

## Appendix A – feedback received and the Council’s response

Response ID	Individual, group, organisation	Methods of communication	In support (Y, N from form, otherwise from the context of the letter)	Comments	The Council’s response	Amendment required	Type of comment
1	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	I support the need to look after our woodlands. Why is Reading Council building on lots of green spaces and carving up more land with Wokingham and Reading's proposed new park and ride when we are encouraging people to cycle and use public transport more because of pollution levels?? No sense there then!! And our Meadows are not Meadows they have been turned into parks or being built on!	Supports plans for woodlands. Building on green space is an issue for planning		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
2	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Surprised to see that the woodland in Courage Park (principally at the park's southern end adjacent to Coley Park/Wensley Road) is not included. Although I guess this has had attention more recently than some of the woods listed, as a result of the work by inmates of Reading Prison a few years back, it does appear to have reached the point where further positive management is needed.	This woodland has not been included because of its size, consideration will be given to producing a management plan for this woodland in future		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
3	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	I'm not sure if the mature trees and hedgerows along Gravel Hill are included in the Bugs Bottom area (where they continue on up the hill behind the houses). When you look out of the front of our house on summer evenings you can see the bats flying around these trees; if they are not included in either the Bugs Bottom area or the Furze Plat area, please can they have their own designation? Will you be surveying animal species before coppicing etc.? We have owls, foxes, deer, rooks, other native birds, and even buzzards this year, living in Furze Plat. What work you do to encourage one species of plant, tree or animal could affect another.	The council owns some of the areas referred to. The hedgerow is being managed under a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement. Please refer to red line boundary in management plan for areas covered by the plan. Thames Valley Records Centre collects data on species on the council's behalf. Please report your sightings to this organisation: <a href="http://www.tverc.co.uk">www.tverc.co.uk</a>		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
4	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		No comment		None
5	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Hi, good to hear of the measured pro-active management of the woodlands as proposed which I would fully support. With respect to the Bugs Bottom area may I suggest consideration be given to trimming / reducing in height and the extent of some of the branches on the long established mature trees between Glenrhonda and Cwmcarn. Regards. Clive Orr	Support for the plans noted. In relation to overhanging branches, this is a health and safety issue and the tree officer will survey the trees as appropriate		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom
6	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	I would like to see some more wild flowers planted. I live next door to the entrance to Newbery Park in Oak Tree Road, and have always thought how lovely it would be to plant some flowers near the entrance, especially near the gravel 'path' that you walk on when first entering the park from that entrance. It would also be nice to see flowers at the top entrances too. There is a nice wooded area, with a natural stream at the top, lots of wild flowers around that area would be lovely too.	Arthur Newbery Park has recently been reseeded with wildflower seeds and is being managed as a wildflower meadow under the Higher Level Stewardship agreement. Planting of flowers elsewhere falls outside of the scope of the woodland management plans		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
7	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	All weather and pushchair paths	We are installing a new path at Blundell's Copse and will look to install paths elsewhere if funding becomes available		Would like to see path improvements
8	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		Support noted		None
9	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Bugs Bottom. Height reduction/thinning of Sycamores in Compartment 3 and other trees that are too big and leaning over properties. Natural hedging similar to Gravel Hill works to border properties fronting onto Compartment 2.	Height reduction is a health and safety issue, see response 5. It would be very difficult to establish a hedge due to the shade and is therefore not considered appropriate in this location		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom

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				Have sent a letter to Giles Sutton with further details.			
10	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	We only heard about all these plans from a dog walker. Our only concern is the proximity of the planned new large pond to our back garden. If the pond floods, does that mean our garden will flood? What if it is stagnant?	Officers have spoken with the resident in question and have agreed to meet and discuss the location of the pond. It is not anticipated that this will be an issue as the proposed pond will hold water, is located in an area already prone to flooding and will be located away from the gardens in the locality. The map in the management plan will be checked to ensure that the pond is shown in the correct location.	Y - check location of pond in Lousehill Copse Plan	Location of pond - Lousehill Copse
11	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	May I please ask for particular sensitivity in Balmore Walk. The trees that were planted in 1993 are in memory of James Matthews, who was a local writer starting to make a name for himself in journalism when he died far too young, at 30. A group of friends and family planted the trees and have enjoyed seeing them develop into the young wood we see now. Up to 30% reduction seems excessive to me, and I ask that you consider the extra layer in this particular ecosystem, namely, the people who loved and miss James. Although I know several of the other areas in the plan I do not feel able to comment on them, so this relates solely to Balmore Walk. many thanks to Dave Booth for his interest and guidance in giving this feedback.	Officers have spoken to James Matthew's mother and we will meet to discuss which trees are to be felled.	Y - possible amendment re memorial trees at balmier Walk	Memorial trees - Balmore Walk
12	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		Support noted		None
13	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		Support noted		None
14	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Trees undermining residents' concrete/fence borders should be cut back (Blundell's Copse)	This is a tree officer issue as it refers to specific trees and the resident is advised to speak to the council tree officer		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Blundell's Copse
15	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Trees behind Dalton Close cut back to allow light into gardens etc	Officers will visit site to assess whether or not trees in this location can be removed to (as works will be occurring nearby)	Y - site visit required to determine how to respond	Trees adjacent to dwellings - Blundell's Copse
16	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Regular patrols of Blundell's Copse would be a benefit	The council undertakes regular inspections of its woodlands. In relation to antisocial behaviour, this a police matter and the consultee should contact the police		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
17	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		Support noted		None
18	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		Support noted		None
19	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		Support noted		None
20	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Great to see Reading's wild spaces being looked after	Support noted		None
21	Individual	Webform or	Y		Support noted		None

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		paper form					
22	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	I would like this to include compartment 1. There needs to be distinction between trees planted to hide houses when bugs bottom was built, and what is actually now woodland. Compartment 2 is IMHO not woodland. Compartment 1 is woodland.	This comment is unclear and appears to have been addressed in other responses		None
23	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Paths in Rotherfield way copse need attention. A lot of the Highdown school children use this as a cut through and the paths are not in good repair.  I support the works in Balmore park- this is a well used area by cyclists, dog walkers and leisure walkers and would encourage the management plans to this area.	Support noted. The council would also like to improve the paths in its woodlands however at present grant funding has only been made available for works in Blundell's Copse. If additional funding becomes available the council will look to improve paths elsewhere, including at Rotherfield Way copse		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom
24	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Anything to make them more visitor friendly	Support noted		None
25	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Thank you for all you are doing in Blundell's Copse	Support noted		None
26	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		Support noted		None
27	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	I regularly visit Blundell's Copse and notice that there are fewer Bluebells than in the past.	Support noted		None
28	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	I would just like to see the woodlands accessible to all young and old.	Please see response 23		Would like to see path improvements
29	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		Support noted		None
30	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	The Woodlands certainly need active management but in a way that balances public access with conservation	The woodland management plans achieve this balance. The majority of the works will improve habitats, whilst only a limited amount of works to paths is proposed		Supports active management and would like to see improvements for wildlife as a result
30a	Individual	as above		The Woodlands certainly need active management but in a way that balances public access with conservation	The woodland management plans achieve this balance. The majority of the works will improve habitats, whilst only a limited amount of works to paths is proposed		Too much public access
31	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		Support noted		None
32	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	I note community payback being used in Prospect Park. Could they also be used in Blundell's Copse and adjacent Meadway recreation ground.	Support noted. Community payback has been used in Blundell's Copse and Meadway recreation ground in the past and will continue to do so. The management plans will help identify suitable tasks		None
33	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Move trees on roadside grass verges as Whitley Wood road, Hartland road, Northumberland Avenue high numbers.	This comment is unclear. Street trees are outside the remit of woodland management plans, are managed by the highways department and the consultee is advised to contact the council's Natural Environment team and or the Tree Wardens		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
34	Individual	Webform or	Y	Much more care of the footpaths is needed. Many become very muddy and	Support noted. Please see response 23 in relation		Would like to

