

Shaptor Woods

(Plan period – 2023 to 2028)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

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
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Ancient Woodland Site
 - 4.2 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Shaptor Woods

Location:	Bovey Tracey Grid reference: SX 81942 79723 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 191
Area:	78.58 hectares (194.18 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area, National Park
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Shaptor Woods is a 70.25 hectare (173.59 acre) temperate rainforest site comprised of predominantly NVC W11/W17 upland oak woodland habitat, with elements of W7, W8 and W10. The woodland complex is a cluster of historic agricultural field systems and small copses, lined with dry stone walls and woodbanks, that have returned to a highly diverse semi-natural woodland structure after abandonment in the 20th century and includes furzleigh plantation, stonelands waste, rock copse, northcombe copse, sunny copse, pixey copse, hill park copse and shaptor down. Ash is a major component of these woodlands, particularly in the former fields and has been heavily affected by ash die back disease. There are some remnants of a former conifer plantation visible in sub compartment 2a which has been largely restored to native broadleaf woodland. There are multiple small watercourses and wet flushes which flow through the site and act as tributaries to the Bovey river. The site is set within a mainly pastoral landscape on the eastern side of the Wray Valley above Bovey Tracey. The woods are contiguous with one of the largest and most ecologically important valley woodland complexes on Dartmoor. Predominately ancient semi-natural in character, the site is an amalgamation of two separate acquisitions by the Woodland Trust. Characteristic of the woods is the presence of scattered granite boulders and small "Tors" the most prominent of which are to be found at Shaptor Rocks. The northern tip of the site beyond Shaptor is a largely undisturbed, remote woodland wilderness. The setting, geology and nature of the site and the wider Wray Valley, are typical of the Dartmoor National Character Area (NCA150/NE519). The site features numerous open grown veteran trees within the woodland, a product of its agricultural past, many of which are important habitat features, particularly for woodland cavity bat species such as Barbastelle.

The Temperate Rainforest, 'Western Oakwoods' of Dartmoor are of international importance and significant areas have been designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and/or a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), in large part due to their internationally rare communities of lower plant species, the lichens and bryophytes. Although Shaptor Woods lies outside these statutory designated sites, it forms part of the wider woodland complex of temperate rainforest, and falls within the national park where it is considered a priority habitat. Micaceous Haematite (an iron oxide ore) was mined within the boundary of the site until the last century, and a number of residual adits, and deep mine shafts are present, mostly in the northern part of the wood. These are fenced for public safety and support important communities of overwintering bat species such as Greater Horseshoe. Public access is largely informal and relatively challenging, but well used by a small number of dedicated walkers and there is a small car park at the southern end of the site, at Furzleigh Cross. The site is bisected by a 1.5 kilometer permissive path, which connects two Public Rights of Way (PROW) routes, Bovey Tracey Byway 43, in the south of the site, and Bovey Tracey Footpath 19 in the north. Footpath 19 provides informal access up onto Shaptor rocks (sub-compartment 4a) which commands magnificent views of the mosaic of wooded farmland valley and open moorland landscape below. The site is a popular location for boulderers, and many of the bouldering routes within the woodland have been mapped and published in books and online. The Woodland Trust has been working with the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) to try and mitigate the impacts of bouldering at Shaptor Woods on the rare communities of lichen and bryophyte species that depend on the boulders, and can be damaged by climbing activities.

Landscape Scale Partnership Working

The importance of this landscape for nature recovery has recently been recognised by Natural England by its designation as Landscape Recovery Area (LRA) through which support for landowners will be targeted over the next

