

Fitzroy Park Allotments Northern Copse

Management Plan

	2013	to	2023
Owner / tenant:	London Borough of Camden		
Agent / contact:	Andrew Wright	V2	

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Location

Nearest town, village or feature	Highgate
Grid reference	TQ527958 187288
Total area (ha)	750Sqm

1.2 Description of the woodland(s) in the landscape

Small area of other semi natural woodland developed over the last 60 years with one veteran English Oak tree of significant importance to the copse as a whole. Copse located in Fitzroy Park allotments adjacent to a road and housing. The allotments site is also adjacent to Hampstead Heath and neighbouring deciduous woodland in private ownership.

1.3 History of Management

The trees in the copse are surveyed by the London borough of Camden's arboricultural team every three years and plotted on a system called Confirm Arboriculture. Following a survey any necessary health and safety works are undertaken. Occasionally the trees have been cut back to allow light to the allotment plots.

Within the copse there has been little management so the area has been used for the storage of green garden waste and allotment paraphernalia. In 2013 the allotments association worked with the parks services team and Veolia, the borough's cleansing contractor, to successfully clear the copse of green garden waste and allotment paraphernalia.

2. WOODLAND INFORMATION

2.1 Areas and features

2.1.1 Designated Areas	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Special Areas for Conservation (SACs)	No		
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	No		
Ramsar Sites (see note on Guidance)	No		
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)	No		
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)		Yes	
Other designations eg: National Parks (NPs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), Site of metropolitan importance to nature conservation		Yes	
Hampstead Heath is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and parts of the heath are a SSSI (Hampstead Woods)			
2.1.2 Rare and important species	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Red Data Book or BAP species	Not known		
Rare or threatened species	Not known		
2.1.3 Habitats	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)	No		
Other semi-natural woodland	Yes		
Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)	No		
Semi-natural features in PAWS	No		
Woodland margins and hedges	Yes		
Veteran and other notable trees	Yes		
Breeding sites	Unknown		
Habitats of notable species	Unknown		
Unimproved grassland	No		
Rides and open ground	No		
Valuable wildlife communities	Unknown		
Feeding areas	Unknown		
Lowland heath	No	Yes	
Peatlands	No		
Others			
Details: Ground flora survey undertaken on the 23 July 2013 (detailed in section 11)			

2.1.4 Water	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Watercourses	No	Yes	
Lakes	No		
Ponds	No		
Wetland habitats	No		
Details None A small stream runs along western edge of allotment site			
2.1.5 Landscape	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Landscape designated areas	Yes		
Landscape features	No		
Rock exposures	No		
Historic landscapes	No		
Areas of the woodland prominent from roads	Yes		
Areas of the woodland prominent from settlements	Yes		
Details: The northern copse falls within the Highgate Village Conservation Area. The copse is protected by T.P.O. reference number C6-T66, 65, 63, A3 and C975 2011.			
2.1.6 Cultural Features	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Public rights of way	No		
Prominent viewing points	No		
Permissive footpaths	No		
Areas managed with traditional management systems	No		
Details:			
2.1.7 Archaeological Features	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Scheduled monument	No		
Historical features	No		
Details: None known			

2.2 Woodland resource characteristics

Amenity:

The copse has amenity value because it adds to the view from Hampstead Heath and provides the residents of the local area with a screen from the allotments. It also adds to a continuous line of hedgerows and trees along Fitzroy Park. The veteran English Oak has amenity value also because of its size and character in the lane.

Biodiversity:

This deciduous copse of trees provides a small reserve for nature conservation and forms part of a wildlife corridor around the perimeter of the allotments that connects with Hampstead Heath. There is a veteran English Oak within the copse which will support a wide variety of wildlife but at present no comprehensive surveys of flora or fauna have been undertaken.

Timber:

There are very few trees in this copse so the production of timber is very limited, but there is scope for some coppice products.

Landscape:

The copse forms part of the Hampstead Ridge natural signature (London Regional Landscape Framework, 2009), a mosaic of acid grasslands and patches of ancient and semi-natural woodlands along the elevated Hampstead Ridge. The copse contains features such as the veteran oak which reinforce this natural signature.

2.3 Site description

Small area of other semi natural woodland developed over the last 60 years with one veteran English Oak tree of significant importance to the copse as a whole. Copse located in Fitzroy Park allotments adjacent to a road and housing. The allotments site is also adjacent to Hampstead Heath and neighbouring deciduous woodland in private ownership.

2.4 Significant hazards, constraints and threats

Hazards:

There are few significant hazards in this small copse other than the dumping of green waste.

