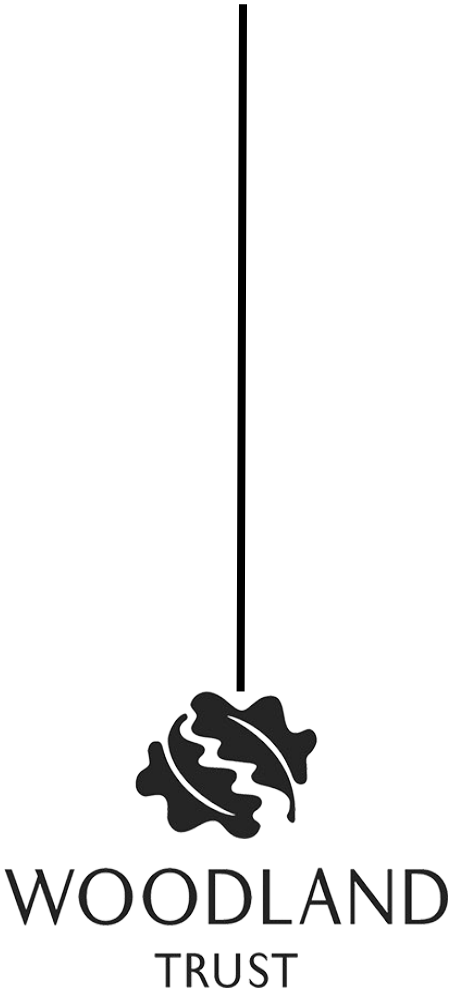
Beacon Hill Wood

(Plan period – 2026 – 2036)



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

Beacon Hill Wood

Location:	Shepton Mallet Grid reference: ST 63706 46109 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 183
Area:	17.22 hectares (42.55 acres)
External Designations:	Scheduled Ancient Monument
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Beacon Hill Wood is situated on a prominent ridge towards the eastern end of the Mendip Hills, 2 miles north-east of Shepton Mallet. It lies outside the Mendip Hills National Landscape, but within the Mendip Hills National Character Area 141.

Beacon Hill is a predominantly even aged secondary beech and Scots pine woodland planted by the Forestry Commission in the 1950's, and is almost entirely surrounded by semi-improved grassland. It contains a few older mature beech trees pre-dating this on the south boundary, and in the centre of the wood, where they are a prominent landscape feature. There is an area of young birch woodland in the north west corner of the site as well as a few patches of natural heathland vegetation reflecting the habitat prior to plantation and the acidic soil. Ponds, rides and glades add to the diversity. In spring, lower parts of the wood are carpeted with bluebells.

A wide range of archaeological features make this a fascinating wood to visit, with numerous features surviving from the Bronze Age, and Roman period, right through to this century. Some of the features to look out for include 10 Bronze Age tumuli - burial mounds, old quarry pits, the route of the Roman Fosse Way, a large circular earth bank identified as a late 18th century tree ring, encompassing three barrows and a single central standing stone. The circular earthwork and most of the barrows on Beacon Hill are designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's) - list entry Number: 1006199 & 1006178.

There is informal access throughout the wood, including one surfaced route providing easy access to the view point in the north west of the site. Other paths within the wood are naturally surfaced, and wet and boggy in parts due to a number of springs around the site. The north of the site is on level ground, while slopes to the south provide steep climbs and excellent views across Somerset. Past quarrying has left the ground uneven with small gullies, ridges and ponds.

The wood was purchased with a grant from Mendip District Council on the condition that the Trust involves and informs the local community in the management of the wood. The community and user groups have a strong affinity for the wood and are represented by a local group - The Beacon Hill Society, who formed in 1993 and has worked with The Woodland Trust since 1995 www.beaconhillsociety.org.uk.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Beacon Hill will be a diverse and resilient woodland, returning to a more open-style woodland habitat. The wood will be diverse in its species composition and structure, providing a mix of groves, glades, wide rides, veteran trees and scrub areas. The understory will be naturally regenerating, and the ground flora will flourish with the increased light levels. Restoration towards a predominantly native species woodland will be gradual, allowing the woodland condition to change over time to encompass existing features while creating new ones.

The habitat and features captured on the main barrow in compartment 1b, of open grown veteran trees and a grassy field layer will be replicated across the wood to help restore the habitat to a more open style woodland, akin to wood pasture. Over time, working towards reducing the canopy cover to 60% and creating additional diverse and resilient habitats of managed open space, open grown veteran trees and wide rides covering up to 40% of the wood.

Both permanent and transitional open space will be present in the wood through glades and two-zonal ride management. Decaying wood habitats will be created, and current standing and fallen decaying wood will be left in situ where safe to do so, aiming to establish a minimum of 20 cubic meters of deadwood per hectare. Veteran trees will be managed into senescence to maximise their natural life span as well as identifying veterans of the future, of other species such as oak, and managing for these to develop in a similar way. Continued monitoring and management will ensure an absence of invasive species and tree diseases will be managed for.

The former features of bilberry, heather and gorse will be encouraged where appropriate as part of the field layer, adding to the rich composition of the site.

Once the habitat is established, a grazing regime will be introduced to help restore the wood to its former landscape context, a small herd of conservation cows will move through the wood helping to create a mosaic of different habitats in keeping with the landscape, as well as manage the regenerating vegetation on Scheduled Ancient Monuments, historic features and other open space habitats. By using the no-fence collar system, grazing can be moved around the wood to target appropriate areas and limit their time in more sensitive areas.

The rich archaeological heritage including the remnant historic features and Scheduled Ancient Monuments will have been protected and maintained by clearing trees and regeneration from on and around them and maintained to reduce the risk of future damage. The features will remain easily accessible and promoted to a wide audience through special interest groups, archaeologists, local historians and engagement activities with the Beacon Hill Society.

The wood will continue to be enjoyed, valued and cared for by local users and visitors. An improved path network will continue to work towards the Trust's objectives of inspiring everyone to value woods and trees, and appropriate access infrastructure will be installed and maintained to support visitor access to both the wood and the interesting

features of the site all year round. The Trust will continue to liaise with and involve the local community in the future management of the wood.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Wood Pasture

Description
Beacon Hill Wood is situated on a prominent ridge towards the eastern end of the Mendip Hills. It is predominantly even aged beech plantation, with some remaining Scots pine, small areas of naturally regenerating secondary woodland, planted young birch woodland and occasional mature beech trees. Ponds, rides and glades add to the diversity. In spring, lower parts of the wood are carpeted with bluebells. The beech and Scots pine were planted by the Forestry Commission in the 1950's; the WT thinned most of the pine in two stages in 1999-2004, and again in 2010-11, but some areas of Scots pine still remain. The beech was again thinned in 2022. A few older large mature beech trees pre-dating this can be found on the south boundary and in the centre of the wood within the circular earth bank; these are most likely to have been planted following enclosure in the late 18th century, and would have been visible for miles around. There is an area of multi-stemmed sycamore planted circa 1956 in the SE of the wood, and a small area in the NE corner was planted in 1988 with mainly birch and mixed native broadleaves. The understory is very low in cover with very few regenerating trees or shrubs. Occasional naturally regenerated oak, beech, birch, sycamore, willow, rowan, ash and sweet chestnut can be found amongst the beech and Scots pine. The ground flora is generally poor under the dense beech canopy, except for bluebells to the south of the site. Some wet areas are developing a more varied ground flora including ragged robin, rushes and sedges. The underlying geology is unusual with Somerset's oldest outcropping igneous rock dating from the Silurian period overlain by Devonian Old Red Sandstone. The surrounding area and the Mendip Hills are predominantly Carboniferous limestone. The geology of the site creates acid soil conditions in the wood in an area which is generally neutral to calcareous. There are a few patches of natural scrub woodland/heathland vegetation developing in the wood, reflecting the natural habitat prior to plantation and naturally suited to the acidic soil. This is also supported by pollen analysis from the barrow excavation.
Significance
It is an isolated pocket of woodland that lies on the south east edge of the Mendip Hills, outside the Mendip Hills National Landscape, but within the Mendip Hills National Character Area 141. The underlying geology creates acid ground conditions in parts of the wood for associated flora and fauna. It has a large area of woodland cover in a generally un-wooded landscape which makes it a prominent feature in the surrounding area, and is large enough to sustain viable populations of woodland species acting as a reservoir for their future spread.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunities: Restore pre-plantation habitats likened to wood pasture and heath where appropriate. Trial veteranisation techniques to create more deadwood habitats.

Explore funding opportunities to help restore open woodland habitats and grazing infrastructure such as perimeter fencing or hedge laying.

Enhance pond.

Constraints:
Ground conditions are variable with poor tracks due to steep slopes, hollows, waterlogged areas and springs.

The presence of many archaeological features including three SAM's, which make harvesting operation difficult and restricts timber extraction on steeper sections of woodland – all works in or near Scheduled Monuments to follow standard guidance from Historic England for forestry works.

There are several badger setts within the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Heavy Beech canopy suppressing natural regeneration of tree and flora species.

