

Committee(s): Epping Forest & Commons Committee	Date(s): 8 th July 2019
Subject: 2019 Countryside Stewardship Grant application proposals	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Decision
Report author: Sally Gadsdon, Environmental Stewardship Officer and Jeremy Dagley, Head of Conservation, Epping Forest	

Summary

External funding to support the City Corporation's continuing restoration and management of Epping Forest's internationally important habitats is being sought from the government's Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS). This would continue the funding partnership established with Natural England under the predecessor scheme, Environmental Stewardship (ES). The funding would provide a stable source of external income across a ten-year period.

Given the size and complexity of the Forest, the application is being made in three parts. A first grant application covering part of the Forest, a second application for the remainder of the Forest in 2020, with a third application made for the Buffer Lands also, ideally, in 2020.

An overview of the conservation management proposed to be funded by this grant over the next ten years is presented. The works continue the habitats restoration programme of the last thirty years. The backbone of the programme is the continuation of the nationally-renowned veteran tree management and wood pasture restoration, the latter including heathland, grassland and scrub habitats alongside important additional wetland management.

To fulfil the obligations of the grant, the operations will be delivered through a combination of in-house habitat and tree conservation teams, the Epping Forest grazing project staff, specialist contractors, and the long-standing and knowledgeable volunteer groups. The projected grant income is forecast to make a substantial contribution to the cost of the works, taking into account both inflation and a significant contingency element.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the progress of the developing the grant proposals (Appendices 1-3).
- Authorise the Director of Open Spaces to complete the grant negotiations with the grant body (Natural England).
- Delegate authority to the Director of Open Spaces to sign the finalised grant application for income estimated around £5.5 million over 10 years.
- Instruct the Comptroller and City Solicitor to undertake such documentation as necessary.
- Note that limited changes can be made to the funding proposals after the end of August 2019.
- Note the predicted income and expenditure for the grant works (Appendix 3).
- Note that the grant works will be delivered through a combination of in-house teams, contractors and volunteers coordinated by the Epping Forest Conservation Team.

Main Report

Background

1. The SEF 18-19 Countryside Stewardship Grant 2019 Application report presented to your Committee in May 2018 outlined the types of work for which funding from the government's Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) will be sought. This report presents an overview of the proposals for your Committee's approval.
2. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme is administered by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and with technical advice provided by Natural England (NE). Natural England officers will be working alongside Epping Forest officers in developing the full grant application, as well as undertaking other required work including a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) screening to ensure the proposed work does not present potentially detrimental impacts.
3. Under the Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme (HLS) the focus of the grant for the Forest was wood pasture restoration. Funding was also received for other habitats including grassland, heathland and scrub, as well as supporting grazing.
4. The proposals for the 2019 application cover 19 of the Forest's 38 compartments, equating to 53.9% of the Forest (Appendix 2). It is intended to submit a second application in 2020 for further funding for other areas of the Forest. This split-application for the Forest is subject to the approval of the RPA. A third application will be made for the Buffer Lands in 2020 which is required by the RPA to be separate to the Forest applications.
5. This work will contribute to the commitment to conservation of Epping Forest (see Paragraphs 21-23) and the City of London's stewardship of this internationally important site. The consequences of not undertaking this work will be a decline in

the condition of a range of habitats which are nationally and internationally designated. This will result in the government's advisory body, Natural England, officially assessing this change in condition, which is publicly available. Currently, 8 of the Forest's 38 Site of Special Scientific Interest units are classified as being in Unfavourable condition and either not changing or declining. In addition to this, other areas of the Forest currently in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition are vulnerable to a decline in condition, so it is crucial to continue the existing work on these areas. Consequently, further work is required to improve the condition of the eight Unfavourable units and to ensure the remaining favourable and recovering units can maintain and achieve target condition status. The key threats and issues for the SSSI and SAC features are site-specific such as addressing undergrazing and lapsed tree management, and increasing resilience to cope with wider environmental threats including pests & diseases, hydrology, air quality and recreational pressures. The City of London's reputation is an important consideration in our role as a sector leader and relevant body for local development plans.

6. A detailed examination of these proposals will be presented your Committee's Management Plan Steering Group. Therefore, an overview of the proposals is presented here, with further details presented in Appendices 1 and 2.

Current Position

7. As with HLS, the focus of the CSS will be wood pasture. Whereas under HLS, the focus was the reduction of secondary infill to increase light to veteran trees and encourage reestablishment of ground flora, the focus of CSS will be on the next phase of the wood pasture restoration which is veteran tree management. This will be a combination of continuing the Keystone Tree programme, maintaining the pollarding cycle on the ancient hornbeams that have been restored to pollarding management over the last 30 years, and crown reducing lapsed hornbeam pollards that were last cut in the late 19th century to ensure their physical stability and to open up the wood-pasture to light for the important dependent wildlife, especially insects, fungi, bryophytes and lichens.
8. For the 2019 application veteran tree work is proposed in 13 compartments from Honey Lane to Walthamstow Forest and will total just over 2,170 trees. The majority of these will be in Bury Wood, and in most of the 13 compartments veteran tree management will be part of the continuation of wood pasture restoration. It is intended that veteran tree surgery in additional compartments will be applied for in 2020, though the number will be less than that proposed for the 2019 application.
9. Alongside this work, and coinciding in many areas, would be the continued management of wood pasture. This would involve localised felling of young and semi-mature trees to increase light to promote ground flora re-establishment, as well as cutting and grazing of the emerging/existing ground flora. Whilst there are approximately 55,000 ancient pollards and hundreds of new pollards that have been created through HLS, it is necessary to create more new pollards to ensure the sustainable continuity of this core feature of wood pasture. This will ensure

the conservation objectives of this internationally important site can be met and help maintain the character of the Forest into the future.

