) it may take some time and effort to colonise the cleared ground. Not assisted by the history of mining on site also, which brings with it other contaminants not conducive to plant health.

To help fund the program I would suggest the sale of firewood and timber from the site. This would need good access and an area, or areas, for storage to clear the substantial stock of fallen wood currently on site. It will also require consent from FERA (food and environment research agency)

The species list I would suggest for re-planting are; Oak (Pedunculate and sessile), Small-leaved lime, yew, hawthorn, rowan, blackthorn, silver birch. In the interests of diversity I would add some fruit varieties, apple, cherry and almond and maybe some red oak and scots pine. These would be in small quantities (less than 10%) There is a desire to use locally sourced stock with provenance where possible. Sweet chestnut is not desired because of its susceptibility to phytophthora but re-generation can be tolerated. Ash is currently not advised because of the chalara fraxinea disease. This is currently not found in Cornwall but movement of stock in is not advised.(This list will be dependent on agreement with the Forestry Commission officer). I would welcome comments on this list.

There is a requirement to introduce various shrub plants such as dog rose and gelder rose, amongst others in the shrub layer, below the understorey to conform to NVC W10. There is unlikely to be re-generation of these on site as it is contaminated with non-native shrubs that have been generated by illegal fly-tipping.

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Section 6:2:1 of the UKWAS requires biodiversity but for woodland of only just over 4 hectares I think the standing dead wood will comply.

There is a requirement for consultation. I would suggest with the arb officer for the area, Ian Davis, The Forestry officer, Garin Linnington, and your agent Chris Anderson.

There is a requirement for monitoring in the plan. This is a responsibility to make sure that the owners are aware of a responsibility to stick to the plan. I would suggest the agent, currently Chris Anderson.

It will be necessary to define areas and a schedule for re-planting. Given the range of the site and the needs of the large number of "owners" ( to see results close to their property) I would think that the best way to proceed is to treat the woodland as the forestry Commission does larger woodland but in miniature. We can define small coupes which could be selected evenly over the site. These could be mapped from the current data using GIS to enable exact areas to be quoted.(for FC approval) Then cleared and planted with the agreed species in quantities dictated by budget. The more money available, the larger area can be tackled. Quotes could be sought for a number of trial areas, perhaps six to be cleared and planted. (This may include removal of old stock to make way. Thereby facilitating the removal of high liability trees and easing the risk)

There is a requirement within the plan to define a program of works over the coming twenty years complete with, areas, mapping and funding details. This requires a budget to be set, married to estimates and approved by your management. This can be broken down into short term and long term agendas. The longer term can be more vague as it has to account for successes, failures, possible reaction to disease and the needs to resolve liability works in the short term program.

One way of planting within the plan and provide boundary screening and demarcation may be to define a particular boundary as an area and plant with hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and holly. This would create a hedge, biodiversity and environment..(Particularly for the dormouse.)

The ongoing plan would also require updated mapping (for the forestry commission to see progress. Section 9, woodland management plan guidance.) and maintaining (weeding and thinning)" Maps are one of the most useful ways of recording information on woodlands, whether it is historical, current, or plans for the future. Many management plans consist almost entirely of maps, with just one or two pages of supporting text. This is perfectly acceptable for both the Forestry Commission and UKWAS."

"The approved management plan can provide a framework from which other activities, including felling, planting and other grant aided woodland operations, can be taken forward." FC guidance.

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Whilst walking the woodland surveying, spraying, tagging etc I have observed that tipping of garden waste, from owners and residents of houses surrounding the site, continues. This isn't helpful for woodland restoration as it can spread disease and is covering ground needed for planting. This will take time to clear and cost money. You can't plant in piles of brushwood, grass cuttings or other debris. Sorry.

After a discussion on all these points, if a consensus can be achieved then the plan can be submitted for approval with the FC.

*Signed:*

Paul Wallace

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