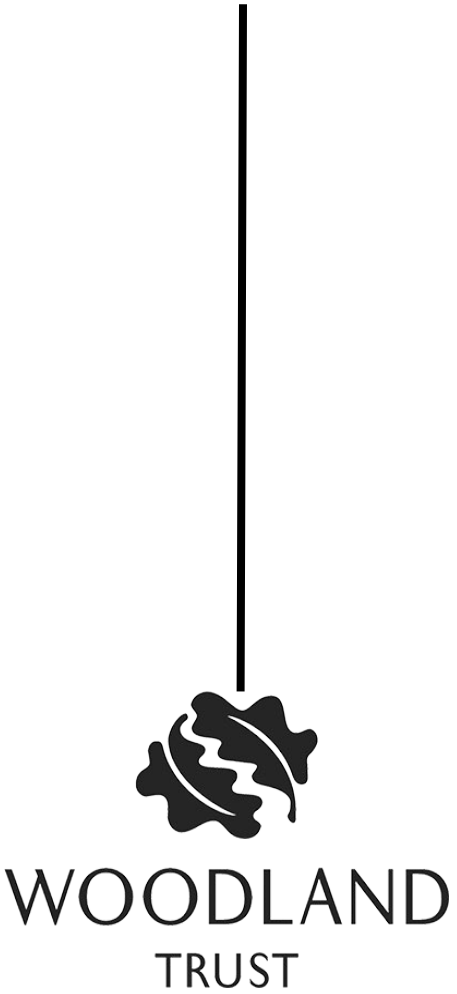
Earley Wood

(Plan period – 2020 to 2025)



Management Plan Content Page

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

1. SITE DETAILS

Earley Wood

Location:	Petham Grid reference: TR121503 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 179
Area:	21.77 hectares (53.79 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Earley Wood (21.77ha) is situated south west of Petham village between Waltham Road and Duckpit Road within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and approximately 6 miles south of Canterbury. It was notified in 1989 as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and the Woodland Trust bought Earley Wood in 2 stages, 15.51ha in 1981 and 6.26ha in 1994.
Earley Wood is ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW).

Earley Wood is situated on the edge of a dry valley situated to its east. The western side of the wood has a flat plateau position with a gradual slope downwards to the east towards the valley.

The ASNW has been historically managed by coppicing. Sweet chestnut was established in the 19th century within sub compartments 1a, northern part of 2a and 3d covering approximately 7ha whilst retaining many of the oak standards. Coppicing remains the main management operation over 12.97ha which includes areas of pure sweet chestnut and areas of mixed broadleaved coppice containing ash, field maple, hornbeam, sycamore and birch. There are also areas of abandoned coppice through the centre of the wood in sub compartments 2b and 3b covering approximately 4ha which are converting to high forest through natural processes encouraged by minimal intervention. A significant part of this minimal intervention woodland is made up of ash which has been infected with ash dieback fungus since 2013 onwards. As a consequence many ash trees are in a poor condition and many are in the process of dying.

There is a significant medieval woodbank around the edge of sub compartments 1a and 2a. This woodbank also forms the western edge or boundary of a 19th century avenue of veteran beech and hornbeam trees formed by sub compartment 3a. This was severely damaged in the 1987 storm. Other veteran trees exist mainly within the west side of the wood, some of which are in poor condition due to their age, particularly beech. There are at least 4 large old marl pits or open cast excavation holes within sub compartments 1a, 2a and 3b.

The ground flora shows a wide diversity of typical woodland plants linked to the slightly varying soil conditions. Bluebell and wood anemone provide a good show of colour in spring in the west of the wood on the clay with flint soil over chalk. Towards the eastern side as the soils become deeper and influenced more by chalk there are areas of dog's mercury, a number of small colonies of herb paris and orchids including lady orchid, lesser butterfly-orchid and early-purple orchid. 43 ancient woodland indicator plants have been recorded at this site.

Public access is low key at Earley Wood however it has a good network of permissive paths which circulate through the wood. Many of the paths have their edges coppiced regularly for conservation benefits. The terrain is gently sloping down to the east and in the eastern part there are some steep but short slopes to negotiate.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In fifty years' time, Earley Wood will be a resilient wooded landscape retaining its ancient woodland habitat areas. The woodland areas will contain a diverse structure providing a good range of different habitats typical of this native broadleaved woodland type. Ash, formerly well represented within the woodland will probably be a rare species due to ash dieback fungus infecting ash since 2012 or earlier. It is hoped that a small number of resilient ash trees will survive and future management should be to ensure that natural regeneration from these trees are able to survive and grow up into the upper canopy. Within the ancient woodland areas there will be a mosaic of actively coppiced areas interspersed amongst high forest managed through minimal intervention. Linking up the active coppice areas will be a wide ride habitat centred on some of the main tracks whose edges are coppiced on a short rotation.