Constraints

The size of the copse is a constraint to the types of management that can be undertaken. Budgetary restrictions may also prove a problem in implementing proposed management.

Threats

Vandalism presents a threat in all urban woodlands where fires are a possibility but

this isn't a serious problem in this copse. Lack of active management can reduce the diversity of structure and habitat. The use of the area for the storage of green waste is also a threat that must be stopped.

3. LONG TERM VISION, MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

3.1 Long term vision

To actively manage the northern copse for nature conservation; for its amenity and landscape value; and as an area that will complement the allotments site.

To manage the veteran Oak so that it has a healthy diverse structure supporting as wide a range of wildlife as possible. Long term this will include the succession of the English Oak as well.

3.2 Management Objectives

No	Objective
1	Maintain and enhance the veteran English Oak whilst supporting and nurturing the juvenile Oak adjacent to it.
2	Continue a regular and effective health and safety tree inspection regime
4	Maintain the amenity value of the copse but create lighter conditions through selective felling and pruning of the trees for the allotments.
5	Maintain the amenity value of the copse within the surrounding landscape
6	Maintain and enhance biodiversity values

3.3 Strategy

- 1) Maintain and enhance the veteran English Oak whilst supporting and nurturing the juvenile Oak adjacent to it.

Produce a management prescription for the veteran English Oak covering the next 5 years that reduces the competition around it and provides it with the opportunity to once again establish itself as the most prominent and important tree in the copse.

Produce a management prescription for the juvenile English Oak as a successor to the veteran.

- 2) Continue a regular and effective health and safety tree inspection regime

The trees in the copse will be surveyed every three years and any required health and safety works undertaken.

- 3) Maintain and enhance the amenity value of the copse by creating lighter conditions through selective felling and pruning of the trees for use on the allotments.

Work with stakeholders to develop a management plan that takes into consideration allotment plot tenants request for light to the allotment plots.

4) Maintain and enhance the value of the copse within the surrounding landscape

Work with stakeholders to develop a management plan that takes into consideration the Fitzroy Park Residents Association and Corporation of London's request to retaining a line of trees along the boundary of the allotment site. Manage and enhance the copse to incorporate more natural landscape features such as a hedgerow, specimen trees and wildflowers to further underline its contribution to the natural signature of the surrounding landscape

5) Maintain and enhance biodiversity values:

The copse will be managed to the objectives as set out in the Camden Bio-diversity Action Plan which is committed to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity throughout the Borough and identifies woodlands as a key habitat area. Specifically develop ground and woodland edge flora to support invertebrate populations and provide pollination and pest control services to the allotment

4. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS/OPERATIONS

4.1 Silvicultural systems

4.1.1 Harvesting

Coppicing of sweet chestnut and hazel on a 3-7 year cycle by allotment holders.

4.1.2 Phased felling and restructuring of plantations

Not applicable

4.1.3 Establishment, restocking and regeneration

Natural regeneration will not be the most favoured method of regeneration due to the high percentage of Sycamore within the copse. Planting will be considered using native whips of local provenance.

4.2 New planting

Monitor native tree regeneration and if this is not successful then re-stock with native tree species of local provenance to maintain the diversity of age structure within the copse. Consider planting suitable species to diversify the ground flora should surveying conclude that this is necessary.

Plant a native hedge along the fence line composed of a mixed species including Holly and maintain at 1.8 metres high.

4.3 Other operations

There are no other actions necessary as part of this management plan

4.4 Protection and maintenance

4.4.1 Pest and disease management

It has not been established that deer and squirrel control is required within the copse but should it become necessary then it will be considered.

Invasive species such as laurel, rhododendron and sycamore regeneration will be controlled. Threats from pests and diseases such as Oak Processionary Moth will be monitored according to the Camden Approach to Invasive Species

4.4.2 Fire plan

Arson is the most likely cause of fire, but in general this copse represents a low fire risk.
Generic Fire Plan

Fire Plan

The flammable material is classed as a 'Hazard' whilst the chances of the hazard being set on fire is classed as the 'Risk'. A high hazard may have a low risk and vice versa and will be dependent upon a number of criteria including the weather and public access. Forest operations will be a potential fire hazard:

1. Felling

This copse is too small to facilitate the need for burning lop and top as all material will be removed to the roadside, chipped and removed from site or recycled onto the allotments.

The Risk.

1. The public

The site has no public access but it is accessible so arson does represent a risk and is the most likely cause of fire in this copse. Allotment tenants lock gates after accessing the site so that the general public cannot gain access.

2. Litter

Bottles, broken glass, and illegal fly tipping all add to the risk that a fire can be started accidentally. Report any litter or remove immediately.

