



# Snidley Moor, Woodhouse Hill & Frodsham Hill Woods

# Management Plan

## 2016-2021

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## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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

<b>Site name:</b>	Snidley Moor, Woodhouse Hill & Frodsham Hill Woods
<b>Location:</b>	Frodsham
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SJ513752, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 117
<b>Area:</b>	54.12 hectares (133.73 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Special Landscape Area, Tourism Restraint Area, Tree Preservation Order

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Three woods in one! This site consists of three connected woodlands near the town of Frodsham in Cheshire: Frodsham Hill Wood is directly above the town along with Woodhouse Hill and Snidley Moor which are slightly further to the south. Across the site there are a range of habitats including Ancient Woodland, new planted broadleaf woodland and areas of grassland and heathland. And sandwiched in between them is an area of privately owned woodland called Dunsdale Hollows which is a SSSI and can be accessed via public footpaths through the wood.

The woods are located on the steep western facing escarpment of the Sandstone Ridge that runs from North Cheshire to Shropshire. Along the ridge there are several viewpoints with far-reaching views to the Welsh borders, the western Pennines and Bowland Fells, along with Liverpool and the Mersey estuary.

The site has some interesting features including old quarries, caves and the remains of the ramparts of an Iron Age hill fort on the summit of Woodhouse Hill. There is a good network of public and permissive footpaths throughout the site, including a section of the Sandstone Trail, although in many places there are steep climbs up and down.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Snidley Moor is an area of continuous woodland located on the Sandstone Ridge in North Western Cheshire near the town of Frodsham. The ridge escarpment has a steep north-westerly aspect. The soils are mainly free draining sandy-loam on a sandstone substrate, and are easily eroded on the steep slopes. The woodlands and escarpment are a dominant feature on the skyline in this part of north Cheshire. The surrounding landscape is rolling countryside, predominantly grazed pasture for cattle. This part of Cheshire has one of the largest concentrations of ancient woodland in the county, which is one of the least wooded counties in England with only about 5% woodland cover.

The site contains a continuous block of broadleaf woodland although is split into three woodlands which are under one management plan due to their close proximity to each other, common features and management objectives to allow for an integrated approach for their long term management:

1) Snidley Moor Wood (Compartment 1) - Area 14.17ha - Grid reference SJ 5123 753 - located 2km south west of Frodsham. It has been managed by the Woodland Trust since 1987. It is mainly single aged semi-natural secondary birch woodland with oak, rowan, holly and hawthorn. There are small remnant patches of bilberry and heather and the name "Snidley Moor" suggests the area was historically a mosaic of heathland, grassland and woodland.

2) Woodhouse Hill Wood (Compartments 2 and 4) - total area 27.98 ha. Grid reference SJ 511 757 - located 1.5 Km south west of Frodsham and sharing a common boundary with Snidley Moor Wood in the SE corner.

Woodhouse Hill (Compartment 2) is 11.68ha and has been managed by the Trust since 1991. It is mainly single aged semi-natural secondary birch woodland with oak, rowan, holly and hawthorn. On the eastern flank of the hillside there is a section of stone/ earth ramparts which was part of an Iron Age hill fort, although nothing else remains visible and much of the rampart is covered with bracken in summer. The area is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).

Woodhouse Hill Extension (Compartment 4) covers 16.3 ha and lies to the south west of Woodhouse Hill and west of Snidley Moor. The land was previously used for grazing pigs and was purchased by the Trust in 2001 and then planted with mix of broadleaf trees as well as retaining some areas of open ground.

3) Frodsham Hill Wood (Compartment 3) - Area 11.97ha. Grid reference SJ 518 771 - located on the hillside above Frodsham.

Compartment 3a is located on the SW outskirts of Frodsham/Overton and 1km NE of Woodhouse Hill Wood and has been managed by the Trust since 1992. Compartment 3b extends southwards from Compartment 3a and includes the woodland below the war memorial monument. It has been managed by the Trust since 2006.

