

Uig Wood

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Uig Wood

Location:	Uig, Portree Grid reference: NG396643 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 23
Area:	17.60 hectares (43.49 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Uig Wood lies within the village of Uig on the Trotternish Peninsula of Skye. It is made up of three distinct parts – a fringe of mature woodland along the shore of Uig Bay and two steep-sided ravine woodlands, which follow the courses of the Rha and Conon Rivers respectively. Together, these make up one of the most extensive broadleaved woodlands in the North of Skye. In a largely treeless landscape, Uig Woods are of great importance, both for their aesthetic value, and for the flora and fauna that they support.

The underlying geology of the site is tertiary igneous rock; olivine-basalt and dolomite, which gives rise to fertile, neutral to slightly alkaline soils.

Native broadleaves, including ash, wych elm, alder and hazel, make up the majority of the woodland, although ash is in decline following the discovery of ash die back in the wood in 2019. Much of the site is likely to have been planted sometime before the mid 19th century, but over the years it has developed the characteristics of a natural woodland. The deepest and most inaccessible parts of the ravines are likely to have supported trees for a very long time.

Non-native tree species are present in significant numbers, including sycamore, Norway maple, mixed conifers, and the occasional horse chestnut. Some of these non native species would have been planted in the 19th or early 20th century for their ornamental value, while others, mainly sycamore, larch and Sitka spruce were planted much later, in the 1970's when the site was owned by the Department of Agriculture.

After 1988, when the woodland was acquired by the Woodland Trust, most of the younger conifer plantings were removed; some of the resulting open areas were later restocked with native broadleaves. In 2005, a major storm blew down a number of large Douglas and silver firs in the Shore woods; this area now is now filling in with naturally regenerating native species and sycamore. The storms of winter 2021/22 blew further trees down in the shore wood area, mostly alder in the wetter less stable ground.

The woodland supports a rich and diverse flora. At the base of the ravines, damp and fertile soils support a number of 'ancient woodland indicator species' such as wild garlic, alternate leaved golden saxifrage, bluebell, and common figwort. Their presence suggests that there has been continuity of woodland cover here over a very long period. Lichens enjoy the mild, oceanic climate, and while some species grow luxuriantly in the Shore Woods, a wider range is found on the sheltered upper slopes of the gorges. 142 lichens have been recorded in the woods, with elm the most frequent host species. Alder, ash, and, to a lesser extent, hazel and sycamore are also important.

A well-used footpath runs through the Shore Wood from the Community Hall to the local shop and post office. The entrances to Rha and Conon woods are on the East side of the main Portree to Uig road. This is a busy route during the summer months with traffic crossing to the Outer Isles by ferry from Uig daily, as well as the many thousands of tourists drawn to Uig by the Fairy Glen and Rha waterfall en route to the Quiraing.

In each of the two glens there is a short path that allows access into the bottom of the ravine. In Rha Glen, the path ends with an impressive view of the waterfall. In Conon Glen there are traces of an old burial ground –the larger part of which was washed out to sea in the Great Flood of Uig, 1877, which also destroyed the bridge over the Conon, and Uig Lodge, which stood close to the bay.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term vision for Uig Wood is for a biologically rich, semi-natural native dominated woodland habitat, which continues to make an important contribution to the biological diversity and landscape character of North Skye.

The processes of natural succession will remain dynamic within the woodland, resulting in evolving age, structures and densities of cover. The rich flora and fauna associated with the site will remain secure, and woodland specialist flora will remain locally abundant and otherwise frequent throughout the two gorge woodlands. Elm will continue to be a key component of the wood, and small scale planting of elm, using saplings grown from seed collected on site, will be done in gaps, where appropriate, to ensure a continuation of the species in this part of Skye.

Non native tree regeneration and shrub species that could be, or are becoming, a threat to the native tree and shrub species, as well as the ground flora, will be removed. Mature non-native tree species will be allowed to see out their natural lives, unless they become an issue for users of the public roads or paths.

