



Barber Wood

Management Plan 2008-2013

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

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) through independent audit. In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, 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.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on 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 heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential 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 allow our woods to be used to support 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. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Barber Wood
Location:	Coberley
Grid reference:	SO950158, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 163
Area:	39.04 hectares (96.47 acres)
Designations:	Area of Landscape Value, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Lying just south of Cheltenham, Barber Wood is a mixture of young mixed broadleaf plantation and open limestone grassland with a rich and diverse population of species. Phased planting sees a young woodland developing at staggered ages. Fine views into the local rolling Cotswold landscape are offered. Walking is extensive across the site.

2.2 Extended Description

Barber Wood is just under 39 hectares in size and straddles a large hill approximately 5 km south of Cheltenham, in the Parish of Coberley. It was bought in association with The Countryside Commission and named after their former chairman, Lord Barber of Tewkesbury.

The site lies within the Cotswold Hills Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and is composed of young mixed broadleaved plantation and open improved, semi-improved and unimproved limestone grassland.

The broadleaved plantations were planted in the mid 1990's in phases providing a staggered age range and are deer fenced. The canopy has closed over this young woodland and ground flora and understory associated with native broadleaf woodland is developing. The woodland element of the site represents an inverted 'L' shape, the longer block running west to east and the shorter running north-south

The most interesting limestone grassland is the species rich unimproved area which lies on the lower south-facing slope (Coldwell Bottom). Livestock are grazed across the grass fields but predominantly on the lower northern field, with mowing undertaken annually to help maintain a good quality sward, to minimise invasive weeds such as ragwort and to keep paths clear.

Barber Wood has a prominent position in the local and larger landscape, both a historically and in a developing sense. It has strong internal and external viewpoints and geometric boundaries which need careful consideration as part of any future management work.

The site plays an important role in both the historic and visual landscape with strong internal and external viewpoints and geometric boundaries which are typical of the local landscape. Several historic landscape features lie within the site, such as round clumps of mature parkland trees, or 'Roundels', dry stone walls, Lynchets (drops in ground level along a line, indicating differing historic land uses) and old Pollards (trees cut above head height over a long time). Barber Wood is in keeping with the larger scale landscape of rolling agricultural land with woodland clumps and rich hedges. Hedges, old and new, and thick buffering 'edge-zone' areas provide good visual and habitat linkage across the site with the southern most boundary supporting many pollards and mature broadleaves that are well over two centuries old.

Barber Wood is connected across the track to the western boundary to Ullenwood, an ancient coppice woodland, and so forms part of a wider woodland context in the landscape.

Barber Wood sits within an open rural landscape that is well served with a public right of way (PROW) network. The Gloucestershire Way passes through the site alongside a bridleway route and within Barber Wood there is a network of mainly permissive paths providing circular and linear routes. All paths are grass surfaced and easy to walk although steep towards the upper slopes. Ground conditions benefit from freely draining soils. Entrances points are served with 12' gates on the PROW and are either kissing gates (not disabled) or open paths at other entrances.

The Cotswold AONB Volunteers undertake regular work parties on the site including control of invasive weeds and access projects.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Barber wood is located 6 miles to the east of Gloucester and 4 miles south of Cheltenham. It sits within a rural landscape that is well served with a PROW network. The Gloucestershire way goes through the site alongside a bridleway route. Within Barber there is a network of paths, mainly permissive providing circular and linear routes. All paths are grass surfaced and there are no routes that avoid steep slopes. Ground conditions benefit from freely draining soils. Entrances points are served with 12' gates on the PROW and are either kissing gates (not disabled) or open paths at other entrances. The Gloucestershire County Council's 'Crickley Hill Country Park is located just over 1km to the west, the visitor facilities there are very good and more can be found about this park at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1428>

There is a formal parking area at the main entrance at the northern end of the site. This accommodates approximately 8 cars.

The public bus service number 852 currently (2007) stops at the Village stores on Roman Road in Birdlip which is 3.2km away. For more information on bus times please visit the Traveline website www.traveline.org.uk

3.2 Access / Walks

Extensive walks are offered across the site including links to the surrounding PROW network.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To manage the site to increase biodiversity, while ensuring the conservation of traditional habitats and features. Ensure the developing site fits within the local landscape context.