10. Grazing will continue to be undertaken in the priority areas identified in the approved Grazing Strategy including extensive wood-pasture habitat (like Bury Wood), ancient grasslands and the smaller wet heathland mosaic sites. For the 2019 application, grazing would be re-established at Rushey Plain, one of the original Grazing Strategy target wood-pasture sites.
11. Other SSSI habitat features will continue to be managed through CSS including heathlands and their associated bogs (key habitats under the Special Area of Conservation designation), grasslands and wetlands.
12. There will be a focus on the conservation of the Forest's only Red Data Book plant species, the Knothole Yoke-moss *Zygodon forsteri*. This species is globally rare and classified by IUCN as Endangered and facing a very high risk of regional extinction in the wild in the near future.. Epping Forest holds one of the three known UK populations of this threatened species and conservation work will involve prolonging the lives of the host beech trees and keeping colony sites free from secondary infill.
13. There will be some site-specific work including the removal of Rhododendron from Paul's Nursery to continue the essential prevention measures for Ramorum disease and management of Butler's Retreat Pond, including non-native plant species there.
14. The benefits of delivering this grant work will be:
 - a. An improvement in the condition of the Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest habitats (woodlands including beech on acid soils, heathlands, grasslands, wetlands)
 - b. A significant contribution of 7%, by area, towards the UK target for the restoration of wood pasture, a *Habitat of Principal Importance*.
 - c. Management of thousands of veteran pollarded trees, for which Epping Forest holds the largest national population, including an estimated 85% of Britain's veteran Beech pollards.
 - d. Increase in the population size of the rare *Zygodon forsteri* moss species which has declined since 2008 (Dr K Adams, report unpublished, 2019).
 - e. Continuation in the increase or stabilisation of populations of regionally and nationally scarce and declining species. For example under HLS there were increases in the scarce Forest plants: Lousewort; Adder's Tongue; Heather (specifically protected by the Epping Forest Act 1878); Ragged Robin, Intermediate-leaved Sundew and the insects: White Admiral; Purple Emperor; rare saproxylic beetle species (e.g. Lords Bushes/Bury Woods research) and the birds of Forest edge habitats such as the Song Thrush. The aim is to enhance the scrub and edge habitats for other declining bird species such as Cuckoo, Nightingale, Skylark, Willow Warbler, Garden Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat. Other important beneficiaries of the wood-pasture work would include rare, nationally protected fungi species, Zoned Rosette and Oak Polypore.

15. The grant application process details of the current proposals are presented here. However, during May to August 2019 Epping Forest officers will be in negotiation with Natural England in agreeing what will be funded. Therefore, the final details of what funding will be awarded are likely to change. A report of the final application details will be presented to your Committee in September 2019. There will be a limited opportunity for Committee to request changes, and this will need to be limited to the removal of proposals, but not the amendment or addition of proposals.

Options

16. Feedback on the proposals outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 are welcomed from your Committee.

Proposals

17. It is proposed that your Committee authorise the Director of Open Spaces to complete the grant negotiations with the grant body (Natural England).
18. It is proposed that your Committee review the final grant details, as a result of the outcome of negotiations with Natural England, and approve these details or request limited amendments at the 6th September 2019 meeting.
19. The total 10 years of funding of the current proposals would be around £5.5 million. It is proposed that your Committee authorise the delegation of the signing of the final grant application to the Director of Open Spaces.
20. It is proposed that the work will be delivered by a combination of in-house teams, contractors and volunteers.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

21. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme is the UK government's main grant funding scheme to promote protection of the UK's important habitats. CSS is one of Defra's main mechanisms for delivering its Strategic Objective of "a cleaner, healthier environment benefiting people and the economy." It also supports the strategic vision for the 25-year Environment Plan.
22. Our Corporate Plan (2018-2023), whose vision includes "To shape outstanding environments", aims to:
- a. Provide thriving and biodiverse green spaces and urban habitats
 - b. Provide environmental stewardship and advocacy, in use of resources, emissions, conservation, greening, biodiversity and access to nature
 - c. Protect, curate and promote world-class heritage assets

23. The Open Spaces Business Plan 2019-20 includes the outcomes and departmental activities:
- a. Outcome: Our habitats are flourishing, biodiverse and resilient to change
 - b. Outcome: Our open spaces, heritage and cultural assets are protected, conserved and enhanced
 - c. Outcome: Nature, heritage and place are valued and understood
 - d. Activity: Protect and enhance our sites' biodiversity
 - e. Activity: Improve the visitor and cultural offer
24. The works that could be funded by the CSS grant would contribute to fulfilling Our Corporate Plan and the Open Spaces Business Plan:
- a. Work would be undertaken to manage internationally important SAC habitats and populations of veteran trees as well as nationally important SSSI habitats. The aims are to see an improvement in condition of all of these.
 - b. Populations of the rare moss *Zygodon forsteri* will be conserved.
 - c. Work would be undertaken to benefit several scarce species that have increased in number during the time HLS work was undertaken. The aim is that biodiversity will continue to increase during the work funded by CSS and, in so doing, contribute to S41 (UKBAP) priority habitats and species targets.
 - d. In 2020, funding to help conserve a number of historic features will be investigated.
25. The work funded by CSS would help to increase habitats' resilience to environmental change by improving their condition and making them more stable to adapt to future conditions.

Implications

26. **Financial implications:** A full overview of estimated income and expenditure for the work proposed is presented in Appendix 3. The estimated expenditure includes pricing provided by contractors as part of the project preparation (with City Procurement team assistance) for the specific range of works proposed. In addition, the estimates of the staff costs have been based on the experience of the ten-year HLS programme. Appendix 3 shows the costs for each of the areas included in the 2019 application. The relevant proportion of costs such as staff and grazing costs are set out. In summary:
- a. The grant will make substantial contributions to the cost of these proposed works.
 - b. As the majority of the work will be veteran tree surgery prices were sought from four experienced arboricultural contractors. Costs were based on the most expensive price estimates and factored in realistic potential increases in inflation. This funding will be able to cross-subsidise other CSS works such as wood-pasture habitat maintenance.
 - c. The management of wood pasture will be delivered by:
 - i. In-house teams who will maintain the areas that have been opened up during the ten-year HLS programme, and ensure secondary

regrowth is controlled around the ancient trees and that edge habitats are enhanced. The costs will be covered partly by a CSS wood pasture maintenance fund and cross-subsidised from the veteran tree surgery funding.