3. The weather

Lightning strikes are a risk and dry weather enhances the hazard. Be aware!

4. Habitat Piles and Dead Wood

Habitat piles of dead wood or dead hedging within the copse are a risk if they dry out. Dead wood functions better for wildlife (and is less flammable) if it is damp rather than dry. Deadwood piles should be located in areas that are more likely to retain moisture

Types of Woodland Fires.

If a fire were to break out in the woodland areas it would speed up an effective response if an indication of the type of fire were given as soon as possible after arriving on site. For information, the following is a description of the types of fire that are most appropriate to the copse in this management plan with comments on the basic method of fighting each fire.

Surface fires.

This is the most common type of fire encountered in woodlands with the ground vegetation burning.

Response: Report the fire and summon assistance. If the fire is small tackle it. If, after a few minutes, the fire is clearly going to get bigger the Fire Brigade should be contacted immediately. Attack fire from flanks in a coordinated effort to reduce the fire front.

Crown fires.

There are two types of crown fire, low crown and high crown. Low crown fires are the next development after surface fires, when the lower branches of large trees are set alight, whilst smaller trees are completely destroyed after the whole crown becomes alight. High crown fires are the worst and most extensive fires encountered in forest areas where everything burns.

Response: As this type of fire develops from surface fires getting well out of control it is likely that the Fire Brigade will be onsite already.

Logging personnel on and off site: It is important during a woodland fire that all staff are logged on and off the site. In addition, individuals should work within sight of each other as part of a team to ensure mutual safety and eliminate the risk of becoming trapped amongst burning trees and cut off from a safe exit point.

Access to woodlands: Possible from the road side (Fitzroy Park) adjacent to the copse

Water Sources: Accessible from the road side (Fitzroy Park)

Rendezvous Point: The lower single gate entrance to the allotments site

4.4.3 Waste disposal and pollution

Contracts will enforce penalties for dumping waste and prohibit refuelling within the copse, and will also require the use of biodegradable lubricants

4.4.4 Protection from unauthorised activities

Dumping of garden waste from neighbouring allotment plots and people throwing waste in from the road side is an issue. This will be tackled through clean up days organised through the parks services team, allotments association, non-association tenants, and Veolia. A native hedge will be planted along the boundary of the allotment plots with the copse so as to deter allotment plot tenants from entering the area. This hedge will be protected by a dead hedge until it is mature enough to be laid. Tenants of the allotments and the residents association will be asked to be vigilant against anybody throwing waste into the copse from the road side.

Vandalism is not a serious issue in this wood as there is no public access.

4.5 Game management

Game management is not necessary in this woodland copse

4.6 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

4.6.1 Management of designated areas

The northern copse falls within the Highgate Village Conservation Area. The copse is protected by T.P.O. reference number C6-T66, 65, 63, A3 and C975 2011.

4.6.2 Measures to enhance biodiversity

1. Long term management of trees around veteran Oak to allow it to re-establish.
2. Selective felling of non-native species to diversify the age structure of the copse through creating space for the planting of native species (e.g. Elm, English Oak).
3. Plant a native hedge along the fence line composed of a mixed species including Holly and maintain at 1.8 metres high.
4. Control of non-native tree species (Sycamore, Horse Chestnut) through removal when below 3cm girth to favour native planting.
5. Further surveying with the possibility of introducing suitable native woodland ground flora and edge species.
6. Creation of standing and fallen deadwood habitat and the use of dead hedging.

4.6.3 Special measures for ASNW and SNW

This copse is not an ASNW

4.6.4 Special measures for PAWS

There is no evidence to suggest that this is a Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site.

4.7 Management of social and cultural values

4.7.1 Archaeology and sites of cultural interest

None known.

4.7.2 Public access

There are no official rights of way onto the site.

The copse can be observed from the lane called Fitzroy Park which runs adjacent to it and from Hampstead Heath to the west of the allotments site.

5. CONSULTATION

Organisation/individual	Comment	Response/action
Fitzroy Park Allotments Association		
Fitzroy Park Residents Association		
Hampstead and Highgate Society		
CAC		
Corporation of London		

7. MONITORING PLAN SUMMARY

Objective number	Indicator	Method of assessment	Monitoring period	Responsibility	How will information be used
1	Health of Veteran Tree	Visual recorded	Every year	Tree officer	To initiate necessary tree work
2	Hazardous trees	Visual recorded	Every 3 years	Tree Officer	To initiate tree safety works
5	Regeneration	Visual recorded	Every spring and late summer	Park ranger	To establish if successful regeneration is occurring
5	Floral survey	Visual recorded	Annual spring survey	FPAA	To inform management of copse
5	Tree survey: Variety of age class, pest and disease inspection	Visual recorded	Every 3 years	Tree Officer	To ensure there is structural diversity in the copse and to monitor for pests and diseases
5	Dumping of Garden Waste	Visual	Annual	FPAA	To instigate action should dumping occur