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		paper form		dangerous in the winter months. There are many muddy areas where there are now deep pools of mud which would be transformed by the simple, and environmentally acceptable, laying down of gravel. The paths are heavily used by dog walkers, of which I am one, and the inability to walk safely on 'approved' pathways results in people creating new, drier pathways through the woodlands which must disturb the wildlife. I will stick to the major pathways only if they are safe and navigable!	to footpaths.		see improvements for wildlife
34a	Individual	as above		I am also concerned at the emphasis on trees as opposed to flowers. The self-seeded trees are far too dense and urgently need thinning. There are several areas where wild flowers had established themselves, but it is now difficult to find some species due to the increasingly dense leaf cover which is destroying their habitats.	The management plans will result in a more varied age structure in the woodlands and will increase the species diversity, this will benefit woodland ground flora and wild flowers		Supports active management and would like to see improvements for wildlife as a result
35	Individual	Webform/paper form from event	Y	This return is on behalf of " Prospect Angling Club " the club maintains the river bank for the purpose of angling, and also the water way where accessible, between the Burghfield Road Bridge and the next railway bridge down stream on the Holy Brook, Southcote Linear Park, we have a good relationship with the Parks Department. We would like to be consulted on the work to be carried, as part of the project. I am Colin Day, the Treasurer and match Secretary of the above Angling Club.	Support noted. The parks department will consult with Prospect Angling club as appropriate		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
36	Individual	Webform/paper form from event	Y	Clayfield Copse Compartment 3: Open areas support large numbers of Ant colonies forming part of a complex ecosystem including, e.g., the Hoverfly <i>Xanthogramma citrofasciatum</i> . Tree cover will exclude them, and also Bee Orchid, Common Spotted Orchid, Grizzled Skipper Butterfly and various visiting Dragonflies. In its present condition it is a locally special site, and should not convert to woodland.  Compartment 1: adult Damselflies, Large Red and Common Blue, frequent the area, and a better un-shaded pond would be useful. Compartment 2: Mature trees here, even if damaged, are host to many invertebrates, e.g. 3 species of <i>Criorhina</i> hoverfly.	Clayfield Copse, compartment 3 (the previously arable fields). This compartment will be left to regenerate but with three glades and wide rides. These areas will provide habitat for the invertebrate species referred to. Compartment 1 - we agree and the existing pond will be enlarged and improved (subject to funding from the FC) Compartment 2 - veteran trees will be retained, as will category 1 and 1* bat trees (as defined in the bat Conservation Trust Guidelines, reference to bats and their protection in the management plans will be clarified). In addition standing and fallen deadwood will be retained.	Pond in Clayfield copse, text to re-assure public that valuable trees for invertebrates and bats will not be felled	Site Specific comments - Clayfield Copse
36a	Individual	as above		View Island: The pond has not been maintained, and is almost lost to Phragmites reeds. A path parallel to the Heron Island-facing bank was blocked by an illegal camper, and could be re-opened. Note that White-legged Damselflies breed by the Island, and adults feed in long grass there.	View Island - previous objections by Caversham Globe have resulted in a lack of maintenance to the pond and as such the council does not propose to undertake any works to the pond The camper van is outside of the scope of this consultation - Damselflies - the long grass will be retained		Site specific comments - minor - View Island
36b	Individual	as above		Hill's Meadow: The priority should be to remove the silt dumped along the bank of the Danell Brook, which now hosts nettles, creeping thistle and arable weeds. This caused a loss of biodiversity. Ideally remove all topsoil and replace with nutrient-poor material to allow richer regeneration.	Hills meadow - funding is not available for these works. Silt would need to be treated as contaminated waste (if leaving the site) and this would make the work uneconomic		Site specific comments - minor - Hills Meadow
36c	Individual	as above		King's Meadow: It is possible that the line of large Horse Chestnuts will not survive the current leaf-miner attack, and plans should take account of this.	Kings Meadow - if and when the horse chestnuts do succumb to leaf miner consideration will be given to replacement planting with other species		Site specific comments - minor - Kings Meadow
37	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	"Healthy Woodlands are home to diverse Eco-systems that Produce the Oxygen we need to Breathe & make rational choices to see the solutions to your problems by removing the filters of modern society. Woodlands cool our environment via shading & transpiration.	Support noted. Issues regarding the pond at the Cowsey need to be discussed with the Highways Department. At the Cowsey there is no space for the provision of a dam and associated wetland area	Y - litter	Concerns over The Cowsey Flood Risk Alleviation scheme

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				<p>Woodlands can save us money by removing the need for expensive schemes like the Jubilee River to move flooding from one group of people to another - If Woodlands are allowed to store water"</p> <p>This should be at the head of all the plans &amp; the education material you produce if you hope to get woodlands valued especially by the disadvantaged sections of society that consistently damage the woodlands.</p> <p>Ponds in woodlands are only a temporary yet expensive engineering fix for the loss of 100's of tons in water storage due to the activities of Thames Water &amp; the EA's obsession with flow instead of capacity. The restoration of dams on streams would be a cheaper way to prevent flooding especially if done using the waste products from coppicing by Econet Volunteers &amp; local schools /convicts to enhance their knowledge &amp; appreciation of the sites.</p> <p>The 2nd pond in Lousehill (by the brick culvert by the Tray Road Roundabout entrance) has been lost to the uncontrolled soil erosion in the last 15 years.</p>			
38	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	<p>The proposed woodlands work generally seems fine, though where there is intention to create more people space this has to be backed up by a commitment to clear rubbish on a very regular basis.</p> <p>I have great concern about the proposed pond in The Cowsey and do not think there is a reason for it to be there.</p> <p>The problems with drainage at The Cowsey have been more evident since the poorly finished work at the top of the hill near the school fence was carried out, and the natural drainage was altered by a prevalent period of illegally ridden motorcycles and some work carried out by council staff. This has resulted in large cracks appearing in certain parts of the Cowsey.</p> <p>The pond proposal is just wrong. It is not part of the woodland project as such but is being funded by the tax payer apparently to compensate for the shortcomings of money grabbing Thames Water. Any sort of pond will attract vandalism and other anti-social behaviour and inevitable result in some sort of wildlife cruelty. Furthermore its proposed position is far too close to residents living in Blagdon Road.</p> <p>I know this idea should be scrapped.</p>	Please see response 37. The council will endeavour to improve litter collection in its woodlands within current financial constraints		Concerns over The Cowsey Flood Risk Alleviation scheme
39	Individual	Webform or paper form	N	<p>Why does your plan for Clayfield Copse &amp; blackhouse not conform to either the unitary boundary or the boundary of the actual woods?</p> <p>Why cut a grass border to isolate compartment 3 from compartment 1 &amp; 2 when ploughing would give a much better break against the minimal fire risk &amp; would reintroduce rare corn marigolds &amp; poppies that were present in 2004/5?</p> <p>Why no mention of management of the seasonal ponds?</p> <p>Why do you think the Oxfordshire Deer herds pose no threat to regeneration?</p> <p>The proposal to widen the path from Kiln Lane to aid the extraction of 30% of tree cover + creation of 2 new glades will change the character of Clayfield copse.</p> <p>Have you not kept records of the path diversion work done to protect the 10+% of the European population of a bat that was living in a tree hole at shoulder height?</p>	<p>The management plan conforms to the land that is in the ownership of Reading Borough Council. The cutting of the grass around compartment 3 provides wildlife habitat and an accessible path for walkers. Ploughing would reduce provide a hazard in a location that is intended for walking and would require purchase of additional equipment. Reference to the seasonal ponds will be made in the management plan, one of the ponds will be enlarged see comment 36. Deer are likely to be an issue as in all woodlands, however their presence should not preclude management. If required protective measures will be used. Ride widening, thinning and glade creation will alter the character of part of the woodlands but will result in a more varied age structure, a greater diversity of habitats and is considered to be a benefit for the woodland. Bats - see response 49</p>		Site Specific comments - Clayfield Copse