30 years. A partnership of organisations, and private landowners within the LRA will formalise a working relationship over the initial two year development phase. Another facet of the LRA working is the potential establishment of a “Super NNR” covering the same area.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Shaptor Woods is one of the most important complexes of ancient temperate rainforest habitat on Dartmoor, and an example of highly structurally diverse semi-natural woodland with limited human impacts, the site will continue to be managed to increase the quality of the temperate rainforest habitat, particularly for lower plant species such as lichens and bryophytes, particularly through the management of shading tree species such as holly, sycamore and beech to ensure they do not dominate the habitat over time. Conservation features such as veteran trees, mine shafts, walls and woodbanks, watercourses and rock features will be managed to ensure maximum habitat quality for wildlife, balancing humidity with light levels and a diverse range of native species. Watercourses will be gradually renaturalised to hold more surface water on the site and benefit wet woodland species communities, and aid in retaining humidity, which will be particularly important in maintaining ecological resilience in the face of a rapidly warming climate, bringing more intense summer heat events. Gradual removal of non-native conifer species such as western red cedar will restore the woodland to native ancient semi-natural woodland. Invasive non-native species such as Laurel and Rhododendron will be eradicated from the wood, with re-incursion monitored and controlled. Impacts from tree diseases such as ash die back will be managed to obtain the maximum transitional benefits to biodiversity, increasing standing and fallen deadwood volumes, creating temporary open spaces and increasing the diversity of tree species through natural regeneration and planting. Sensitive, appropriate levels of informal public access will be maintained and managed in order to ensure people can safely access and enjoy the benefits of this remarkable wild space, without impacting on the long-term resilience and integrity of the habitat and its biodiversity.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

Shaptor Woods is predominantly NVC W7b, W8d, W10c, W11 and W17 ancient semi-natural woodland and a high quality example of southern oceanic, temperate rainforest woodland habitat. The site has been mostly managed as non-intervention which is leading to the dominance of shade-tolerant species such as beech, sycamore and holly. Many areas of formerly small open field systems, abandoned and naturally reestablished as woodland in the 20th century have been designated as ASNW due to abundant ancient woodland indicator species communities of flora (subcompartments 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b). Highly diverse structure due to range of historic land management practices including non-intervention, coppicing, high forest conifer, naturally colonised open fields and wood pasture. Standing and fallen deadwood volumes are limited but increasing, particularly with the arrival of ash dieback disease which is leading to the reduction in canopy cover where ash is dominant, (former field systems), and is creating temporary open space dominated by bramble and opportunities for tree regeneration, however this is predominantly being capitalised on by aggressive, shading species such as sycamore. There are some small areas of previously coniferised woodland, with species such as western red cedar, that have begun the restoration process to native broadleaf. Compartment 4a is the former open moorland of Shaptor Down, which is developing into W17 Upland Oak woodland through succession but still contains some limited glades of open ground on shallow soils, dominated by mosses, ling and bell heather, gorse and bracken, with historic records of Pearl Bordered Fritillary in these areas. A survey of veteran and ancient trees in 2022 recorded 40 individuals across the site with the majority found in sub compartments 3b and 4a. A variety of nesting and overwintering opportunities such as tree cavities, rock features and defunct mine shafts provide habitat for a range of different rare woodland bat species such as Barbastelle and Greater Horseshoe. North of Shaptor down (4a) there is a diverse area of wet woodland bounded by a high banked watercourse, which separates the wood from several large clear felled conifer compartments of adjacent land holdings, much of the rest of the woodland is neighboured by small enclosed grazing pastures and hedgerows. The site supports a diverse community of rare lower plant species including lichens and bryophytes and has been subject to extensive specialist surveys for these communities.

Due to the steep valley aspect of the woodland, the site contains many small watercourses and wet flushes, as water flows from higher ground through the woods to the river Bovey in the valley below. These tributaries range in size from very minor to more significant drainage features, most of which have been heavily influenced by human intervention to create straighter, more incised channels. There are five main water courses spread across the site flowing from east to west, some have very high sided walls and woodbanks which trap water flow in incised pathways, other areas have wider, flatter areas of more naturalised wet woodland character where the watercourses give way to boggy, sodden woodland soil with high carbon and flood water storage capacity. Most of these five watercourses are lined with trees, predominantly ash (2b) but in some areas large oak and beech (3a and 4a) and conifers such as western red cedar (2a). There is a notable absence of wet woodland tree species such as willow and alder from the site.