A summary of monitoring results will be made publicly available upon request

8. PESTICIDES

Location	Description of Works/ target.	Product Used. Who applied it? Dilution and Application Rate	Date and No of Hours Applied. Weather Conditions.	Was the desired outcome achieved? Is there a non-chemical method that could be used in the future

9. WORK PROGRAMMES

a. Outline long-term work programme (2019 to 2023)

Activity	Responsibility	Year
		19-23
Review requirements for tree health and safety survey and associated works	Council tree section	X
Review routine maintenance requirements and undertake necessary routine maintenance works	Council tree section	X
Review requirements for maintenance of veteran English Oak and successor Oak	Corporation of London/Council tree section	X
Review requirements to lay hedge, re-stock hedge as necessary	Council/ FPAA/ FPRA	X
Review spring and summer ground flora surveying requirements.	Council/ FPAA	X
Review monitoring requirements of copse as per section 6	Council/ FPAA	X

b. Short-term work programme (2014 to 2018) for the Northern Copse

Activity	Responsibility	Year 2014 - 2018				
		14	15	16	17	18
Tree Works: • Undertake tree health and safety survey and associated works • Undertake agreed routine maintenance to trees as set out in the table below. • Maintenance of veteran English Oak	Council tree section Council/ FPAA grant/ FPRA donation. Corporation of London/Council tree section	X X X	 X X	 X X	X 	 X X
Hedge/ tree planting and maintenance: • Plant hedging trees and use of dead hedging to protect to create a boundary around the copse. • Plant an Elm tree resistant to the Dutch Elm disease to the left of tree sequence number 24 (<i>Acer psuedoplatanus</i>) and reduce tree sequence number 24 over time in order to allow the new Elm to grow up into its place. • Lay over stood hedging trees along the boundary.	FPAA grant/ work party FPAA grant FPAA grant/ work party	X X X	 	 	 	X X X
Surveying and monitoring: • Spring and summer ground flora surveys. • Monitoring of veteran English Oak • Monitor copse as per section 6	FPAA Council tree section Council and FPAA	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X

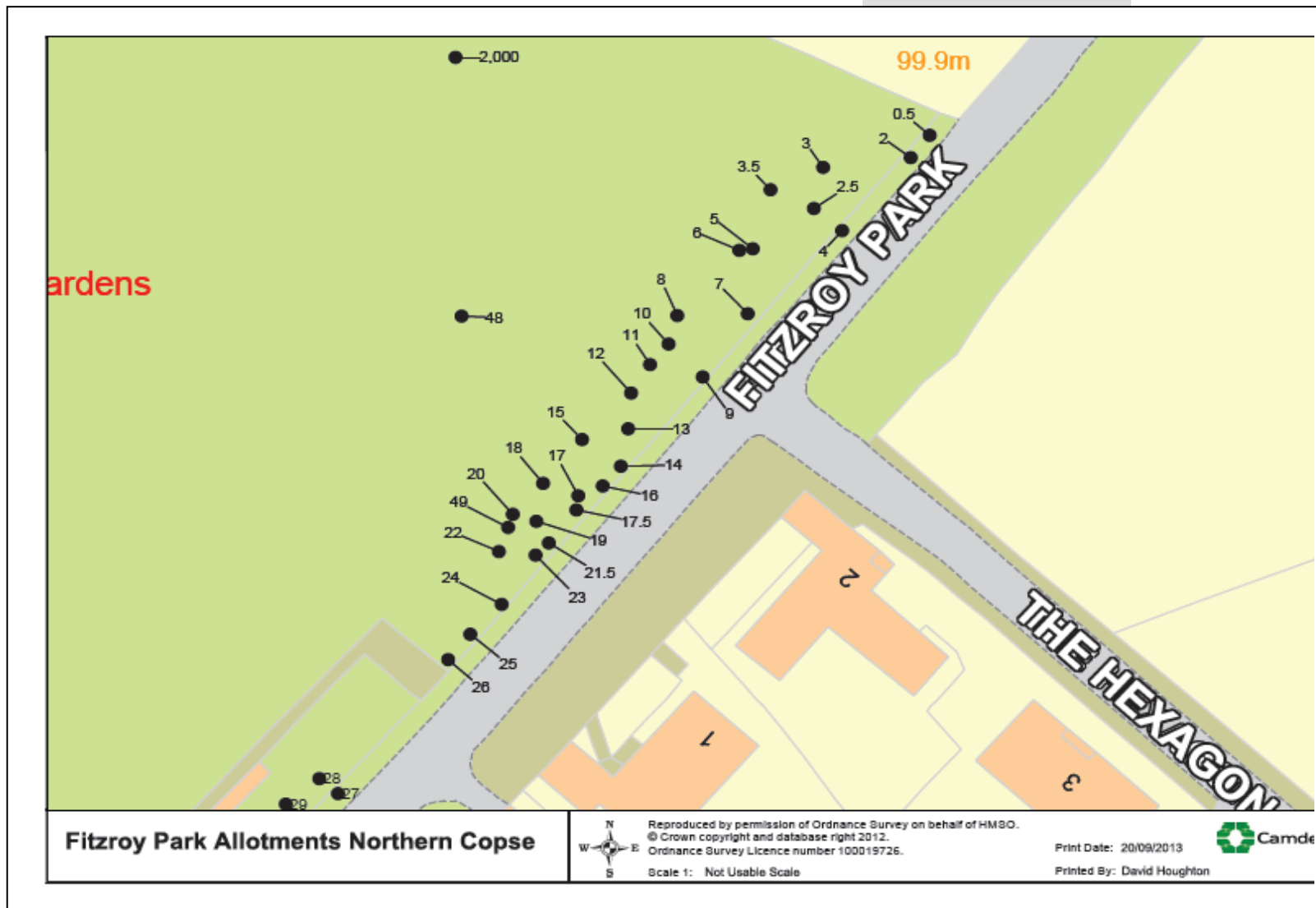
9 NORTHERN COPSE TREE MANAGEMENT WORKS 2014 - 2018