- ii. Contractors who will undertake localised selective felling in wood pasture areas. A bid for this work to be funded at 100% of costs has been submitted. If the grant body does not fund 100% they will offer a significant contribution to the cost of the works.
 - iii. The creation of new pollards to provide a future successor generation of veteran trees and management of existing young pollards will be undertaken. The costs will be covered partly by a CSS wood pasture maintenance fund and cross-subsidised from the veteran tree surgery funding.
 - iv. Grazing to contribute to the management of ground flora.
 - v. Volunteers are able to undertake targeted habitat works on sensitive and small sites (e.g. bogs) and can help to keep areas open that cannot be managed by machinery.
- d. Grassland management will be delivered by a combination of in-house teams and contractors. The costs will be covered partly by a CSS grassland management fund and cross-subsidised from the veteran tree surgery funding.
- e. Heathland, scrub, pond and bog management will be largely delivered by volunteers. Both Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers and Epping Forest Heritage Trust have so far agreed to contribute to CSS delivery between 2020-2029 and other local groups may also wish to take part. We are very grateful for their continued involvement and interest in protecting the Forest's habitats. The only costs here would be staff time to liaise with and advise the groups and monitoring.
- f. Grazing, that is essential to achieve and maintain the favourable condition of the Forest and its mosaic of transitions between open and wooded areas, will contribute significantly to the nature conservation interest of wood pasture, heathland and grassland areas across hundreds of hectares. The costs would be covered in part by a combination CSS wood pasture fund, Basic Payment Scheme, meat sales, as well as cross subsidisation from the veteran tree surgery funding. The Grazing Expansion Plan is being reviewed and will be presented to Committee as a separate report in the near future.
- g. Other minor works include:
- i. Rhododendron removal - the costs will be covered partly by a CSS Rhododendron removal fund and cross-subsidised from the veteran tree surgery funding.
 - ii. *Zygodon* moss conservation – the cost of tree surgery will be partly covered by a CSS tree surgery grant. The management of the habitat around the colonies of moss will be done by volunteers. A threatened species and wood pasture grant will contribute to the cost of these works alongside cross-subsidised from the veteran tree surgery funding.
- h. Staff costs to deliver the grant works have been taken into account.
- i. A realistic percentage for inflation has been applied to annual operations and costs. An amount for contingency has been factored in to take

account of contractor work costing more than expected and unforeseen costs.

27. Key risks: Financial.

- a. The grant operates on a menu of options which have set funding rates for 10 years and therefore does not rise with inflation. It is likely that the majority of the work will be delivered by contractors. Whilst forecasted costs for contractors have been taken from recent prices, a contingency value has been factored into the total costings to take account of works costing more than expected as well as unforeseen costs. To minimise the effect of inflation it may be possible to slightly front-load work in the first few years, so that proportionally less work is carried out in the last few years of the grant when prices may be relatively higher.

28. Key risk: Delivery of CSS grant work.

- a. Future Local Risk budget. In light of the current Fundamental Review and ongoing funding efficiencies, the CSS grant will be essential to contribute to staff, contractor and operational costs.
- b. Volunteers. Long-term sustainability of volunteer groups is a consideration. In the event that existing groups cease or diminish in capacity, work identified to be done by volunteers could either be commissioned from contractors or delivered by volunteers directly registered with the Epping Forest charity led by Epping Forest officers.
- c. Bovine or plant disease outbreak. In the event of an outbreak of a notifiable disease cessation of grazing or management of the affected area will be covered by force majeure under the CSS scheme rules, subject to the RPA's acceptance of the situation.

29. Key risk: Reputational. There has been some reaction from the public to a small proportion of the work carried out through HLS across its ten-year span, and indeed across 30 years of wood-pasture habitat work and 17 years of the re-establishment of grazing. Under CSS there would be some significantly visible changes resulting from some of the work (e.g. pollarding and tree thinning). The mitigation to this is the preparation of a proactive communication strategy.

30. Legal implications: The proposed work will be the subject of a Habitats Regulations Assessment to satisfy the requirement that the work will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC. Furthermore, the work will require SSSI consent to be issued by Natural England. Both of these considerations are part of the work that is currently being undertaken with Natural England in the development of this grant application. It is not expected that either of these would be an issue based on the current range of operations being proposed.

31. The City of London as Conservators would be required to enter into a legally binding agreement prior to receiving any grant. The report to your Committee in September 2019 will authorise the Comptroller and City Solicitor to enter into the grant agreement on such terms as he and the Director of Open Spaces consider appropriate.

32. **HR Implications:** The delivery of this grant will be largely delivered by the Environmental Stewardship and Biodiversity Officers. This will occupy the majority of the time of these two roles. The Grazing and Landscapes Officer will deliver grazing on the Forest with the assistance of the Stockperson. The GIS Officer will be required to produce final maps of the agreed CSS funding and keep GIS data up to date. A notable amount of the Operations Team's time will be required to undertake wood pasture and grassland management.
33. The Head of Operations will advise on the level of commitment that can be made by Operation Teams to the delivery of the CSS grant work. Details of this will be presented in the report presented to your Committee in September 2019, and Consultative Committee will be updated in October 2019.
34. **Charity Implications:** Open Spaces Charity. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Conclusion

