WOODLAND TRUST

Edolphs Copse

Management Plan 2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Edolphs Copse, Ricketts Wood
Location:	Charlwood, Charlwood
Grid reference:	TQ236425, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 187 TQ230428, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 187
Area:	27.46 hectares (67.86 acres) 2.54 hectares (6.28 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Tree Preservation Order Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Article IV Directive, Green Belt

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Edolphs Copse lies within a well wooded part of the Surrey Low Weald National Character Area. An aesthetic mixture of ancient and secondary woodland is further complimented by a species rich grassland. Bluebells are a dominant feature in the spring and the three towering Victorian Wellingtonias are an intriguing welcome to the site. A good network of paths gives easy access, although the site is prone to seasonal water-logging.

2.2 Extended Description

Edolphs Copse (subcpts 1a, 2a, and 2b) is a 27.5 hectare (67.9 acres) woodland, just outside of Charlwood, Surrey. It is situated less than two miles northwest of Gatwick airport and within two miles driving distance of three other Woodland Trust sites, including: Rickett's Wood, Glovers Wood, and Hammonds Copse (which is part of the Welcome Sites Programme).

Edolph's Copse lies within a well wooded part of the Surrey Low Weald National Character Area, although the geology is uniquely different, as it sits on an outcrop of Paludina Limestone instead of Weald Clay. Soils are predominantly base-rich brown-earths.

Historical evidence suggests that the heterogeneous woodland of present day Edolphs Copse formed from a series of small fields and woods, surrounded by banks, ditches, hedgerows and shaws. As a result, today there are sections of ancient semi natural woodland, mature secondary woodland (200+ years), more recent secondary woodland and two areas of remaining open ground. Ancient woodland areas are mostly old ash, hornbeam, field maple and hazel coppice with some oak and ash standards. There are also rare specimens of large wild service and small-leaved lime. Ground flora is dominated by bluebell and dogs mercury, except in the north where ivy is present and in southern areas where primrose and anemone are also common. Planted areas are generally oak standards and hazel coppice and the occasional non-native (Wellingtonia, horse chestnut, poplar). Younger silver birch is also frequent in some areas. The ground flora contains more bramble, nettles, willow herb, and pendulous sedge although ancient woodland indicators are present in these areas as well.

The managed grassland area (subcpt 2a) is rich in floral diversity displaying several wildflowers such as common spotted orchid, knapweed, betony, red bartsia, fleabane, centaury, agrimony, meadow vetchling, selfheal, and lesser stitchwort. The other open ground area is thick with scrub as it is in a transitional stage toward woodland cover.

A flat western boundary gives rise to an unusual hummock-hollow topography through the central region of the site before the ground gives way to a moderate east-facing slope down to the eastern boundaries. These central depressions are thought to be natural, post-glacial land forms. Today, several permanent and ephemeral (seasonal) ponds exist amongst the hollows as well as a stream in the south of subcompartment 1a.

The site is well used by local people for informal recreation. A good network of permissive footpaths makes various circular routes possible. Edolphs Copse has always been supported by local volunteers. The Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP) hosts two to three volunteer days on site per year, tackling various tasks to either improve visitor access or enhance biodiversity on site. In recent years, Edolphs Copse has also been used by local vendors to host woodland wellness days and other educational events.

Nearby Ricketts Wood (subcpt 3a) is ASNW within the Green Belt, forming part of a larger and continuous linear strip of woodland on the slopes of a small seasonal stream which is a tributary to the Deanoak Brook to the north. The small wood extends to 2.5 hectares and is situated just 250m north of Edolphs Copse. There is one circular path through the site, with two sleeper footbridges in the north and south where the path crosses the gill. Due to its close proximity and similar woodland structure, Ricketts Wood and Edolphs Copse have been clumped into one management plan.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General location:
Edolphs Copse is located off Stan Hill, close to the village of Charlwood in Surrey. It lies approximately 1.5 miles N.W. of Gatwick airport and 4 miles north of Crawley. Access can be gained from 3 points directly off Stan Hill, which runs adjacent to the western boundary, and from one point off Norwood Hill in the north.

Parking:
There is very limited car parking for 2-3 cars only close to the management entrance of the wood, off Stan Hill. The nearest postcode to the larger of the parking area is RH6 0EP, grid reference TQ234421.

