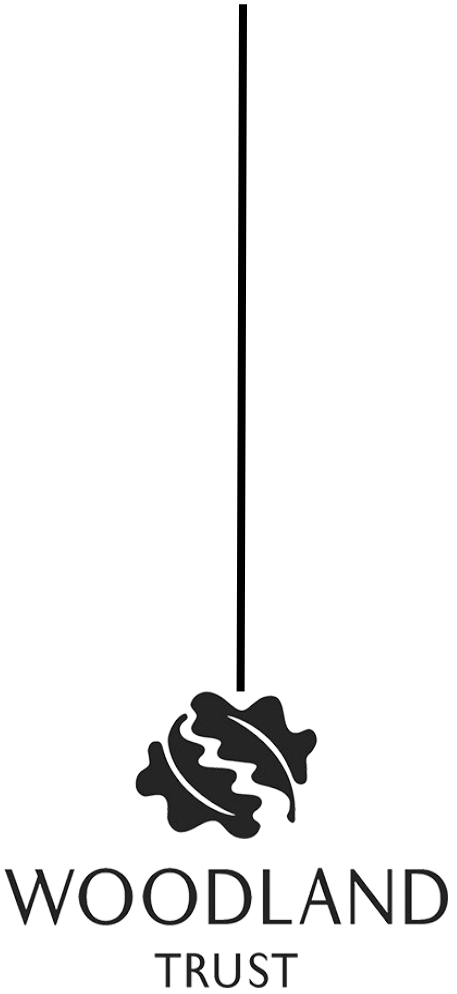
Swan & Cygnet Woods

(Plan period – 2026 to 2036)



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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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

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

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.

2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.

3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.

4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.

5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.

6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.

7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.

8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.

9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.

10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

Location and Access

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

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

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

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

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features

   4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

   4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

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5. Work Programme

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Swan & Cygnet Woods

Location:	Stock Grid reference: TQ689995 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 167
Area:	20.99 hectares (51.87 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt, Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	Trafalgar Wood commemorative site, Tree For All Site

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Swan and Cygnet Woods is principally an area of attractive Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) lying near the village of Stock, a semi-rural environment a few miles south of Chelmsford. The 13ha of ASNW, long known as Swan Wood, was purchased by the Trust after a fundraising appeal in 1989. A further 8ha were purchased in several parcels in 2000 to help buffer the core ancient woodland. These consisted of: a grassland area to the south which was grazed (has no public access), an ex-arable field to the north which was left to naturally regenerate and a small field along the western boundary was planted in 2000 as part of the Trust's Woods on Your Doorstep campaign and aptly named Cygnet Wood. For management purposes the entire woodland is managed as one unit.

The existing woodland is an excellent example of ancient woodland of hornbeam and chestnut coppice with oak standards. Both pedunculate and sessile oak are present along with alder, ash, rowan, birch, holly, field maple, beech, willow, aspen and hawthorn. In addition, along the southern section of the eastern boundary, three wild service trees can be found (an ancient woodland indicator species). An attractive pond makes an interesting feature, and the site is bisected by a small stream surrounded by an area of alder carr. Ground flora consists of patches of bluebells in the spring, along with pignut, yellow pimpernel, wood sorrel, wood anemone, primrose, climbing corydalis and yellow archangel.

The surrounding landscape is characterised by a mosaic of undulating arable expanse, dotted with small blocks of woodland. The wood is typical of the area with oak standards and hornbeam coppice, a reminder that its timber was used to fuel much of London in past years.

A public footpath runs along the northern boundary and the wood is regularly used by visitors enjoying quiet recreation. Management access is available on three sides (E, W & N) but is mainly focused through the entrance which is directly off the highway running along the western edge.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intentions are to enhance this superb area of diverse woodland for the benefit of wildlife and visitors through varied silviculture techniques, moving away from a closed canopy woodland with low levels of regeneration.

The ASNW Swan Wood (cpt 1a) should continue to be a native broadleaf uneven-aged woodland with a varied stand structure and a diverse range of additional habitats (mature hornbeam and sweet chestnut coppice with a variety of standards, wet woodland, a pond and associated wetlands, recently planted woodland and hornbeam coppice with oak standards). Historic hornbeam and chestnut coppice will be brought back into rotation to increase structural diversity, encourage coppice regrowth and create holes in the canopy for further natural regeneration of other desirable species in the understorey as well as ground flora. Sycamore regeneration and the spread of rhododendron, bamboo and azalea should not be allowed or permitted to dominate the understorey, and so eradication of non-native invasive species is desirable. The aging oak and chestnut scattered throughout the wood will be left to senescence and beyond resulting in a large number of ancient trees. Clearance or cutting of competing vegetation known as haloing will be used to safeguard mature oak ensuring they have appropriate light and space.