35. The Countryside Stewardship grant presents a valuable opportunity to obtain funding to manage internationally important habitats in Epping Forest to continue and progress the work undertaken through the 10-year Higher Level Environmental Stewardship agreement. It is proposed to seek funding to continue the conservation management of wood pasture, heathland, grassland, scrub, ponds and bogs. In addition, it is proposed to undertake targeted removal of Rhododendron from Paul's Nursery and protect the rare *Zygodon* moss species.
36. This work will be delivered through a combination of in-house staff, contractors and volunteers. It has been shown that the grant income would make a substantial contribution to the costs of delivering the work.
37. A Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship application was submitted to RPA in May 2019. Management negotiations to secure this funding will continue with Natural England until 31 August. RPA will provide a draft agreement offer based on the agreed proposals by 31 December 2019 with the grant work being delivered between January 2020 and December 2029.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Full overview of CSS proposals - table
- Appendix 2 - Full overview of CSS proposals – map
- Appendix 3 - Overview of income and expenditure

Background Papers

- SEF 03-18 Countryside Stewardship Grant Scheme Application
- SEF 22-18 CSS Update May 2018
- SEF 18-19 Countryside Stewardship Grant 2019 application

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Appendix 1 – Proposed works to be funded through the Countryside Stewardship grant

SEF 28-19 Epping Forest & Common Committee

2019 Countryside Stewardship Grant application proposals

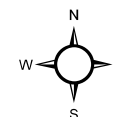
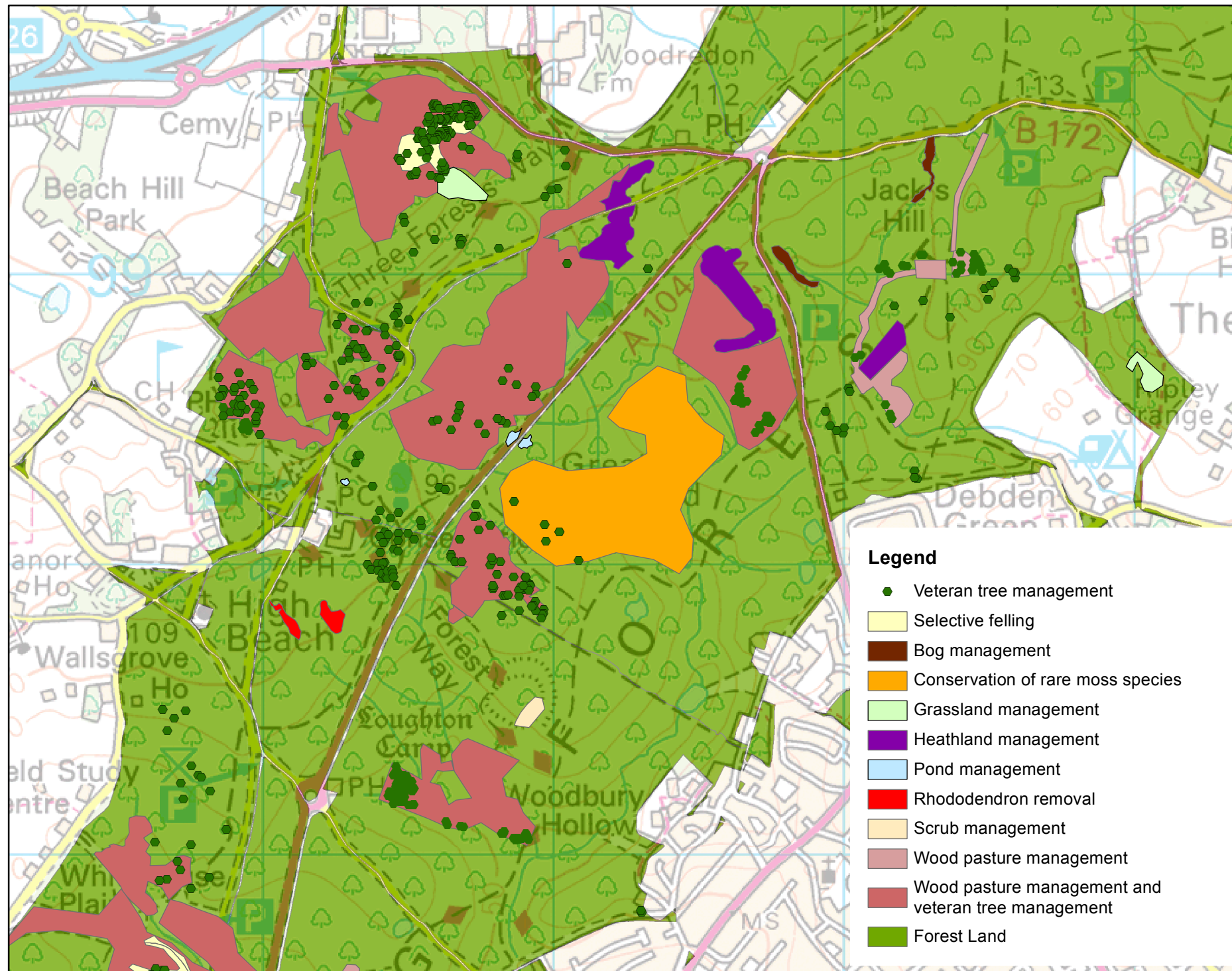
Location & important features	Works	Notes
Severs Green Common Knapweed, Strawberry Clover	Grass cutting	To manage the diversity of grassland species
Honey Lane Quarters SAC & SSSI Wood pasture Veteran trees Heather Milkwort Purple Emperor White Admiral Rare fungal and invertebrate species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture flailing • Grazing • Grass cutting • Bracken treatment, when required 	<p>To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas.</p> <p>To keep areas around new pollards open.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 23 Keystone trees • Canopy reductions of 114 lapsed hornbeam pollards • Management of 4 additional veteran oak trees • Selective tree felling • Creation of new pollards 	To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality , and create a successor population.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of invasive Himalayan Balsam 	To continue the decline in this invasive non-native species.
Rushey Plain & Sunshine Plain SAC & SSSI Wood pasture Veteran trees Heathland Sphagnum moss species Cotton Grass Sundew Star Sedge Zoned Rosette <i>Zygodon forsteri</i> Rare fungal and invertebrate species Common Lizard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture flailing • Grazing • Stump grinding on area cleared of birch • Bracken treatment, when required 	<p>To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas.</p> <p>To keep areas around new pollards open.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 32 Keystone trees • Creation of new pollards • Management of existing young pollards • Management of <i>Zygodon</i> host trees 	To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality, and create a successor population. Prolong life of <i>Zygodon</i> host tree to encourage spread to other beech trees.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of scrub and tree infill on heathlands • Bracken treatment when required • Scrape vegetation to promote heathland species on Sunshine Plain South 	To promote good condition of the heathland. Grazing will also contribute to this.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of trees and scrub from ponds 	To ensure sufficient light levels for associated fauna and to promote aquatic vegetation