Areas within Woodhouse Hill and Frodsham Hill are recorded in the Cheshire inventory of ancient woodland. The occurrence of non native (regionally) woodland species and evidence of human intervention means that the sites can not be considered "Natural Ancient Woodland", and photographic records from the late 19th Century indicate that for at least a short period sub-compartment 3A (Frodsham Hill) had a considerably more open aspect. The species mix for sub-compartments 2C (Woodhouse Hill) and 3A (Frodsham Hill) is similar to that of compartments 1 (Snidley Moor), 2A & 2B (Woodhouse Hill) but with birch far less dominant in the canopy. Both sub-compartments 2C (Woodhouse Hill) and 3A (Frodsham Hill) have a high frequency of mature beech

trees, 2C (Woodhouse Hill) has a scattering of mature Corsican pine and 3A (Frodsham Hill) has a high incidence of sycamore. The shrub layer in all the compartments (where it exists) is dominated by rhododendron, and in compartments 1(Snidley Moor) & 2 (Woodhouse Hill) the ground flora is greatly monopolised by bracken. Collectively these woods are important habitats for a wide variety of fauna and flora and part of the site is classed as a Site of Biological Interest (SBI).

There are numerous opportunities for informal recreation across the sites with over 3km of public and permissive footpaths including a section of the "Sandstone Trail" that passes through all the woods. There are a number of bluffs used by climbers, and several viewpoints offering vistas as far as the Welsh borders to the Western Pennines and closer by the Mersey estuary and city of Liverpool.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

#### Access to Frodsham Hill

There are several entrances to this site - some are connected to public rights of way and bridlepaths others are permissive routes. This site has some very steep paths and although surfacing exists on many paths the route is only suitable for foot traffic.

The main entrance is from Middlewalk, in the Overton part of Frodsham and a relatively level path runs through the woodland. The path has some patches which are subject to muddiness during the winter and it slopes down at the southern end of its length. Steps and path improvements have been completed in 2006 and 2007 across the site. There is very little car parking from this point except in surrounding streets.

The nearest bus stop found on Vicarage Lane is approximately 1/2 mile from the entrance to the wood. For more information go to traveline on 0870 608 2 608 or view a map on [nw.aimwebsites.co.uk/map.jsp](http://nw.aimwebsites.co.uk/map.jsp) and use plan your route option.

There are no public toilets in the local vicinity. The only possibility would be The Ring O' Bells Pub along Bellemonte Road.

An alternative entrance is at the top of the wood from Forest Hills Hotel. This hotel has a large car park and also toilets for use by patrons of the hotel.

#### Access to Snidley Moor

Snidley Moor - Public access is available from Manley Road. Leave the road at Shepherds Houses (see OS map) and drive along a very rough track which is used by large farm machinery and cattle for a 1/4 mile until you reach a field gate. Parking is limited to beside this track. This track is also the public bridleway.

The paths are very steep, narrow in places with some steep steps and only suitable for well prepared walkers.



There are no local bus or toilet facilities to this entrance.

### Access to Woodhouse Hill

Access is available off The Ridgeway. Follow a sandy/stoney track which leads upto Snidley Moor and Woodhouse Hill from the road. There is a small pull in opposite this track for about three cars.

The nearest bus stop to this entrance is located 1/2 mile away along Tarvin Road opposite Foxhill Arboretum. For more information go to traveline on 0870 608 2 608 or view a map on [nw.aimwebsites.co.uk/map.jsp](http://nw.aimwebsites.co.uk/map.jsp) and use plan your route option.

The paths are very steep, narrow in places with some steep steps and only suitable for well prepared walkers.

There are no available toilet facilities.

The Cheshire Sandstone Trail runs through all three woods and is another way of accessing the woodlands.

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention is to manage this complex of inter-connected woodlands as high forest with a diverse structure (in terms of species mix, age distribution and size classes) that in the case of Woodhouse Hill and Frodsham Hill (sub-compartments 2C & 3A) will be indicative of lowland acid oak woodland (NVC type W16). Snidley Moor (Compartment 1) and Woodhouse Hill (sub-compartments 2A & 2B) will be managed as transitional birch woodland undergoing gradual succession towards lowland acid oak woodland (NVC type W16). Snidley Moor (sub-compartment 1B) will be managed under a regime of minimum intervention.

It will primarily be managed as a recreational and landscape feature with the key drivers for any woodland operations being public access, tree safety and to ensure the woodland is resilient for the future.

The Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) on the site will be protected to maintain a diverse range of tree and ground flora indicator species.

Areas of new planting should be allowed to develop by natural processes where possible into mixed native broadleaf woodland that will provide a buffer to the ASNW. However it may be necessary to intervene in order to diversify the species mix and age structure in order to maintain a resilient woodland.

Woodland edges and open ground areas should be maintained under a variable cutting regime including coppicing to create a more varied woodland edge structure and maintain sight lines for visitor access.

We will work with English Heritage and Cheshire West and Chester Council to protect the Scheduled Ancient Monument hill fort ramparts on the top of Woodhouse Hill.

The Trust will maintain the network of permissive footpaths, entrance points and site infrastructure to ensure the site is welcoming and safe for visitors to use and enjoy.

## 5.0 KEY FEATURES

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

### 5.1 Informal Public Access

#### Description

The site is open to the public and contains over 3kms of public and permissive footpaths through woodland and open space for quiet informal recreation. There are also opportunities for horse riding and cycling along designated Public Bridlepath. The high ground has a number of view points that take in a northerly vista stretching from the Welsh hills in the east to the Pennines in the west.

#### Significance

The whole area has been identified by the local authority as being of special amenity value and is easily accessible to the populations of the Mersey estuary and North Cheshire. The compartments form a significant part of the second largest continuous block of broadleaf woodland in Cheshire and are situated along a well known and popular long distance walking route, the Sandstone Trail. The entire site is well used both by local people and visitors walking in the wider countryside.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

There is opportunity to improve public involvement in the site through consultation and volunteer groups. The greatest constraint to public access is derived from the sites sandy soils which are easily eroded even under moderate usage.

The management of recreational use of the site proves challenging with mountain biking, unauthorised downhill racing and horse riding adding to the pressures of erosion and concerns for public safety.

#### Factors Causing Change

increased usage, sandy soils prone to erosion, misuse by mountain bikers cutting ramps and riding down hill tracks causing erosion/ damage to the ground.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The existing level and quality of public access will be maintained for the future.

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

Annual maintenance and cutting back of vegetation to keep public access routes open and easy to use. The site will be litter picked and entrances and signs maintained annually. The safety of site users will be addressed through on going tree safety inspection.

## 5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

### Description

Compartments 2C (Woodhouse Hill wood), 3A & 3B (Frodsham Hill Wood) are Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) which is part of a continuous wooded escarpment on Frodsham Hill and Overton Hill. The site abuts a further 16.67 ha of privately owned ASNW.

### Significance

The woods are significant feature forming part of the second largest continuous block of broadleaf woodland in Cheshire, a county with less than 4% woodland cover. The sites value is further enhanced by being part of a larger SBI (total 69ha), which includes the 7.1ha of SSSI birch/sessile oak woodland at Dunsdale Hollow (privately owned). The face of the escarpment between Overton and Foxhill (including comps, 2C & 1A) is recorded as an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Compartments 1, 2a & 2b are (recent) naturally occurring woodland, in the process of succession from heathland to woodland. The escarpments and their wooded slopes are clearly visible and dominant landmark of the NW Cheshire skyline and can be viewed from Southern Lancashire, Merseyside, North Cheshire and the Welsh border counties, and by the thousands of daily users of the M56 motorway.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities exist to increase the local biodiversity value of the site through directing/allowing the woodland to ascend towards semi-natural oak high forest.  
Opportunity to increase the structure & habitat diversity of the compartments and the volumes of fallen & standing dead wood.  
Steep slopes and cliff faces are a major constraint for management access and undertaking management operations.

### Factors Causing Change

Rhododendron spreading and reducing levels of natural regeneration and shading ground flora.  
Bracken may spread and dominate the ground layer  
Tree disease, particularly Chalara infecting ash in the new planted area.  
Mammal damage to trees - rabbits and grey squirrels are causing some minor damage by browsing and bark stripping although it is not having a significant impact at present.  
Erosion of soil - which are predominantly sandy loam soils and because of the steep slopes and poor ground vegetation cover in many places are easily washed away.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain a high forest of mixed native broadleaves (diversely structured in terms of species composition, age/size classes) of predominantly mature oak and birch with a well developed understorey and ground flora indicative of ASNW. It will be managed so it is as resilient as possible to future changes and whilst natural processes will be favoured, intervention in the form of trees safety work and silvicultural operations may be necessary if sufficient regeneration and mix of species is not possible. Deadwood habitat will be increased through the retention of moribund / dead trees and veteran trees will be allowed to develop. Rhododendron will be controlled to prevent it spreading and should compose less than 5% of the shrub layer.