Through the active management of selected coppiced areas within the ancient woodland, habitat for a range of invertebrate, bird and mammal species, including woodland specialist species which rely on temporary open space, will be provided for. The areas of over mature coppice managed through minimal intervention to allow natural processes to occur will in time lead to diverse habitat structures. This will be represented by an increase in the age of the trees and the accumulation of dead wood which will help to support a large range of invertebrates and fungi. In addition, as the trees senesce there will be an increasing prevalence of coppice stools splitting and falling apart. This will not only help to generate more deadwood but also allow the regeneration of an understory through increasing light levels. This is to be expected as a previously managed coppice woodland converts to a more semi natural woodland habitat through minimal intervention.

The presence of invasive trees and shrubs such as rhododendron will continue to be monitored, although it is expected that in 50 years' time any active control will by then be minimal. Deer will undoubtedly be present at Earley Wood in 50 years' time and their numbers will be monitored and controlled if their numbers become too high and the high browsing pressure prevents the woodland from regenerating.

Although the site will retain its tranquil character, it will be visited by a small number of visitors each year who appreciate and respect walking in a wooded landscape with diverse habitats and archaeological features, along a well-maintained network of paths.

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing people's understanding and enjoyment of woodland to help create a UK rich in native woods and trees, for people and wildlife.

Many of the Tree Charter principles are brought to life at Earley Wood, such as "sustain landscapes rich in wildlife", "grow forests of opportunity and innovation", "protect irreplaceable trees and woods", "make trees accessible to all", "combat the threats to our habitats" and "strengthen our landscapes with trees".

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Earley Wood contains the native woodland community represented by the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) W8 ash/field maple/dog's mercury woodland and is a good example of a North Downs dip-slope wood.

Despite this wood's small size, it has a good diversity of plant species which reflects the range of soil types present from clay with flints over chalk on the western side to deeper more chalk rich soils towards the east side of the wood on the slopes of the dry valley. Such dip-slope woods are unique and important in a national context.

The western part of the wood, the plateau woodland along the upper parts of the valley slope is actively managed chestnut coppice with much birch, aspen and, occasionally, hornbeam and sycamore. Hornbeam, ash, field maple, hazel coppice is more common to the east further down into the valley on the lower slopes, together with some large veteran aged over mature beech and pedunculate oak and sycamore. Old hornbeam pollards and maidens are also present.

On the upper parts of the valley slope, bramble, bluebell and wood anemone dominate. Lower down into the valley, especially on the deeper calcareous clays under hornbeam, hazel, ash coppice and ash, field maple coppice, the flora is much richer, although dog's mercury is the dominant species. 43 ancient woodland indicator plant species have been recorded in the past with notable species found such as herb paris which is locally abundant, with early purple, lesser butterfly, fly, white helleborine, birds-nest, pyramidal, twayblade and lady orchids present in small numbers on site. Woodruff has also been recorded. The wood supports a good variety of woodland birds which also includes records of nightingale being present in the past.

Historically, the ASNW at Earley Wood along with the majority of the ASNW of the Denge Wood complex to the north were managed as coppice with standards for 100's of years, so providing a network of temporary open space and scrub habitats. Since Woodland Trust ownership in 1981, Earley Wood has been managed to provide a broader range of habitats of managed coppice (60%), and minimal intervention (40%) areas where natural processes are allowed to take place.

The majority of the ash has been infected by ash dieback fungus since 2012 if not before then. Considerable quantities of dead ash trees started to appear from 2017 and ride edge felling of ash began in 2019 for safety reasons.

Significance

Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) is a dwindling and irreplaceable habitat and as such all remnants of ancient woodland needs to be protected from further loss. On the North Downs the ASNW areas are predominately situated within an intensively farmed (arable) landscape, with little habitat connectivity.
Protection of ASNW is a key objective of the Woodland Trust.

SNCI - a very good example of ancient dip-slope woodland on chalk in Kent with outstanding flora.
Ancient trees/pollards important for invertebrates, deadwood, bats, birds.

Within Earley Wood there is a significant area of coppice still within rotation. The benefits of coppicing are a continuity of the coppice habitat and its associated bird, mammal, invertebrate and plant assemblages which have survived under this type of management for 1000 years or more; maintains an intimate mixture of mainly light demanding tree species which would otherwise not be represented in woodlands; coppicing has enabled the direct links with original-natural (primaeval) woodland to be maintained; coppice woodlands provide opportunities for flora to survive along the ride network due to the higher light levels maintained within the woodland due to coppice activity.