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40	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	<p>Thought about how to deal with the byproducts of works for the achievement of multiple aims is required before the commencement of any works to avoid situations like the convicts dumping rubbish on top of the new yew hedge in Palmer Park Stadium thus adding to the uncared for appearance &amp; encouraging more dumping because the Council promotes the "Out of sight out of mind as a problem" mentality by subsidizing waste production by renting landfill space instead of tackling the economic defects causing waste.</p> <p>Good practice would be to have habitat piles &amp; dead hedges along the contours to control soil erosion (especially on the old earth works that the archaeological service can not afford to investigate this centenary) &amp; piles for different uses pointing the same way to easy the removal from site.</p> <p>Bracken &amp; bramble are best controlled by pulling. Cutting can be done when the bluebells are dormant (late July to November)</p> <p>Neglected coppice is best restored by layering not coppicing.</p>	Landfill is outside the remit of the woodland management plans, other points noted.		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
41	Berkshire Local Nature Partnership	Webform or paper form	Y	<p>The Berkshire Local Nature Partnership was glad to hear of plans to better manage Reading's woodlands for wildlife and people.</p> <p>We encourage consideration of the contribution this project will make towards Berkshire's biodiversity strategy (and in turn the national objectives). Several of the woodlands are within the 'West Reading Woodlands and LNRs' Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA), and as such have been identified as key areas of opportunity for the creation of a functioning ecological network across Berkshire.</p> <p>The inclusion of this information in the management plans of the woodlands will help ensure that there is collaboration with the owners of the neighbouring woodland sites, and that the achievements of this project are effectively recorded (against county and national targets), so as to better inform future management of the counties ecological networks.</p> <p>Accordingly the BOAs may be a tool to help the council identify if any other woodland under their ownership should have a similar management plan.</p> <p>For any queries or questions on the biodiversity strategy, or BOA, please contact the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership.</p>	Support noted, reference to BOAs will be made within the WMPs		Reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas within woodland management plans
42	Tilehurst Globe	Webform or paper form	Y	<p>Tilehurst Globe find the general approach to management of the woodlands very sensible. The conflicting demands of dog walkers, people who a pleasant walk and the needs of wild life can all be accommodated without prejudice any one interest group.</p> <p>Whilst individual members may have specific concerns they have reported on, the group as a whole supports the whole approach excellent and timely.</p> <p>The groups are particularly delighted with the proposals for Blundell's Copse since most members visit this woodland, but together visit most of the others at sometime during the year.</p>	Support noted		None
43	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	all seem sensible and well thought out	Support noted		None
44	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y	Indications that the local conservation volunteer groups are consulted and used, and that the public are aware of their involvement and can help out.	Support noted. There will be numerous opportunities for volunteers to be involved in the implementation of management plans		Would like to see volunteer groups involved in works
45	Individual	Webform or	Y	Grass at Bugs Bottom is cut only once a year. This is not adequate as the grass	Support noted. The grass is cut as a hay meadow		Outside of

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		paper form		becomes too long which means most of the area is not accessible to the public, save for a few cut walkways. An area of Bugs Bottom should be designated to be cut more frequently, to allow children to play, have picnics etc. I was unable to take my children to play at Bugs Bottom this summer due to the length of the grass and the proliferation of dog mess. Dog waste bins have been removed from Bugs Bottom, they should be replaced. Fly tipping of garden waste, dead trees and plants, flower pots, broken concrete slabs have been dumped in the north of Compartment 2, adjacent to housing in Aberaman. This fly tipping has been reported and not removed. No reference to this fly tipping in the Management plan. The entrance to Bugs Bottom from Aberaman is not shown on the Management Plan maps.	annually in order to encourage wildflowers and is outside of this consultation. Dog waste bins are outside of the scope of the woodland management plans. Fly tipping is an issue and the council officer responsible has been informed. None of the maps show entrances -the pink crosses on Plan 1 are the fire rendezvous points.		scope of woodland management plans
46a	Individual	Webform or paper form	N	*Partly*	Partial support noted	Y - specify that only 6 trees in beech wood are to be felled	None
46b		As above		New Copse in Balmore should be allowed to mature naturally.	See point 11 re Balmore Walk		Memorial trees - Balmore Walk
46c		As above		Beech Wood (Highdown) should remain as "Beech" wood with only species typical of Chiltern Beech Woods included.	Beech wood - research shows that beech trees are unlikely to persist in the south-east of England in the future as a result of climate change. Best practice suggests that resilience should be built into these woodlands by increasing the mix of species. The council is proposing to fell a limited number of the mature beech trees (a maximum of 6) and to undertake some re-stocking with other species (e.g. cherry)		Thinning of Beech Trees at Beech Wood
46d		As above		Clayfield Copse - Too much clearance & management already - path proposed too wide	Clayfield copse comments addressed elsewhere		Site Specific comments - Clayfield Copse
46e		As above		View Island - As a Tree Warden am concerned that too many trees are being removed which would alter character of Island	Only very limited tree removal is proposed at View Island		Site specific comments - minor - View Island
47	Individual	Webform or paper form	Y		Support noted		None
48	Individual	Webform or paper form	N	(see my previous email relating to Rotherfield Way Copse ; - and my attached letter. No comment regarding other woodlands.)	See response to letter, comment 54		Holly adjacent to boundaries of houses at Rotherfield Way Copse
49	Individual	Email	N	I am a county trainer for the Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire Bat Group and on a recent visit to check Bat boxes at Clayfield Copse I noticed that there are some plans for forthcoming woodland management. I have reviewed the plans on line and have some comments. I am aware I have missed the deadline but please take time to consider my comments as there are some important ramifications of the planned work on the woodland bat community within Clayfield. No consideration has been given to the bat community within the woodland. The Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire bat group have undertaken ad hoc surveys in this woodland for nearly 20 years. There are at least 8 species of	The approach to the protection of bat roosts will be clarified, this will comprise ground based inspections of all trees to be felled and where a tree is either Category 1 or 1* (as per the Bat Conservation Trust's bat survey guidelines) these will be retained. If this is not possible further inspections, comprising either climbing inspections and or emergence or dawn surveys will be undertaken and as a last resort (it is not anticipated that this will be necessary) the relevant licence		Harm to bat roosts