The site will provide an area of quiet informal recreation to a wide range of users both from the local community and from further afield. With the massive increase in pressure to sites in Skye from global tourism, the information we provide will be low impact high quality visual information that orientates the visitors to discover the site on their own terms. The path infrastructure will be robust in the face of increased foot traffic and rainfall. Working with the relevant committees and community members in Uig, we will play a role in providing a positive experience in the North of Skye that promotes responsible tourism.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 F1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

The whole site is classified in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as being of Long Established Plantation Origin, however it is likely that the most inaccessible parts of the gorge woodlands have been relatively undisturbed over a very long period, and could better be described as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland.

The gorge woodlands are dominated by ash (in decline), wych elm, alder and hazel, but some areas have been modified in the past by the planting of conifers (larch, Sitka spruce and Scots pine) and non native broadleaves (sycamore, Norway maple and occasional horse chestnut). The shore wood comprises planted sycamore, Norway maple, elm and mixed conifers but there is also a significant component of younger native species including alder, ash, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn. The shore wood was originally planted as a policy wood and shelterbelt. It was grazed by cattle until 1998 but all stock is now excluded from the wood.

Significance

Broadleaved woodland of all types is rare in Skye, but native woodland of any antiquity is particularly rare. The woods adjoin other areas of scattered native trees and hazel scrub.

The woods are mainly modified upland ash woods (W9), which have their own biodiversity habitat action plan. Mixed ash woods are amongst the richest habitats for wildlife in the uplands. Uig Woods supports a rich specialist woodland ground flora, including several ancient woodland indicator species such as wild garlic, alternate leaved golden saxifrage, bluebell, upland enchanter's nightshade, pignut, sweet woodruff, yellow pimpernel, barren strawberry, sanicle, common figwort, hard fern, and common polypody.

Survey work in 2001 recorded a total of 142 lichen taxa from the three Uig woodlands, of which 132 were from trees and shrubs and 24 on rocks and stonework (14 species common to both substrata). 11 Nationally scarce species were recorded. The three woodlands are assessed as Grade 6 Local Importance (Coppins 2001).

Opportunities & Constraints

The unfortunate demise of ash in the wood due to ash die back is particularly apparent in the two glens, most likely due to the humid nature of these. As ash declines, it reduces the ecological diversity of the site and the loss of a species so important to the lower plant interest of the site. However, the loss of ash from the canopy creates an opportunity to plant under represented, or absent, native species from the wood that would maintain or increase the ecological diversity of the site, such as aspen, elder, and wild cherry. As the last survey was undertaken in 2001, further monitoring is required on the lower plant interest of the gorges before intervening in supplementary planting.

Dutch Elm disease is not present in the woodland. However, it has the potential to be a significant threat if it expands beyond its present northerly limit.

Natural regeneration in the gorge woodlands is relatively good and is likely to respond to future canopy gaps as they develop. Where there is a grassy understory in the Shore woods, there is little or no seedling regeneration, and it is unlikely that new canopy gaps will be colonised naturally without management input. Elm is the dominant native species in the canopy, but its light seeds are at a disadvantage on grassy sites.

The gaps in the shore wood created through the removal of Fuschia, Cotoneaster, silver fir regeneration and windblown alder have created opportunities to plant in the previous plan (2018 to 2023). These areas will be maintained and further gaps created through tree safety work, particularly sub compartment 2a.

Factors Causing Change

The unchecked regeneration of non native conifers, bracken, and fuchsia would impact upon the diversity across much of the site.

As the site is exposed to the West, an increase in extreme weather patterns from the South West may cause an increase in wind blown trees and damage throughout the wood, which will have an impact on choices of tree species for the future, particularly in the Shore Wood.

The discovery of ash die back in the wood in 2019, and the subsequent rapid infection of all young ash and some of the mature trees will lead to the loss, or near loss, of ash throughout the site.