Significance

- TEMPERATE RAINFOREST: Ancient Upland Oak Woodland, close proximity to SSSIs cited for lower plant communities, abundant communities of rare lower plant species present, particularly on boulders. Watercourse intervention works create opportunity to increase the resilience of quality of temperate rainforest habitat
- SIZE: one of the largest continuous areas of relatively undisturbed ancient woodland within the Dartmoor National Park.
- BATS: Large number of tree cavity habitat, rocks and mineshaft features providing important habitat for bat species such as Greater Horseshoe and Barbastelle.
- WET WOODLAND HABITAT – watercourses provide biodiversity benefits and potential for wet woodland habitat
- FLOODING – potentially important natural flood management feature, reducing peak flooding events on the river Bovey which affects downstream communities such as Bovey Tracey.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

- ARCHEAOLGY – opportunities for further study into history of the site.
- BIODIVERSITY – opportunities for wider scope of species surveys such as invertebrates and fungi.
- GRAZING – opportunity to introduce temporary, light levels of cattle grazing within the wood to create beneficial levels of herbivore disturbance
- opportunities to carry out water based monitoring of water quality and behaviour metrics such as dissolved organic carbon, riverfly species, oxygen, heavy metals, acidity, pollutants, temperature.
- Opportunities to carry out ecological baseline surveying of watercourses to monitor the development of wet woodland habitats following NFM interventions.

Constraints

- ACCESS: Large, complex site with extreme topography, limited access points and no vehicular/ machine access.
- ARCHEAOLGY: Presence of abundant historic and archaeological features throughout.
- VETERAN TREES: Numerous veteran trees at risk of shock from rapid canopy loss.
- TREE SPECIES DIVERSITY: High proportion of aggressive, shading tree species such as sycamore, holly and beech limiting natural regeneration of wider range of light demanding species such as oak, elm, ash, rowan and hazel. Watercourses only minor in scale and flow, and mostly located on steep ground limiting the opportunities for large scale renaturalisation.
- Limited management access limits the scale of natural flood management intervention that can be achieved, limiting natural NFM material to that which can be cut and moved in proximity of the watercourse

Factors Causing Change

- DEER AND SQUIRRELS: Presence of deer and squirrel pressure affecting ability of native broadleaf tree species to regenerate.
- NON NATIVE INVASIVES: Large amounts of non-native invasive laurel spreading throughout site, reducing biodiversity.
- SHADING: Some areas becoming dominated by remaining non-native conifers, but also by shade tolerant broadleaf tree species such as holly, sycamore and beech.
- CLIMATE CHANGE: Hotter summer temperatures affecting the climatic conditions required for survival of temperate

rainforest and species communities associated with them. Increasing water temperature and acidity of water courses (due to elevated CO₂) affecting species, particularly spawning salmonids
 TREE DISEASE: Ash die back causing loss of much of canopy in former field areas.
 WIND: Wind throw of trees, particularly on steeper, shallower soils, altering canopy structure.
 POLLUTION: Agricultural run-off pollutants and atmospheric deposition reducing water quality and increasing acidity.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Shaptor Woods will be restored and maintained as a highly diverse, high-quality temperate rainforest habitat with a structure ranging from large veteran trees, to multiple layers of intermediate canopy, temporary open spaces such as rides and glades and multi-age natural regeneration representing a diverse range of native, broadleaf tree species. Volumes of standing and fallen deadwood will be high and increasing, with abundant and diverse ancient woodland ground flora, and areas of open-habitat flora communities support a wide range of invertebrate species communities. Lower plant assemblages found on trees and boulders will be protected and expanding into improved habitat. Other species such as bats, birds and mammals will also see a net-increase in biodiversity and breeding habitat, including barbastelle bats and dormice. Herbivore impacts such as deer and squirrel will have been brought under control through wildlife management and reintroduction of predatory species such as pine marten and goshawk. The primary watercourses within Shaptor Woods will gradually be restored to a more natural hydrology and flow regime, creating greater carbon storage, wet woodland habitat creation and flood water capacity, assisting in slowing and mitigating the biodiversity and climate crises.