Public Transport:
The nearest bus-stop is on Ifield Road in Charlwood, approx. 1.5 miles from the wood. From here, head towards the village centre 'The Street' and turn left onto this road. Turn right on the sharp bend onto Norwood Hill and then take the next left for Stan Hill. Continue along Stan Hill until coming to the first entrance on the right side for Edolphs Copse which is via a stile. Please note that some of the roads lack pavements on this route.

For further information about public transport please contact Traveline - www.traveline.org.uk Tel: 0871 200 2233

3.2 Access / Walks

Access to the wood is gained through squeeze gaps in the perimeter fence, apart from the southernmost entrance closest to Charlwood where there is a stile. From these entrances there is a good network of paths around the wood, all of which are unsurfaced. There are two information boards providing details of the walking routes.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In the future, Edolph's Copse and Rickett's Wood will form an important mosaic of features; providing a diversity of habitat for woodland species within the wider landscape, including high forest, woodland edge habitat, open space, and water features. The ancient woodland and secondary woodland areas will be treated the same for the purposes of management. Ride management will maintain wide rides throughout the site, reducing susceptibility of paths to become waterlogged and resulting in wide enough gaps in the canopy to allow for an important shrub edge for birds and butterflies and enough light for ground flora to thrive.

Ash, due to ash dieback, will be reduced to a much smaller component of the species make-up. As this happens, areas of the closed canopy will open up, diversifying the age and structure of the woodland through natural succession. Oak, hornbeam, birch and field maple are a few examples of trees which are likely to take its place. Direct action to remove diseased ash trees will be required in higher risk areas along roadsides and pathways. Whilst some economically viable trees will be removed from site in the process, the amount of standing and fallen deadwood is expected to increase, providing important habitat for invertebrates and fungal communities across the site.

The small number of deer on site may have a short-term impact on regeneration in cut areas. If monitoring events determine the effects to be longer lasting, deer management will be considered to correct the problem.

The species rich meadow area of Edolph's Copse will be maintained as important open ground habitat. 5-yearly species recording will help to monitor the effectiveness of the management strategies.

Regular safety inspections of visitor infrastructure (paths, entrances, signs and boundaries) and high risk tree zones will ensure that access remains easy and safe for users. Local volunteer activity will continue to be encouraged and anti-social behaviour such as vandalism or flytipping will be dealt with swiftly.

The Woodland Trust will continue to work in partnership with the local community to help protect these sites from the negative impacts of a potential future expansion of Gatwick Airport.

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 Semi Natural Woodland

Description

The historic land-uses of Edolphs Copse show through in the visible mosaic of tree species and habitat types there today. The site contains a mix of ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW) and secondary woodland, some long established (+200 years). Areas of ASNW include former shaws and hedgerows that made up historic boundaries within the woodland and the wider landscape. Most of the secondary woodland in Edolphs Copse has arisen from planting or by slow encroachment into former fields from these ancient woodland edges and old hedgerows. Obvious non-native plantings have occurred both in Victorian times and more recently, evidenced by the presence of some 30m Wellingtonias and tall but often unstable hybrid poplars. Also present are occasional horse chestnuts, sycamores and sweet chestnuts.

Ricketts Wood is all classified as ancient woodland. The canopy is dominated by 100+ year oaks and secondary ash. The understory is mostly hornbeam coppice, estimated to have last been cut in the 1950s. More open patches present a more diverse understory including elder, hazel, hawthorn, crab apple, and field maple. Ground flora is hindered under the dense shading of the hornbeam coppice but in the more open areas, bluebells, violets, primroses, wood sedge, ivy, honeysuckle, nightshade are all present. Approximately 0.5ha of oak in the SW of the woodland was selectively thinned in 1997.

Most the woodland is NVC habitat type W8 (Fraxinus excelsior – Acer campestre – Mercurialis perennis), typical of base-rich clay soils. However, there are also scattered patches of W10 (Quercus robur – Pteridium aquilinum), particularly in some areas of the ancient sections which are less base-rich.

Drifts of bluebells and wood anemone are a prominent feature in the spring. Other ancient woodland indicators include dog's mercury, yellow archangel, rare specimens of small-leaved lime and wild service tree as well as historic woodbanks scattered throughout the wood.

There are also many historic ditches, banks, ponds, pits and depressions and other uneven areas caused by various past human activities. These include: boundary banks and ditches, assarting (clearing forest for agriculture), field boundaries, drainage and stone digging.