Over each plan period significant areas are due to be coppiced to maintain this habitat type.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
To use the site to demonstrate the Trust's approach to woodland management and to influence neighboring landowners.

Constraints:
Earley Wood is bounded by arable and intensively grazed farmland with little opportunity to link to other woods or other semi-natural habitats.
The clay soils which become wet in winter time and the European Protected Species status of dormouse, which are assumed to be present, restricts the seasons in which active management work can be accomplished.

Factors Causing Change

Plant health:
Ash dieback fungus identified on site in 2012 will have a long term effect on the wood through the killing of ash trees. Retain ash trees for as long as possible so that resilient trees can be identified and retained.
Ash forms a significant component within the canopy through the majority of the ASNW.
In losing ash in ash dominated canopies, an increase in bramble and invasive scrub is to be expected. In this situation, where there is no significant natural regeneration of site native broadleaves or regenerating understorey this can result in the structure of the woodland and its habitat potentially being harmed. Re stocking with site native mixed broadleaves following coppicing/clearance of dying ash trees should be considered. Sycamore (from natural regeneration) is to be accepted as a component of the resulting woodland.

Deer:
Currently absent, but deer may move into the site. If present, deer impact assessments will be carried out and culling may be required if ancient woodland components are being damaged and threatened.

Invasive plants:
The presence of threatening invasive species will be monitored to ensure they are absent or minor with containment and eradication work carried out if necessary.

Climate Change:
This may bring changes and negative affects to the ancient woodland habitats.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Woodland biodiversity tends to be greater in wooded areas which are structurally diverse in terms of their age, species, edge habitat potential, understory and dead and decaying wood component.

The long term objective is to develop varied and robust native woodland with diverse and complex structure within the different woodland habitat types such as managed high forest, coppice, standards, rides, dead and decaying wood, areas left to develop by natural processes and all well represented within this woodland. This will be achieved through thinning, coppicing and retaining standards and other interventions such as ride side management.

Areas to coppice during particular plan periods will be dictated by their rotation age and their condition as a result of windblow and tree disease. The aim is to achieve a diverse age range of actively coppiced areas covering approximately 11ha connected to the secondary woodland area managed by coppicing by a maintained wide ride habitat of approximately 1.5km in length, all set within an ancient woodland matrix formed of managed high forest and over mature coppice managed as minimal intervention where natural processes will be allowed to shape the habitat. This will result in some of the coppice stools collapsing and splitting apart. This latter habitat will be showing the development of more naturalised woodland characteristics with a broader age range of trees through increasing amounts of regeneration, a developing woody shrub layer and the proportion of standing and fallen dead and decaying wood which will be increasing as this habitat matures.

To maintain this diverse habitat to ensure survival of a healthy and secure ground flora with appropriate deer numbers (if deer are present). The presence of threatening invasive species to be absent or minor with containment and eradication work as necessary.

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

The short term objective is to contribute towards the creation/ maintenance of structurally diverse woodland within a resilient wooded landscape through coppicing, ride management and the removal of exotic invasive species if present. This will be achieved through:

- Coppicing

Approximately 4.52ha of mixed broadleaved coppice to be felled through the plan period (1.46ha in 2021, 1.74ha in 2022 and 1.32ha in 2024 felling coppice cants 2a5, 2a6, 2a7, 2a8 and 2a11). Standards will be retained within the areas coppiced and the recruitment of “new” standards will occur to create (in the long term) a density of approximately 8-12 trees per acre (20-30 per ha), with additional standards recruited where necessary each time the areas are coppiced. Standards are to be a mixture of long term species (oak, hornbeam, wild cherry). Adjacent cants will not be cut until the coppice regrowth has reached a minimum of 2m in height with successful regrowth of cut stools, supplemented with natural regeneration of tree species to maintain an adequate stocking density where coppice stools have died of no less than 1100 stems per hectare.

- Ride edge management

During the plan period a 3 zone wide ride habitat with short rotation coppiced edges is to be maintained along

approximately 1.5km of rides maintaining pinch points where designated. There will be an annual programme of works to cut the vegetation within the 3 zones with zone 1 areas cut annually, zone 2 areas cut on a rotation of 3-5 years, and zone 3 cut on a 12-15 year rotation and all cut in a piecemeal fashion. This will accentuate the woodland edge habitat providing valuable temporary open space coppice habitat.
Much of the zone 3 felling (in this plan period) is principally to remove the hazard of dying ash trees near to the permissive path network due to ash dieback fungus. Within the zone 3 coppiced strip standards and stored coppice stems to be retained at 10-20 stems per hectare where applicable.