Deer browsing and grazing affecting natural regeneration and squirrel damage preventing some broadleaf trees from reaching maturity.

Over grazing or poaching if grazing animals eventually become part of the management of the wood.

Increased bramble cover.

Management constraints around SAM's.

Pests and tree diseases.

Exposure to climate change and more frequent storm events encouraging windblow.

Unfavorable regeneration such as bramble and bracken, beech and sycamore.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland will have developed a mixed age and species and a diverse structure through a series of small interventions. A mix of temporary and permanent open space will be created through creating glades throughout the wood around the barrows, other areas will be cleared through regenerative felling and restocked to encourage a diversity of species such as oak, rowan, birch, willow and heath. Transitional open space will be created along the ride network promoting a soft woodland edge habitat. The existing beech and scots pine plantation will be broken up and incorporated into the new structure of a more open style woodland. Space will be given to existing veteran trees to maximise their lifespan and new notable trees will be managed in the same way to provide future veterans. Deadwood habitat will be encouraged throughout the wood in the form of both standing and fallen deadwood. Continued

monitoring and management will ensure an absence of invasive species and tree diseases will be managed for. Small herds of conservation grazing livestock will move through the wood helping to manage areas of open space.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (10 years)

The short term objective is to improve the diversity, age structure and species composition of the woodland, increase natural regeneration of broadleaf trees, and to reduce the proportion of beech and Scots pine as highlighted in the Woodland Condition Assessment through a number of low impact interventions.

The continuous structure of the canopy in compartment 1a will be opened up by carrying out regenerative felling and open space creation work throughout aiming to slightly reduce tree cover across the site and encourage wood pasture features found in compartment 1b. Felling small coups of trees will create a network of open glades promoting regeneration of mixed tree species and ground flora, additional glades will be created around the barrows scattered throughout the wood and will continually be managed as open space to further enhance and protect these features.

Natural regeneration of trees, shrubs and ground flora will be encouraged in areas with increased light levels. Where natural regeneration is not responding, supplementary planting of suitable species including oak, birch, hazel, rowan, willow, heather, gorse and bilberry will take place. Carrying out a soil analysis to best match suitable species will be investigated to aid this, as well as looking at historic records of the trees and plants present pre 1950's planting.

Halo-thinning will take place around veteran and notable trees to help manage them into senescence. Veteranisation of future notable trees will be identified and managed in a similar way to promote early veteran features. Other techniques to veteranise trees through mimicking natural processes such as lightning strikes and ring barking will be trialled to also encourage a mixed structure within the wood. Other species such as oak could be planted into glades to help create the foundations of future veteran trees grown into open space.

Standing and fallen deadwood will be left in situ where safe to do so, and where away from historic features, as well as further encouraging standing deadwood through ringbarking and veteranisation.

Due to the surrounding pasture context of the landscape, grazing opportunities will be investigated to help restore natural processes and manage the wood into the future. Work to erect a perimeter fence in order to support grazing will be carried out in this management plan period.

Thinning work will take place by trialling low impact methods to conserve historic and designated features. Management work will be planned with consultation from Historic England and Forestry Commission.

A deer impact assessment will be carried out at least twice in the life of the management plan to better understand herbivore browsing pressure. Deer management and/or alternative tree protecting methods may be implemented depending on the findings of the assessment in line with the Woodland Trust's evidence led approach.

Tree safety inspections will continue to highlight any work needed along paths and roadsides. Any roadside tree safety work will consider future proofing the roadside edge by encouraging a soft woodland edge of scrub habitat and planting shrubs in place of large roadside ash may be undertaken.

As identified in the 2002 and a later 2020 ecological survey commissioned by the Woodland Trust, work to manage the pond in compartment 1b through coppicing willow and reducing the overhang of tree cover around the pond to

enhance the availability of sunlit open water.

Restore old hedge banks through coppicing and hedgelaying along the south east boundary, liaising with neighbouring land owners.

All thinning work around the SAM's (compartment 1b) will follow standard guidance from Historic England for forestry works.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with Woods & Trees.

Description

The woodland is open in character with a network of permissive paths. A Public Right of Way classified as a Restricted Byway (RB) runs north-south through the western section of the wood linking Shepton Mallet to the south and Oakhill to the north. A short permissive horse route has been created on the northern edge of the wood to link the Restricted Byway with the Unclassified Road to the north on the other side of the Old Frome Road.

A surfaced access for all path was created in 1998/9 to provide all ability access from the main parking area to a special seat at the west viewpoint.