Seq. No	Species	Action	Year				
			1	2	3	4	5
0.5	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No work required					
2	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No work required					
2.5	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	No work required					
3	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Remove basal growth	x				
3.5	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	No work required					
4	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No work required					
5	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Crown reduce to a height of 16 metres	x				
		Crown reduce to a height of 10 metres			x		
		Crown reduce to a height of 6 metres, final cuts to be coronet. Ring bark and leave for standing deadwood					x
6	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Crown reduce to a height of 16 metres	x				
		Crown reduce to a height of 10 metres			x		
		Section fell to ground level- use brash for dead hedging					x
7	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No work required					
8	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Lay - repeat on a 5 year cycle					
9	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Section fell to ground level- use brash for dead hedging	x				
10	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Crown reduce by 1 metre away from seq.11	x		x		
		Section fell to ground level- use brash for dead hedging					x
11	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Crown retrenchment - 50 cm	x			x*	
12	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Crown reduce by 100 cm away from seq. 11	x			x*	
13	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Crown reduce by 100 cm away from seq. 12	x			x*	
14	<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Crown reduce by 100 cm	x			x*	
15	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No work required					
16	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Coppice on a 3-7 year cycle	x			x	
17	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No work required					
17.5	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Coppice on a 3-7 year cycle					
18	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Lay - repeat on a 5 year cycle	x				x
19	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No work required					
20	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Crown reduce to a height of 16 metres	x				
		Crown reduce to a height of 10 metres - final cuts to be coronet			x		
		Crown reduce to a height of 6 metres, final cuts to be coronet. Ring bark and leave for standing deadwood					x
21.5	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	No work required					
22	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Remove basal growth	x				
23	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	No work required					
24	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No work required					
25	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No work required					
26	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No work required					
49	<i>Ulmus procera</i> x3	This is the line of scrubby trees on the boundary of the copse, adjacent to the plots. Decision taken to remove the Sycamore, hybrid Oak and plant with native species for example Hawthorn and Hazel. The elm and native species will coppiced on a 5 year cycle.	x				x
All	<i>All species requiring works</i>	Removal of all Sycamore and non-native tree species regeneration as necessary but shown every year	x	x	x	x	x
All	<i>All species requiring works</i>	Remove ivy from trees as part of the routine maintenance when it starts to inhibit the growth or prevent inspection of the tree, as necessary but shown every year.	x	x	x	x	x
All	<i>All species requiring works</i>	Coppice Hazel and Sweet Chestnut along the boundary of the copse.	x				x