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

- Total removal of remaining conifers in subcompartment 2a
- Removal of non-native invasive species such as laurel and rhododendron, particularly focused on subcompartment 2b.
- Carry out deer thermal drone surveys and herbivore impact assessments to determine deer pressure and population, to inform cull targets
- Management/control of deer population based on survey data
- Thinning of watercourses to create more understorey light levels, manage ash die back disease and improve resilience.
- Targeted removal of shading trees species such as holly, sycamore and beech (retaining any large future veterans) around key features such as paths, boulders and watercourses .
- Bat surveys, particularly focused around mine shafts.
- Lower plant surveys.
- Tagging and haloing of all notable, veteran and future veteran trees.
- Increase tree species diversity, particularly willow along watercourses.
- Creation of leaky dam features using material from site thinning operations in targeted watercourses to improve wet woodland habitat, humidity and resilience.

4.2 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Shaptor Woods is a wild site, and public access is largely informal and relatively challenging due to the uneven and winding nature of the path, but well used by a small number of dedicated walkers, there is a small car park at the southern end of the site, at Furzleigh Cross. The site is bisected by a 1.5 kilometer permissive path, which connects two PRoW routes, Bovey Tracey Byway 43, in the south of the site, and Bovey Tracey Footpath 19 in the north. Footpath 19 provides informal access up onto Shaptor rocks (sub-compartment 4a) which commands magnificent views of the mosaic of wooded farmland valley and open moorland landscape below. The site is a popular location for boulderers, and many of the bouldering routes within the woodland have been mapped and published in books and online. The Woodland Trust has been working with the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) to try and mitigate the impacts of bouldering at Shaptor Woods on the rare communities of lichen and bryophyte species that depend on the boulders, and can be damaged by climbing activities.

Significance

- LOCAL COMMUNITY – an important area of free-to-access woodland greenspace and recreational access within relatively close walking proximity of Bovey Tracey.
- VIEWS – Shaptor Down provides highly cherished and unique views of the surrounding Bovey and Wray Valleys, and Haldon Ridge and Haytor Vale beyond.
- CONNECTIVITY – the 1.5km permissive route within the site is an important access link between Byway43 and Footpath 19 PRoWs.

Opportunities & Constraints

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity for broad range of species surveys to better understand the woodland's ecology and communication/education to the public.
- Opportunities for open space management of habitats in 4a, formerly open heathland, to create a more varied visitor experience.

CONSTRAINTS

- ACCESS: Large, complex site with extreme topography, limited access points and no vehicular access. Footpaths uneven and challenging to visitors throughout.
- BOULDERING: Bouldering activities causing damaging effects on communities of rare lower plant species and conflicting with conservation management goals of the site.

Factors Causing Change

- BOULDERING – bouldering activities leading to damage of lower plant communities on boulders, reducing species diversity and abundance
- TREE DISEASE – ash dieback leading to tree safety risks along footpaths
- DESIRE LINES – increasing number of desire lines and unofficial paths within the wood impacting on the ‘zones of tranquility’ and undisturbed areas of the woodland

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Sensitive, appropriate levels of informal public access will be maintained and managed in order to ensure people can access and enjoy the benefits of this remarkable wild space, without impacting on the long-term resilience and integrity of the habitat and its biodiversity. The permissive path may need to be altered at times to work around the dynamic nature of the woodland and avoid the need for large scale intervention that could be deleterious to the old growth ecology of the woodland. Visitor access infrastructure such as gates, paths and the car park will be routinely maintained and improved when necessary. Potential conflicts between recreational activities such as bouldering and the conservation goals of the site, particularly relating to lower plant species communities located on boulders will be managed collaboratively and inclusively. Community engagement will be focused on public education of the sites rare and important ecology and conservation.