<p>Deershelter Plain and Great Monk Wood</p> <p>SAC & SSSI</p> <p>Wood pasture</p> <p>Veteran trees</p> <p>Heathland</p> <p>Sphagnum moss species</p> <p><i>Zygodon forsteri</i></p> <p>Rare fungal and invertebrate species</p> <p>Common Lizard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture flailing • Grazing • Selective felling 	<p>To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas.</p> <p>To keep areas around new pollards open.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 6 Keystone trees • Canopy reductions of 26 lapsed hornbeam pollards • Management of 1 additional veteran oak trees • Creation of new pollards • Management of existing young pollards 	<p>To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality, and create a successor population.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of scrub and tree infill on heathlands • Bracken treatment when required • Scrape vegetation to promote heathland species 	<p>To promote good condition of the heathland. Grazing will also contribute to this.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree surgery on <i>Zygodon</i> host trees • Removal of overshadowing vegetation from <i>Zygodon</i> colonies 	<p>To promote the population of this rare UK moss</p>
<p>Furze Ground, Copley Plain, Hangboy Slade</p> <p>SAC & SSSI</p> <p>Wood pasture</p> <p>Veteran trees</p> <p>Heathland</p> <p>Marsh Fern</p> <p>Reptiles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 14 Keystone trees • Repollarding of 14 hornbeam pollards • Repollarding and thinning of existing young pollards down Ditches Ride. • Open up the Hangboy Slade stream corridor. 	<p>To prolong the lives of veteran trees.</p> <p>Management of successor population of pollards.</p> <p>To provide links between Copley Plain and Furze Ground, especially for reptiles.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flailing • Removal of scrub and tree infill on heathlands • Bracken treatment when required • Scrape vegetation to promote heathland species 	<p>To promote good condition of the heathland.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective felling • Creation of new pollards 	<p>To open up Copley Plain to increase the viability of this glade</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of bogs 	<p>To retain these wetland features and prevent secondary infill.</p>
<p>Birch Wood & Oak Hill</p> <p>SAC & SSSI</p> <p>Wood pasture</p> <p>Veteran trees</p> <p>Devil's Bit Scabious</p> <p>Rare fungal and invertebrate species</p>	<p>Wood pasture flailing</p>	<p>At Jack's Hill Plain.</p> <p>To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 8 Keystone trees • Repollarding of 16 hornbeam pollards 	<p>To prolong the lives of veteran trees</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass cutting • Removal of scrub 	<p>To keep Birch Wood Clearing open.</p>

	Removal of secondary infill	To keep Oak Hill bog open
Pillow Mounds woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture flailing • Bracken treatment, when required 	To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas.
SAC & SSSI Wood pasture Veteran trees Rare fungal and invertebrate species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 51 Keystone trees • Management of 23 additional veteran trees • Repollarding of 9 hornbeam pollards • Creation of new pollards • Management of existing young pollards 	To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality, and create a successor population.
Paul's Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 33 Keystone trees 	To prolong the lives of veteran trees
SAC & SSSI Veteran trees Rare fungal and invertebrate species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhododendron removal 	To reduce the risk of spread of Ramorum disease to the SAC beech woodland
Little Monk Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 30 Keystone trees • Canopy reductions of 2 lapsed hornbeam pollards • Management of 17 additional veteran trees • Repollarding of 50 hornbeam pollards • Creation of new pollards • Management of <i>Zygodon</i> host tree 	To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality, and create a successor population. Prolong life of <i>Zygodon</i> host tree to encourage spread to other beech trees.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture flailing • Grass cutting 	To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas. To keep areas around new pollards open.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of holly from Loughton Camp 	To protect the buried archaeology and increase the legibility of the site for visitors.
Hill Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture flailing • Grazing 	To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas. To keep areas around new pollards open.
SAC & SSSI Wood pasture Veteran trees Rare fungal and invertebrate species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Keystone trees, lapsed pollards and hornbeam pollards in-cycle. • Creation of new pollards • Management of existing young pollards 	To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality, and create a successor population.
North Long Hills & Fairmead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 5 Keystone trees 	To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for

