

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Kinda Forest School was established in Kaliwood, Holton, Halesworth in September 2018. The owner, Rachel Kellett, is a director of the company and a facilitator.

Kaliwood covers five acres on the edge of Holton, near Halesworth. The history of the woodland is recorded here [www.kaliwood.wordpress.com](http://www.kaliwood.wordpress.com). In September 2019, retrospective planning permission was obtained from the local authority, for a change of use from woodland to Kinda Forest School two days a week.

Recognising the potential impact of woodland activities on the natural environment of Kaliwood, we strive to use the woodland sustainably and to enhance its biodiversity and ecological value. By doing this we will encourage all learners to develop a level of respect for the natural world.

Kinda Forest School staff and children are involved in the woodland management. We work together to protect, conserve and develop diversity within the flora and fauna of the woodland. Working with the owner, we carry out environmental impact assessments to evaluate the impact of activities in the woodland and we use the outcomes of this to inform the woodland management plan for Kaliwood. Management activities include annual coppicing, selective thinning, dead hedging, establishing habitats for insects and small mammals, pathway creation and replenishing tree stock through planting.

All adults who work at Kinda Forest School are involved in the woodland management, and form a work party on six days during the year as an exchange for having the forest school there. Being familiar with the Kaliwood management plan, the Kinda adults can therefore answer questions from participants.

Permaculture is at our heart. It is a practical method of developing ecologically harmonious and efficient systems to manage natural resources to meet our needs for food, fuel, shelter and community.

### **Initial and continual Ecological Impact Assessments**

KFS Directors did a site survey before the Forest School started in 2018, looking at how KFS activities might impact on the area, considering the different areas of the woodland, both vertically and horizontally.

The area determined for the school had been coppiced the previous year, so gave a natural opening. A general risk assessment was performed and confirmed as follows: It was away from the ponds which were a potential hazard. It was practically within each reach of the entrance and car parking facilities.

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The following areas and aspects were taken into account for the ecological impact:

- Vertically - Canopy, Understory, Field layer and Ground layer
- Horizontally - the different areas of the woodland for example, pond, borders, coppiced area.
- There will be short term, long term, permanent, reversible impacts.

### **Woodland Management**

Every winter a team of coppice workers together with the regular tree surgeon (Paul Jackson) work the wood for 2-5 days. Paul Jackson leads the work and Risk Assessment.

Boundaries are checked for loose or falling limbs

Hedges are kept cut along the common foot baths

Hedges are laid where possible along the northern and southern boundaries (re-laid every 5 years)

Hazel and hawthorn are coppiced on a 5-7 year cycle, an acre at a time.

The cabin structure is checked, gutters cleared.

Compost toilet structure is checked.

Compost areas are turned.

In addition

Neil Mahler comes to do a fungi survey every year, September October.

Graham Peck comes to do a flower survey every summer

### **Site Access and Appropriate Entrance**

The Kaliwood site is down a WW2 track, which leads to 2 other dwellings. Planning Permission for Forest School was granted on the grounds that the track was kept clear and the entrance from the road was never obstructed. Instructions to this end is made clear to all KFS families.

Parking is only in the woodland and space is made for adequate parking for up to 15 cars with a roundabout for ease of movement

### **Site Secure from Intruders**

The WW2 Track is also a public footpath leading to Holton Pits, used by many local people and dog walkers. While many walk down the track, there is a gate to the wood, with the sign on it PRIVATE and a phone number of the owner (Rachel Kellett). During Kinda Forest School sessions, the gate is kept closed, with a sign on it saying **FOREST SCHOOL IN PROGRESS, VISITORS PLEASE REPORT IN using this telephone number (KFS NUMBER)**

There is a procedure for any friend of visitor coming to KFS which involves signing in a Visitors book, and having their identity confirmed.

Written by Rachel Kellett 2019/2020

Review date Jan 2021

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>Action</b>
Forest School area	This area will be the most disturbed on Ground, Field and Understory areas	One area in the wood chosen and restricted, easily accessible to prevent most upheaval
Path Clearing - paths to and from the Forest School, paths to and from the toilet or other facilities frequently used	Ground and Field Understory will be effected. Plants maybe lost.	Make clear paths so that only these areas are disturbed. If left to regrow should recover
Cross contamination Spread of Spores	Inevitably adults and children will bring with them spores and matter from the outside, inadvertently. This can be both positive and negative. It's the way spores of plants and fungi are effectively spread. It's also the way plant disease is spread (eg Ash Die back)	Cannot be avoided. Monitor any new plant arriving. This year a mass of wild carrot came to the wood, but this could have been dormant spores.
Shelter Building	Involves Ground, Field and Understory, may be canopy. Trampling of Flora/Fauna as site is used. Braking branches during building.	Area should recover when left. Used uncoppiced area to protect young and forming (hazel) coppice.
Fire Lighting	Possible spread of fire either from spark or cinder.	Fire restricted to one area, Area well secured, and with plenty of 'dead' space around to protect and ensure no spread of sparks or warm cinders. Ensure set up and cleaning are supervised.
Cutting of ground wood and collecting of appropriate branches.	Usage of wood Irreversible! Effects ground field, understory and canopy. Collection of wood for cutting will disturb ground and field levels. Cut wood will grow again in time. Coppiced wood will have great beneficial effect to biodiversity. Some trees maybe felled. Although this is negative ground layer will receive more sunlight allowing new plants to thrive.	Ensure wood is well seasoned Gather wood into a wood store to ensure least disturbance of woodland (collected over one period of time, preferably dormant winter)
Introduction of plastic and non biodegradable material	Non biodegradable material will always remain within the wood. For example Farmers tyres, chicken take away wrappers, old rusty machinery parts	Keep to a minimum and always keep contained. Take rubbish off site. Keep on site only essential materials. Do a regular check of the woodland floor for foreign bodies!
Boundary maintenance: Forest School boundary and woodland boundary	FS boundary Keeps impact limited to a particular area. Woodland boundary is an additional security.	