Elm is a significant species in parts of the wood, if Dutch elm disease was to reach here, it would have a significant impact on the woodland.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The total area of ancient woodland will not diminish. The associated species assemblage will remain secure through sensitively removing non natives tree and shrub species. Natural succession will remain dynamic within the woodland, resulting in an evolving age and species structure that is robust in the face of tree disease impacting ash and elm in particular.

Shore Wood will be sensitively managed to ensure there is a sheltered vista across Uig Bay nestled amongst native tree species and a thriving native understorey.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Removal of non natives:

- Annually to monitor control success of invasive non natives removed during the previous five years (silver fir, Cotoneaster, Fuschia, privet) and intervene if required through spraying regrowth.

Ensuring diversity:

- By the end of the plan period, to collect elm seed from trees in Conon Glen (compartment 1a) or the Shore Wood (compartment 2a) and grow on in a nearby poly tunnel, to plant out as they become available in appropriate locations. It is aimed to plant 20 elm in two of the years and to make any additional trees available locally.
- By the end of the plan period, to plant 15 hazel, 15 hawthorn, 5 alder, 3 elm in sub compartment 2a. This work

replaces mature trees previously removed through safety issues.

- In sub compartment 1a, to plant 30 aspen in the open bracken area by the end of the plan period to increase native woodland diversity adjacent to sycamore and spruce.
- To undertake a lower plant survey in the Rha and Conon Glens by the end of the plan period, with the aim of providing sufficient information to inform decisions on the levels of planting, if desirable, that would be started the following year as the last year of this Management Plan

Managing grazing:

- To monitor the boundary fences round the Rha and Conon Glens annually and carry out repairs as required.

4.2 F2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Uig Wood is made up of several distinct parcels of woodland in and around Uig. Shore Wood links the Community Hall to the Village Shop, where 600m of flat firm gravel path with a short moderate ramp at the East end to a kissing gate that takes visitors through a small yet diverse woodland with views out to Uig Bay. Two picnic benches and an orientation board can be found here to inform the visit, or encourage the visitor to linger with a picnic. In the Conon Glen, a flat narrow uneven gravel path with muddy sections takes the visitor through a narrow kissing gate and around 300m along the base of the glen between the River Conon and the steep sides of the glen itself. The highlight of a visit to Uig Wood is to visit the dramatic Rha Glen with the two stage waterfall at the end of the path. To access the waterfall via the 300m path, pass through a dry stone wall, where there is an orientation board, up a flight of wide steps then along a short section which is narrow with a hand rail along the edge of a steep drop to the side. From there another flight of steps takes the visitor down into the Glen where a narrow, flat, gravel path winds its way to the base of the waterfall.

The paths are well used by locals and visitors who are offered fantastic views across Uig Bay, and to get up close and personal with a dramatic waterfall. Car parking facilities are by kind permission of the Uig Community Hall, where access to the Shore Wood with Conon Glen beyond can be gained. To access to Rha Glen from here, a five minute walk back along the road takes you to the entrance. The orientation board at the Shore Wood entrance will allow visitors to see the route round. The woods are only around a ten minute walk from the ferry terminal and café's, with ferry passengers driving past the woods on the way to and from the ferry. With an increase in use, more visitors are not finding the Rha Glen path from the Uig Hall car park. A direct path through sub compartment 3a could help with this issue.

Skye is a huge global tourist destination site, the second most visited tourist destination in Scotland next to Edinburgh. Visitors to the Uig area will be passing through on the way to the Quiraing, a site featured in film and television such as Game of Thrones and Prometheus and attracted destination tourists as well as those seeking the spectacular views and landscapes. It is also the terminal point for the ferries to the Outer Hebrides. Following the works to improve the welcome and safety of the Rha Glen, it is becoming a 'must do' on the way between the Fairy Glen and the Quiraing for tourist tours in minibuses.

Part of the site includes the shoreline (sub compartment 2b), an area that receives substantial quantities of marine litter annually. The annual beach clean event in April is a firm fixture clearing the wider beach area planned by the volunteers with support from Uig Community and Highland Council.