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

Control of rhododendron in compartment 2c (Woodhouse Hill wood) during this plan period. Bracken control through cutting will be carried out in selected areas to retain views or to maintain visitor access.

The health of trees will be monitored at least once per plan period through the woodland condition assessment for any diseases, pests or threats.

Tree safety inspections will be undertaken on a biannual basis to ensure the wood is safe for visitors.

## 5.3 Archaeological Feature

### Description

Remains of an Iron Age hill fort on the summit of Woodhouse hill with fortifications comprising of a singular dyke with stone wall redoubtment on the North & Eastern facings and taking in the natural steep ground and bluffs to the South & West.

### Significance

The fort is a "slight univallate fort" meaning one with a singular line of earthworks, of which there are only 150 examples recorded nationally. They date from a period between the eighth & fifth centuries BC. The importance of this feature lies in the value such sites have in understanding the transition between Bronze Age & Iron Age communities.

It is recorded by English Heritage as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) No 25694.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The Scheduled Ancient Monument carries a number of management constraints designed to limit degradation of the monument. These are outlined in an agreement between the Trust and English Heritage.

The fort provides an extra area of interest for site visitors, a factor that might be of value in attaining future grant aid or community involvement.

### Factors Causing Change

Natural Succession to oak-birch woodland.

Damage to archaeological remains from tree roots.

Misuse of the site - there have been problems in the past with mountain bikers riding on the hill fort ramparts causing damage to the archaeological remains and ground flora, but this is not currently a problem but needs to be monitored.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure the continued preservation of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) features of the Woodhouse Hill ramparts for the enjoyment of visitors and provide interpretation on the significance and history of the site.

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

The area of the SAM will continue to be managed in accordance with the agreement with English Heritage.

Remaining rhododendron will be cut in the SAM area, but will not be grubbed out to prevent damage to any remaining archaeological remains.

Selective tree felling work may be required around the SAM following inspection reports produced by English Heritage.

Birch and other natural regeneration will continue to be cut on the ramparts to prevent future tree damage to the SAM.

Monitor the impact and any damage caused by mountain bikes, horse riders and other visitors to the site.

## 5.4 Natural Secondary Woodland

### Description

Snidley Moor (1a and 1b) and part of Woodhouse Hill (2a and 2b) is over 21 hectares of secondary mixed broadleaved woodland. In addition a further 12 hectares of new native woodland (Woodhouse Hill Extension - Compartment 4) was planted in 2005/6 as an extension/buffer to existing woodland. A further 4 hectares was partly left for natural regeneration to take place.

### Significance

The woodlands are a significant feature forming part of the second largest continuous block of broadleaved woodland in Cheshire, a county with less than 4% woodland cover and this site provides a sizeable woodland habitat within the local area. The wooded escarpments and their wooded slopes are clearly visible and dominant landmark of the NW Cheshire skyline and can be viewed from Southern Lancashire, Merseyside, North Cheshire and the Welsh border counties, and by the thousands of daily users of the M56 motorway.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Steep slopes and cliff faces are a major constraint for management access and undertaking management operations.

Opportunities to plant trees in areas that have been cleared of rhododendron may be necessary if natural regeneration is not sufficient due to mammal browsing.

### Factors Causing Change

Invasive rhododendron spreading and reducing levels of natural regeneration and shading ground flora.

Invasive bracken could spread and dominate the ground layer

Tree disease, particularly Chalara infecting ash in the new planted area.

Mammal damage to trees - rabbits and grey squirrels are causing some minor damage by browsing and bark stripping although it is not having a significant impact at present.

Erosion of soil - which are predominantly sandy loam soils and because of the steep slopes and poor ground vegetation cover in many places are easily washed away.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain a high forest of mixed native broadleaves with diverse structure, age and species composition. It will be managed so it is as resilient as possible to future changes and whilst natural processes will be favoured, intervention in the form of silvicultural operations, trees safety work and some new planting may be necessary if sufficient regeneration and mix of species is not possible. Deadwood habitat will be increased through the retention of moribund / dead trees and opportunistic tree safety or silvicultural operations. Rhododendron will be controlled to prevent it spreading and should compose less than 5% of the shrub layer.

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

Rhododendron will be controlled (2ha cut) and monitored for signs of regeneration in Snidley Moor (1a) and Woodhouse Hill wood (2a and 2b) during the plan period.

The health of trees will be monitored at least once per plan period through the woodland condition assessment for any diseases, pests or threats.

Remaining tree protection guards and shelters in the new planted areas of Woodhouse Hill wood extension (4a, 4b) will be removed during the plan period.

Bracken control through mechanical cutting will be carried out to retain views near the view point bench on Snidley Moor.

Tree safety inspections will be undertaken on a biannual basis to ensure the wood is safe for visitors.



6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	12.29	Birch (downy/silver)	1970	High forest	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	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Special Landscape Area
<p>Forming the bulk of Snidley Moor sub comp 1A has a Western aspect (very steep in places) varying from 70m to 150m above sea level. The area is (recent) secondary woodland with approximately 80% tree cover, which is predominantly Silver birch (approximately 90%) with scattered oak, rowan and an occasional Scots pine &amp; sycamore. These other species only grow in any numbers along the upper slopes and site margins. The understorey was previously dominated by dense rhododendron, but large areas of this have been cleared in recent years allowing some natural regeneration to develop. The other main shrub species are occasional hawthorn and holly. The ground flora is dominated almost entirely by bracken and bramble. The sub-compartment is bounded to the S, E &amp; W by agricultural land and in the N &amp; NW by sub-cpt 1B &amp; 2A respectively.</p>							
1b	1.88	Birch (downy/silver)	1970	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Special Landscape Area
<p>Known as the Annex, this roughly square block of secondary woodland forms the northern end of Snidley Moor wood and slightly pre-dates the rest of woodland in compartment 1. It sits at an elevation between 130 - 150m above sea level with a north western aspect. It is dominated by birch with some scattered oak and rowan with a limited shrub layer comprising a few elder, hawthorn and patches of bramble. The ground flora is dominated by bracken, but also includes grasses, ferns, bluebells, foxgloves, nettles and willow herb. Bounded to the W, N, &amp; E by agricultural land and to the S by Compartment 1A.</p>							

2a	5.27	Birch (downy/silver)	1970	High forest	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Special Landscape Area
<p>Comprising of the main body of high ground on Woodhouse Hill the majority of the compartment has a slight SE aspect with an elevation between 110m - 130m. The tree cover is mostly mature Silver birch with occasional oak and rowan across the site, but these are most numerous along the N/E &amp; SW boundaries, along with some randomly located Corsican pine. No significant shrub layer except occasional holly, hawthorn. It was previously dominated by rhododendron, but this has now been cleared in the wood. Ground flora dominated by bracken under light canopy and ferns where the canopy is denser. Boundaries - NE defined by boundary wall &amp; FP 43 - SE defined by old boundary wall (abuts comp 1A) - SW Abuts farmland - W defined by FP43 and the edge of Compartment 2C.</p>							
2b	1.74	Birch (downy/silver)	1970	High forest	Archaeological features, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Special Landscape Area
<p>This compartment encompasses the summit of Woodhouse Hill and occupies the earth ramparts &amp; slopes of the ancient hill fort (Scheduled Ancient Monument). The tree cover comprises mostly young/semi mature birch, oak &amp; rowan with a few mature oak &amp; birch scattered across the compartment but mostly near the top of the hill. The shrub layer was dominated in the North and SE by rhododendron, but this has now been cleared. The ground flora is dominated by bracken with a few scattered patches of heathland species such as bilberry &amp; heather surviving. Ferns occur under the denser canopied areas to the north.</p>							

2c	4.67	Birch (downy/silver)	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Special Landscape Area
<p>This sub-cpt of Woodhouse Hill is the western escarpment slope of the sandstone ridge, with very slopes and sandstone cliffs (elevation between 60-120m and gradients of up to 1 in 2). The woodland is designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) on the English Nature Ancient Woodland Inventory of 1981.</p> <p>The Northern and higher slopes are dominated by mature birch &amp; oak with a closed canopy, but this changes in the southern half of the compartment and lower slopes to large mature beech, oak, the occasional Corsican pine &amp; sycamore with a more open canopy and understorey of birch &amp; rowan. The shrub layer was dominated by rhododendron and although much of this has been cleared, large patches still remain on the steeper slopes. Ground flora - dominated by bracken where the canopy is open and, ferns under closed canopy, climbing corydalis is common across the site. Boundaries - N &amp; S by established mature woodland - W by a public right of way and agricultural land - E northern two thirds abut sub compartment 2A (Defined by a public right of way). The southern third abuts agricultural land. A steep path (PROW) winds its way from the SW corner up the slope to enter Sub-compartment 2A at it's most western point.</p>							
3a	11.97	Birch (downy/silver)	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, People issues (+ve & -ve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Special Landscape Area

3A - Frodsham Hill Wood occupies the northern and eastern edges of Overton Hill directly abutting and over looking the town of Frodsham. Views from the Memorial at the top look over Runcorn and Liverpool. It has a steep NNE aspect with a gradient of approximately 1 in 2.2 and an elevation from 50m to 120m. It has continuous dense woodland cover comprising of oak, sycamore, beech, birch, holly & rowan. Birch holly and rowan form the understorey on the lower slopes but are incorporated into the canopy towards the hills rim. The shrub layer consists of holly, rhododendron, elder and bramble on the higher SW slopes. Ground flora is limited with ferns & bracken most common. Boundaries - N abuts Middle walk and domestic properties - E abuts woodland - S runs along the hills rim opposite a paddock - W defined by marker posts this boundary abuts continuous woodland. The site is crossed and climbed by a network of well used public rights of way. The woodland is designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and

3B - Frodsham Hill Wood Extension occupies the northern and eastern edges of Overton Hill directly abutting and over looking the town of Frodsham. Views from the Memorial at the top look over the River Mersey towards Runcorn and Liverpool. It has a steep NW aspect with a gradient of approximately 1 in 2.2 and an elevation from 50m to 125m. It has continuous dense woodland cover comprising of oak, birch & rowan. The shrub layer consists of holly, rhododendron, elder, bramble and small pockets of Bilberry. Ground flora is limited with ferns & bracken most common. Boundaries - E abuts the lower walk path which belongs to Cheshire West Council and acts as a Bridlepath beyond the path are domestic properties - N abuts woodland Cmpt 3A - S abuts woodland and a domestic property boundary - W abuts the Forest Hills Hotel and Golf course and is defined by a fence line. Along the Eastern edge of the site are some sheer cliff drops. There is an extensive network of well used footpaths through the wood and bridlepath along the bottom path. It is Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.

4a	3.65	Rowan	2002	High forest	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Special Landscape Area
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Woodhouse Hill extension lies to the south of Woodhouse Hill (which is partly designated as ASNW) and to the west of Snidley Moor. The area was acquired and planted in 2001 as an addition to the Frodsham Hill Complex owned by the Woodland Trust.

4b	12.65	Mixed native broadleaves	2002	High forest	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Special Landscape Area
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Woodhouse Hill extension was an addition to the Snidley Moor/ Frodsham Hill complex in 2001. The area was planted with a view to buffering the Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) on Woodhouse Hill. In the SE corner of the compartment lies a small pocket of secondary woodland consisting of semi mature birch, oak and rowan with an understorey of rhododendron. The site is bounded by Snidley Moor to the east, Woodhouse Hill to the north, Foxhill arboretum to the west and private woodland to the south. The site is accessed off the Cheshire Sandstone Trail (via The Ridgeway). The land was previously used for outdoor rearing of pigs.

## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2016	4b	Ride edge Coppice	0.15	13	2
2017	4b	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	6	3
2018	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.10	10	1
2018	3a	Selective Fell	0.50	6	3
2020	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	4	2
2020	4a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	4	2
2021	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	4	2
2021	4a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	4	2
2025	4a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	4	2
2026	4a	Thin	8.00	5	40

## 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 on 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.