To maintain Barber Wood as a site which is both welcoming and inviting to visitors with a series of well-maintained entrance points and paths throughout the site, supporting the Woodland Trust's corporate objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland. Public access will be regularly maintained through the Estates Management Contract (EMC).

The grassland will be managed to maintain the rich and diverse flora of the unimproved limestone sward and to restore those areas which have been improved in the past to a condition similar to that of the unimproved limestone areas. This will be undertaken by grazing and/or hay cutting as has been the traditional management for many centuries to maintain a varied sward density, reduce any competitive sward vigour and control coarse and noxious vegetation.

The maturing woodland blocks, now with a closed canopy and emerging understory, will be encouraged to develop in a natural manner in line with the Woodland Trust Approach to Woodland Management, helping to create a more mature and open woodland habitat well connected to neighbouring woodland, old hedgerows and roundels and achieving continuity of habitat and diversity across the local landscape. Ash will be managed according to Woodland Trust policy on the treatment of *Chalara fraxinea*, or 'Ash dieback'.

Internal and external landscape features will be protected and, where possible, restored; hedgerows will be managed so that old pollards (ash and willow) and standards are conserved, the degrading dry stone walls will be restored and Lynchets will remain unplanted. Historic roundels will be protected and recently planted roundels will occupy an appropriate place in the landscape.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

Barber Wood is well used by local people, particularly by a large number of regular dog walkers including commercial dog walking services. There is parking at the main entrance for approximately eight vehicles. The immediate access to Barber Wood off the A436 is difficult to spot but once in the entranceway is in good condition and welcomes visitors. Within Barber Wood there is a network of mainly permissive paths providing circular and linear routes. All paths are grass surfaced and there are no routes that avoid steep slopes. Ground conditions benefit from freely draining soils.

Entrances points are served with 12' gates on the Public Right of Way and are either kissing gates (not disabled) or open paths at other entrances. Pedestrian access is via seven different points. The Gloucestershire way goes through the site east-west along a bridleway route and the track from the north-most access point allows horses and bicycles through the west end of the ownership. Deer fencing erected during establishment of the woodland still stands and does limit free access somewhat, but numerous paths extend between the open grassland and the woodland areas via kissing gates.

As the woodland has matured to the point that people can just about walk under the canopy, preferred 'desire-lines' have developed where people walk where they choose.

Significance

The wood provides an amenable and popular destination for local walkers, riders, cyclists, dog walkers (via bridleway only) and for people visiting the Cotswolds. The local landscape is treasured by the local community, and protected by the AONB, and enjoyment of this landscape is encouraged with open access to the site. The site also provides access linkage to surrounding land ownerships. Inspiring people to visit and enjoy woods is one of Woodland Trusts' core aims.

Opportunities & Constraints

- The maturing woodland with its canopy and emerging space underneath provides opportunities to expand free public access both through permissive paths and free-roaming. Original deer fencing constrains free access in and out of the woodland blocks to the formal gated entry points but there are opportunities to improve entry points and possibly add further access points as free access and 'desire lines' develop within the woodland.

- There is an opportunity to improve mix used access at the main entrance to the site thereby improving the visitor experience for walkers and dog walkers alike.

- The main northern entrance to the site is difficult to spot on approach so there is an opportunity to improve the configuration of this small triangle of land by cutting back woody growth, liberating Woodland Trust signage and some minor tree surgery and fence restoration.

Factors Causing Change

- Freer access within the woodland including the development of 'desire lines' has already begun where people walk where they choose. In time more regularly used new routes are likely to develop.
- Barber Wood is particularly well used by dog walkers including commercial dog walking businesses, the latter regularly bringing up to seven or eight dogs each. Consequently there are occasional issues with dog waste and dog pestering which impact negatively on visitor experience and may need to be managed in the future. Nearby Crickley Hill Country Park began charging for parking in 2014 which has had the effect of steering people to Barber Wood and increasing use. The improvement of car parking facilities and space at the main entrance to Barber Wood in 2014 will also increase future annual visitor numbers.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

That Barber Wood continues to be an attractive, welcoming destination for visitors to enjoy informal access on foot.

Facilities for visitors, along with formal vehicle parking provision, will be maintained within guidelines for health and safety and the Woodland Trust's access policy and will compliment both dog walkers and walkers alike. Aesthetics of the routes will have been enhanced through the maturing of the young woodland and the maintenance of open space and further permissive routes and 'desire lines' will be well established through the woodland areas. Deer fencing will ultimately be removed improving the look of the site although stock fencing will continue to enclose animals to the open grassland.