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

Path Diversion - Divert permissive path to avoid need for large scale felling of ash trees affected with ash die back.
Ash die back – manage tree safety issues associated with dying ash trees along Zone A and B boundaries, paths, tracks and roads.
Visitor access infrastructure – Maintain and refresh where necessary infrastructure such as gates, paths and car park.
Bouldering – engagement with relevant representation groups to help mitigate effects of recreational activities such as bouldering and climbing, appropriate use of signage and events to deliver messaging and education.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	AW - Management Access Capital	Works associated with installing new or replacement management access infrastructure. Such as management access gates, vehicle bridges, fencing and surfacing works.	May

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	8.33	Beech	1975	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Environmentally Sensitive Area, National Park
<p>Furzeleigh Plantation - NVC W10/W14</p> <p>Historically coppiced, with many stools now in stored condition due to under management, last thinned in 1998. This compartment is bounded by a woodbank predominantly lined with overstood beech trees, but some mature oak and holly, a large section of this boundary wood bank is adjacent to a road. The eastern and southern sections of this compartment are predominantly NVC W14 woodland structurally dominated by beech overstorey, but with some mature oaks and sweet chestnut, and mostly holly understorey, with some hazel. Low light levels are favouring beech and holly regeneration with some sycamore, rare examples of oak and rowan regeneration are evident in lighter areas. The south western / western area of the compartment has some open glades dominated by bracken with regenerating and mature silver birch, oak and sweet chestnut, and oak/silver birch/rowan regeneration. The remaining areas are W10 woodland with mature oak, sweet chestnut, silver birch with bracken and bramble ground layer. Limited deadwood but developing with gradual wind throw of over stood beech trees. Rare individual laurel plants present.</p>						
2a	13.14	Oak (sessile)	1965	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area, National Park
<p>Stonelands Waste - NVC W7/W8/W10</p> <p>A highly diverse ancient woodland compartment with blended NVC habitat types, with canopy and understorey tree species including pedunculate oak, scots pine (R), larch (R), western red cedar, alder, willow, sycamore, silver birch, ash, beech, elder, holly, sweet chestnut, hazel, rowan. Tree regeneration generally favouring beech, holly, ash, sycamore and sweet chestnut. Mostly mature high forest but with pockets of pole stage ash and silver birch. There are several veteran trees within this compartment. The western section of the compartment sits at the lowest point of the site and is fed by multiple small watercourses. Areas of this compartment were dominated by a low-diameter western red cedar plantation which has been ring barked and now forms a large area of standing deadwood, with wet soils, recovering mature oaks, ash and some alder with regenerating ash and holly, improved light levels here are beginning to favour lower plant recovery. Granite boulders are present throughout. Honeysuckle, Sanicle, Dog's Mercury,, Enchanter's Nightshade, Woodruff, Woundworts, Yellow Archangel, Bluebell, Wood Melic, Fern spp. and Birds Nest Orchid. The wood is also rich in lichen and bryophyte communities and supports a range of woodland bird</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
species, including Marsh Tit, Siskin and Red Start.						
2b	7.04	Ash	1965	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Environmentally Sensitive Area, National Park
<p>Rock Copse - NVC W8/W9/W10</p> <p>Upper areas of this compartment dominated by a wooded high bluff of rocky cliffs and outcrops, previously inundated with invasive laurel which has been treated (2023) but remains an ongoing management issue, the lower slopes formerly (now wooded) historical field systems and copses with several veteran, open grown trees surrounded by predominantly ash affected with advanced stage hymenoscyphus fraxineus (ash die back) disease, with a hazel coppice and bramble dominated understorey. Other tree species include pedunculate oak, holly, sycamore and silver birch. Remnant field boundaries, walls, banks and granite gate posts can be found within this compartment. 2b contains two small, relatively steep, incised water courses bounded by wood banks, with occasional boggy, wet flush areas. Ground flora includes Fern spp. including harts tongue fern, dogs mercury, wood avens, bluebell herb robert and yellow pimpernel. Minimal deadwood but due to increase with large amounts of dead ash trees due to ash die back.</p>						