SAC & SSSI Wood pasture Veteran trees Heather Lousewort Purple Emperor White Admiral Rare fungal and invertebrate species Great Crested Newts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canopy reductions of 95 lapsed hornbeam pollards • Selective tree felling • Creation of new pollards • Management of existing young pollards 	ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality, and create a successor population.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture flailing • Grass cutting • Grazing • Bracken treatment when required 	To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas. To keep areas around new pollards open.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of trees, silt and undesirable plant species from the network of ponds 	Fairmead bomb creator ponds, Alder and Small Alder ponds
Strawberry Hill, Gas Ride, Stubbles & Lincolns Lane SAC & SSSI Heathland Acid grassland Adder's Tongue Song Thrush	Grass cutting	To manage the diversity of grassland species
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of secondary infill • Coppicing of gorse • Removal of bracken • Management of the wood pasture margin 	To manage the heathland
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of secondary infill from scrub areas • Coppicing of scrub 	To prevent valuable scrub habitat becoming overtopped by secondary woodland
Bury Wood SAC & SSSI Wood pasture Veteran trees Heather Lousewort Purple Emperor White Admiral Zoned Rosette Rare fungal and invertebrate species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 15 Keystone trees • Canopy reductions of 882 lapsed hornbeam pollards • Management of 47 additional veteran trees • Repollarding of 418 hornbeam pollards • Selective felling • Creation of new pollards • Management of existing young pollards 	Main area of wood pasture restoration coinciding with main area of grazing. To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality, and create a successor population.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture flailing • Grass cutting • Grazing • Holly removal 	To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas. To keep areas around new pollards open.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of plants congesting water bodies 	Removal of undesirable plants from Cuckoo Pits
Yardley Hill, Yates Meadow, Daisy Plain, Pole Hill Pepper saxifrage	Wood pasture flailing	To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas. To keep areas around new pollards open.

Spiny Restharrow Song Thrush	Grass cutting	To manage the diversity of grassland species
Chingford Plain and Chingford Wood SAC & SSSI Wood pasture Veteran trees, including Crab Apple and Field Maple Song Thrush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective felling • Management of veteran pollards • Removal of holly • Creation of new pollards. 	In Chingford Wood to increase light in this area between Chingford Plain and Bury Wood to connect these two areas and encourage movement of cattle. To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality, and create a successor population.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass cutting • Grazing • Scrub removal • Selective felling 	On Chingford Plain to manage the diversity of grassland species and promote its expansion. Manage scrub for its optimal presence.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of Crassula from Butler's Retreat Pond 	To minimise the presence of this invasive non-native species and promote other aquatic plants.
Warren Hill & Powell's Forest SAC & SSSI Wood pasture Acid grassland Veteran trees Heather Purple Emperor White Admiral Zoned Rosette Oak Polypore Rare fungal and invertebrate species SAC Stag Beetles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of 26 Keystone trees • Canopy reductions of 9 lapsed hornbeam pollards • Repollarding of 28 hornbeam pollards • Selective felling 	To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture flailing • Grass cutting 	To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas. To keep areas around new pollards open.
	Removal of secondary infill	To manage the heathland
Walthamstow Forest SAC & SSSI Wood pasture Acid grassland Veteran trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canopy reductions of 59 lapsed hornbeam pollards • Repollarding of 65 hornbeam pollards • Selective felling 	To prolong the lives of veteran trees and increase light for ground flora establishment and veteran tree vitality, and create a successor population.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture flailing • Grass cutting 	To promote existing ground flora and encourage expansion into new areas. To keep areas around new pollards open.



CSS Proposals for 2019 Application

**Epping
Forest &
Commons
Committee
July 2019**

**North of
Forest**

Created by:
GIS Officer

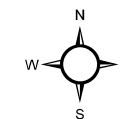
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21 Jun 2019

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Legend

- Veteran tree management
- Selective felling
- Bog management
- Conservation of rare moss species
- Grassland management
- Heathland management
- Pond management
- Rhododendron removal
- Scrub management
- Wood pasture management
- Wood pasture management and veteran tree management
- Forest Land