The young woodland Cygnet Wood (cpt 4a) and the scrubby regeneration in 2a and along the wood edge of 3a will merge discretely into the surrounding woodland as they mature and will indeed complement the existing woodland structure and provide a superb buffer to the ASNW.

The alder carr alongside the stream will be left to regenerate naturally with minimal intervention. The pond will be restored to provide an aesthetically pleasing natural area and a diverse wildlife habitat. This will include increasing the light levels through glade creation, coppicing and thinning. The undulating grassland on the southern side of the wood should be managed to improve its conservation value, principally by grazing. Groups of broadleaves should remain dotted throughout the grassland. Over time those in the vicinity of the regenerating buffer will be absorbed by its steady expansion from the wood edge.

The Trust's corporate objective of increasing people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland will be achieved by continuing to provide and maintain appropriate access paths and facilities throughout the wood. Informal recreational facilities including swings, ladders and dens will be monitored, and/or removed where safety concerns arise or negative impact on the ASNW is evident.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Informal Public Access

Description
Swan and Cygnet Woods are a well used natural resource, easily accessible from the village of Stock. There are seven entrances around the site, the most popular being directly off Swan Lane, opposite the local authority car park. A public footpath runs along the northern boundary, providing an added link into the extensive 3.5km network of well walked paths throughout the wood, all of which are natural and unsurfaced. The attractive pond in the NE corner provides added interest and an ideal resting place. Access facilities include: small wooden bridges, kissing gates, stiles, benches and an information board in Cygnet Wood.
Significance
Informal public access raises people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland, fulfilling one of the Trust's corporate objectives. A popular site on the edge of Stock Village provides suitable areas for villagers and other visitors to walk and also to exercise dogs, opportunities for nature study and adds interest as the largest piece of woodland within easy walking distance of the village.
Opportunities & Constraints
O1: Involvement and interest of the local community; the woodland is visited by a wide range of people. C1: Illegal motorbike and dirt bike use can affect the woodland experience for visitors and can damage ground flora. C3: Unauthorised play structures can become a hazard, whilst also damaging trees and ground flora.
Factors Causing Change
Antisocial behaviour, including motorbike/dirt bike usage and unauthorised play structures are increasing. New interpretation signage, and other infrastructure options such as inhibitors will be considered to reduce the impact.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
To remain a welcoming woodland with well-maintained entrances and attractive paths that connect to a wider network of rights of way. Easily accessible, well used and respected by locals from the surrounding area. The wood will remain open for the public to visit and enjoy its natural beauty and conservation interest.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Operational Objective:

Easily accessible, attractive, well maintained and safe woodland regularly used by the public. Path network, entrances, bridges, benches and pond area remain in good condition and are appropriate for level and type of use and in accordance with access category B.

Work Programme:
• Establish and maintain rides through Cygnet Wood twice a year to a minimum width of 2m, including the path that runs east-west adjacent to the road to encourage woodland edge habitat establishment.
• Maintain path network throughout Swan Wood.
• Inspection of bridges, boardwalks and benches every 2-3 years
• Annual tree safety inspection of Zones A & biennially for Zone B.
• Install new site interpretation signs relating to electric motorbike use and play infrastructure.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description

New native broadleaved woodland established around 2000. Approx 80% of cpt 4 (Cygnet Wood) was planted under the Woods on your Doorstep project. Cpt2 is developing into fantastic natural young woodland with prolific regeneration of oak, birch, hawthorn and willow from surrounding trees. The thin strip of land in cpt 3, fenced off in 2004 with no public access, holds valuable grassland habitat and scrub encroachment from the boundaries with clear evidence of oak, hornbeam and chestnut regeneration. These areas of new native woodland add structure, diversity and provide a tremendous variety of existing and potential woodland habitats. Dormouse have been recorded here, and there continues to be active monitoring of the species.

Significance

One of the Trust's corporate objectives is to see an increase in the area of new native woodland. This objective is adequately fulfilled in Cygnet Wood becoming well established. The areas of natural regeneration also fulfil this objective as well as buffering the ASNW and increasing biodiversity potential.

Opportunities & Constraints

O1: Location means there is a chance of establishing woodland that will be colonised by associated ancient woodland flora and fauna.

O2: These new wooded areas will also act as vital 'buffers' to the sensitive habitat of the ASNW.

O3: Coppicing and selective thinning will help to establish more light levels.

O5: Re-introduction of grazing is of low risk due to no public access in cpt 3.

C1: Reaction to conservation tree work, changing the face of the woodland, coppicing of trees seen as a negative.

C2: Lack of grazing infrastructure may inhibit ability to re-introduce grazing.

Factors Causing Change

Antisocial behaviour, including motorbike/dirt bike usage is increasing. New interpretation signage, and other infrastructure options such as inhibitors will be considered to reduce the impact.
Fly tipping has been a problem in the past, but currently not on a scale that warrants huge concern.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To develop into a healthy, mature and attractive native broadleaf woodland of varying structure and habitats. A mixture of trees, woody shrubs, open space and ground flora developed through planting and natural colonisation of native broadleaves from the surrounding ancient woodland.

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

Operational Objective:
Ensure Cygnet Wood is healthy, maturing well and is successfully integrating into the existing habitats and landscape. Ensure areas of natural regeneration are primarily colonised by native species and successfully integrating into the surrounding woodland.

Work Programme:

• Introduce coppicing to Cygnet Wood, approximately 0.5ha within compartment 4a to improve dormice habitat. To include planted hazel as/when appropriate. This will establish a coppice cycle of 10 years across 5 coups.
• Restore scallop creation across rides within Cygnet Wood to increase light levels and improve habitat for butterflies.
• Establish dead hedge and brash protection where silviculture techniques are used.
• Continue to provide aerial connectivity as routeways across Cygnet Wood.
• Establish a small glade of approximately 0.1ha within Cygnet Wood as pre-planned within the initial planting regime to create a mosaic of habitats.
• Monitor natural woodland expansion across the grassland habitat in cpt 3a swiping encroachment where necessary.
• Continue grazing across grassland habitat, including the replacement of stock fencing alongside annual inspections.

4.3 f3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Typically oak woodland with a strong sweet chestnut and hornbeam coppice element. The oak woodland would have a National Vegetation Classification (NVC) W10 (type b). It is characteristically Quercus robur, Pteridium aquilinum and Rubus fruticosus woodland which is described as having hornbeam and sweet chestnut locally abundant and bluebells and wood anemones being the spring dominant ground flora. However, ground flora is now over 50% coarse vegetation including bracken and bramble. This is smothering and outcompeting regeneration of trees and shrubs as well as reducing the abundance of floral species, particularly those associated with ancient woodlands. Birch, rowan, ash and sycamore are also noticeable but the alder wet woodland would be more typical of W6, Alnus glutinosa and Urtica dioica woodland. The eastern roadside boundary also contains three wild service trees along the southern section.

Huge oak and chestnut stands are scattered throughout the wood, and old hornbeam and chestnut enhance the woodland structure. Historically, near the northern boundary, open glades and prolific sycamore and birch regeneration were evident following the clear up of windblown trees after the 1987 storms. Also in this area is a tranquil woodland pond which is known to contain all three species of Newts. This will be re-confirmed. This northern area was the focus

of a pilot coppicing re-establishment programme, where a small number of coppice stools within an area were coppiced and brash protection added. The coppicing cycle has, however, now lapsed so additional areas will be recruited into a pilot programme from 2027.

Non-native invasives rhododendron, azalea and sycamore are obvious throughout the wood and a small characterful outcrop of bamboo can also be found.
Dormouse have been recorded here, and there continues to be active monitoring of the species.

Significance

ASNW's have been in existence for many hundreds of years and unfortunately are a declining resource. As well as being a traditional feature in the landscape they support an abundance of plants, mammals, birds, insects and fungi. It is one of the Trust's main objectives to ensure no further loss of ASNW. They take centuries to evolve and are irreplaceable. One of the Trust's core objectives is to ensure no further loss of ancient woodland as well as to preserve and enhance biodiversity.

Opportunities & Constraints

O1: Broadleaf regeneration through selective thinning and coppice regrowth will promote a healthy ancient semi natural woodland.

O2: Active management will increase habitat available for dormouse.

O3: Restore a well-loved pond and ecologically important pond in NW of the site.

C1: Sycamore regenerates freely and adds little to the composition of ancient woodland.

C2: Rhododendron can smother ground flora and the dense shade restricts regeneration.

C3: Azalea is now a dominant understorey shrub in the centre of the woodland.

C4. Lack of suitable timber handling facilities, and difficult access across the site for extraction.

Factors Causing Change

Antisocial behaviour, including motorbike/dirt bike useage is increasing. New interpretation signage, and other infrastructure options such as inhibitors will be considered to reduce the impact. Fly tipping has been a problem in the past, but currently not on a scale that warrants huge concern.

A number of large mature Oak trees have died over the last couple of years and although preliminary investigations have not established the cause, all mature oaks will be identified and protected through removal of competing vegetation known as haloing.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain and encourage a mixed broadleaf uneven aged woodland of varying stand structure, including areas of open and dense high forest and a mixed, multi-aged understorey. Attractive maturing woodland continuing to develop

its ancient woodland characteristics and components.

Leaf litter, rotting wood and natural clearings will influence natural regeneration. Thriving communities of specialist woodland flora will occur throughout the wood, along the stream edge and within the wet woodland habitat. Areas of the stream edge will be managed to reduce overshading, where coarse vegetation is outcompeting specialist floral species such as wood sorrel and yellow pimpernel.

The mature hornbeam and sweet chestnut coppice will be re-coppiced within a pilot programme. This will be monitored and if successful will add significant structural diversity to this area. Many of the large oak and chestnut will reach senescence and beyond providing numerous veteran trees and valuable dead wood habitats. These will be identified, and subsequently protected especially where holly is becoming dominant.

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

Operational Objective:
Ensure Swan Wood is healthy with an uneven aged vertical structure across the understorey and canopy. Ancient indicator species to be protected through active management, and regeneration promoted through silviculture techniques.

Work Programme:
• Restore coppice rotation in Swan Wood, approximately 1ha of out of cycle coppice.
• Introduce thinning and further coppicing as trial plots across Swan Wood to increase light levels and encourage regeneration. Further recruitment will be decided from 2028 in response to the trial period.
• Manage coarse vegetation across Swan Wood on rotation within 2.5ha to increase ground flora and tree/shrub regeneration. Strategic scallops within the 2.5ha will be created on an annual basis.
• Remove all invasive species such as rhododendron, azalea and sycamore, excluding the bamboo outcrop which is to be continually monitored.
• Encourage riparian edge habitat through gentle rotational clearance of approx. 130m to reduce coarse vegetation and improve condition for ground flora such as wood sorrel and yellow pimpernel.
• Restore the pond including re-establishing coppice cycle, reducing shade via thinning, and establish protection of edges to reduce dog disturbance. Coppicing to begin in 27/28.
• Implement site surveys such as breeding bird surveys, butterfly surveys and e-DNA for presence of newts from 2026 onwards.
• Audit and map veteran and ancient oak and chestnut in 2026/27, with a focus on any required protection for legacy purposes.
• Identify and document future veteran oak and chestnut in 2026/27.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	September
2026	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September
2026	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	October
2026	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	November
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	November
2026	NWH - Initial Restoration Work	Works associated with the initial restoration or significant reinvestment works of existing non-woodland habitats to improve or protect their conservation value	November
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	December
2027	CS - General Consultancy	Use of external consultant to support Woodland Trust site management	September
2027	NWH - Initial Restoration Work	Works associated with the initial restoration or significant reinvestment works of existing non-woodland habitats to improve or protect their conservation value	September
2027	WMI - Ancient / Vet Tree Restoration	Works associated with the restoration/protection of ancient, veteran trees or culturally significant trees – such as re-pollarding, initial halo thinning , redirecting paths	September
2027	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	October

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2027	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	November
2027	WMI - Coppice Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration of redundant/out of cycle coppice such as initial cutting, protective fencing, etc	November
2027	WMI - Coppice Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration of redundant/out of cycle coppice such as initial cutting, protective fencing, etc	November
2027	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	November
2027	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	November
2028	WMI - Ancient / Vet Tree Restoration	Works associated with the restoration/protection of ancient, veteran trees or culturally significant trees – such as re-pollarding, initial halo thinning , redirecting paths	September
2028	NWH - Initial Restoration Work	Works associated with the initial restoration or significant reinvestment works of existing non-woodland habitats to improve or protect their conservation value	September
2028	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	October
2028	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	November
2028	WMI - Coppice Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration of redundant/out of cycle coppice such as initial cutting, protective fencing, etc	November
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	November
2028	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
2029	WMI - Ancient / Vet Tree Restoration	Works associated with the restoration/protection of ancient, veteran trees or culturally significant trees – such as re-pollarding, initial halo thinning , redirecting paths	September

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2029	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	October
2029	WMI - Coppice Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration of redundant/out of cycle coppice such as initial cutting, protective fencing, etc	November
2029	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	November
2029	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
2029	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	November
2030	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	October
2030	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	November
2030	WMI - Coppice Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration of redundant/out of cycle coppice such as initial cutting, protective fencing, etc	November
2030	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	November
2030	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	13	other oak spp	1880	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt, Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order
Compartment 1a accounts for the entire area of ASNW. It mainly comprises mature sweet chestnut and hornbeam coppice with oak standards. Other species include rowan, birch, beech, field maple, ash, sycamore, wild service and hawthorn. A splendid strip of alder wet woodland surrounds the stream cutting through the compartment. Historically, near the northern boundary, open glades and prolific sycamore and birch regeneration was evident following the clear up of windblown trees after the 1987 storms. Also in this area is a tranquil pond which is known to contain all three species of newts. This northern area has also been the focus of a historic pilot coppicing re-establishment programme, where a small number of coppice stools have been coppiced and brash protection added. Coppice regeneration was highly successful, and an additional area was recruited into the pilot programme in 2014 (closer to Swan Lane) and is again showing good coppice regeneration growth. The coppice pilot programme lapsed from 2015 onwards, and will be re-established from 2027. Invasive rhododendron and azalea are obvious in the centre of the wood and a small characterful outcrop of bamboo can also be found. Hornbeam regeneration is found in the understorey, along with holly, birch, hawthorn and chestnut. Ground flora includes bracken and bramble, as well as ferns near the damp soils. A swathe of blue is provided in the spring by a stunning display of bluebells complemented by wood anemones and primroses. An ancient wood bank surrounds much of this compartment, particularly to the west and east. In the south east corner stands a fenced off mobile phone mast, surrounded Trust property but not in Trust ownership. A couple of obvious badger setts are also scattered across the site. The compartment mainly borders young woodland to the west (Cygnet Wood), the area of natural regeneration to the north, a golf course to the northeast, agricultural land to the east and horse grazing fields to the south.						
2a	1.1	Mixed native broadleaves	2001	High forest		Green Belt, Special Landscape Area

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
An ex-arable field purchased by the Trust in 2000, this compartment is naturally regenerating very well with native broadleaves such as oak, ash, birch, willow and hornbeam. Surrounded by mature trees it will gradually infill and become an excellent addition to the adjacent ancient woodland. The area is currently dense growth and no paths have been established.						
3a	3.64	Open ground		Non-wood habitat		Green Belt, Special Landscape Area
Undulating grassland acquired by the Trust in 2000. Historically possibly two fields with the remnants of a hedge following the stream/ditch line. Groups of mature oak add variety and character to the field which is historically was continually grazed by horses (will be re-introduced). A 10 - 15m strip adjacent to the mature woodland was fenced off in 2004. This exclusion of grazing has resulted in natural regeneration such as oak, hornbeam and sweet chestnut emerging, which will provide an excellent buffer to the ancient woodland.						
4a	2.04	Mixed native broadleaves	2001	High forest		Green Belt, Special Landscape Area
An ex-arable field purchased in 2000 squeezed between Swan Lane and the ancient woodland. It formed part of the Trust's WOYD campaign and was named Cygnet Wood. It was planted in 2000 / 2001 in sinuous lines at 3m x 3m spacing giving 1100 trees / ha. Main species planted included oak, ash, alder, hornbeam and willow with a splash of rowan, hawthorn and hazel. The trees have established very well and the tree shelters have now all been removed by local volunteers. Natural regeneration of birch, oak, hawthorn, hornbeam and willow is spreading in from the surrounding woodland. A path runs through the compartment which has a northwesterly aspect and offers fine views over the surrounding countryside. The compartment has a dormouse population and both monitoring and management with appropriately licenced individuals and a local group is taking place to maintain and hopefully expand this valuable population.						

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.