- 5-yearly formal woodland condition assessment to be undertaken across the whole site to inform next management plan review. Assessments will cover this key feature.

4.2 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Earley Wood is classified by the Woodland Trust as a category B site, where we are expecting a moderate level of public access (5-15 visitors using one entrance every day) and a site which is important for demonstrating our corporate objectives.

The public have access to the wood from 2 main formal access points – from the Woodland Trust car park off Waltham Road and from a squeeze gap entrance off Duckpit Road. Both entranceways lead onto the permissive path network of un-surfaced paths extending to approximately 1.5km and includes the old avenue. The paths can become muddy with high use during the wet winter months.

The car park does occasionally suffer from antisocial behaviour and fly tipping.

Earley Wood is used by mainly dog walkers during the daytime and serves the many small village communities within the area such as Godmersham and Crundale (4.5 – 2.7 miles, pop. 470), Upper Hadres(3 miles, pop. 385), Petham (0.9miles, pop. 708), Wye (5.4 miles, pop.2282) and Waltham (1.25 miles, pop. 436). Canterbury (7 miles pop. 55240) and Ashford (11 miles pop. 74204) are the largest cities and towns near to Earley Wood.

Other Woodland Trust sites nearby are Denge and Pennypot Wood near Chartham, Park Wood near Chilham and Victory Wood near Whitstable.

Within a short distance (less than 10 miles) there are a number of other attractions and areas for outdoor recreation including the historic city of Canterbury, Broadham Down a 16-hectare nature reserve east of Chilham and Spong Wood a 18-hectare ancient woodland near Elmstead both managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust, Chartham Vineyard (CT4 7HU) and Chilham one of the top 10 prettiest villages in Kent.

Significance

Public access to this woodland helps fulfil one of the Woodland Trust's corporate objectives which is ‘Life’s better with trees: Strengthening the role of trees and woods in our landscapes and communities and rekindling our love of them’; and also fulfilled in one of the 10 Tree Charter Principles: to "make trees accessible to all".

Earley Wood enables access to a small ASNW and gives an opportunity for the Woodland Trust to promote the message of ancient woodland habitats and the importance of its protection.

There are views out from the wood at maintained viewpoints looking east across the valley.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
Earley Wood is a small wood but with a good network of paths to enjoy along with its fantastic display of spring flowers; to demonstrate conservation management by Woodland Trust.

Constraints:
The clay with flint soil tends to make winter walking muddy and slippery on well used paths.
Some parts of the permissive path network contain slopes down into the valley.
None of the permissive paths have any surfacing which makes wheel chair access difficult.
Parking is very limited.

Factors Causing Change

Motorbikes/quads, Fly tipping

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A well established and safe network of paths for informal public access throughout Earley Wood where responsible visitors can appreciate and respect this wood with its different habitats and wildlife interest without causing disturbances. The visitor numbers to be in line with its category B status with provision for parking on site in a car park if required.

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

During this plan period, the short term objective is to continue to provide public access at Earley Wood which is safe and enjoyable. How this will be achieved:

- Path mowing
1.5km (0.9 miles) of paths will be maintained to allow continued access across the whole site for pedestrians by mowing as appropriate during the summer months. To maintain the old avenue as an open feature by mowing once a year.

- Car park
To maintain the small car park and its perimeter fencing in a serviceable condition during the plan period.

- Monitoring of antisocial behaviour
To monitor the car park and the antisocial use of the woodland by motorbikes, quads and fly tipping and the surrounding woodland and liaise with Kent Police when this occurs to try and prevent it from reoccurring. The vegetation around the car park to be kept short during the summer months linked to the path cuts.

- Annual inspections
Annual inspection of all gates, interpretation structures/signs and constant monitoring of path and car park surfaces.

- Tree safety
Annual Zone A tree safety inspection. Fungal survey to be carried out once in every 24 month period in the autumn with an annual summer survey to check trees' crowns particularly checking the condition of ash trees with ash dieback fungus.
Zone B tree safety inspections are to be carried out annually due to ash dieback fungus. Arboriculture work to be carried out when necessary.