There are currently three Volunteer Wardens who lives nearby the site. The site is patrolled by Highland Council

Access Rangers during the high season to help reduce impacts by visitors not complying with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Two orientation panels are in the wood. One at the entrance to Rha Glen and the other at the Western entrance to Shore Wood. There are four public entrances, one of which has a ladder board entrance sign with the other three having smaller wooden signs in place.

There are two picnic benches in Shore Wood, marked on the orientation boards.

Benches, entrance signage, and interpretation panels were all installed in 2017. If required, these should be replaced towards the end of this plan period.

Significance

Uig Woods are a rare feature in a largely treeless landscape, giving visitors the opportunity to experience some ancient woodland within this dramatic setting. The Shore Wood gives visitors some shelter while enjoying the open vistas to the West.

The number of tourists visiting Skye is staggering, and a cause of polarized opinion on the benefits and impacts on culture, environment, employment, housing.

Public access to the wood by local people is important to the local community as the wood provides a link from the village to the shop without having to walk along the main road.

Opportunities & Constraints

As the community of Uig, and Skye in general, struggles to cope with the volume of tourists, and begins to implement initiatives to provide a high quality experience to visitors without impacting on the features they have come to see, the Trust can play its part in Uig by sharing information with our visitors and ensuring there is a joined up approach to issues created by irresponsible use of land by tourists in the village. Examples would include fires, litter, and cutting trees.

There is potential for work party activities on the site doing a community beach clean, wildlife surveys, etc.

There is a primary school nearby that could be engaged with the woodland through activities such as tree planting.

With the volunteers onsite regularly, the use of Outdoor Access information postcards could be trialled here to aid in the education of the public camping or lighting fires to complement the efforts of the Highland Council Access Ranger.

The steep sides of Rha Glen make it impossible to increase the length of the path there. In Conon Glen, the route could be taken further into the wood, but would be dependent on the owner of the River Conon permitting a crossing. A crossing would also be very expensive. A previous, now overgrown, route on the south side could be explored, but would need to balance the loss of habitat and increased disturbance, with the positive benefits offered to users.

Visitors who park at the Hall to then walk to the Rha waterfall can sometimes be disorientated. The old route through

the wood from the A855 to A87 following the old track would show this route much more clearly but would be expensive to build with a long staircase as part of this. There would be the opportunity to consider this alongside planned path works in the area through Uig Community Trust and working alongside the neighbour.

Factors Causing Change

The Rha Glen path is very rough and muddy and is becoming worse on the back of an increase in tourist traffic.

The number of tourists using the site is certainly going to increase over the coming years and bring with it pressure on the infrastructure and the natural environment.

With the increase in campervans and motorhomes coming to Skye, some have found their way to the beach area, which is a cause for some concern with an increase in litter, erosion, and human waste.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Uig Woods will provide a place of quiet informal recreation for local people and visitors. Promoted carefully, with messages on responsible behaviour in line with other venues, the woods will form part of the package on offer in the Trotternish peninsula.

All visitors will be more informed about the importance of the woodland through high quality web based information, rather than an increase in on-site information.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Access provision will be in keeping with WT access guidelines. Achieved by ensuring that:

- Entrances and signage are welcoming to visitors and well cared for annually.
- All managed paths are kept well drained and free from encroaching vegetation by strimming and maintaining drainage and that access features such as gates and steps are kept in good order annually.
- The site is kept safe and welcoming by repairing vandalism, clearing fallen trees and regular site safety surveys.

The visitor welcome and experience will be further enhanced by the following improvements:

- To work with Uig Community Trust to assess further path provision that is sensitive to the ancient woodland and that can enhance the visitor experience and to agree a plan by the end of this plan period. Should funding be forthcoming, to look at how and where this would be best used.
- Rebuild the kissing gate entrance into the Conon Glen to be wide enough for visitors with rucksacks. To have a gate adjacent for path maintenance and access by buggies/ power barrows.
- By the end of the plan period to resurface the soft sections of footpath in the Shore Wood and Conon Glen path.
- Replacing benches and signage towards the end of this plan period should they be required.

Engagement:

- When planting, to provide an opportunity for volunteers and supporters to plant a tree through the planting in sub compartments 1a and 2a.
- Continue to organise the Uig Community Beach Clean event to be held on or around the last Saturday of April each year (22nd April 2023 will be first in this plan period).

Engagement:

- When planting, to provide an opportunity for volunteers and supporters to plant a tree through the planting in sub compartments 1a and 2a.
- Continue to organise the Uig Community Beach Clean event to be held on or around the last Saturday of April each year (22nd April 2023 will be first in this plan period).
- To provide seasonal fire signage for volunteers to erect during periods of dry weather.
- To provide 'Woodland Welcomer' postcards to volunteers to hand to members of the public to inform discuss when experiencing SOAC non- compliance.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	March
2023	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the initial phase of invasive plant control – such as rhododendron felling and mulching	August
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	October
2023	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	October
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	October
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2024	WC - Tree / Seed Supply	The supply of trees/seeds for woodland creation sites	June
2024	HF - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants / vegetation posing a threat to a historical or cultural feature/ building or area – such as Japanese knotweed	August
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	October
2025	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	March
2025	WC - Tree / Seed Supply	The supply of trees/seeds for woodland creation sites	June
2025	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	HF - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants / vegetation posing a threat to a historical or cultural feature/ building or area – such as Japanese knotweed	August
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	October
2026	WC - Tree / Seed Supply	The supply of trees/seeds for woodland creation sites	June
2026	HF - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants / vegetation posing a threat to a historical or cultural feature/ building or area – such as Japanese knotweed	August
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	October
2026	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	November
2027	HF - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants / vegetation posing a threat to a historical or cultural feature/ building or area – such as Japanese knotweed	August
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	October

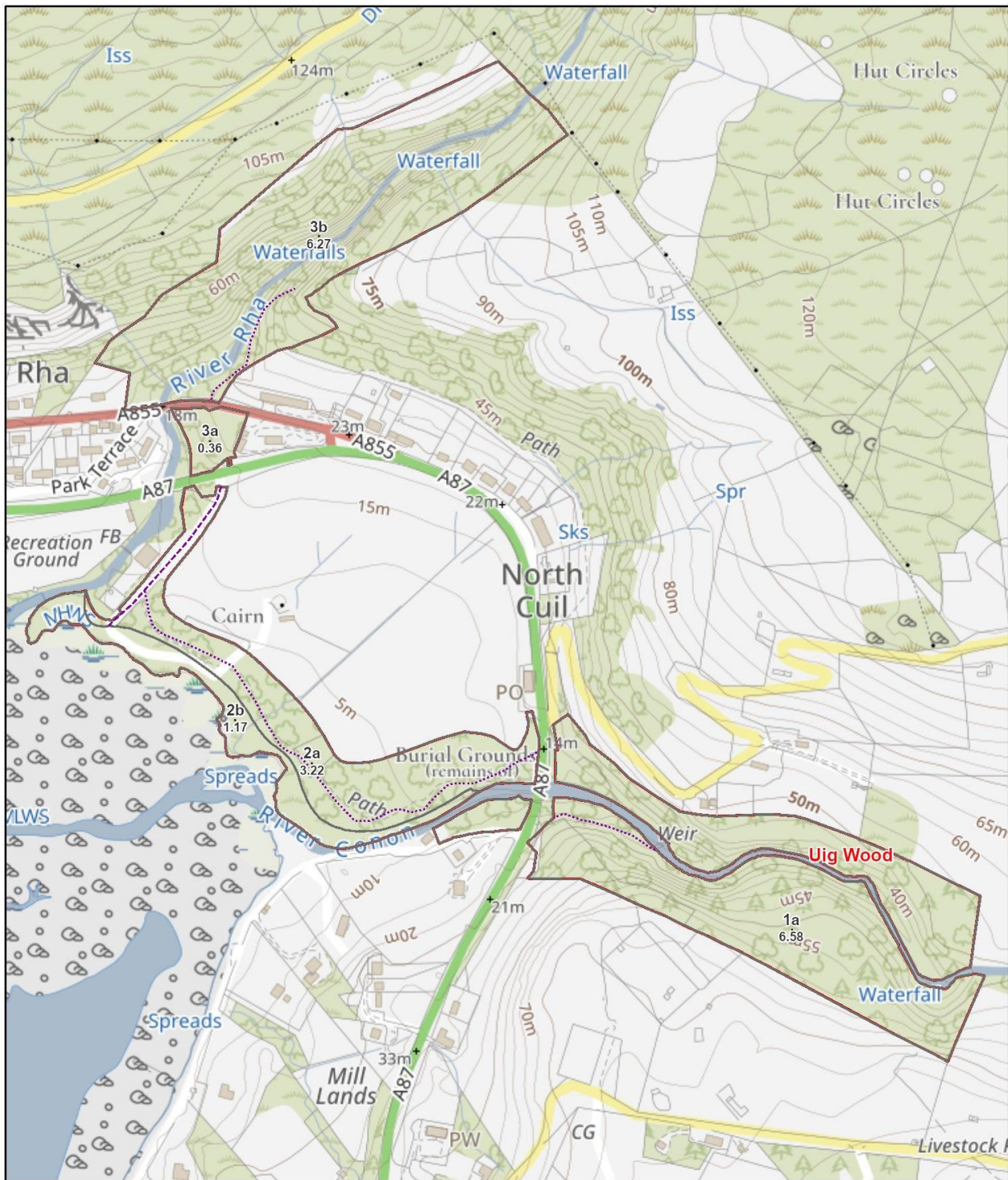
APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	6.58	Mixed broadleaves	1850	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	
<p>A steep and inaccessible gully along the course of the Conon River, levelling out into more moderate slopes towards the southern boundary. There is a concrete weir at the end of the short access route into the wood at NG 339637. On the north side of the river, close to the road bridge, are the remains of a burial ground. The woodland is mature, mixed broadleaf with wych elm, sycamore, Norway maple, ash and alder. All young ash are heavily infected with ash die back with most mature ash showing some sign of decline. There is a stand of hazel at the Northern end, on the North side of the river. A few individual mature larch are present on the upper edges. In the south east corner of the sub-compartment, sycamore is frequent on a moderately steep slope rising from the public road. Where the ground levels out along the southern boundary an area of c. 0.25ha sitka spruce was felled in approx 1994 (NG399636); this area is now dominated by bracken with occasional birch and rowan. On the gentler slopes above the ravine, in the southeast portion of the sub-compartment, the woodland has been influenced by past grazing and has an open, gladed structure. Ferns including Buckler Fern, Lady Fern and Hard Shield Fern dominate the ground flora on the steeper gully slopes, with pockets of woodland specialist flora including wild garlic and bluebell. The herb layer of upper slopes on the south side is generally grassy, or dominated by bracken in the open areas. There is relatively limited lichen interest in the bottom of the ravine, where the limited light and constantly humid conditions favour bryophytes over lichens. On the upper slopes, the gladed, open woodland to the south of the ravine supports the greatest diversity of lichen species. Conon Glen exhibits rather less diversity of ground flora and lichen species than Rha Glen, possibly attributable to past disturbance, including weir construction, grazing and the 19th century flood.</p>						
2a	3.21	Mixed broadleaves	1900	Min-intervention		
<p>A wide band of mixed deciduous trees along the edge of Uig Bay, extending up to the main road at each end. A path runs the length of the wood from an entrance by the road bridge over the Conon, to the Community Hall, from where a tree-lined lane leads back to the road. A stone wall encloses the wood, with an oak gate leading from the wood to the river Conon. The woodland is composed of mature wych elm, sycamore, Norway maple, alder and occasional hawthorn, with a few younger sycamore (approx. 1970) and some more recent plantings (c. 2000) of ash and rowan, and hazel, hawthorn, elm in 2022 planted by U3A. Trees close to the shore often exhibit scorched foliage caused by salt laden winds. Alder becomes more frequent along the banks of the Conon. A large number of mature, specimen conifers in the section of woodland between Conon Bridge and the shore blew down in a storm in</p>						

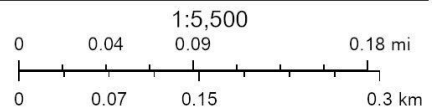
Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>2005. Regeneration since then has been vigorous, and new native woodland cover is developing in this area. Ground flora is richest in the area below Conon Bridge, although dockens dominate some areas. Ragwort is also present. Elsewhere, the herb layer is grassy. The ground flora has been influenced by past grazing, but stock has been excluded from the wood for several years. Lichens are abundant and luxuriant, particularly on trees on the landward side of the wood. They are also frequent on the stone dyke and on boulders under the trees. Despite this abundance, the lichen species diversity in this part of the woods is relatively poor.</p>						
2b	1.15	Open ground		Min-intervention		
<p>Shore line and riverbank along high water mark, with scattered regeneration of ash and sycamore. Area of open shore beyond dyke extending to high water mark. Predominantly grassland. The shoreline forms a natural gathering point for large volumes of litter, particularly plastic, during the winter months.</p>						
3a	0.27	Mixed broadleaves	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	
<p>Small block bounded by roads to the north and south, and by the River Rha to West. The line of the old road, which originally connected the Staffin and Pier roads can be clearly traced through the block. There is a closed mature canopy of sycamore and elm with some alder along the riverbank. There is a rich ground flora including bluebells and ferns.</p>						
3b	6.16	Mixed broadleaves	1850	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves	

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>A steep and inaccessible ravine following the course of the Rha River. There is an impressive waterfall at the end of the short access path into the lower part of the wood. Mature ash and wych elm dominate the woodland with sycamore, Norway maple, alder, hawthorn and hazel. As with sub compartment 1a, the ash is all showing signs of infection with the younger ash showing very advanced signs of infection. On the north side of the Rha, in the upper section of the ravine, there are steep slopes dominated by wind-sheared hazel scrub interspersed with hawthorn, which continues beyond the Woodland Trust ownership boundary further up the glen. On the south side of the river, 0.7ha of larch was felled in 1993, retaining a double row along the fence boundary. This area was subsequently restocked with native broadleaves. The upper reaches of the wood on the south bank are on gentler slopes with an open, gladed structure. Ground flora is dominated by grasses and ferns on the upper edges of the ravine, with a diverse and rich specialist woodland flora lower down including several ancient woodland indicator species such as wild garlic, alternate leaved golden saxifrage, hard fern, bluebell, upland enchanter's nightshade, sweet woodruff, yellow pimpernel and sanicle. Although the diversity of lichen species overall is greater in Rha Glen than in Conon Glen, as with the latter, there is relatively limited lichen interest in the bottom of the ravine and a greater diversity on the better-lit upper slopes. A power line crosses the sub-compartment and the river, just above the lowest waterfall.</p>						

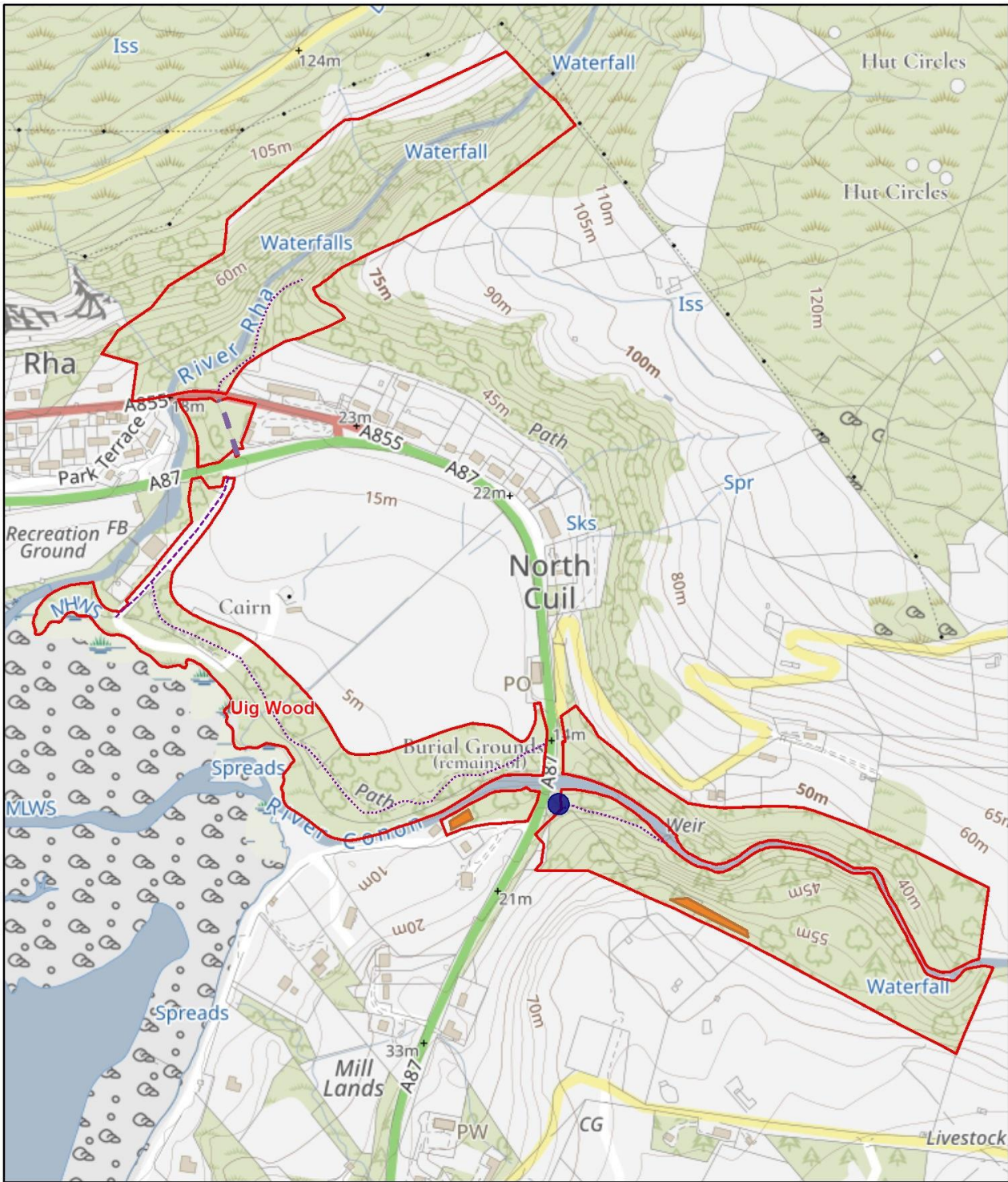
Boundary and Compartment Map - Uig Wood








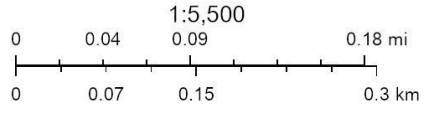
- Footpaths
- Sub compartment boundaries
- Woodland Trust boundary



Management Map - Uig Wood 2023 to 2028



-  Potential additional to path network
-  Planting areas
-  Gateway to be improved
-  Paths to be maintained
-  Woodland Trust boundary



Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

Registered Office:

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