3a	18.05	Oak (sessile)	1950	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Environmentally Sensitive Area, National Park
<p>Northcombe Copse NVC W9/W10</p> <p>Ancient woodland compartment with tree species including peduculate oak, beech, ash (affected by ash die back disease), sycamore, hazel, holly and rowan, with some rocky outcrops in the centre of the compartment. Not as diverse in structure as the wider site, mostly dominated by sycamore, beech and oak (hazel and holly under storey density varying throughout), with areas of pole stage sycamore. The western edge of the compartment features a more open grown, oak wood pasture area which is lighter and more dominated by bracken. There are also some areas of ash in former fields dying back due to ash die back disease, creating bracken dominated glade areas. Several veteran trees can be found within this compartment.</p> <p>Improving levels of deadwood from windblown trees such as oak and beech. This compartment features a deep, incised watercourse, bounded by a bank in the lower, south-western area, and features some boggy, wet flush</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>areas. This watercourse features a small structure and buried pipe providing water to a neighbouring property. Ground flora includes enchanters nightshade, blue bells, bracken and dogs mercury.</p>						
3b	12.08	Oak (sessile)	1950	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area, National Park
<p>Sunny Copse, Hill Park Copse and Pixey Copse - NVC W9/W10</p> <p>A mixture of former agricultural fields (now wooded) with numerous old stone walls, gateposts and woodbanks, and coppice woodlands located on high rocky bluffs and outcrops that are littered throughout this compartment. Tree species include sycamore, oak, hazel, ash, silver birch, beech and holly. Some areas are highly dominated by pole stage sycamore, particularly around paths and rocky areas. 3b contains the highest proportion of veteran trees on the site focused around former field systems and wood bank boundaries. This compartment also features numerous defunct mining shafts of varying depths which are fenced off for safety. There are large areas of diseased ash trees, gradually leading to the creation of large, bracken dominated glades. The extensive network of tors and boulders throughout this area are the most heavily used for bouldering activities, with numerous desire lines and impacts on rocks and soils present. Ground flora includes Bluebell, wood avens, Sanicle, Dog's Mercury, Primrose, Enchanter's Nightshade, Woodruff, Woundworts, Yellow Archangel, Bluebell, Wood Melic and Birds Nest Orchid. The wood is also rich in lichen and bryophyte communities and supports a range of woodland bird species, including Marsh Tit, Siskin and Red Start.</p>						
4a	19.23	Oak (sessile)	1950	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area, National Park
<p>Shaptor Down - NVC W10</p> <p>Shaptor Down comprises predominantly of secondary Oak woodland developing around Shaptor Rocks (standing at 268m). The area has grazed in the past (pre 1940's) with evidence of Oak and Hazel coppice on the lower parts of the slope. Surrounding the rocks, the canopy cover is dominated by stunted Sessile Oaks with a rich lichen community present on both the exposed rocks and trees. Descending the slopes through granite boulders, hazel and holly occur in the under-storey. In the northern half there is a small area of diverse ASNW and is dominated by patches of Alder Carr, with some mature Oak and Hazel. This compartment contains several veteran and mature trees including oak and beech. A small group of Larch had been planted in the northern corner of the compartment but have suffered badly from wind-blow on the wet soils, and few remain standing. Other tree species include</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>beech, rowan, sycamore, hawthorn, alder, ash and silver birch. Throughout the compartment the ground flora is relatively poor, being dominated by either coarse grasses or bracken with occasional pockets of stone crop, heather (Ling and Bell), gorse and Bilberry. It does however support a characteristic invertebrate community including, Silver-washed Fritillaries, Small Pearl-bordered fritillaries, Ringlet and Gold-ringed Dragonfly. There is a water course that runs along the northern boundary adjacent to a network of woodbanks and walls with veteran trees, all rich in lower plant and fern communities.</p>						

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:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885. A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England no. 1982873. The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark.