WOODLAND TRUST

Colerne Park & Monks Wood

Management Plan

2018-2023

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MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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®) under licence FSC-C009406 and 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:	Colerne Park & Monks Wood
Location:	Colerne
Grid reference:	ST837723, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 173
Area:	47.48 hectares (117.33 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A significant tract of ancient woodland with a river running alongside. The wood provides habitats for many species of fauna and avifauna as well as rich ground flora including the scarce Solomon's Seal and Star of Bethlehem.

2.2 Extended Description

Colerne Park and Monks Wood is situated at the southern tip of the Cotswolds Area Of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB) a few miles to the north east of the village of Colerne. The wood is situated on the eastern facing slope of the By Brook Valley which is deeply incised into the southern end of the Cotswolds Oolitic Limestone Plateau. Such valleys are a characteristic feature of the AONB. The By Brook which forms the wood's eastern boundary is a tributary of the River Avon (Bristol Avon).

Of the 19 Landscape Character Areas (LCA) identified within the AONB, Colerne Park & Monks Wood falls within LCA 4 – 'Enclosed Limestone Valley'. The wood forms an important landscape feature, characteristic of the area.

The species rich limestone grassland onsite is an important part of the nationally significant proportion of the UK's total Jurassic unimproved limestone grassland found in the AONB.

The wood falls within the southern tip of the National Character Area (NCA) 107 (Cotswolds) and displays several features characteristic of this NCA such as:
• Meadows and tree-lined watercourses along the valley bottoms.
• Priority habitat areas – broadleaved mixed woodland and lowland calcareous grassland
• Long standing human occupation. Remains of a roman building, coins, pottery and tiles are recorded as having been discovered onsite (Historic feature HF1).

The floristically rich site is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) 'Colerne Park and Monks Wood SSSI' - one of the 118 SSI's (1% of land) found within the NCA, due to its woodland habitat and associated flora found within the woodland and the grassland areas. Particular plants of note herb paris (Paris quadrifolia), spiked star of Bethlehem (Bath asparagus) (Ornithogalum pyrenaicum) and green hellebore (Helleborus viridus).

The wood is now treated as one entity but was formerly in two parts with the area north of the large central meadow, compartment 3b, known as Colerne Park and the area to the south of the meadow, compartment 3b, known as Monks Wood. Hazel forms the main shrub layer and the ground flora is varied with bluebells dominant in the northern parts and ramsons dominant in the southern areas. There are a number of interesting trees throughout the wood (Conservation feature CF1) including some scattered specimen conifers and ancient/veteran beech, oak and field maple. Within the wood a mixture of wide rides, glades, meadows and coppice compartments support a diverse range of habitats which in turn supports a wide variety of mammals, birds and insects.

Land to the east is a complex mix of unimproved farmland: arable fields, pastures, meadows, ancient semi-natural woods and hedgerows. To the west is another steep valley. The wood is only a few miles north of the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC). A thin section of ancient woodland is connected to the southern tip of the wood via the tree-lined river corridor. Further areas of ancient woodland surround the wood on all sites, although separated by farm land.

The wood is accessed either by a public footpath into the south western corner, or via a public footpath from the west into the southern tip of the wood. A bridle path passes through the small southern tip of the wood. A network of permissive paths link to these public rights of way and allow public access around most of the wood. The surfaced track running through the northern third of the wood is privately owned so the upper third of the wood is not open for public access. The soils are lime-rich loamy and clay soils with impeded drainage so the paths can be muddy and waterlogged.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access is via a public footpath and public bridleway which run through the southern tip of the Wood or a public footpath which enters the south western section of the Wood. The bridleway forms a short section of the MacMillan way Long distance Path

Paths
Public access is via kissing gates along a public footpath into the top of the south western part, or into the southern tip of the wood from the west and also via a public bridleway which run through the southern tip of the Wood. The surfaced track running through the top third of the wood is privately owned. There is no public access along this track and consequently no access to the northern third of the wood. We kindly ask visitors to not access or exit the wood using this Track.

There are several permissive paths linking to the public right of way network. None are surfaced and all are prone to seasonal water logging and can be very un-even and muddy in places. The woodland is situated on valley slopes and walkers will experience some steep climbs in places. There is a steep set of steps on the western side.

Public Transport
The nearest bus stop is located in the village of Thickwood, two miles to the north west or in the village of Colerne, approximately 2.5 miles west along narrow country lanes which lack pavements. Number 36 bus operated by Coachstyle (Sherston/Chippenham), 228/79 (from Bath) and 365 (Chippenham/Bristol) operated by Faresaver (http://www.faresaver.co.uk/timetable.php) service both villages. (Information correct at time of management plan review).

3.2 Access / Walks

Paths
Public access is via kissing gates along a public footpath into the top of the south western part, or into the southern tip of the wood from the west and also via a public bridleway which run through the southern tip of the Wood. The surfaced track running through the top third of the wood is privately owned. There is no public access along this track and consequently no access to the northern third of the wood. We kindly ask visitors to not access or exit the wood using this Track.

There are several permissive paths linking to the public right of way network. None are surfaced and all are prone to seasonal water logging and can be very un-even and muddy in places. The woodland is situated on valley slopes and walkers will experience some steep climbs in places. There is a steep set of steps on the western side.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Native broadleaf woodland with diverse age structure and species composition, managed with limited intervention, which contains a mosaic of open habitats, maintained to ensure a continuous wooded feature in the landscape with retention of diversity of species and habitats. Open space habitat will be provided by the network of permanent rides and open meadow areas. Meadows will be managed to maintain their species richness for conservation purposes and added visitor interest.

The wood should remain attractive in the local landscape; be welcoming for visitors, with paths maintained in a good condition having regard to their locations and natural limitations.

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 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

The wood is now treated as one entity but was formerly in two parts with the area north of the large central meadow (compartment 3b) known as Colerne Park and the area to the south of the meadow (compartment 3b) known as Monks Wood. The wood is mainly NVC type W8 (Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre- Mercurialis perennis) woodland. Most areas are mainly old stored ash, field maple (old coppice and occasional standards), hazel coppice with ash and pedunculate oak standards forming high forest. There are some large areas of old hazel coppice in the northern part of the wood. Some larger trees (beeches, ash, oaks, and field maples, including some growing from old coppice stools), date back well over a hundred years and are a conservation feature (CF1). A few conifers (Norway spruce, Scots pine) can be found, originating from late Victorian or Edwardian times, forming part of an avenue of trees through the wood (conservation Feature CF1).

The well developed and diverse shrub layer with varied ground flora has meant the site has been identified as important for wildlife, particularly for its rich flora and as such, has been designated as a SSS (Colerne Park and Monks Wood SSSI). Much of the flora points to the wood's ancient origins such as herb paris (Paris quadrifolia), opposite leaved golden saxifrage (Chrysosplenium oppositifolium), wood sorrel (Oxalis acetosella), wood anemone (Anemone nemorosa) dogs mercury (Mercurialis perennis)Solomon's-seal (Polygonatum multiflorum), bluebell Hyacinthoides non-scripta (mainly in northern areas) and ramsons (Allium ursinum – mainly in southern areas) spiked star of Bethlehem (Bath asparagus) (Ornithogalum pyrenaicum) and green hellebore (Helleborus viridus). The latest SSSI condition assessment (2011) found the site to be in favourable condition.

There are areas of wet woodland around springs and adjacent to the By Brook on the eastern boundary, with many sedges, hemlock water dropwort and willow . There are several springs throughout the wood supporting diverse communities of calcaerious bryophytes.

There are three open areas within the woodland compartments 2b, 2c, 3b. The main area of unimproved calcareous grassland is compartment 3b which is a large sloping meadow, surrounded by woodland fringes. It has a rich grassland sward containing typical calcareous species like salad burnett and field scabious (Knautia arvensis), but also orchids including bee orchid (Ophrys apiferta), common twayblade (Neottia ovate), common spotted orchid (Dactylorhiza fuchsia), Early-purple orchid (Orchis mascula) Pyramidal orchid (Anacamptis pyramidalis) and Greater butterfly-orchid (Platanthera chlorantha). The grassland areas are important for many other species including butterflies such as small copper, common blue and various skippers and birds of prey such as buzzards. Cpt 2b - A small (0.26ha) circular, gently sloping area of rough grassland. An open grown oak adds further interest. Cpt 2c - a grassy slope, created originally as a shooting break, now valuable for its park-like appearance, with specimen open grown Norway spruce, veteran beech and rough grassland. There is a good display of primroses and common spotted orchids in early

spring/summer.

There are a number of rides, regularly mown, that link the open grassland areas. The meadows and interconnecting rides between compartments 2b, 2c, and 3b provide a varied height and texture sward and are an important addition to the overall ecological value of the site.

During WT ownership, management has focused on maintaining the open areas and the ride network with ride side coppicing throughout the Wood. Through an obgoing partnership project with the Cotswold AONB Voluntary Wardens, one small area is coppiced on rotation, with the product being used by the AONB for their annual hedge laying competition.

The woodland is home to a wide range of wildlife. Birdlife include treecreeper, redwings, green woodpecker, buzzards and tawny owls. Over 130 species of moth have been recorded onsite and the wood is likely used by bats from the nearby Bath and Bradford on Avon Special Area of Conservation .
The current rides follow the old ride system of the past, but due to underlying geology they can be very muddy for much of the year

Significance

The Woodland Trust believes that there should be no further loss of ancient woodland across the UK and what remains should be protected. Through managing Colene Park & Monks Wood, we provide an example of this and deliver our aims of protecting native wood, trees and their wildlife for the future and inspiring people to enjoy and value woods and trees.

The wood is a quiet, unspoilt area managed for wildlife and due to low visitor numbers, is generally undisturbed. The mix of habitats is diverse and adds to the local biodiversity. Of the 19 Landscape Character Areas (LCA) identified within the Cotswold AONB, Colerne Park & Monks Wood falls within LCA 4 – 'Enclosed Limestone Valley'. The wood demonstrates a number of key features of this LCA such as:
• an important landscape feature, characteristic of the area
• "significant areas of woodland, of which a number are ancient semi-natural woodlands particularly on upper and steeper slopes add to the nature conservation value of the valleys and form a wooded backdrop to many views in the valleys."
• contributes significantly to the 9% of the AONB that is woodland
• moderately broad but enclosed river valleys with steep sides
• Strong physical enclosure of valleys creates a secluded and intimate character.

The wood falls within the southern tip of the National Character Area 107 (Cotswolds) and displays several features characteristic of this NCA such as:
• Tree-lined watercourses along the valley bottoms.
• Ancient woodland, often found on upper slopes enclosing valley sides.
• Contributes significantly towards woodland cover (31,831 ha of woodland, 11% total area) and type of woodland (6,446ha 2% total area) is ancient semi-natural woodland
• Deep, wide valleys and densely wooded floristically rich ridge crests
• Priority habitat areas – broadleaved mixed woodland and lowland calcareous grassland
• Long standing human occupation. Remains of a roman building, coins, pottery and tiles are recorded as having been discovered onsite (Historic feature HF1).
• Contains some of the 4,777 km of public rights of way including the Macmillan Way (long distance

path -290 miles linking Boston in Lincolnshire to Abbotsbury in Dorset).
• Unimproved limestone grassland which supports important plant and butterfly species
• Long, expansive views
• Links to the historic parkland through tree lined avenues throughout the Wood (conservation feature CF1).

The SSSI status and favourable condition reflects the importance of the site for a number of species.

The unimproved grassland areas in compartments 2b, 2c, 3b and particularly in 3b, are important for their the rich and diverse flora attracting many insects and other wildlife. Along with the managed rides, these areas :
a) increase the diversity of habitats within the woodland
b) add to the number and type of species over the site as a whole but also supporting more rare species
c) allow light into the woodland areas around the edges and provide a woodland edge habitat along its boundaries
d) provide an area of calcerous grasslands - which are threatened habitats - regionally, nationally and globally.
In the 1930s limestone grassland covered 40% of the Cotswolds AONB which has decreased to 1.5% today. (http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/?page=limestonegrassland). Therefore the meadow areas are a significant proportion of this valuable and nationally declining grassland habitat.
e) give additional visitor interest to the wood enabling them to understand and appreciate ecological and biological diversity within a woodland area.

The wood, through its composition and connectivity to the surrounding countryside, is likely to be importance for bats within the nearby Bath and Bradford on Avon Bat Special Area of Conservation, which supports greater horseshoe, Bechstein's and lesser horseshoe bats

Two of the springs (conservation feature CF3) throughout the site were surveyed in 2015 and found to be important for calciocolous (growing or living in lime-rich conditions) bryophytes including several locally notable species
– Cratoneuron filicinum, Thamnobryum alopecurum and the large liverwort Conocephhalum conicum were characteristic
- aquatic moss Hygroambltstegium fenax (of local interest)
- liverwort Jungermannia atrovirens (very rare in Wiltshire),
-Palustriella commutate (a locally rare moss in North Wiltshire),
-Fissidens pusillus (a locally rare moss in North Wiltshire)
-Fountain feather-moss Hygroamblystegium tenax (uncommon in Wiltshire)

The same survey also noted nationally scare aquatic micro invertebrates:
-the flies Limonia trivittata, Paradelphyomia nielseni
- Hill soldier fly Oxycera pardalina
-pygmy soldier fly O. pygmaea
-fly Atypophthalmus inustus
and concluded that this was the third best site for Nationally Scare Species in Wiltshire

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints
SSSI designation and approval process limits scope of works and timing of management decisions
Restricted operations and timings of operations due to:
• Steep slopes
• Ground prone to water-logging throughout the site.
Potential use of the site by bats from the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC may have restrictions for any site operations.
Much of the site is on very steep slopes which limit operations as well as the wet ground conditions due to underlying geology.
Potential for other EPS may have restrictions for any site operations.

Factors Causing Change

Damage from deer browsing
Ash dieback
Encroachment of woody species into the calcareous grassland habitat.
Scalping of calcareous grassland if blades too low,
Loss of fine leaved grasses in calcareous grassland if blades kept too high
Increase in nutrient levels within calcareous grassland if arisings not removed
Vehicles damaging the ground e.g. ruts in wet conditions.
Decrease in flora species if calcareous grassland cut before seeds have set.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Predominantly semi-natural broadleaved canopy with a rich understorey of native trees, shrubs, ground flora and natural regeneration broadly in line with NVC W8 with a healthy and viable mosaic of open habitats within the woodland environment, where the quality of the varied and floristically rich unimproved calcareous grassland areas is maintained and enhanced, resulting in a site which is resilient in the face of climate change. The coniferous element will be minimal and limited to a few scattered specimens. The favourable condition of the SSSI will be maintained. Compartments 2b, 2c, 3b to remain varied and floristically rich unimproved calcareous grassland areas for a range of flora and fauna which attracts a wide variety of wildlife and linked by the ride network.

The woodland's structure will be managed as high forest through limited intervention and include a mosaic of wide rides, clearings, meadows that continue to support an abundance of plants, mammals, birds, insects and fungi.

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

• If ash dieback does affect the wood, then limited intervention within the stands may be necessary in order to:
a) address any tree safety issues and/or
b) build greater level of resilience among unaffected species, such as promoting establishment/development of other species e.g. through managing ride sides/clumps of ash surrounding/supressing minor species to encourage greater development and resilience of remaining species. Interventions to promote other non ash species, with permission from NE for any direct planting.

• Upgrade areas of track that have fallen into disrepair to facilitate general management
• Mow calcareous grassland areas (large glade) when ground conditions allow once seed has set to ensure an area of permanent open space in the woodland to the benefit of woodland flora and invertebrates.
• Carry out deer impact assessment and develop subsequent deer control strategy as necessary.
• Maintain 2-zone ride management to maintain transitional habitat for associated species such as orchids and spiked star of Bethlehem to flourish and to allow necessary management, coppicing ride edges on rotation to maintain a varied ride edge habitat undertaking each ride once per management plan period.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Colerne Park & Monks Wood is situated close to Chippenham and Bath but has low visitor numbers due to the lack of nearby parking. There are public footpaths coming in via kissing gates from the west and south and a bridle path passes through the southern tip of the site. The footpath from the south west is part of the Macmillan Way, a long distance path running from Boston, Lincolnshire to Abbotsbury, Dorset. The site is mainly used by local walkers enjoying quiet recreation and by horse-riders utilising the public bridleway.

Permissive paths connect to the right of way route, resulting in a network of paths that provide good access to the majority of the wood. There is a set of steep steps on the western side of the site. There are permissive paths over grassy surfaces, giving access to most sub-compartments. The private track running through the northern third means there is no public access to the northern third of the wood. Due to the location of the wood on a steep easterly facing slope, and the underlying geology, the paths are steep in places and can be muddy at times.

Volunteers from the Cotswold AONB Volunteer Wardens are involved with the management through small scale coppicing in one area and this has been ongoing for many years.

The wood is used on occasion by local interest groups e.g. Bath Natural History Society, Butterfly Conservation and Cotswold Conservation Board for guided walks.

Significance

The wood forms an important example of the AONB LCA 4 – 'Enclosed Limestone Valley' of the region and its size and prominent position make it a natural attraction for local people. It an important place for people to enjoy an interesting and varied woodland habitat.

Along the By Brook Valley there are few Rights of Way providing public access to other woods in the area. The good ride and path network allows walkers the opportunity to visit and enjoy a large tract of unique and beautiful woodland and unimproved calcareous grassland, seasonally enhanced by fine displays of woodland and grassland flowers and butterflies.

The wood helps fulfil the Trust's aim of inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees as it:
• provides an excellent place for people to walk;
• provides opportunities for educations/outdoor opportunities and the appreciation of the countryside
• adds to the local rights of way network.

Visitors can appreciate peace and tranquillity at this site in a picturesque part of the Cotswolds AONB, situated away from roads. It is a vital wooded part of the south Cotswolds AONB, which can bring increased pleasure to visitors by continued careful management.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints
The main track through the Wood is not owned by the Woodland Trust which makes accessing this wood more difficult for the public.

Factors Causing Change

Increase in visitor numbers leading to increased erosion/damage to biodiversity
Significant deterioration of path network further limiting access
Increase in abuse/mis-use of wood e.g. campfires and associated litter left behind/trampling of woodland flora and damage to trees.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland and path network will remain open to the public for informal recreation predominantly by locals from surrounding towns and villages resulting in continued and increased appreciation of the woodland. A wood where entrances and the ride network are maintained and appropriate for the level and type of use, providing enjoyable informal public access to most parts of the wood with respect to natural limitations e.g. ground conditions.

The wood will provide a low level of people engagement opportunities such as opportunities for volunteers to assist with management and surveys/monitoring of wildlife to help both on-going management of the wood, improve knowledge of species/habitats within the wood and help engage with a wide variety of people. Through the ownership and management of Colerne Park & Monks Wood, the Trust will be working to achieve the aims of inspiring people to enjoy and value woods and trees and protecting trees, woods and their wildlife for the future.

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

Entrances and ride/path network are maintained and appropriate for level and type of use and managed within the Estate Management Contract, ensuring the site remains welcoming and accessible with respect to natural limitations e.g. slope and ground conditions with tree safety inspections and actioning works as necessary and continuing to work with existing volunteers/ and interest groups on a low key basis to maintain local community links.
Antisocial activity is rare, but will continue to be monitored via volunteer warden/neighbours/contractors who report any issues with fire hazard covered through the Site Risk Assessment process.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	1.00	Ash	1940	High forest	Archaeological features, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest

Sub compartment 1a is divided in two by the surfaced track (not WT owned) running north/south.

The area to the east can be divided into thirds. The third closest to the main track and the middle third closest to the track is an area of hazel and ash coppice with sparse standards/singled trees, naturally regenerating ash and small amounts of field maple, sycamore, spindle, silver birch, elder and hawthorn. The canopy is mainly coppiced ash dating from the 1940's-80's and oak standards dating from the 1920's. Younger ash and some goat willow also occur, dating from the late 1980's. The ground has a slope with an easterly aspect. In addition to the ash, field maple and hazel, the understorey contains frequent hazel and field maple coppice, as well as ash seedlings, hawthorn, privet, holly and dog rose. Ground flora includes bluebell, dog's mercury, ferns, clematis vitalba, primrose, yellow archangel, pignut, early purple orchid, wood spurge, with more grass, bracken and bramble towards the field edge at the southern end. The occasional 1900 and 1920s oak are also scattered within the sub compartment. Beside the main ride the ash trees are larger and there are also remnants of the avenue trees (horse chestnut, spruce and pine) (conservation feature CF1).

The most eastern third has a very steep easterly aspect and the By Brook forms its eastern boundary and contains some oak standards dating from the start of the 20th century and there is much outgrown ash coppice dating from the 1940's. The understorey contains frequent hazel and field maple coppice, as well as regenerating ash seedlings, hawthorn, spindle and dog rose. Ground flora includes dog's mercury, many ferns, clematis vitalba, wood spurge and ramsoms.

The area to the west of the surfaced track can be split roughly in half east/west. The northern half an area of dense old coppice with standards around the north and western edges. The coppice around the edges may have been last cut around 1950 (although there are some very old coppice stools present) while some of the larger oaks date from the 1900's. The main body of the compartment was last cut in the late 1980's, following which regrowth has been rapid. The canopy is mainly ash with occasional oaks, although particularly in the north, some larger field maples reach the canopy. The understorey consists of hazel, field maple, ash and elm. Some oaks are of great character with very burry epicormic trunks, particularly those along the western side of the surfaced track. Some individual Norway spruces are located along the track edge(conservation feature CF1) as well as the occasional sycamore coppice. The western edge, next to the arable fields are generally more ash dominated. The compartment has a moderate to steep south-easterly aspect. Ground flora consists of bluebell, ramsons, lords and ladies, enchanters nightshade, primrose, bugle, yellow archangel, pignut and wood anemone with clematis vitalba, some with large climbing stems, giving the area a "wild" feel. Grasses, pedulous sedge, clevers, speedwell , nettle, bramble more dominant on ride edges. There are signs of old ground disturbance (small pits) these may indicate historic small scale quarrying activities but more research is required to draw definitive conclusions.

The lower half, west of the main track of this compartment, is an area of mature ash coppice canopy with hazel understorey with occasional field maple, but with less hazel than in the upper half. The area is dominated by ash regrown since the 1950's. A number of the ash coppice stools are of much greater age. Other species in the canopy composition include field maple (old coppice and singles) dating from around 1945 and sycamore last cut during the early 1950's. The occasional oak standard is also scattered throughout the sub compartment. The southern end, to the west of ride 1a is crossed by a steep natural bank which has a moderate to steep south easterly aspect. The ground flora is dominated by dog's mercury, moss and bugle - with sedges and grasses by the ride (1a). Roman building remains have been recorded around the area just below the centre of this half of the compartment (Historic Feature HF1 and see existing info on Archaeology).

2a	1.00	Ash	1950	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest

Sub compartment 2a is predominantly an area of high forest, well spaced and regrown from a former coppice structure. Ash is the main species and dates from the 1940's-60's. Many of the ashes have been singled from a previous coppice crop in the mid 1980's. Other canopy species include oak standards dating from the 1920's, and to a lesser extent field maple of a similar age to the ash.

Along the western edge of the compartment, adjacent to the access track, are individual Norway spruces and horse chestnuts, these are prominent trees in the wood edge (conservation Feature CF1). A few Norway spruces are scattered throughout, some making up an avenue running east west, seemingly an extension of the line of conifers created by the old shooting break (compartment 2c).

The understorey is made up of occasional to frequent hazel coppice and a small proportion of field maple particularly at the southern end of ride 3b on the approach to the meadow (compartment 3b) from the north, and ash coppice.

The ground flora is predominantly made up of bluebell, dog's mercury, ferns and alongside the spring includes enchanter's nightshade and opposite leaved golden saxifrage with bramble and sedge more prominent in open areas along ride edges. There are also early purple orchids, wood violet and wild current around ride 3b in the south of the compartment.

Sub compartment 2a has a mainly moderate easterly aspect but has a very steep easterly aspect in places such as the area adjacent to the By Brook that runs along the eastern boundary.

2b	0.26	NULL		Non-wood habitat	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 2b is a small area of enclosed rough grassland, surrounded by sub compartment 2a. It is roughly circular and lends visual contrast to the wood. There is a prominent open grown oak in this area probably self-sown around 1950. There are primroses present in the spring							
2c	0.70	NULL		Non-wood habitat	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sub compartment 2c is an area of grassland in the middle of compartment 2a. It has a moderate easterly aspect and there are fine views from the top of the slope. Specimen conifers at the northern edge were probably planted in first half of the early 20th century. These are non invasive and provide historical and visual interest, as well as niches for wildlife (conservation feature CF1). Crows, rooks and birds of prey such as buzzards often favour high conifers as look out posts or nesting sites and are often seen in this sub compartment. The grassland contains some good herb growth such as marjoram, self heal and salad burnett, with a good display of primroses and common spotted orchirds in the spring. A mature oak and a veteran beech are located near the top of 2c (conservation feature CF1). Under the oak is a "mini-wood edge" habitat with hazel regeneration, dog's mercury, hedge woundwort and hemp nettle. Nettle leaved bellflower Campanula trachelium has been recorded in the very NW corner of this sub compartment.							

3a	1.00	Ash	1945	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest

The western third of 3a is a steep wood edge area of old coppice with standards, sparse in places. Ash coppice dominates dating from the 1940's-60's. A small proportion of the ash stems have been singled and some of the ash in this area is cankerous and harbours "King Alfred's cakes" fungi. Oak standards make up much of the rest of the canopy, dating from the 1900's. Elm trees can be found near the public footpath entrance in the NW corner with some silver birch from the 1950's at the northern end of ride 5, at the southern end of the meadow (compartment 3b). There are also some field maples dating from the 1940' with some beautiful multi stem field maples alongside ride 5. West of ride 5 is an area dominated by sycampore.

The understory is consists of occasional ash and elder coppice, with ash becoming denser at the northern end. Frequent hazel coppice with some holly and field maple are also scattered throughout and the sub compartment has a moderate to steep easterly aspect. There are signs of old quarrying activity near to the footpath running north south, with hollows and hollow tracks. Wooden steps lead up from Ride 4 along Ride 4b to join the public footpath . There is a dry stone wall bounding the wood, to the west of the public footpath which is narrow and on a steep sloping edge. The ground flora contains dog's mercury, ramsons (dominant in the spring), ferns and notable plants such as Solomons seal, herb paris and green hellebore.

There is a public bridlepath running through the southern tip and also public footpath running along the southern boundary. Ground flora alongside the footpath in the hollow track in the southern tip includes hart's tongue ferns and nearby varied ground flora - violets, dog's mercury, primrose, herb robert, hairy brome, and wood avens.

There are some large mature oak and ash along the southern boundary, some of which are likely to be over 100years old and also some large field maple (conservation Feature CF1).

3b	2.19	NULL		Non-wood habitat	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest

Sub compartment 3b is a large open area of grassland surrounded by woodland. The compartment includes 3 typical floristic communities: A diverse area of unimproved calcareous grassland typical of formerly grazed areas; ‘longer grassy areas; Wood edge/scrub. From this compartment fine views can be enjoyed over the valley. Buzzards can often be seen wheeling over the area. In the south a wet area has seeped across the meadow, giving rise to an area of common tall herbage. Overall this compartment contains an extremely rich sward containing many orchids and butterflies in the summer and adding much biodiversity to the site as a whole.

Species recorded here include: Field scabious, bee orchid, tway blade orchid, greater butterfly orchid; hare; orange tip butterfly, spot burnet moth, marbled white butterfly, green hairstreak butterfly and green woodpeckers.

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.