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

- Maintain existing paths, entrances and parking facilities to an acceptable standard with three grass cuts annually through the Estates Management Contract (EMC) in May, July and September.
- Improve main entrance access point to better manage dogs and walkers.
- Tree safety inspections will be undertaken annually with works to reduce risk undertaken where necessary. New Zone B inspections of internal permissive paths will commence in 2019.
- Informal on-going monitoring of intensity of use will be undertaken by site manager including noting where desire lines develop. Formal visitor counts and surveys may be undertaken to assess numbers of visitors and visitor experience.
- Improve the very northern tip of the site to ensure visitors can identify the site and clearly see the entranceway and Woodland Trust signage. This will include some minor tree surgery and cutting back of hedge and rank woody growth adjacent to the entrance track,
- The dry stone wall that forms the west boundary of the southern half of the site will be assessed for repair. Funding and/or volunteer assistance will be explored and works undertaken within this plan period where funding allows.

5.2 Open Ground Habitat

Description

Sub-compartment 1a and 1b (the amalgamated previous sub-compartments 3b, 3c, 4b and 5a) are open limestone grassland.

1a and the upper fields of 1b are improved with some semi-improved and unimproved areas, particularly in the old 3b and 4b fields. The east and south section of 1b (including the old 4b) is semi-improved, with unimproved areas occupying all of the bottom field (previously 5a).

Species include pyramidal, common spotted and fragrant orchids. All areas are covered by the as was 'Entry Level Stewardship' scheme (ELS) with Natural England. There is ragwort, thistle and other invasive species present in most of the grassland compartments and this varies in coverage from year to year. The ragwort is migrating from adjacent land but also spreads within the site. Conditions on site provide large bare areas at times which can facilitate the spread of this plant even though it is manually controlled annually.

Within the adjacent woodland blocks there are wide grassland rides which link up the areas of grassland. The fields are separated from woodland blocks by original deer fencing. This is aging and requires on-going maintenance. The Woody scrub is encroaching from the wooded areas into the grassland, in cases through the fencing, across much of the upper site where grazing has been less intensive.

The main field to the north of the site also contains several historic planted 'roundels' with mixed broadleaf and conifer species dating back to the 1800s in places (when the site was part of the wider Ullenwood estate). Also the unimproved grassland to the south of the site contains historic 'lynchets' as well as the southern site perimeter hedge of older trees including historic 'pollards'.

A grazing regime is in place across all grassland areas, lately cattle.

Significance

Unimproved grassland has evolved over centuries through low intensity traditional land use. This habitat, supporting a wide diversity of flora and fauna, is irreplaceable and rank grass encroachment and cessation of traditional management threatens this locally and nationally valuable ecosystem. The improved grassland is managed with no chemical pesticides or herbicides and provides a rich grassland habitat as well as buffer local areas of unimproved grassland.

Through the Woodland Trust Approach to Management there is a commitment to restore and maintain existing semi-natural habitats.

Barber Wood is within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which identifies flower-rich limestone grasslands' as a 'special quality' of the Cotswolds as well as affording it Cotswold 'landscape character' status.

The site also lies within the designated Natural England Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and falls within the Natural England NCA Profile:107. Cotswolds (NE420).

The Roundels, Lynchets and Pollards are of some local historic and landscape value.

Opportunities & Constraints

- There are opportunities through traditional grazing management to conserve the areas of unimproved grassland and to enhance the quality of the sward in the improved and semi-improved areas.
- There are opportunities to enhance connectivity between grassland areas through annual mowing of the grassy rides within the woodland areas and the cutting back of the edge zone between ride and wood.
- The water supply to the fields is old and sometimes breaks down requiring repair. This could be improved or replaced to improve conditions for grazing.
- Opportunity to conserve the historic planted Roundels in the main north field and the lynchets and pollards to the south of the site.

