

3 Year Woodland Management Plan- session plan (1hr 30mins)

Unit 4. Understand the ecological impact of a Forest School program

2.1 Assess the ecological impact of running a Forest school program on own site

2.2 Develop a 3 year management plan for the sustainable use of own Forest school area, based on the ecological impact assessment

Timing	Activity
10mins	What do you need to think about before we start? What site will we use? Who owns it? Is there any existing management in place? What affordance does it have? What could it do with? What level of permission do you have, can you light fires etc. Long term vision. How would you like it to be in 3/5/10 years time
10mins	Walk to the woods
15mins	Map the woodland area that we are using. Mark on any boundaries, access points, water features, activity areas such as fire site, shelter building area... Sylva myForest doc. Can the children be involved in this?
10mins	Do a site survey of the trees. Sylva myForest doc. Check safety of trees Can the children be involved in this?
5mins	Also do a basic survey of plants and animals. Are there any rare species that need protecting or invasive species that would benefit from active management? Can the children be involved in this?
10mins	Ecological impact assessment Sylva myForest doc. Can the children be involved in this?
5mins	Check for environmental designations/restrictions. Check Magic Defra website, ask land owner/manager
10mins	Walk back
5mins	Ideas to improve biodiversity or habitats Can the children be involved in this? –bird boxes, dead hedging, habitat piles, tree planting etc.
10mins	Make a 3 year plan based around your ecological impact assessment and other ideas. Consider the best time of year to do work Monitor to see if what you are doing is working/sustainable- Surveys/fixed point photos etc.

Resources needed. “ myForest for education site survey form” (4pages) for each participant and a map of the site.

Notes

Positive management- what can you do to maintain, improve or develop the ecology/biodiversity of the site. Eg. Plant trees, remove invasive species, bird boxes, areas of non intervention etc.

Aims for year 1 some ideas... survey area, create a path, monitor deadwood and other habitats

Aims for year 2 some ideas... put up bird boxes, plant trees,

Aims for year 3 some ideas... clear out bird boxes, monitor

Monitoring methods

Eg. Fixed point photography, flora and fauna surveys. Can the children be involved in this?

How often? Monthly/seasonally/annually.