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				<p>bat roosting within the woodland, including a large colony of noctules one of only 3 known in the county and certainly of at least district significance. The woodland however has been understudied and much about how bats use the woodland and the locations of many roosts has yet to be revealed.</p> <p>Not only can woodland bats be severely adversely affected by "woodland management" which aims to clear the woodland. No account has been taken of the need to inspect trees for the presence of roosts prior to the work taking place. My comment is with reference to Clayfield Copse but is applicable to the other woodlands.</p> <p>It is stated that if the trees have high potential to support roosting bats no further works will be undertaken until the county biologist is contacted. As it is an ancient woodland with ponds and streams within it with known bat interest the survey before works commence needs to be through and properly thought through and planned in with the timing of the works. In order for the works to lawfully proceed each tree with potential to support roosting bats should be surveyed on a minimum of three occasions throughout the active season (May - September). In addition it will be necessary to undertake activity surveys to fully determine the species assemblage within the woodland and properly inform the management plan.</p> <p>The plan currently states that the biggest threat to the woodland is the ongoing under management and that there is urgent need to undertake thinning and felling works to let more light into the woodland. While this is clearly necessary for conservation of some groups, such as woodland butterflies and many plants it is not beneficial for all woodland wildlife. For example Hambler &amp; Speight (1995) noted that the conservation of many species of less charismatic woodland invertebrates that depend on dark damp conditions would not be favoured by this approach. Similarly some species of bats have been shown to choose tree roosts surrounded by thick understory and may abandon roosts if the understory is cleared.</p> <p>One of the most concerning parts of the plan is the open up rides to facilitate timber extraction!!</p>	<p>from the Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation will be obtained - this approach will ensure that individual bats are not harmed, that their conservation status is not affected, and that legislation is complied with. We appreciate the information about the number of bat species in the woodland and would encourage the bat group to share this information with the council and with the Local Environmental Records Centre, TVERC. In addition we will ask the bat group to provide detailed information about their bat monitoring including the location of known roosts. In terms of woodland management more generally studies have shown the importance of a diverse woodland structure for bats, management of the woodlands will provide this. The proposed management will not result in the loss of all dark areas, indeed such areas will be retained in the majority of the wood that will remain unaffected by the proposals. It is not proposed to clear understorey as suggested, instead, the proposals are likely to result in a more diverse woodland structure with a more diverse understorey layer</p>		
50a	Reading Urban Wildlife Group	Letter	Y	<p>This is the response from Reading Urban Wildlife Group to the consultation document. Most of our comments are general ones rather than specific to individual woodlands and we found it difficult to use the online response form so have written a separate letter.</p> <p>We are happy to see the set of management plans for Reading's woodlands and are generally in favour of the proposals. We have some suggestions to add which we think can be included without increasing the budget.</p>	Support noted		None
50b		As above		<p>1. Public Access vs Biodiversity Interests</p> <p>We accept the need to encourage public access and use of public woodlands but are concerned that there is a direct conflict between encouraging access and the needs of biodiversity. A proportion of regular users of public open space are dog walkers who have limited interest in conservation objectives and just require a set of circular routes to use. Other persons are primarily interested in mountain biking areas or the shortest route to the play areas. All of these are perfectly understandable uses of public land, but we would like to see the larger woodland sites in Reading with an area, or a few areas, that are primarily for biodiversity rather than for use of the public. So have clearly designated circular walks and pathways from parking areas or joining local housing areas to shops/play areas, and maintain these in good condition with signposts and information boards, but not make a series of potential circular routes throughout the whole woodland area. Have some areas with access routes leading to nowhere, and create dead hedging/new hedge or scrub barrier to particular sections of the wood to deter use.</p> <p>For example, it seems to us that the proposed network of paths through Clayfield Copse/Blackhouse Woods has too many "major" pathways.</p>	<p>At present we are not proposing significant improvements to the path network. We will be re-surfacing the path at Blundell's Copse and widening paths at Clayfield Copse, the primary purpose of path widening at Clayfield Copse is the provision of wildlife habitat and we will be promoting the use of a circular path (see point 52)</p>		Too much public access



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50c		As above		Timetable for review of the plans We understand that extension of the management plans is dependent on budget, but it is a very short timetable for management of woodlands. It would be good to have a date for revision and updating included in the plans	Agreed - we will make it clear on the plans that they will be reviewed in 5 years (subject to funding)		Timetable for review of plans
50d		As above		Veteran trees are identified for protection in the management plans. We'd like to see an associated policy that protects their extensive root systems and reduces competition. This is particularly important where there are proposals for ride widening and access for motor vehicles to extract timber from the sites, and this protection should be applied to key specimens that will be the "veterans" of the future.	There are relatively few veteran trees within Reading's woodlands. However where veteran trees do exist opportunities will be taken to "halo" around them and these trees will be avoided by forestry contractors. Management plans will be updated to specify this	Y - make specific reference to veteran trees	Concern over veteran trees
50e		As above		Whilst understanding that the plans are for management of the woodlands under council ownership, we think there should be some effort to link the management of these woodlands to the wider environment. The policy for woodlands should look at continuity with the surrounding landscape. Woodlands form an essential part of the wildlife corridors through Reading and it would be good to plan the work with a view to supporting existing major corridors and acting as a reservoir for potential corridors. For example, the hedge lines alongside the unmanaged grassland leading to the woods at Clayfield are also the potential woodland edge habitat promoted in the management plan. These could be widened perhaps, or the corners filled in, with additional scrub regrowth and managed for this purpose. This provides corridors for woodland species leading out of the woods. Another example is at the Cowsey, where the entrance halfway up the hill on Whitley Wood Road is pretty much opposite the entrance to Holydale which has street trees and then a footpath from Wheatley Close through to the footpath at the back of Crossfield School. There is potential to look at enhancing the planting on this footpath to promote a corridor through to the school, offering a chance for the school to be encouraged to promote the corridor through to the residual woodland at the old European weather station site.	This is outside the remit of the woodland management plans. There is however local planning policy, namely DM12 within the sites and detailed policies document, and national planning policy, within the NPPF that refers to ecological networks. Street tree planting is carried-out by the highways department		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
50f		As above		There needs to be a mechanism to encourage recording in the future at these sites to form the basis of future maintenance and management plans, and ensure the documentation of existing information. We suggest that the council should state their preferred recording system (whether to the Thames valley record centre, IRecord or to one of the specialist groups) and have a link to this from the website. The council should try to identify a person (from the friends of group, or Reading Naturalists) who would be interested in receiving records if people cannot enter their own or would discuss sightings with interested members of the public.	The council would encourage residents to report their records to TVERC. TVERC will take records by phone, letter or email		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
50g		As above		We are a little concerned about ash die back and the impact on Reading's woodlands in the future. The management plans mention that Reading will follow forestry commission advice on this point, but there is a risk that a large percentage of ash will get infected in the next 25 years which will completely change the woodland structure. Will natural regeneration be effective or should there be a more positive approach to increasing the mix of species in those areas dominated by ash at the moment? This might include establishing a tree nursery in an allotment, or moving seedlings and young trees across one site, or from other woodlands in the town. Whilst generally supporting the removal of excess sycamore, we wonder about the potential role of sycamore as a fast growing future timber crop in some of the areas with high percentage of ash regrowth.	The council also has concerns over ash dieback. The management plans will be reviewed in 5 years and updates made		Ash dieback
50h		As above		A small specific point about Devil's Dip. Unless the road drainage system has changed, the ephemeral pond in the bottom is entirely related to draining excess water from the Bath road after heavy rain. It fills quickly and drains relatively quickly too.	There are no proposals for Devils Dip		None
51a	Individual	Letter	Y	Very supportive, see letter for details. Specific points not addressed in	Support noted		None

