

Summary – Lower Denholm Dean Management Plan (2025–2035)

What is this document?

We have developed an updated Management Plan (MPL) for Lower Denholm Dean, outlining how the woodland will be managed and enhanced over the next 10 years. This plan has been shaped by committee input and is now ready for wider circulation and feedback.

Lower Denholm Dean is a valued community woodland. The plan seeks to balance ecological restoration, sustainable woodland management, public access, and local engagement. It offers a structured approach to woodland care and stewardship and will support funding applications such as through the Forestry Grant Scheme.

Who manages the woodland?

Lower Denholm Dean was gifted to the local community and is legally owned by the Denholm Feuars & Householders Council (DFHC). It is managed on their behalf by the Denholm Dean Committee – a group of local residents with backgrounds in conservation, forestry, and land management. The committee leads on the day-to-day stewardship of the woodland, reflecting both the practical and community interests in its care.

What does the Management Plan include?

- A clear vision and five core management objectives covering biodiversity, resilience, education, access, and community involvement.
- A detailed woodland description, including tree species, ground flora, and habitat types.
- Strategic priorities for enhancing resilience to climate change, supporting wildlife, managing access, and maintaining infrastructure.
- A 10-year plan with specific actions by area.
- Appendices including a 10-Year Work Programme and Annual Risk Assessment, plus proposals to explore governance improvements and potential woodland-based enterprise.

Resources

Delivery of the plan is led by the Dean Committee, supported by local volunteers with relevant woodland and ecological experience. The group holds £7,000 from timber sales and tree sponsorship, with £2,000 reserved for emergencies. Remaining funds are directed toward access, biodiversity, and community projects. Further external funding may be sought where needed.

Why is this plan important?

The MPL provides a practical framework for managing the woodland in line with national standards. It supports grant applications, informs decision-making, and ensures continuity of care over time. It also helps foster greater local participation and pride in the woodland.

31/10/2025