Factors Causing Change

- Grassland quality could be deteriorated by the development of rough rank grasses, such as Cocksfoot, which are predominant in the improved and semi-improved areas, and which will populate the unimproved areas given a period of neglect.
- Encroachment of ragwort, cocksfoot, thistle and other rank vegetation as well as bushy shrubs such as thorn will dominate if not managed. If left uncontrolled Ragwort would constrain grazing options resulting in a decline in sward quality and increase in invasive rank weeds.
- Intensity and consistency of grazing will affect sward quality and species diversity, and so annual grazing is preferred over mowing or topping. Intensity of grazing will have an effect on sward quality and could encourage waterlogging in places.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Areas of unimproved grassland will be conserved with no species loss. Semi-improved areas will show species gain with more characteristics of unimproved grassland, and improved grassland will also show species gain and show more characteristics of semi-improved grassland. There will be an appropriate and consistent grazing regime over all grassland areas well supported by appropriate stock fencing, gates and water supply. Ragwort will be controlled and limited as far as possible through annual manual removal coordinated between site manager, grazier, volunteers and Trust contractors and also with neighbouring landowners. Elements of grassland habitat will creep into the edges and paths of the woodland as it matures, providing structural diversity and linkage across the site and into neighbouring land. The historic Roundels are conserved in the landscape as well as the Pollards on the southern perimeter. The Lynchets in the southern fields will be kept free of significant woody growth.

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

- To continue with the current grazing across all grassland areas under licence to a local grazier with grazing intensity and breed range agreed in the license.
- Monitor grazing intensity and manage according to the requirements of the sward to achieve floristic diversity, with movement of the cattle between fields where necessary.
- Annual informal monitoring of grassland species will be continued by the Cotswold AONB Volunteers, including invasive species, minimum interval of 5 years.
- Ragwort will be treated each year through a coordinated programme of manual pulling involving grazier, Woodland Trust contractors, neighbouring landowners and volunteers. Other rank vegetation such as thistle will be treated in response to any particularly vigorous growth.
- Woody vegetation encroaching on grassland will be cut back as part of the annual Estates Management Contract (EMC).
- Annual mowing of the open grassy rides in the woodland area will be continued through the EMC.
- Inspection and necessary management of landscape features aspects across the open habitat key feature, including any works to the historic roundels in the main north field, lynchets on southern slopes, dry stone walls and Pollards on the southern boundary.

5.3 New Native Woodland

Description

The wooded blocks that comprise sub-compartment 2a (the previous sub-compartments 1b, 2a, 3a & 4a amalgamated) are all planted with native, and locally occurring, broadleaves. Planting was mostly in 1992 with some phased planting (including the previous sub-compartment 1b) in 1996. Species planted are Beech, Ash, Birch, Field Maple, Whitebeam, Yew and Pedunculate oak with other shrub species.

All areas have established now and the Woodland Grant Scheme has expired. Some of the areas are at pole stage, particularly towards the lower slopes, where there is now a woodland feel with a developing understory of hazel, ash and field maple as well as more common woodland flora.

Higher up on the hilltop itself (the old sub-compartment 4a and some of the previous 3a) the trees have grown more slowly and are commonly stunted, with more scrub.

The young woodland floor is heavily shaded and in places is denuded of ground flora. In other places, such as lower down the slopes where the trees are growing quicker and taller, light reaches the woodland floor and both previous pasture grasses and woodland flora co-exist.

The woodland blocks are still enclosed with deer fencing which acts as stock fencing against the grazing cattle. Public access is via permissive pathways which are mown. These provide access from downhill to uphill, circular walks, and also access off the site onto the local public right of way network.

Significance

The creation of new native broadleaved woodland, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat, is a core objective of the Woodland Trust. This developing woodland habitat is now beginning to show characteristics of a more mature woodland rather than plantation. The woodland provides an increasing biodiversity gain to the site and further enriches the local environment by providing ecological connectivity to the hedge and woodland network, allowing movement of flora and fauna. The woodland provides a compliment to the local landscape of rolling, well wooded down-land. The woodland also adjoins the neighbouring Ullenwood site, which has areas of historic coppice and ancient woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

- Implementation of a sensitive and low intensity conservation thinning regime will result in small scale timber marketing opportunities (e.g. woodfuel) and will help identify future mature canopy trees. Any thinning will need to recognise that Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) may affect the Ash population at Barber Wood and therefore thinning should retain Ash where possible, and favour non-ash future canopy trees.

- There is a longer term opportunity to better engage local neighbouring landowners to bring about collaborative projects such as landscape-wide management (e.g. connective tree planting and hedgerow management/creation) and also to deliver in partnership more traditional woodland operations such as coppicing and charcoal making (such as is currently underway at the adjacent Ullenwood site). Neighbours include Ullenwood (managed by Cotswold Conservation Board volunteers), Crickley Hill Country Park and local farmers.