CSS Proposals for 2019 Application

Epping
Forest &
Commons
Committee
July 2019

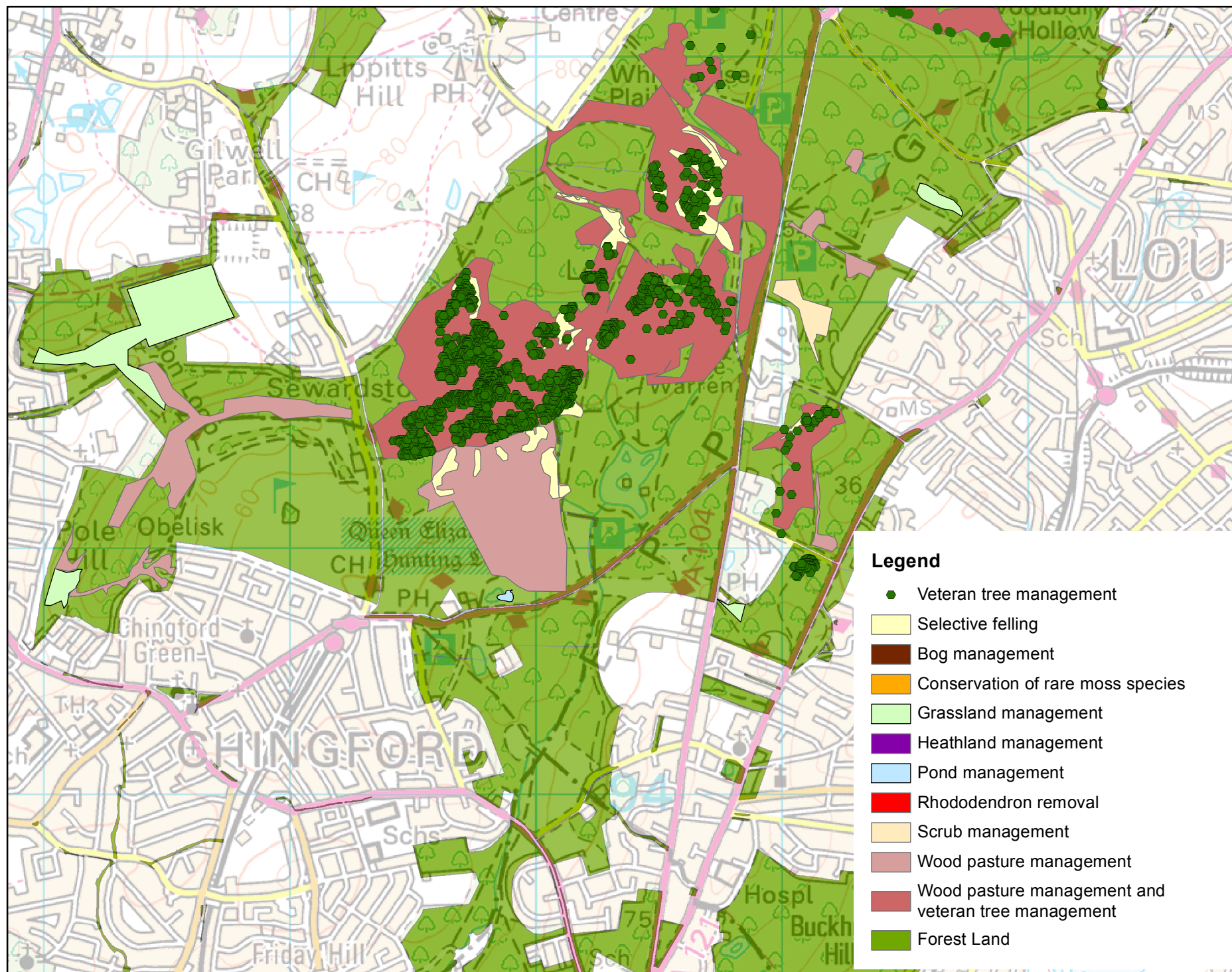
Centre of
Forest

Created by:
GIS Officer











Date Created:
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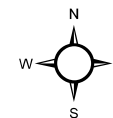
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Legend

-  Veteran tree management
-  Selective felling
-  Bog management
-  Conservation of rare moss species
-  Grassland management
-  Heathland management
-  Pond management
-  Rhododendron removal
-  Scrub management
-  Wood pasture management
-  Wood pasture management and veteran tree management
-  Forest Land



CSS Proposals for 2019 Application

**Epping
Forest &
Commons
Committee
July 2019**

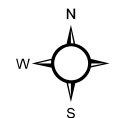
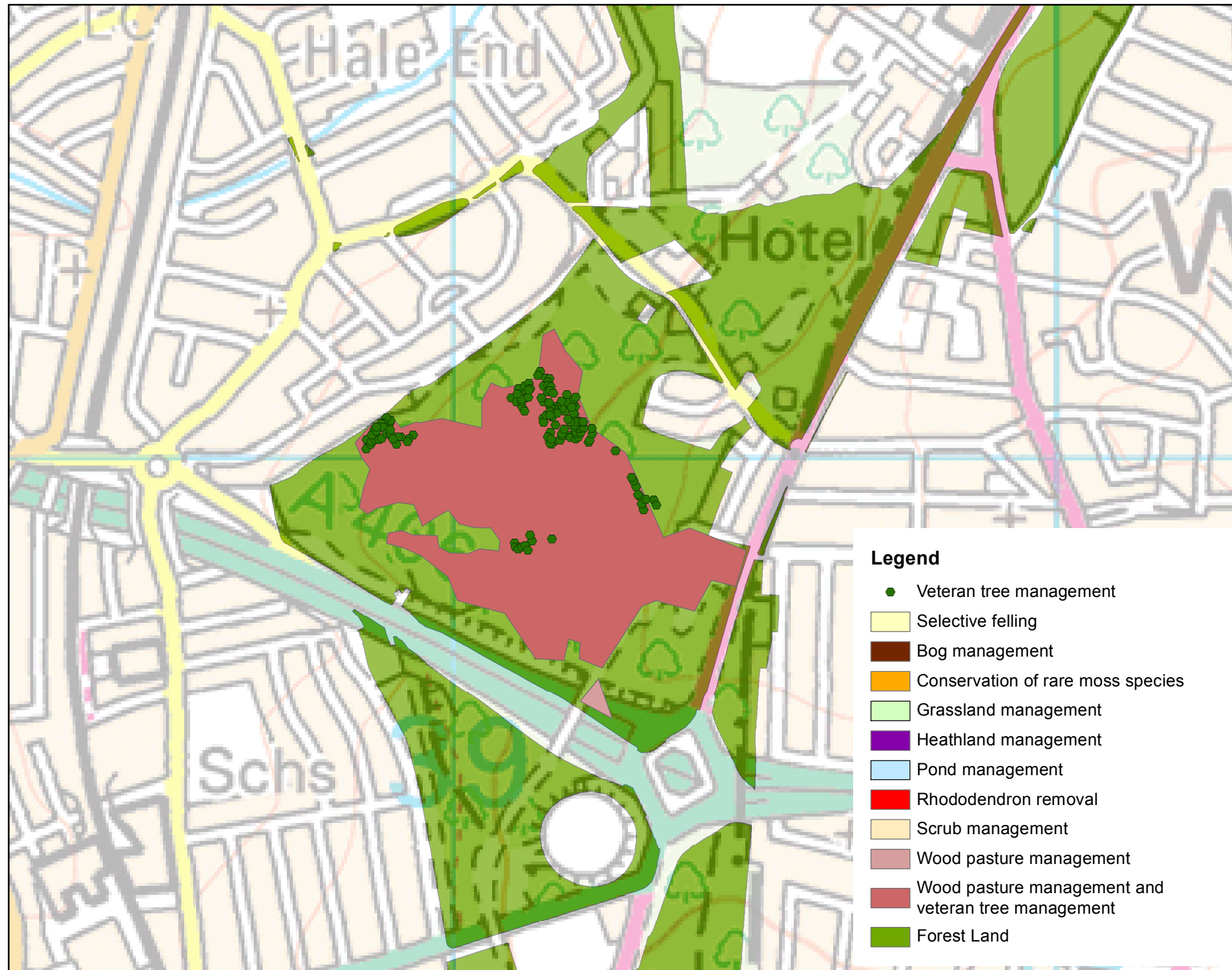
**Bury Wood
& North
Long Hills**