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				previous responses are as follows:			
51b		As above		View Island - The plan says 'The meadow has not been cut for several years' - on a visit in 2012 I noticed that it seemed largely composed of coarse grass and was subject to encroachment by bramble etc. There should be a management plan for the 'meadow' as well as for the woodland to deliver Objective 3.2.3 "to develop a species-rich meadow at View Island"	It is very difficult to manage the grassland at view island as heavy machinery cannot access the site. The management plan will be updated and state that long grass will be cut and collected if volunteers are available for the task	Y-the management plan will be updated and state that it will be cut and collected if volunteers are available for the task	Site specific comments - minor - View Island
51c		As above		I feel that the even-aged tall, thin sycamore around the 'hard standing' former tennis-court (if that is what it is) should be removed - and arrangements made for the hard-standing to be used for amenity and recreation purposes. At present it is a 'waste of space' and the sycamores, by shading, make it unattractive for recreation and unappealing visually, and presumably cast their seeds over a wide area increasing management costs. Perhaps vandal-proof picnic tables or sports equipment could be installed?	Caversham Globe would like to see all of the trees retained. The council's approach to selectively thin the trees around the site is a middle way approach, opening up the hard standing slightly whilst allowing some of the larger trees retained.		Would like to see removal of sycamores adjacent to the Tennis Court on View Island
51d		As above		The Cowsey - There are certainly some very splendid mature oaks on the site which should be identified, mapped and managed. However, as photo 3 shows, in some areas the trees are very tall and thin - too closely spaced to form large crowns, and presumably at more risk of wind-blow. I therefore feel that some thinning may be appropriate in the younger areas of woodland to promote future standard (and ultimately 'veteran') trees.	At present we feel that The Cowsey does not need to be thinned and that no tree management is required. However we will review this in 5 years when the management plans are updated		Additional thinning of trees required at The Cowsey
51e		As above		I note that Compartment 3 was arable until 2003, so is not long-established woodland, and that part of it lies on chalk. I wonder if there would be benefit in converting some of the present Ash-dominated thicket to flower-rich grassland, particularly on the chalk area. Arable conversion to grassland is becoming a frequently-practised science.	The woodland at Clayfield copse is now quite well established, however the proposals include the retention of wide rides and glades which will support chalk grassland species. In addition the field to the south of the recreation ground is managed as a wildflower meadow and has recently been augmented with wildflower seeds		Site Specific comments - Clayfield Copse
51f		As above		I think that The Cowsey is large enough to provide significant areas of grassland habitat - which is much less commonly found than woodland. I feel that it should be valued and managed as much for grassland habitats as for woodland, and that efforts should be made to reclaim some areas from the 'mature scrub' which 'largely covered' the site resulting in the statement that 'little ground flora occurs because of the dense canopy'. I note that the plan does say there are some areas of species rich grassland - so I think these should be conserved and enlarged.	We will retain the rides through rotational cutting of scrub and feel that this provides adequate grassland habitat		Additional thinning of trees required at The Cowsey
52	Friends of Clayfield Copse	Email	Y	The Friends welcome the proposals for managing the woodlands in Reading, and look forward to planning their monthly tasks at Clayfield with the 'manager'. Perhaps this relationship could be formalised more clearly. They are concerned about the high numbers of walkers and their impact on wildlife. Clearly marked paths, and areas where wildlife can be left in peace, perhaps by asking walkers to keep to the main paths and keeping their dogs under control in some woodland areas. Looking forward to it starting soon Judith Oliver	We will produce a leaflet in partnership with the friends group setting out a circular walk and we will put circular walk signs up as per the management plan.	Y - check that C Copse management plan refers to the circular walk	Too much public access
53a	Individual	Email and .pdf management plan with comments attached	Y	Hello Ben/ Dave, Well done looking forward to seeing the improvements. Our green spaces are looking good. I hope further surveying will take place to make sure the habitats are improving Kind Regards - then comments on the Thames Woodland management plan below	Support noted		None
53b		As above		Hills Meadow - I feel more input to given to the areas around the skate park and view island with interpretations boards. and tree planting. Its very important for the young to notice the development of these areas.	Funding is not available for an interpretation board but it will be considered if funding does become available in the future. We agree it would be a	Add successional planting to	Site specific comments - minor - Hills

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					good idea to include some successional planting in Hills meadow and have added this to the management plan	hills meadow management plan	Meadow
53c		As above		Hills Meadow - It would be good to incorporate some hazel for coppicing near the skate park were there is a stretch of grass area of little wildlife value. Would it be appropriate to plant some of the strips of green space adjacent to the cycle paths and walk ways with willow then bark. ( were they keep being taken over by Blackberries?	This area is outside of the management plan boundary		Outside of scope of woodland management plans
53d		As above		Should we plant some black poplar some were and alder. to encourage species richness. interpretation boards are import and trying to create more connectivity between the areas so species can expand.	Consideration will be given to planting black poplar and alder when trees are planted in Hills meadow and elsewhere	Add additional planting to hills meadow management plan	Site specific comments - minor - Hills Meadow
53e		As above		bat boxes would be great. I am sure one of the charities could build them if there was a request	There are bat boxes on View Island. If funding becomes available the council will consider installing additional boxes		Site specific comments - minor - View Island
53f		As above		I am very pleased with the approach. But feel more planting of trees and trying to create connectivity between areas. may be changing grass cutting regime. I feel there has been a big improvement in the green spaces past 2 years. but litter is a problem in area	Support noted - please see point 37 regarding litter	Y - litter	Outside of scope of woodland management plans
53g		As above		General comment: if you are doing felling. planting needs to be encouraged. so we don't have a continual decline in numbers of trees. we need this not just for biodiversity but to clean the air and aid out water table	The council's preferred approach is to allow natural regeneration to occur. If this does not appear to be occurring the approach will be reviewed on a site by site basis at the next review of the management plans		Concerns about amount of Natural Regeneration that may occur
53h		As above		General comment - Please remember to leave some standing dead wood. and laying dead wood. dead hedges are also good. Remember we need veteran trees please	Please see previous 50d re veteran trees. There is a general policy to retain standing and fallen deadwood where it is safe to do so		Concern over veteran trees
53i		As above		View Island - concrete slab: "this is a very under used area. I think it is not open enough for people to feel safe"	Please see comment 51c		Would like to see removal of sycamores adjacent to the Tennis Court on View Island
54		Letter		A neighbour gave some details of one of your meetings at Mapledurham. Our previous email still represents our position and we reiterate that too much action, including attacking the holly on the South side, would have an adverse effect on all forms of wild life. Even the holly is not very obtrusive but simply tends to edge paths. We are particularly concerned that our cover will be lost and our garden exposed. Perhaps you would consider leaving a sufficient margin of cover, including holly- close to the fence next to the copse ; and/or provide a better fence.	The council have taken the comments on board and will amend the management plan accordingly, no holly removal will occur within 10m of the fence	Y - management plan needs to be clear that holly adjacent to properties will not be cut within 10m of residential boundaries	Holly adjacent to boundaries of houses at Rotherfield Way Copse
55a	Reading Tree Wardens	Letter	Partially	Reading Tree Wardens would like to see tree cover in the Borough increased and are concerned that some of RBC's Woodland Project proposals will reduce tree cover in some wooded areas of Reading as it proposes thinning in some woods with little replanting.	The proposals will not result in loss of tree cover in the long term, indeed the proposals aim to enhance the longevity of the council's woodlands. Replanting is not proposed because natural regeneration (i.e.	Y - we will make it clear in the management	Extent of works and loss of tree cover

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					allowing trees to self-seed) in wooded environments is a long established method for regenerating woodlands. If areas show little or no sign of natural regeneration then consideration will be given to restocking these areas when the management plans are reviewed in 5 years	plans that if natural regeneration does not occur re-planting will be considered	
55b		As above		Whilst limited and sympathetic woodland management is welcomed, significant changes to the nature and appearance of some well-loved woods is not. Coppicing and felling are mentioned as historic tools of woodland management, but several of the woods listed where this type of management is proposed have not historically been managed in this way.	The woodland management will result in a positive change in the woodland structural and habitat diversity and will have significant benefits for wildlife. The approach taken is endorsed by the Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, The Local Nature Partnership and other conservation organisations, and will help deliver local, regional and national biodiversity outcomes. Traditional woodland management includes coppicing, thinning and glade clearance, and it is assumed that, as with most woodland, management of this type was carried-out in Reading's woodlands in the past.		Extent of works and loss of tree cover
55c		As above		Thinning of healthy mature trees that have taken many years to reach maturity should only be undertaken as a last resort and after very careful consideration. We would recommend selection of trees is only undertaken in consultation with local environmental groups who will have intimate knowledge of the woods, and not left to outside contractors with no local knowledge.	The council has carefully considered these proposals and have consulted widely in their proposals. Notable trees and those with special wildlife value will be retained in consultation with local groups as appropriate		Extent of works and loss of tree cover
55d		As above		Also, any thinning and other work in woodland should take into consideration its side-effects on other plant life e.g. Native bluebells thrive under a canopy and could suffer as thinning will inevitably cause brambles etc to encroach. Native bluebells in spring are one of the best-loved features that attract visitors to woodland and should be protected.	It is considered unlikely that there will be a long term adverse impact on bluebells or other woodland flora as a result of the works. Indeed it is anticipated that the opening up of the woodland will result in more varied age structure thereby encouraging the growth of rarer woodland species. The areas where works are proposed and within which bluebells are located are Clayfield Copse and Beech Wood. In Beech Wood the bluebell area referred to by Caversham Globe will not be affected by the proposals as only very limited woodland works is proposed and these areas will be avoided. At Clayfield Copse the thinning works will encourage more light to reach the floor but there is only limited bluebell cover and we will ensure that, where there are significant areas of bluebell, trees will not be felled.	Y - specific reference to bluebells is to be made within the management plans	Bluebells - Clayfield Copse and Beech Wood
55e		As above		Coppice stools themselves need to be managed on a rotation, allowing substantial areas at different stages to maximise biodiversity, and this requires a long-term plan not a one-off blitz.	It is not clear if this is a comment or a statement. Coppice will be managed in rotation as set out in the management plans		None
55f		As above		Some of the woods listed, even though small, are remnants of Ancient woodland and their special character and nature should be recognised and preserved.	A primary objective of the woodland management plans is to ensure the longevity of the woodlands		Ancient Woodland boundary
55g		As above		In other woods, there has historically been only one dominant species such as beech. This predominance should be maintained and the nature of the wood should not be changed irrevocably by the introduction of different species, if replanting be undertaken.	Beech wood - Forestry Commission research suggests that beech trees are unlikely to persist in the south of England in the future as a result of climate change. Best practice suggests that resilience should be built into these woodlands by increasing the mix of species. The council is proposing to fell a limited number of the mature beech trees (a maximum of 6) and to undertake some re-stocking with other species (e.g. cherry),		Thinning of Beech Trees at Beech Wood