Factors Causing Change

- As the woodland matures self-thinning will take place resulting in the dying off of suppressed trees and the expansion of stronger specimens resulting in a less even, more diverse woodland with a developing understory of younger trees but health and vigour of trees may be effected as density is still high leading to poor form and health).
- A considerable percentage of the trees are Ash so Chalara fraxinea will cause change if it infects the site. This could include a high percentage of Ash onsite dying resulting in canopy openings, open ground habitat, or indeed a need to restock with native species through restock planting. If Chalara fraxinea does infect Ash onsite there is an opportunity to monitor the impact, in particular where disease resistance is concerned.
- There are no obvious problems with deer or squirrels. Monitoring through periodic Woodland Condition Assessment will identify issues relating to mammal damage and other pest impacts.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Woodland which is wind firm with canopy closure and significant structural diversity from woodland floor to upper canopy including glades and open ground. An established woodland ecosystem will have developed which will have assimilated into the wider landscape through hedges and neighbouring woodland, providing biological connectivity. Existing mature trees will have been incorporated, providing age and structural diversity, and other leader trees will have been established from the planted stock, favouring native species other than Ash where possible. Deadwood will be present in quantity, both standing and fallen. Grassy paths, edge zones and glades will improve biodiversity and allow for species movement although ash may die as a result of Chalara fraxinea if it arrives at the site, it would be a long term objective to still have some resilient individuals/population left, and any sizeable loss of Ash replaced with planted native stock. Thinning will treat Ash species according to Woodland trust policy on Chalara fraxinea. The local community will have become more involved in the wood with volunteer activity such as path maintenance, ragwort control and events/education. There will be collaborative relationships with neighbouring landowners regards the management of the local landscape including woodland operations such as coppicing, connective tree planting/hedgerow management and charcoal making.

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

- Maintenance of stock and deer fencing around defined woodland areas to ensure protection of sensitive woodland habitat.
- Small scale selective thinning of all wooded areas to begin towards the end of this plan period to identify future leader trees and to promote structural diversity and encourage native ground flora and natural regeneration. Market timber locally as wood fuel and link this operation with other similar operations in nearby Cotswold/Stroud woodlands. Ash species will be treated in accordance with Woodland trust policy on *Chalara fraxinea*.
- Develop internal paths and glades within the woodland areas, following desire lines where possible. To be undertaken in tandem with any thinning and also through Estates Management Contract.
- Monitor woodland for general health issues through periodic Woodland Condition Assessment, including for *Chalara fraxinea*, pests such as deer and squirrels, and also for invasive species which may result in invasive species management in the future.
- Monitor woodland for trees safety issues and begin to incorporate tree safety inspections towards the end of the plan period.
- Identify all local neighbouring landowners and investigate opportunities for collaborative projects.
- Plan for the removal of deer fencing and formalisation of stock fencing within the plan period (beginning with the old 4a post thinning).

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2012	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	May Path Cut (in most years 2 cuts is not enough for the paths through Milward plantation and grassland area above and below that plantation. This work need not be extended to the upper areas of the site as the grass there is less vigorous and more flori	29/05/12
2012	WC - Invasive Plant Control	COMPLETE 1) Assessment on extent of Noxious weeds throughout whole site to be made to Woodland officer by May 15th in the form of a map showing extent of noxious and method of control required. NOTE no vehicular mechanical operations to take place throug	29/05/12
2012	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	June Path Cut - 1) Cut the centre lines of all routes shown in PINK on the EMC map. 2) Complete Entrance maintenance inspections at all entrances marked P, M or MP on the EMC map.	26/06/12
2012	WC - Invasive Plant Control	Noxious Weed control contingency.	01/07/12
2012	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	JULY Path Cut - 1) Cut the centre lines of all routes shown in PINK aAND all glade/scallop areas shown in GREEN on the EMC map. 2) Complete Entrance maintenance inspections at all entrances marked P, M or MP on the EMC map.	31/07/12
2012	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	TS report for mature trees along main road which form TS zone A (for Zone A areas please refer to the site hazard Risk Assessment.	28/08/12
2012	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Clear path through mature plantation adjacent county road. Thin plantation around edges of new path.	31/10/12
2012	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	For ivy cutting in TS zone A areas	31/10/12
2012	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	For the cutting of Ivy in road side locations	31/12/12
2012	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	For the clearance of path through mature plantation.	31/12/12

