

Management Plan

**Woodland between Yew Tree Cottage and Junket Corner,
adjacent to Newton Creek, Pillory Hill, Noss Mayo.**

NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL

January 2006

Contents	Page
1. Introduction	2
2. Objectives	2
3. Short-term Plans 0 – 12 months	3
4. Longer-term Plans 2007 - 2020	3
5. Acknowledgements	3

Appendix 1:

Letter dated 8th July 2005 from Polly Stone Tree Officer South Hams District Council (SHDC)

Appendix 2:

Location Plan – land adjacent to Pillory Hill, Noss Mayo

1. Introduction

On 8th July 2005 Tree Preservation Order (No 27) was confirmed for the land adjacent to Newton Creek, Pillory Hill, Noss Mayo by Miss Polly Stone, Tree Officer, SHDC, *Appendix 1*, as identified on the Location Plan *Appendix 2*.

This followed an Appeal against the TPO heard on 17th January 2005.

Subsequently, a meeting was held on 4th July 2005 attended by Polly Stone, Jeremy Brown [Chairman of Newton & Noss Parish Council - NNPC], and affected residents. This Plan is based largely on notes of this meeting made by Polly Stone and Jeremy Brown, and subsequent suggestions from Andy Burton NCH (arb) of Devon Tree Services.

Local knowledge suggests that about 40 years ago the bank was as densely wooded as it is now, but with Elms. Approximately 30 years ago Dutch Elm Disease struck and the Elms were felled and destroyed. Since then Sycamore has predominately re-grown, much of it covered with ivy. Whilst “natural”, even with a non-native species, the wood is of a dense nature with excessive top storey and little medium or bottom storey, inhibiting the development of more varied native species of trees and other flora. There are no “natural glimpses” of the river’. (i)

2. Objectives

1. To retain the woodland appearance of the site, whilst creating ‘natural glimpses’ of the river.
2. To maintain the health of the trees, and to encourage biodiversity by allowing felled trees, branches and other unwanted plant material to decay naturally on site, when beneficial.
3. In time, to create a balanced, mixed age and species woodland, with top, middle and bottom storey native species, improving the habitat and increasing the variety of wildlife.
4. To protect the stability of the bank, adjacent road and shoreline.

5. To maintain the minimum statutory clearance of 5.2m over the public highway, 2.1m over the path and steps, and a minimum clearance of 1-2m from the adjacent power lines.
6. To minimise the cost of maintenance, consistent with the above.

3. Short-Term Plans 0 –12 months

These points are based on the recommendations of Andy Burton NCH (arb) of Devon Tree Services (ii). The figures (net of VAT) are an approximate guide and are included to give an indication of the anticipated costs involved. NNPC will obtain firm quotations before proceeding.

1. Fell and remove all dying Elms. [£350]
2. Crown lift selected trees adjacent to the roadside and steps to maintain statutory clearances of 2.1m and 5.2m over the footpath and road respectively, and to provide a 1-2m clearance from the power lines. This operation will also open up “glimpses” of the river. [£300]
3. Remove all trees with poor form. There are several of these along the bank, mostly small trees, the removal of which will help to improve the development of better formed and preferred specimens. [£475.]
4. Sever ivy on **heavily-infested** trees, removing a 300mm section. [£75]
Retaining the less invasive ivy will support some natural wildlife habitat.
5. Fell leaning and dead Elms over the walkway to Pumping Station. [225].
6. To prevent erosion of the bank by collapsing trees and to maintain a clear foreshore, coppice all the low level branches which are leaning out of the bank across the foreshore at high water level. [£700]

4. Longer-Term Plans 2007 – 2020

Continue with above activity, cutting back excessive Ivy and ‘Old Man’s Beard’ (*Clematis vitalba*), removing dead and dying Elms, crown lifting where necessary and removing trees with poor form. In 2009, start an active replacement programme of the Sycamore with Oak, Ash, Birch, Alder etc, if natural regeneration is not already taking place. Similarly encourage an under-storey and shrub layer of Dog-Rose, Hawthorn, Elder, Holly, Honeysuckle, Hazel, Blackthorn etc.

5. Acknowledgements

- (i) Notes of a Meeting between Polly Stone (SHDC, Tree Officer), Jeremy Brown (Chairman of NNPC) and affected Residents (4th July 2005). As well as the direct quotation, many of the Objectives and Plans are based on these Notes.
- (ii) Letter form Andy Burton NCH (arb) Devon Tree Services dated 26 September 2005 to Jacki Eschbaecher, Clerk to NNPC.