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					this will not overtly alter the character of the wood but will help ensure its long term survival (see 55f)		
56a	Caversham Globe	Letter via email	Partially	<p>Balmore Walk</p> <p>a) The new woodland in the top field was planted in the late 1980s as a memorial copse, therefore great sensitivity is needed; this woodland is already starting to mature and self-thin, and I would recommend only very limited management, preferably leave well alone.</p> <p>b) However, some limited thinning around the fruit (apple) trees planted within the copse might be acceptable, where the apple trees are getting crowded out by competing trees. NB retain spindle tree near tarmac path.</p> <p>d) The "small pond" referred to on p.6 - Woodland Management Plan is in fact a natural Spring! (Note the nearby property in Surley Row called Springfield St Luke; Natural springs have been a feature of this locality for hundreds of years.) Recommend keeping the immediate vicinity of the spring clear of trees.</p> <p>e) Some ash, beech and oak have been planted by GLOBE over recent years in the park margins, to extend the main woodland on the brow of the hill, these should be retained.</p> <p>f) Blackthorn and bramble encroaches progressively into the conservation grass area around the edges of the top field and needs regular cutting back</p>	<p>A - see comment 11</p> <p>B - will be considered as and when thinning occurs</p> <p>C - not in letter, typo</p> <p>D - Management plan will be amended and refer to a spring</p> <p>E - noted, these trees will be retained</p> <p>F - rotational flailing of scrub on a 3 yearly cycle will be added to the management plan</p>	<p>Y - refer to spring in management plan, add rotational cutting of woodland edge to management plan</p>	<p>Site specific comments - minor - Balmore Walk</p>
56b		As above		<p>Beech Wood (Incorrectly referred to in the consultation as Highdown Wood) Caversham Globe has serious misgivings about the proposals for Beech Wood and strongly objects to some aspects of the management plan. The wood is a classic beech "shaw", typical of many woodlands found in the Chilterns. The beech trees here give their name to the wood and should be treasured not removed. Beech trees within this wood are generally healthy and regenerating wherever the canopy has opened. There is no logic at all in replacing beech here with other species (of what provenance?) when the native beech are thriving and regenerating so successfully.</p> <p>Note also that Lowland Beech woodland is a BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) Priority Habitat for Berkshire and Oxfordshire as designated by Natural England.</p> <p>a) Research using oldest published maps for this area (Rocque 1761 onwards) shows that Beech Wood has been continuously wooded for centuries and should be regarded as Semi Natural Ancient Woodland (SNAW), this is in line with the species identified on surveys. Woodland management plan section 4.6.3. special measure should reflect this as being Semi Natural Ancient Woodland.</p> <p>b) An area of dense native bluebells is found between the northernmost path and the metal fence of Highdown School. The bluebells grow on and around a medieval woodbank, and should be left undisturbed, apart from possibly selective thinning of holly by hand (machinery here could damage the woodbank &amp; and compact the bluebells).</p> <p>d) Recommend including Wild Cherry (prunus avium) in any restocking mix [ref 4.1.3]. Cherries are found in virtually all similar woods across the Chilterns; they grow fast and provide useful habitat and amenity being particularly appreciated by the public with good displays both in spring and autumn.</p> <p>e) The line of veteran oaks which formed the boundary of the old Caversham Grove Estate [now Highdown School] should be preserved with some limited clearance of competing trees in their immediate vicinity, in order to give the oaks more space and light, where they are being shaded out.</p> <p>(Note: OS maps, legal documents and locals all refer to this as Beech Wood. The name "Highdown Wood" seems to have first appeared when the wood got designated as a Local Wildlife Site by the TVERC some time in the past 25 years. I suspect this was a mistake by TVERC as I can find no documented evidence of it ever having been called Highdown Wood in the past.</p>	<p>General comment - Please refer to 55g re Beech Wood, we do not propose to significantly alter the woodland, just augment the woodland with additional species to make it more resilient to a changing climate</p> <p>Point A -Ancient woodland is woodland that has been continuously wooded since 1600 and as such cannot be referred to as such. reference will be made to the ancient nature of the woodland within the management plan</p> <p>Point B - please refer to 55d re bluebells</p> <p>Point C - no point C in letter</p> <p>Point D - cherry will be included in the restocking list</p> <p>Point E - access to this area is very difficult, consideration will be given to selective felling of trees adjacent to veteran oaks when safety works are undertaken</p>	<p>Y - refer to bluebells in mgt plan</p> <p>Make reference to Beech Wood's ancient nature</p> <p>Rename Highdown Wood Beech Wood in management plans</p> <p>Refer to selective felling around ancient oaks when safety works are undertaken</p> <p>Add cherry (Prunus avium) to list of species to restock the woodland with</p> <p>Make it clear within the management plan that only a limited number of trees will be felled</p>	<p>Thinning of Beech Trees at Beech Wood</p>

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56c		As above		Warren Woodlands Generally agree with the proposals.	Support noted		None
56d		As above		Bugs Bottom a) Compartment 1: Old maps show that the woodland at the western edge on the brow of the hill has been continuously wooded and this copse is thus believed to be semi natural ancient woodland. This needs to be recorded on the management plan. Fully agree with this area being left undisturbed, and with a wide strip being left uncut to develop as woodland edge habitat.	Support noted. The likely ancient nature of the woodland will be noted in the management plan	Y - mention likely ancient nature of woodland	Ancient Woodland boundary
56e		As above		Clayfield Copse Globe is concerned about the extent of the proposed clearance along footpaths - it is much too wide. The proposed glades should also be smaller and more natural in shape (i.e. not square). Thinning and particularly clearance should be avoided completely in areas where native bluebells are growing densely. Native bluebells need a closed broadleaf canopy to thrive and they suffer whenever trees are removed, due to encroachment by competing brambles and scrub. Compartment 1: A single wild service is found close to the main path running through Compartment 1 (path marked in purple 450m on the map). Care is needed during any cutting or widening here. Compartment 2: A single mature wild service is located close to the area marked as a Glade - Year 1. Care is needed during any management works here.	The width of the rides is not stated within the management plan (the lines on the map show the route of the paths, not the width). Rides will be created as per FC specifications and will be designed to be beneficial to wildlife. Refer to 55d re bluebells Wild service trees will be retained	Y - make specific reference to wild service trees	Site Specific comments - Clayfield Copse
56f		As above		Furze Platt a) There is little evidence of natural regeneration in the northern section of Furze Platt, which is earmarked for selective sycamore removal. Therefore would recommend this as a much better location than Beech Wood for restocking with trees such as hornbeam, oak, wild cherry (trees must be protected with 1m guards to protect from browsing). But why fell the trees in the first place, they are healthy and provide good habitat. Sycamores in this location are by no means a problem. Note that the Woodland Trust who are the experts in sensitively managing woodland, do not as a rule remove sycamores. b) Species found in the southern section include wych elm and field maple - worth retaining	A) - when officers inspected the woodland with the Forestry Commission it was agreed that there was a risk that the sycamore might outcompete the hazel coppice, hence the proposals B) These species will be retained as appropriate	Y - make specific reference to wild service trees	Sycamore removal at Furzeplat
56g		As above		Hill's Meadow (Thames Parks) Agree with proposals, particularly regarding eradication of Japanese knotweed. Note there are additional smaller clumps of Japanese knotweed beside the Millstream and on one of the BMX mounds.	Support noted		None
56h		As above		The Coal (Thames Parks) Warren Woodlands Generally agree with the proposals.	Support noted		None
56i		As above		View Island (Thames Parks) a) Caversham Globe members have expressed concern about the proposed removal of sycamores around the hardstanding. These are providing good habitat and shade for the hardstanding area. (Note: the hardstanding was retained in order to be available as an outdoor classroom area - so shade is essential here). Limited cutting of selected stems from multi-stemmed stools in order to promote single stems may be acceptable, providing the overall tree cover is retained. However the general feeling of Globe members is that felling here is unnecessary and would be contrary to the adopted RBC Tree Strategy. Page 12 7.2 View Island "Fell sycamore adjacent to hardstanding" in the management plan needs amending as this wording is too vague and currently implies that all sycamore would be felled which would not be acceptable. Suggest amending to "Selected thinning of sycamore adjacent to hardstanding" b) Management should include reinstatement of annual cutting & removal of hay from the meadow area. c) Consider tree planting in the eastern part of the island where scrub (mainly brambles) currently prevails. Either high canopy or perhaps fruit trees.	A) - wording on the map will be revised to make it clear that not all stems will be removed and that the aim is to maintain shading whilst ensuring the longevity of the sycamore trees B) - see comment 51b C) - Tree planting will be considered if funding becomes available	Y - Re-word map so that it is clear that thinning, not felling, of sycamores will be undertaken.	Site specific comments - minor - View Island

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57	Individual	Council helpdesk email		<p>I am writing to you regarding the above consultation, in particular the proposed work to the Bugs Bottom/Furzeplat area.</p> <p>We live directly behind and below what is described as Compartment 3 in the WPG Management Plan and from what we can see in the review, no work is planned for this area. We note from the Plan that you do not consider there to be any threats from the trees but we would respectfully suggest that the height and angle of leaning does pose a threat to our property.</p> <p>I am aware that some very limited remedial work was carried out by the Council to this area around 4 years ago but we remain extremely concerned about the height, angle of leaning and overhang of the trees. We would therefore urge you to revisit the Plan and carry out a detailed survey of Compartment 3, and consider whether some remedial/height reduction work should be carried out as part of this exercise. We also think that some of trees in this area are sycamores (no reference is made to this in the Plan) and you do say that you are carrying removal work in the Furzeplat area to avoid them becoming dominant. In the circumstances, surely the same should apply to this area.</p> <p>I look forward to your comments.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p>	This is a health and safety issue outside of the remit of the plan. Please refer to tree officer, see response 5		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom
58	Individual	Email to G Sutton		<p>We are writing to you reading the above Consultation, in particular the proposed work to the Bugs Bottom/Furzeplat area.</p> <p>We live directly behind and below what is described as Compartment 3 in the WPG Management Plan and from what we can see in the review, no work is planned for this area. We note from the Plan that you do not consider there to be any threats from the trees but we would respectfully suggest that the height and angle of leaning does pose a threat to our property.</p> <p>We are aware that some very limited remedial work was carried out by the Council to this area around 4 years ago but we remain extremely concerned about the height and angle of leaning of the trees. We would therefore urge you to revisit the Plan and carry out a detailed survey of Compartment 3, and consider whether some remedial/height reduction work should be carried out as part of this exercise. We also think that some of trees in this area are sycamores (no reference is made to this in the Plan) and you do say that you are carrying removal work in the Furzeplat area to avoid them becoming dominant. In the circumstances, surely the same should apply to this area.</p> <p>We look forward to your comments.</p>	Please refer to comment 57		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom
59	Individual	Email to G Sutton		<p>I live at Iuscinia view. Well what a mess and a big big let down at the kings meadow by Reading council. its about time it was done up better some trees are rotten and others need to have a hair cut and have fallen in the water all the way up to and past Tesco and that's a big mess. few island his also a big let down to that needs work to. I had a look as it when I moved here, it could be a nice place BUT we have no money that's what I was told what a cop out. few island could be made very nice for a day out made for fishing nice fishing pegs made. or a small payment say £2 for older and so on make it a nice place its a tip now lots of tenant have been there and said what a mess now the baths are going to be updated do the same for kings meadow and make some more free fishing swims its over grown oak trees have fell in the water. if you need help to cut the weeds and small over grown bushes send me the tools and I will make it better at no cost. many thanks .</p>	Council officers (Dave and Ben) have spoken to the resident in question about his specific complaints which are generally outside the remit of the management plans		Site specific comments - minor - View Island
60	Individual	Email to G Sutton		<p>I am writing to you regarding the above consultation of proposed work to Bugs Bottom or not as the case maybe.</p> <p>I live directly behind what is described as "Compartment 3".</p> <p>I fully except that the trees came before my house was built and I very much enjoy them because they enhance the area in which I live.</p>	Please refer to comment 57		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom

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				<p>However, I am concerned that several of the trees lean severely and one rather large branch could cause considerable damage.</p> <p>I except that we are all increasingly coming under pressure to reduce budgets but I believe that this is preventative action rather than expensive reaction.</p> <p>I hope that you reconsider the councils proposed inaction on this matter.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p>			
61	Individual	Email to G Sutton		As per comment 60 _ Neighbouring Resident	Please refer to comment 57		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom
62	Individual	Email to G Sutton		As per comment 60_Neighbouring resident	Please refer to comment 57		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom
63	Individual	Letter via email to G Sutton	Y	As per comment 60 plus support for the plans as a whole	Support noted please refer to comment 57		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom
64	Individual	Email to G Sutton		<p>Dear Mr Sutton,</p> <p>Further to my wife's email earlier this morning I wish to also emphasise our concern at the close proximity of the tall trees immediately behind our rear fence as shown on the attached photos taken this morning.</p> <p>I am a solicitor and deal with claims relating to subsidence and heave related cases. Accordingly quite apart of the dangers of these high and unstable looking trees falling onto our property (and neighbouring properties) we are worried about the effects of the extensive root system which may well be causing (or soon to cause) damage to the small retaining wall between our lawn and patio. In addition there is a risk of damage to our conservatory and potentially the rear wall of the house.</p> <p>We therefore put the Council officially upon notice of the risks that their inaction pose and trust that due consideration to the urgent pollarding or reduction of these trees.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> <p>Alan Davies</p>	Please refer to comment 57		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom
65	Individual	Email to G Sutton		<p>Dear Mr Sutton,</p> <p>Myself and my husband live on the Bugs Bottom development, our house backs onto council owned woodland. The trees at the foot of our garden are extremely tall and dense and tower over our property. I am worried that some of these trees may come down at some point and cause damage to our property.</p> <p>I understand that the council are doing woodland works in our area, one of these sections is compartment 3, I cannot see that there are any planned works for this section. We would be most grateful if the trees close to our property could be cut back and made more safe.</p> <p>I have attached a letter outlining our concerns and requests.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p> <p>Anne Davies</p>	Please refer to comment 57		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom
66	Individual	Letter via email to G Sutton		As per comment 60	Please refer to comment 57		Trees adjacent to dwellings -



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							Bugs Bottom
67	Individual	Letter via email to G Sutton		As per comment 60	Please refer to comment 57		Trees adjacent to dwellings - Bugs Bottom
68	Individual	Email to G Sutton and D Booth		<p>Dear Mr Booth and Mr Sutton,</p> <p>I have just read your proposal of managing Southcote Linear Park, I live in Brunel Road and do use the park to walk with my son and dogs. I noticed that you indicated that fly tipping was not a problem, however that is not true. There seems to be an increase in builders rubble and general rubbish being dumped in the area.</p> <p>Also the amount of litter has also increased and the brook is polluted with it. In fact the fallen trees have now stopped the flow of litter and it is accumulating into dangerous areas full of plastic and harmful to the wildlife. Wildlife that is no where near as abundant as it was just 5 years ago. I think more than just tree thinning is needed in the area, and sooner rather than later in your 20 year plan. That is if you want any wildlife to remain. I would also like to ask about the area on the right hand side of the car park. Who manages that and what can be done to improve its situation.</p> <p>Regards Vanessa Stewart-Dowie</p>	Support noted, please see comment 37 re litter		Litter
69	Individual	Email to G Sutton and D Booth		<p>Dear Mr Sutton,</p> <p>I think it is wonderful that more attention, in partnership with the Forestry Commission is being paid to our natural woodlands. I also think it good that this is being taken into account -</p> <p>2. To control sycamore</p> <p>I have recently noticed that smaller sycamore are growing in the hedgerows and these definitely need to be dealt with, as I know living next door (33) to Newbery Park in Oak Tree Road, that these trees DO take over and grow much too large.</p> <p>I have filled in the on-line questionnaire and would love to see more wild flowers around the park. As mentioned in the questionnaire, there is a lovely, natural little stream at the top of this park and would be lovely to see more care taken of it and wild flowers surrounding it to encourage more wildlife there. It would be so beautiful.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing more about this project. I would also be delighted to become a volunteer in anything I could do to help in this. (Incidentally, Mr Arthur Newbery's house can also be viewed from the top of this park !)</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p>	Support noted. Sycamore is being controlled in certain woodlands as appropriate, please see comment 6 re. wildflowers		Sycamore control
70	Council Tree Officer	Email to G Sutton		Giles, thanks for email. We will provide you with our comments in due course. However in meantime at least one site is subject to a TPO [Hemdean Bottom/Shipnell's arm - TPO 333] in which proposals will need to subject to a PAC report and future committee date.	Noted, plan will be amended	Y - Bus Bottom to refer to TPO	None
71	Individual	Letter to G Sutton	Partially	<p>I am not sure of current thinking nor the past consultation policy which may emerge, but the full wood management treatment including Coppicing, Ride Maintenance, Thinning and Tree Planting etc outlined in your new posters, may not be appropriate for this Copse.</p> <p>At the moment it is a very particular wood compared to, for example, the nearby Balmoral Park or the smaller Emmer Green Pond area. It complements these rather than copies them mainly because it is a semi-wild wood with many varieties of trees and bushes and ground cover. Various groups of people use it and enjoy it : e.g. children going to school or exploring, shoppers, bus travellers, pub patrons, dog walkers etc. It provides for many an enjoyable short-cut and most use it responsibly (albeit with the occasional litter and noise).</p>	Only limited works to Rotherfield Way Copse are proposed and works will not be carried-out within 10m of residential areas, see comment 54. Funding has not been identified for path works and only minor selective felling is proposed. This will increase the understory and should reduce the potential negative impacts referred to		Holly adjacent to boundaries of houses at Rotherfield Way Copse

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				<p>The users can easily pass round it in heavy rain and pathways are seldom muddy. (Possibly the worst hazard for users is schoolchildren crossing Rotherfield Way where speeding is rife !).</p> <p>Paths and clearings develop unobtrusively.</p> <p>It provides a very natural environment which the council probably already appreciates for its own worth, as no doubt do many wildlife and insect life.</p> <p>I have lived bordering the copse for over 25 years and use it often.</p> <p>I tend, as do others, to keep an eye on things, including litter.</p> <p>I could enumerate most of its many fauna and flora, which range from scores of assorted birds to bluebells, foxes, bats and deers. These all find security and cover and flourish amid the eclectic mixture of trees and bushes which have grown up. (Many move across and into our garden and use the ponds.)</p> <p>My main point, which I have shared previously with Councillors and Parks Officials, is the Copse's particular « unmanicured » woodland aspect with its capacity for natural self-regeneration and adjustment. (Not the same as calling it « overcrowded »)</p> <p>I fear, if much is done to the Copse, the Reading's range of woodland will lose a « jewel ».</p> <p>Some clearances were attempted a few years ago by Sonning Common Green Gym and bushes planted. (Soon to be uprooted !)</p> <p>Clearance and Ride Maintenance may encourage fast cycling or even motorcycling, which happened previously, and perhaps rowdy and suspect behaviour.</p> <p>At the moment dog walkers are discreet but a plethora of running dogs may upset the balance of a generally peaceful habitat.</p> <p>The Copse is an interesting wood of its kind in the middle of busy roads and houses, and special.</p> <p>The Council is to be congratulated on the magnificent display of daffodils alongside the copse in recent years. Hopefully, though, there will not be too much « manicuring » inside the copse.</p> <p>Recently, I was pleased to see a supervised group of primary school pupils seeking and categorising insects- yet again an example of the uses of a special place in which, maybe, up to a point, « Nature is shown at its most efficient when no-one is in charge » ; i.e. not too much meddling in the development of this wood may be a useful guide on this occasion.</p>			
72	CADRA	Email to Ben Stanesby	Y	<p>Greetings Ben, Further to my mention of EVA schedules at last Thurs meeting, I forward to you the list of Enviro Visual audits that Tina has arranged and Jo forwarded. They work well, and it is so much more efficient to point out concerns etc on the ground rather than describing them in correspondence.</p> <p>wish to confirm that I will be your CADRA (Caversham and District Residents Assoc; just over 500 families belong) cttee member contact if there are any further meetings/points/consultations re the RBC plans to more actively manage the woodland portfolio.</p> <p>I have reported to the CADRA Ch, Helen Lambert and Vice Ch, Mike Gilbert that my view of last Thurs meeting was that the proposals were positive, considered, professional, etc. We plan on taking no specific further involvement unless necessary.</p> <p>Kind regards John CADRA Cttee member</p>	Support noted		None
73	Tilehurst Globe	Email to Giles Sutton	Y	<p>hello Giles,</p> <p>We talked about the woodland consultation at the last meeting- here are the views we agreed extract from meeting notes</p> <p>Tilehurst Globe response to Woodland consultation : members had taken part in the consultation- visited the drop in session, responded to the questionnaire. We decided we also wanted to send in a group response:</p>	Support noted. Points raised about consultation will be considered for future events		None

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				<p>We thought the documents were good- principles well-explained, detailed plans clear and sensible.</p> <p>Re the local drop in session on a Saturday morning- a good event good venue, well located, BUT it needed better ,more eye-catching signage outside on the pavement, the form should say the reply destination, website VERY difficult to navigate to locate the form,, good opportunity to talk things through with those in charge, informative, nice to see ALL the woodlands on one map-very impressive, pleased they are taking note of ron's work</p> <p>Cheers jenny</p>			
74	BBOWT	Letter to G Sutton	Y	<p>We welcome your proposals to implement better management of the suite of woodlands owned by Reading Borough Council, some of which are Local Wildlife Sites. Many of our Berkshire woodlands are in real need of management after historical management has declined over time. We welcome the intention to move towards a mixed age structure within these sites, which will benefit a range of species that rely on different successional stages.</p> <p>Some of these sites fall within the 'West Reading Woodlands and LNRs' Biodiversity Opportunity Area, which should be included in the management plans. This will enable the improvements in these sites to be recorded against Berkshire targets and taken into account across the wider ecological network. We note that you have identified protected species using the woodland sites in the management plans and intend to take account of these species in the proposed works. If you need any advice in respect of implications from the works on water voles, please do contact our Water Vole Project Officer, Julia Lofthouse on <a href="mailto:julialofthouse@bbowt.org.uk">julialofthouse@bbowt.org.uk</a>, who will be able to provide latest records and management advice.</p>	Support noted. We will refer to BOAs in the management plans	Y - refer to BOAs in management plans	Reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas within woodland management plans