- Site boundary management
The woodland vegetation along Waltham Road and Duckpit Road adjacent to Earley Wood are to be flailed in November/December each year to ensure there is no interference with users of the highway year; where applicable that there is a minimum height clearance above the full width of the highway to 5.1m.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	February
2024	SL - Tree Safety Silviculture Work	Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.	September

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	4.22	Sweet chestnut	1700	High forest	Archaeological features	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Ancient semi-natural woodland situated at the highest part of the wood, it is reasonably flat with a slight slope to the southeast. A large "crater" possibly a former marl or chalk pit exists in the extreme southernmost point. The northwest boundary is formed by Waltham Road, and there is a wood bank which runs parallel to this just within the wood. Ground flora is dominated by bluebell, wood anemone, bramble, and dog's mercury with varying amounts of tree regeneration of both sycamore and ash mainly. Herb paris has also been recorded here. Main tree species are sweet chestnut, ash, aspen, hornbeam, birch, hazel, and sycamore. Holly is found as isolated individuals in the understory, and mature standards of beech, oak and sweet chestnut are present mainly in the north part of this compartment. This compartment was coppiced in 1980/1, coppice stems were then thinned/singled in 2000 to begin the conversion to high forest. The roadside strip between the road and the woodbank was coppiced in 2019. The majority of the ash has been infected by ash dieback fungus since 2012. Considerable quantities of dead ash trees started to appear from 2017.						
2a	9.7	Sweet chestnut	1700	Coppice	Archaeological features	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Ancient semi-natural woodland situated through the centre of Earley Wood and includes the 6.26ha purchased in 1994. Composed of principally pure areas of sweet chestnut coppice in the northern part; mixed broadleaved coppice dominated by ash and field maple in the middle; sycamore rich with ash at the southern end and all in active coppice management. Scattered standards adjacent to the ride on the western boundary of beech, oak and chestnut, with a few standards within the remainder of area. A woodbank lies along part of the eastern boundary with the old avenue in cpt.3a. Woodbank continues southwest						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
from the avenue. Possible old marl pit in northeast corner. The majority of the ash has been infected by ash dieback fungus since 2012. Considerable quantities of dead ash trees started to appear from 2017.						
2b	0.55	Hornbeam	1700	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Ancient semi-natural woodland ash, hornbeam, hazel, sycamore coppice with oak standards, mostly windblown in 1987 and many trees are still horizontal but growing. A woodbank forms the boundary with cpt.2a on the western side.						
3a	0.55	Oak (pedunculate)	1700	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
19th century avenue, which was severely windblown in 1987 and subsequently replanted in 1994 with a mixture of beech, hornbeam and oak. A small number of beech and hornbeam veteran trees remain which once formed part of the avenue.						
3b	3.47	Ash	1700	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Ancient semi-natural woodland. It contains predominantly mature ash and hornbeam coppice with oak standards with an understorey of hazel and sycamore. Managed as coppice in the past and last felled as coppice approximately						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
between 1960's and 1970's. The southern half of 3b was singled in 2006 to help convert to high forest. Ground flora dominated by bluebells with orchid species present and ash regeneration appearing under the gaps in the canopy. Ground is generally level but with a gentle slope to the east. The majority of the ash has been infected by ash dieback fungus since 2012. Considerable quantities of dead ash trees started to appear from 2017 and felling of ride side ash began in 2019 for safety reasons.						
3c	1.27	Sweet chestnut	1700	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Ancient semi-natural woodland. It contains predominantly ash, sweet chestnut and hornbeam coppice with oak standards with an understorey of hazel, sycamore and spindle. Ground flora dominated by bluebells and Orchis species and ash regeneration appearing under the gaps in the canopy. Ground is generally level but with a gentle slope to the east. Along the western edge with sub compartment 3b the ground abruptly changes level almost like a terrace with a wood bank or lynchet forming the edge. This area was last coppiced in the early 1980's. The majority of the ash has been infected by ash dieback fungus since 2012. Considerable quantities of dead ash trees started to appear from 2017 and felling of ride side ash began in 2019 for safety reasons.						
3d	2.01	Sweet chestnut	1850	Coppice	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Formely known as Deadleys Wood due to adders which lived there. Sweet chestnut coppice along with ash, field maple with an understory of spindle sporadically spread across this sub compartment. Ground flora of dog's mercury, ivy with locally abundant herb paris and a historical record of may lily being present. The following orchids have been recorded in the past in this area: early purple, butterfly, fly, white helleborine, birds-nest, pyramidal, twayblade and lady's. This area was last coppiced between 1979 and 1986 leaving a road side strip of over mature sycamore/ash coppice along Duckpit Road which was coppiced in 2010. The majority of the ash has been infected by ash dieback fungus since 2012. Considerable quantities of dead ash						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
trees started to appear from 2017 and felling of ride side ash began in 2019 for safety reasons.						

GLOSSARY

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.