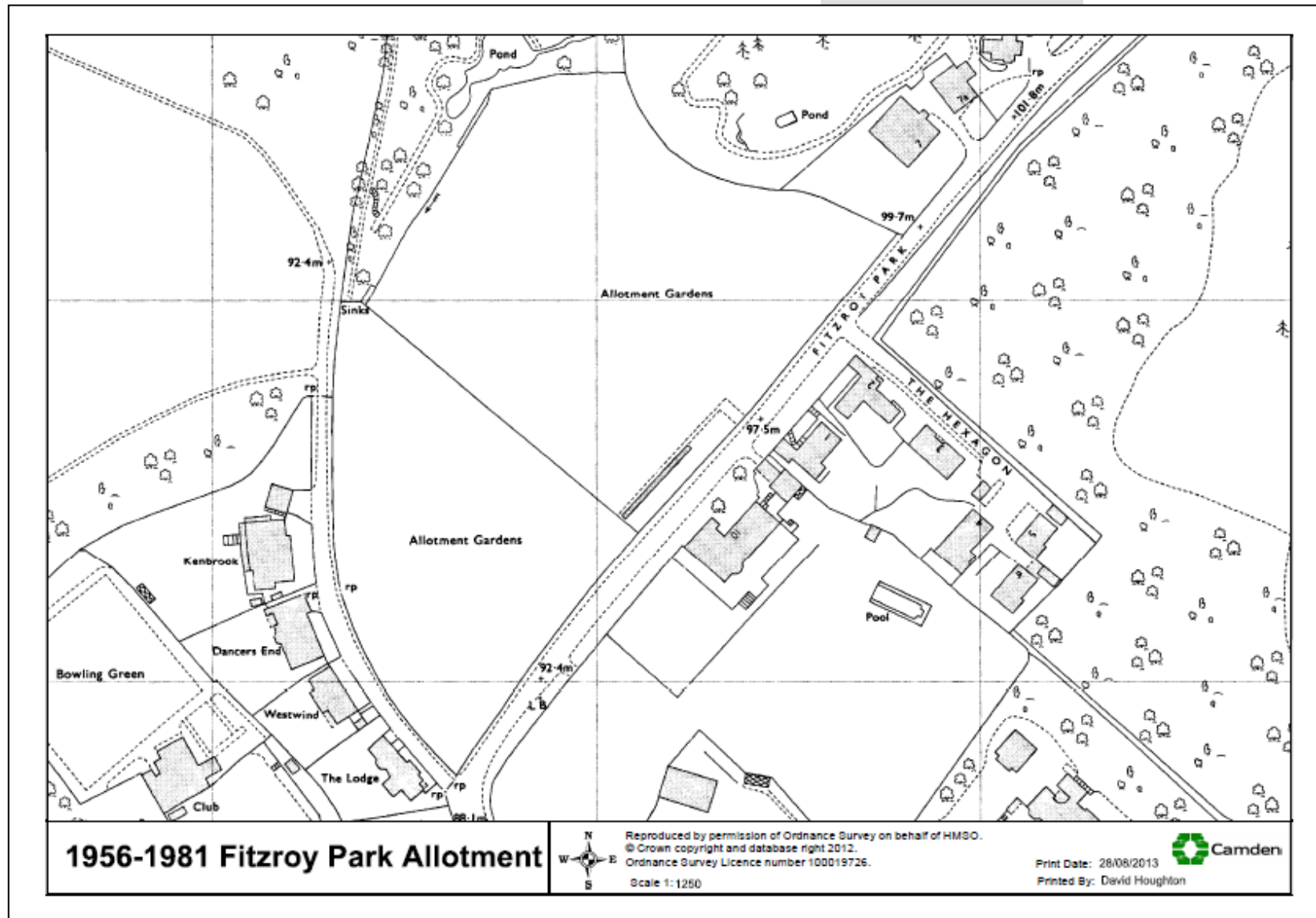
* Repeat works are dependent on monitoring the trees response to pruning.

10. MAPS

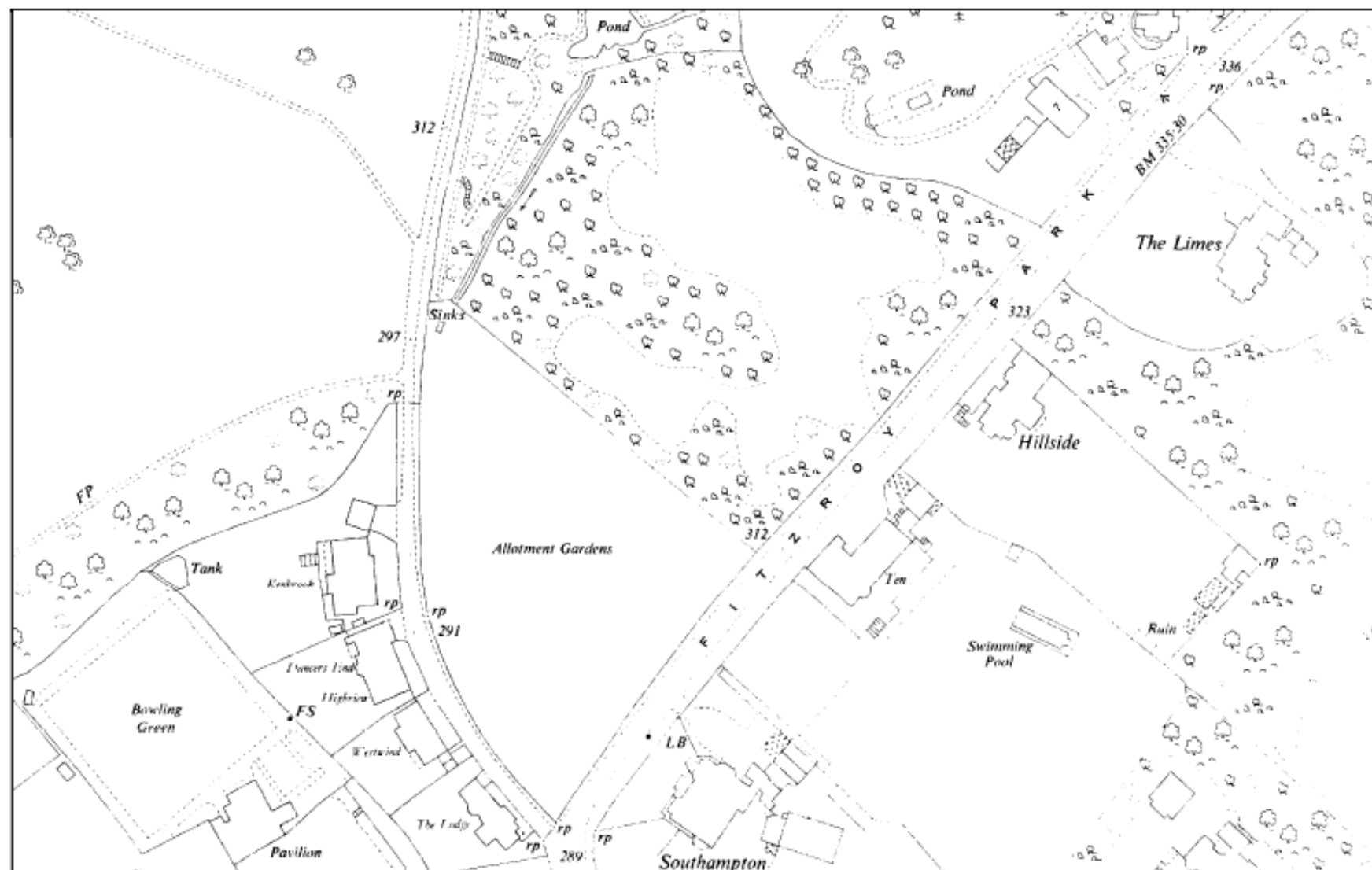
Map 1: Northern Copse Tree Sequences for Management Plan (Year 2013)



Map 2: Fitzroy Park Allotments Map 1956 - 1981



Map 3: Fitzroy Park Allotments 1952 - 1954



1952-1954 Fitzroy Park Allotment

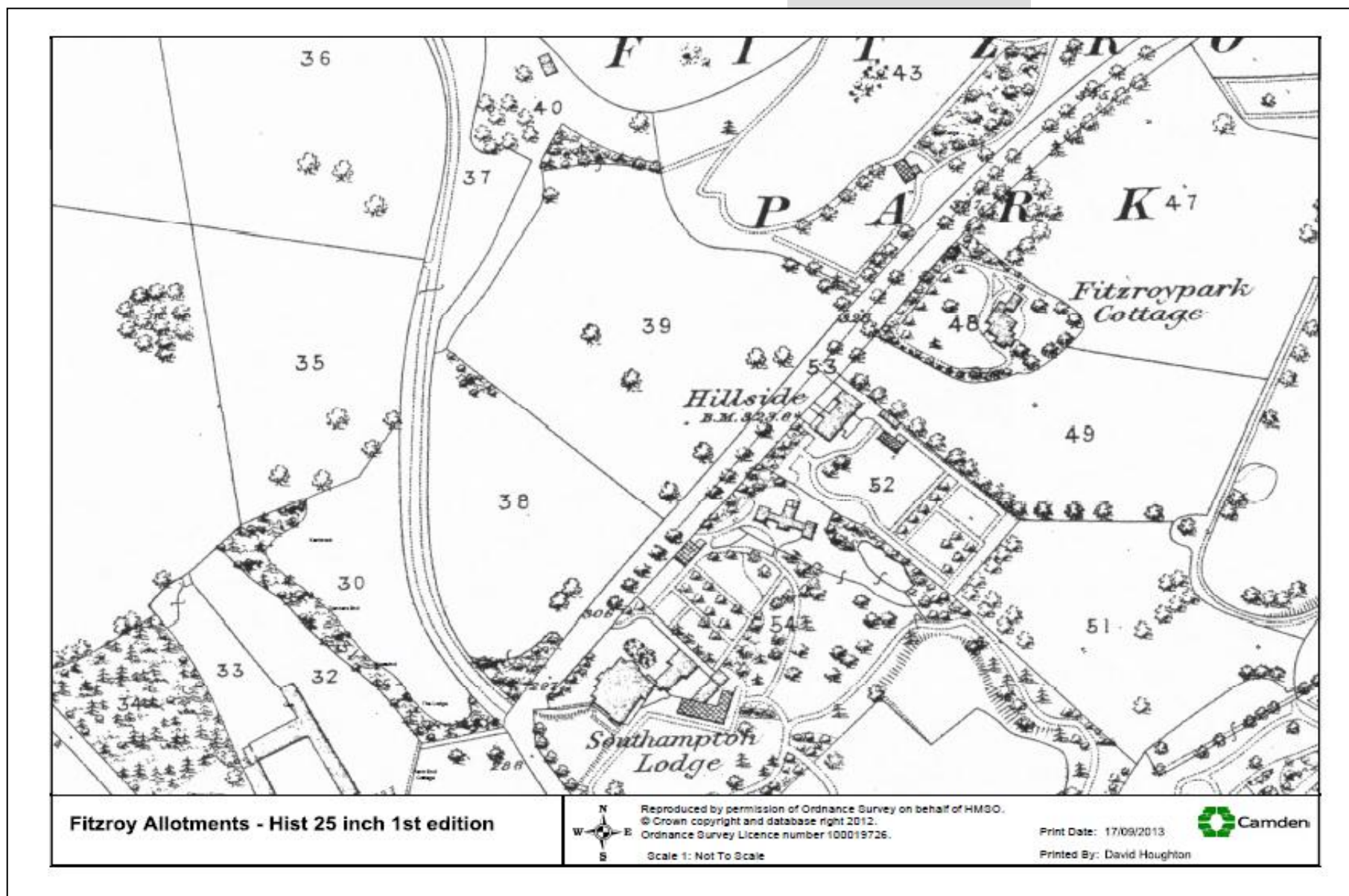


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Map 4: Fitzroy Park Allotments Hist 25 inch First Addition



11. SURVEYING

Woodland Composition and Structure Survey 23/09/13									Key
Canopy layer Species	NP	Y	J	MA	M	OM	V	S	NP = New planting Y = Young J = Juvenile MA = Middle aged M = Mature OM = Over mature V = Veteran S = stump
Tree layer species plotted in Confirm									
Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)		O		A					
Yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>)			R						D = dominant. The vegetation or species that is more than 70% of the cover.
Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)			O						
Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)			R						
English Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)			R				R		A = Abundant. Many individuals or patches visible, usually 30-50% cover
Sweet Chestnut (<i>castanea sativa</i>)			O						
English Elm (<i>Ulmus procera</i>)			F						
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)				R					F = Frequent. Several individuals or few patches, cover usually 10-20%
Horse Chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastnum</i>)		R							
Turkey Oak (<i>Quercus cerris</i>)				R					
Shrub layer species:									O = Occasional. A small patch or a few individuals, cover usually around 5-8%
Horse Chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastnum</i>)		R							
Yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>)		R							
Laurel spp			F						R = Rare. Single very small patch or individual, cover usually around 1-3%.
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)				R					
English Elm (<i>Ulmus procera</i>)			F						
Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)		R							Ground layer species
Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)		O							
Herb layer species:									
Bramble					O				Ground ivy
Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)		R							
Oak species regeneration		R							
Nettle					O				Wood Avens
Mustard spp (possibly garlic or treacle or hedge)					O				
Beech (<i>Fagus sylvaticus</i>)		R							
Dock spp		R							Herb Robert
Honesty					R				
Smooth sow thistle					O				
Coltsfoot					A				Red Dead Nettle
Foxglove					R				
Ragwort					O				
Ground layer species									Nipplewort
Ground ivy					A				
Wood Avens					F				
Herb Robert					F				Horse Chestnut regeneration
Red Dead Nettle					R				
Nipplewort					R				
Horse Chestnut regeneration		R							Sycamore regeneration
Sycamore regeneration		R							
Oak species regeneration		R							
Hawthorn regeneration		R							