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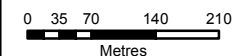
CSS Proposals for 2019 Application

**Epping
Forest &
Commons
Committee
July 2019**

Walthamstow Forest

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21 Jun 2019



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Legend

- Veteran tree management
- Selective felling
- Bog management
- Conservation of rare moss species
- Grassland management
- Heathland management
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- Wood pasture management and veteran tree management
- Forest Land

Appendix 3 SEF 28-19 Epping Forest & Common Committee

2019 Countryside Stewardship Grant application proposals

Predicted total income and expenditure for the works proposed to be carried out between 2020 and 2029 in the 2019 CSS application only. Separate costs for the works that are part of the 2020 CSS application will be presented to Committee in 2020. Income shown is a potential amount and subject to Natural England and Rural Payment Agency approval. It is likely these figures will vary as negotiations are completed by August 2019. However, these figures are based on discussions with Natural England to date. Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) has been included as the areas for this funding coincides with CSS and the works are covered by both funds.

Works	CSS & BPS Potential Income for 2019 application	Expenditure for works proposed in 2019 application	Notes
Veteran tree surgery	£4,817,800	£1,202,131	Costs are based on pricing exercise undertaken Feb 2019 with 4 contractors. Maximum prices used. 3% annual inflation added. Includes two halos of regrowth. Assume work will be carried out in 8 of the 10 years to allow for 2 drought years where work would not be carried out.
Wood pasture management	£114,841	£89,608	This work is a mixture of mechanical mowing by in-house teams, grazing and manual work by volunteers. Cost include delivery by in-house staff, bracken spraying. Increase in area to cut over time, as more ground flora establishes, has been factored in.
Wood pasture restoration works	£371,071	£460,934	Majority of the income would be capital funding for selected felling in localised areas within the wood pasture. A bid for up to 100% of costs has been submitted. If not granted, the grant body will offer a significant contribution to this work. This work will be done 2020-2021. Other costs include additional localised felling, creation of new pollards and management of new pollards made during HLS. Cost based on contractors delivering work.
Scrub management	£135	£5,115	Work at Gas Ride (near Warren) and Chingford Plain. Work includes coppicing and removing scrub and localised felling on Chingford Plain.

Grassland management	£48,375	£110,338	Only based on sites in the 2019 application areas. Based on current split between contractors (one-third) and in-house team (two-thirds). Inflation is included.
Heathland management	£29,513	£6,973	Management will be covered by grazing and volunteers. Volunteers will remove tree infill. The cost shown here is for two bracken spraying applications in 10 years, scrapes on 3 heathlands and a small amount of birch felling on Deershelter to be done by contractors.
Pond management	£6,138	£11,348	Costs include Crassula removal from Butler's Retreat Pond, desilting other small Forest ponds. Other ponds will be managed by volunteers.
Rhododendron removal	£3,306	£9,998	Includes removal and annual regrowth spraying at Paul's Nursery. Work to be done by contractors 2020-2021.
<i>Zygodon</i> moss conservation	£9,502	£34,833	Tree surgery to be done by contractors 2020-2021. Management of moss population areas to be done by volunteers.
Grazing	£0 ¹	£653,462	<p>Expenditure is based on 2019-2020 grazing project costs with annual 3% inflation added and no forecasted change in costs. The current projected grazing costs show net cost reducing over time due to increased income, however this is predicated on a number of factors, so to be conservative this has not be factored in.</p> <p>Only sites in the 2019 application areas are included in calculations. To reflect this part-Forest application 50% of the grazing costs are shown here the remaining costs will be allocated to the two 2020 CSS applications for the Forest and the Buffer Lands.</p> <p>Costs include replacement of invisible fencing and tracking technology. Costs do not include maintenance of hard fencing in phases and building maintenance at Gregories which will come from City Surveyor's CWP budget subject to approval.</p> <p>¹Income has been set at zero as grazing grant support is at Natural England's</p>

			discretion only and not guaranteed to be awarded. Part of the costs are covered by Basic Payment Scheme income, wood pasture management grant and meat sales.
Basic Payment Scheme	£138,108	£109,805	<p>Another land management fund from the government. If the UK leaves the Agriculture Bill will be passed into law which currently proposes to phase out BPS from 2021 in stages reaching zero by 2028. This would represents a total loss of £703,000 during 2020 and 2029. Some of this may be replaced in part by the government's proposed Environmental Land Management Scheme, but this is highly uncertain at the present time. CSS income is therefore vital to make up for this loss.</p> <p>For the calculations show here only income and expenditure for the 2019 sites are included. Income is based on 2018 BPS income rate being close to the 5 year average. Expenditure is the cost of grass cutting, reflecting the current split between contractors and in-house staff with inflation included.</p>
Miscellany	£0	£23,437	Fire trailer, small tree puller, stump grinding, culvert installation. None of this is eligible for grant funding.
Timber & wood chip	²	£0	<p>²Income goes into Local Risk.</p> <p>No costs associated with the collection of timber by contractors from rideside.</p> <p>No cost for collection of wood chip.</p>
Sub-total	£5,538,789	£2,717,982	
Contingency	-	£543,597	Contingency is set at 20% of the total estimated cost of works to take account of higher than expected rises in price and any unforeseen costs.
Staff costs	-	£598,193	<p>100% of the Environmental and Biodiversity Officer roles. In reality, this work will not take 100% of these roles, but this calculation will cover time required from management roles.</p> <p>Staff costs cover administration of the grant, tendering and managing contractors, directing in-house staff, delivering the grazing programme, managing volunteers delivering CSS objectives.</p>

Total	£5,538,789	£3,859,772	
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General assumptions

- For contractors' costs most reasonably expensive cost have been used.
- 3% annual inflation considered realistic as the increase in Retail Prices Index has rise by an average of 2.6% per year between April 2014 - April 2019.
- Based on recent years, staff costs are calculated to increase by 1.5% annually.