2.2 Using the ecological impact assessment to develop a three year management plan for your own Forest School site to enhance biodiversity.

Year One – *Clearance and Safety*

The first year should focus on thinning trees, removal of deadwood, improving spacing (4m radius around larger native trees. The focus should be around the key public areas such as the entrance, pathways and wider open areas. A proportion of hazel and willow should be coppiced (roughly 1/3), in staggered segments across the site (not all in one band). Removal of bramble will increase the usability area of the site. Organic matter should be burned or removed form the site.

Target Action	**Impact/Results**	**Further Action/Compensation**	**Duration**	**Additional Notes**
Removal of excess deadwood	1. Improved safety of the woodland area for public use 2. Decreased insect habitation 3. Increased canopy light 4. Loss of bat and bird habitation	1. Deadwood piles to be allocated at intervals along the woodland 2. Forest School sessions to include making bug hotels. 3. Conservation sessions in FS to include bat boxes, bird boxes.	1st Year	Some minimal work will need to be carried out after the first year to stay on top of the deadwood
Removal of weed trees	1. Increased woodland floor space 2. Stronger remaining trees 3. Increased canopy light 4. Increased diversity		1st Year	Wood from these trees can be saved and used in sessions for wood crafting. Some minimal work will need to be carried out after the first year to stay on top of the weed tree saplings.

	5. Promotion of native trees			
Coppicing 1/3 Hazel and willow	1. Decrease of mature coppice habitation 2. Increase in first year coppice habitation	Loss of habitation is offset by increased multi-stage habitation.	1st year	Coppicing to be staggered to ensure rotation of habitation and materials. Wood from 1st year coppicing can be saved for fire fuel.
Removal of Japanese Knotweed	1. Improved species diversity 2. Promotion of native species		Every year	No chemicals to be used. May require multi-year efforts to remove.
Removal of Excess Bramble	1. Loss of habitation 2. Improved species diversity 3. Promotion of other native species 4. Improved woodland access	1. General conservation activities within forest school sessions, including bird boxes and hedgehog homes. 2. Some bramble allocated to stay as natural boundaries but managed heavily.	Every Year	No chemicals to be used. May require multi-year efforts to remove.
Clearing Pathways	1. Improved woodland access		Every Year	Will require regular maintenance

Year Two – *Infrastructure*

The same processes should be repeated but extending further into the forest. A shelter for wood seasoning would be useful at this stage and deadwood can be collected for insect habitations. A living hedge should be laid out along the side of the pathway between the path and the river. Sessions should focus on habitation and conservation to include bat boxes, hedgehog homes, bird boxes, skeps, bug hotels etc

Target Action	**Impact/Results**	**Further Action/Compensation**	**Duration**	**Additional Notes**
Coppicing 1/3 Hazel and willow	1. Decrease of mature coppice habitation 2. Increase in first year coppice habitation	Loss of habitation is offset by increased multi-stage habitation.	2nd Year	Coppicing to be staggered to ensure rotation of habitation and materials. Wood from 2nd year coppicing can be saved for fire fuel. Second year coppicing habitation now introduced.
Removal of Japanese Knotweed	1. Improved species diversity 2. Promotion of native species		Every year	No chemicals to be used. May require multi-year efforts to remove.
Removal of Excess Bramble	1. Loss of habitation 2. Improved species diversity 3. Promotion of other native species 4. Improved woodland access	1. General conservation activities within forest school sessions, including bird boxes and hedgehog homes. 2. Some bramble allocated to stay as natural boundaries but managed heavily.	Every Year	No chemicals to be used. May require multi-year efforts to remove.
Clearing Pathways	1. Improved		Every Year	Will require regular maintenance

	woodland access			
Pathway Maintenance	1. Management of boggy areas 2. Path outlined for public use		2nd Year	Material to be used to help lay the pathway. Hedgelaying may be used to protect woodland either side at key locations.
Update cataloguing & Management	1. New species begin to grow in 2nd year. 2. Flora & Fauna catalogued and recorded	1. Forest Schools sessions to include conservation skills, recording data and identifying plants and animals. 2. Invasive species recorded and a plan of action for removal is made. 3. Rare species recorded and a care plan created	2nd & 3rd year	Sessions can include data squares/grids, plant ID books, animal tracking, inature app, bug hunts.

Year Three – *Harvest and Rewards*

This is where we will see massive impact and change in the woodland come to fruition. There will be a steady supply of managed coppice, artificially created habitation areas, increased plant diversity and animal diversity, increased native species, reduced invasive species, open space and public access. This should also have the additional affect of reducing vandalism and litter as there is no where to 'hide away' as easily and the public begin taking more ownership and pride in the area. A completed survey of fauna and flora would be beneficial at this point which would be an ongoing process.

Target Action	**Impact/Results**	**Further Action/Compensation**	**Duration**	**Additional Notes**
Coppicing 1/3 Hazel and willow	1. Decrease of mature coppice habitation 2. Increase in first year coppice habitation	Loss of habitation is offset by increased multi-stage habitation.	3rd year	Coppicing to be staggered to ensure rotation of habitation and materials. Wood from 3rd year coppicing can be saved for fire fuel. First year coppice now harvestable at the end of the year. Useful for session work - willow weaving, hazel tent poles etc
Removal of Japanese Knotweed	1. Improved species diversity 2. Promotion of native species		Every year	No chemicals to be used. May require multi-year efforts to remove.
Removal of Excess Bramble	1. Loss of habitation 2. Improved species diversity 3. Promotion of other native species	1. General conservation activities within forest school sessions, including bird boxes and hedgehog homes. 2. Some bramble allocated to stay as	Every Year	No chemicals to be used. May require multi-year efforts to remove.

	4. Improved woodland access	natural boundaries but managed heavily.		
Clearing Pathways	1. Improved woodland access		Every Year	Will require regular maintenance
Pathway Maintenance	1. Management of boggy areas 2. Path outlined for public use		3rd year	Hedgelaying may be used to protect woodland either side at key locations.
Update cataloguing & Management	1. New species begin to grow in 2nd year. 2. Flora & Fauna catalogued and recorded	1. Forest Schools sessions to include conservation skills, recording data and identifying plants and animals. 2. Invasive species recorded and a plan of action for removal is made. 3. Rare species recorded and a care plan created	3rd year	Sessions can include data squares/grids, plant ID books, animal tracking, iNature app, bug hunts.