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	7.39	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Landscape factors, Management factors (eg grazing etc), People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves	Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Improved limestone grassland occupying the relatively flat north of the site and managed under a grazing regime. The field has a rich spring ground flora with orchids and other indicators of unimproved grassland increasing each year. There is some ragwort and thistle present throughout the field which is hand pulled each year.</p> <p>Six fenced-off landscape tree 'roundels' are found within the sub-compartment: 2 mature circular standing alone; 2 mature semi-circular against the north boundary; and two recently planted. The trees within these roundels include Beech and Scots pine. They are remnant of the historic Ullenwood estate and reflect characteristics of the wider landscape. Good views of rolling Cotswold landscape are offered up towards the upper slopes of 1a.</p> <p>Compartment 1a gives out to the formal car parking area and main entrance to the very north of the site, with a separate dog entrance area adjoining the parking area, and also a small triangle of land that constitutes the very northern tip of the site, complete with notice boards and parish council board. Compartment 1a is slightly sloped with some areas liable to waterlogging or 'poaching' when concentrated gatherings of cattle in particular can affect sward quality. The field can also be dry in times of sparse summer precipitation.</p> <p>There are several permissive paths running through the sub compartment entering into the woodland areas at three formal gated points, breaking the deer fencing that surrounds the young woodland. There is formal management vehicular access throughout 1a.</p>							
1b	8.30	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Landscape factors, Management factors (eg grazing etc)	Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Compartment 1b is made up of four distinct units of semi-improved and unimproved limestone grassland (previously sub-compartments 3b, 3c, 4b, 5a). They all occupy previously agricultural land which has been grazed for many years with an extensive unimproved element to the south and good quality improved pasture to the north.

The grassland areas are loosely connected to each other but are largely separated by the young wooded areas. Ragwort and thistle is common throughout all grassed areas but these are under annual control and are reducing.

Woody scrub including blackthorn is encroaching from the wooded areas and is consuming some of the unimproved and improved pasture.

The site is grazed, lately with cattle, which keeps a low sward. There is water provision to all areas via troughs and a pressure driven pump.

- Improved and semi-improved grassland pasture occupying the very top of the site (previously 3b). Some notable grassland species including orchids, with features of unimproved grassland present. Scrub such as thorn is encroaching from the woodland 2a and overcoming the grassland in places;
- Strip of scalloped open land along east boundary left unplanted (previously 3c) and un-grazed. Public permissive access route from the council road to top of slope is mown. It also contains unprotected low shrub species planted along edge with the wooded 2a which is mingling with encroaching scrub;
- Semi-improved grassland (previously 4b) with small areas of unimproved grassland adjacent to unimproved grassland across the track downslope. There are some unprotected planted low shrubs along the upper edge of the area, with scrub encroaching from the woodland area;
- Unimproved and very species rich grazed grassland at lowest, southern most portion of site (previously 5a) with a significant lynchet earthwork running across the slope. Rich, old hedgerow at the southern boundary with mature pollards and standards.

1c	2.21	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Landscape factors	Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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Strip of land between 2a and neighbouring ownership which accommodates public foot access. The fringe with 2a to the north is planted with unprotected low shrubs and a rich bramble hedge runs along the boundary with the neighbouring ownership to the south. The ride hosts a rich and diverse array of flowers and grasses and acts as a corridor for foraging insects.

2a	21.13	Mixed broadleaves	1995	High forest	Landscape factors	Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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Young plantation native broadleaves occupying the upper slopes of Barber Wood and appearing as an inverted 'L' shape (previously the four sub-compartments 1b, 2a, 3a, 4a). Comprising four separate blocks fenced with deer and stock fencing, which is now old and requires on-going maintenance. Permissive paths run throughout.

The native broadleaves consist of Beech, Ash, Birch, Field Maple, Whitebeam, Yew and Pedunculate oak with other shrub species and were mainly planted in 1992 with one area (previously 1b) planted in 1996. The woodland has a closed canopy and an understory of hazel, ash and field maple is developing, along with woodland ground flora, although much of it interspersed with grassland from its pasture origins.

The woodland is mature enough to allow 'desire lines' or informal footpaths to develop within the woodland.

There is a mature landscape 'roundel' at the top of slope in what was 3a.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	2a	Thin	21.13	2	50
2021	2a	Thin	21.13	5	100

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. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

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