The north of the site is on level ground, but to the south a steep section drops sharply before a gentler southerly slope. Past quarrying has left the ground uneven with small gullies, ridges and ponds. A number of springs arise around the site, one on a geological fault, and most paths within the wood are natural surface and wet and boggy in parts.

The wood was purchased in 1995 with a grant from Mendip District Council on the condition that the Trust involves and informs the local community in the management of the wood. The WT commissioned an Ecological Survey in 2002, an Archaeological Survey in 2002-3 and a Study of Highway Rights along the Fosse Way 2002. Joint projects between the Beacon Hill Society and WT funded by the Local Heritage Initiative have involved local people in archaeological excavations, walks, arts events, practical projects and an education pack for local schools.

Significance

Provision of public access and increasing people's enjoyment of woodland is a key aim of the Woodland Trust, and it is furthered by ownership and management of Beacon Hill Wood. The lack of woodland in the area makes it a popular place for visitors, and the archaeological and geological interest of the wood attracts specialist visitors to the site.
The wood was purchased with a grant from Mendip District Council on the condition that the Trust involves and informs the local community in the management of the wood – through the Beacon Hill Society.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
To engage with users of the wood through interpretation and signage.

Opportunities to enhance access via the improved management tracks to more of the features of the wood including the historical and archaeological features, viewpoints and wildlife interest.

Constraints:
Poor accessibility of some paths.

The line of the Restrictive Byway on the ground is not very obvious and it becomes very wet and boggy in the winter. It crosses a number of Holloways which are important archaeologically.

Factors Causing Change

Misuse by cyclists/horse riders straying off of Restrictive Byway.

Unauthorised use of motorbikes.

Erosion and deterioration of paths,

Felling operations.

Fly tipping at entrances.

Unauthorised building of bike jumps.

Rope swings on veteran trees.

Small fires and other antisocial activity.

Improved access and visibility of heritage features could positively support and raise awareness of these features.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The importance of the wood as a local recreational resource will have been maintained and improved, so the site is valued by local users and visitors, both as a through route and a recreational and interesting resource in its own right. An improved path network will continue to work towards the Trust's objectives of inspiring everyone to value woods and trees, and appropriate access infrastructure will be installed and maintained to support visitor access to both the wood and the interesting features of the site all year round. The Trust will continue to liaise with and involve the local community in the future management of the wood.

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

The main paths will continue to be cut annually, pushing back encroaching vegetation. Where there is opportunity to widen rides and coppice ride sides, this will be carried out and rotated around the wood to encourage a soft woodland edge and transitional open habitat. New unofficial paths will be closed with brash material to encourage activity along the main permissive paths and reduce disturbance in more sensitive parts of the wood. Unauthorised bike tracks and jumps will be removed during harvesting operations and brash material will be left to block routes and help protect the ground from erosion.

Path audit to re-map official paths and remove/close unofficial paths.

Tracks will be reinstated and improved where possible post felling works, removing build up of leaf litter and redirecting

drainage away from tracks, avoiding work near the SAM's and any areas of archaeological interest.

The welcome orientation board will be updated into the new style of interpretation. Maintenance of benches and other infrastructure will be carried out when needed. Annual tree safety inspections will continue to provide a safe and enjoyable place to visit. Regular litter picks will continue and volunteer wardens will continue to engage with the wood, highlighting any issues to the Site Manager.

The Woodland Trust and Site Manager will continue to liaise and engage with members of the public and the Beacon Hill Society when upcoming works are planned, as well as relevant statutory bodies such as Historic England and Forestry Commission.

Legal responsibilities – work to maintain roadside trees and highways clearances along north roadside boundary where WT is responsible– Cut with tractor mounted flails every January/February and pull any tree saplings. Begin to thin the road edge in upcoming thinning work to develop a more gradual and scrubby buffer to the woodland along Old Frome Road.

4.3 f3 Archaeological Feature

Description

Numerous features survive from the Bronze Age, Roman period, and right through to this century. There are 10 Bronze age Tumuli- burial mounds in the wood and the circular earthwork and barrows on Beacon Hill are designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's) - list entry Numbers: 1006199 & 1006178. One of the barrows was excavated by Peter Leach? in 2008 and a Bronze Age Urn with the cremated remains of a young girl was found; the Urn is now in Somerset Museum. Other barrows are visible in the open field to the west and some of these are recorded as having been excavated by Parson Skinner in the 19th century.

The Roman Fosse Way runs north to south and a road from the Mendip lead mines to Southampton - intersected on the hill top, though little of their original construction is visible today.

A large circular earth bank and ditch which extends between the northern and southern boundaries, identified as a late 18th century tree ring with a single central standing stone, can be found in the centre of the wood. The central monolith of dressed Doulting stone is a prominent marker pre-dating 1736 on the highest point of the hill on a large round barrow at the exact centre of the circular earth bank.

The site contains numerous old quarry pits, some potentially dating to the Iron Age. Quern stones or hand operated millstones that were produced here have been found at near-by Iron Age hillforts and camps, and at British Roman settlements. The rakes, quarry pits and working platforms in the wood represent the Roman and then more recent stone extraction industry. The sandstone was also used as metalling for surfacing the Fosse Way at Shepton Mallet. Several smaller standing stones can be found in the wood including; three small estate boundary stones, and a larger Parish boundary stone, with the date 1766.

More recent World War 2 features can also be found in the wood including several rectangular pits which may have formed gun locations along a Mendip defence line in case of invasion. Other, more secret, bunkers have been found

which are believed to be the remains of facilities for a covert British Resistance Organisation, set up separate from the Home Guard by the Secret Intelligence Services.

Archaeological surveys and more info can be found here www.beaconhillsociety.org.uk

Significance

The Trust protects the archaeological sites in its ownership. The site is important for the concentration of archaeological features in the area, and in particular the 10 Bronze age Tumuli in the wood. The circular earthwork and barrows on Beacon Hill are designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) - list entry Numbers: 1006199 & 1006178. The features date from Bronze Age, through the Roman, medieval and more recent periods showing the importance of the hill throughout history. The site is part of a larger area of archaeological interest important both locally and nationally, and these features are a direct way of linking the local community to its history.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
Interpretation boards highlighting the interesting features found within the wood.

Constraints:
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's). Any extraction to avoid earthworks. Many of the tumuli were damaged by previous forestry operations pre- Woodland Trust ownership i.e. deep ploughing in the 1950's prior to planting the beech and pine trees. Trees growing on earthworks could cause damage if the root plates lift. Presence of these features does constrain harvesting operations to an extent but careful planning can avoid a conflict and historic features map available on past surveys and Woodland Trust internal GIS Mapping service.

Roots of regeneration of coarse vegetation following felling might also have detrimental effects on monuments.

Factors Causing Change

Illegal public activity on motorbikes causing erosion.

Horse riders and cyclists ride off the Restricted Byway damaging archaeological features.

Natural regeneration and mature trees on tumuli.

Public access damaging surface of the earth bank with standing stone.

Natural deterioration and falling veteran trees causing damage.

Future conservation grazing could cause overgrazing or poaching to historic features.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The rich archaeological heritage will be maintained and enhanced, and all remnant historic features will be secured and protected. Public awareness, of the importance of the woods archaeology and history and previous uses of the site will be promoted through interpretation enhancing their interest, understanding and enjoyment of their local history .

Provision of access will continue with access points maintained and a network of paths that allow visitors to appreciate the interesting features of the site. This will result in clearings around the tumuli and the large circular earth bank, with occasional mature veteran trees.

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

Open space creation to be commenced in next harvesting operation to lower the tree cover on scheduled monuments and barrows. Removal of trees that pose a risk to the features will be prioritised. Buffer zone of open space around historic features to be confirmed with Historic England advice.

To ensure the tumuli are free of regenerating trees, bracken, bramble and shrubby vegetation. Undertaken by regular monitoring and annual clearance around the barrows Encouragement of ideal vegetation on features such as grass and heather where appropriate. To minimise the risk of lifting root plates damaging archaeology by annual tree safety checks on mature trees for stability.

Planned tree planting to be carried out in locations agreed with Historic England and Forestry Commission and away from scheduled monuments and, other historic features.

Low impact methods of working to be pursued given the sensitive nature of the features found on site.

Information on the historic features to be included in the upgrade of orientation board and specific signage.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	16.2	Beech	1956	High forest	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Scheduled Ancient Monument
Secondary woodland of Beech and Scots pine P 1956. Small area of multi-stemmed sycamore P c 1956 in SE corner of wood. Occasional naturally regenerated oak, willow, rowan, ash and sweet chestnut. A small area in the NE corner was planted 1988 with mixed native broadleaves with many naturally regenerating birch. The ground flora is generally poor under the dense beech canopy and regeneration is absent throughout the majority. Parts of the wood on the lower slopes have abundant bluebells, Some wet areas have ground flora including ragged robin, rushes and sedges.						
1b	0.8	Beech	1860	High forest	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Landscape factors, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Scheduled Ancient Monument
Veteran beech on and surrounding tumuli P 1850 - 1900. Ground wet with pools of semi permanent water. Generally flat with undulations from historic earthworks.						

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.