There is a frequent presence of semi-mature to mature ash throughout both sites, almost all of which are showing symptoms of ash dieback to varying degrees.

Significance

The amount of ancient woodland left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. Approximately 40% of England's ancient woodland is found in the South East. Ancient woodland is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites. One of the Trust's main aims is to halt such loss. ASNW is irreplaceable, once lost it cannot be recreated. Much of the flora and fauna of ASNW's are limited to ancient woodland sites due to poor powers of dispersal and slow colonisation rates.

Edolphs Copse and Ricketts Wood are locally important as mixed ancient woodland containing a wide range of native species. They are an integral part of the wider mosaic of small woods linked by ancient hedges and shaws that is characteristic of the Low Weald Character Area.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
- Seasonally waterlogged heavy clay soils.

- UKPN powerline cutting across the southern tip of subcpt 1a.

Factors Causing Change

- Tree disease, particularly ash dieback.

- Deer damage to tree/shrub regen and coppice regrowth.

- Antisocial behaviour – although minimal at present there are past incidences of fly-tipping and burning cars.

- Pollution from nearby airport limiting the resilience of individual trees.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will continue to have a range of broadleaved tree species, a varied structure and associated ancient woodland-specialist ground flora. This will be achieved, mainly through ride side management and the natural succession of subcompartment 2b from open ground to woodland cover. Some intervention to address the diseased and dying ash in public areas will be required to ensure public safety. Ash that succumb to disease are likely to be succeeded by birch, field maple, and hornbeam. Abundant dead wood will be present, likely increasing due to the high proportion of dying ash trees.

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

To maintain the varied composition and structural diversity of the woodland. This will be achieved by the following actions over the next 5-year plan:

- Ride management in subcompartment 1a:
    - 2020 - 140m ride widening between subcpt 2b and 2a
    - 2021 - 130m along main entrance track toward meadow
    - 2023 - 100m on track north of subcpt 2a

- Carry out regular surveys for tree health and disease in Zone A and Zone B tree safety areas. Respond accordingly.

- Carry out a deer impact assessment every three years (2020, 2023) during the spring/summer.

5.2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description

Although relatively small, subcompartment 2a is an important feature of Edolph's Copse. The 0.6ha of unimproved grassland is shown on maps as far back as the 1840 tithe map under the title "Butter Field". This open ground habitat adds to the wood's visual appeal and its rich meadow flora adds to the biodiversity of the site. The most abundant species are Yorkshire-fog, common bent, sweet vernal grass, compact rush, creeping buttercup, knapweed, marsh thistle, fleabane, greater bird's-foot-trefoil and a colony of common spotted orchids. Also in evidence are betony, red clover, white clover, red bartsia, centaury, agrimony, meadow vetchling, self-heal, meadowsweet, water mint and lesser stitchwort. Regular cutting of the shrubs around the edge of the meadow prevents encroachment and creates an important woodland edge habitat, benefitting the birds, butterflies, and invertebrates.

Subcompartment 2b (1.06ha) is a temporary area of open ground, transitioning to woodland cover. This former meadow lacked floral species richness and had issues with an overabundance of mare's tail – due to its previous use as a municipal tip. Under the 2010-2016 management plan, the annual cut was stopped to allow the area to revert back to woodland. Most of the subcompartment is now covered with bramble, nettles, wild roses, the non-native Buddleja, and scrubby edges. There are some remnant grassland species along the cut track and near to the western edge, including spotted orchid, centaury, selfheal, and musk mallow.

Significance

The unimproved grassland in subcompartment 2a represents an irreplaceable and vanishing aspect of the Wealden countryside and heritage. Nationally less than 3% of grasslands remain unimproved and many such areas are still being lost at an alarming rate due to development, intensive farming and inappropriate management decisions. The Trust's continued management and monitoring will ensure that these valuable habitats are not lost.

Subcompartment 2b contains many species considered undesirable in grassland habitats; however, some of these are important food sources for moth and butterfly caterpillars. Allowing this area to revert to its historical woodland state while maintaining a wide scalloped track for the invertebrates will increase the overall diversity of this subcompartment as its state as open ground habitat was species poor and over abundant in invasive type plants (i.e. Buddleja and mare's tail).

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
- To support traditional grassland scythe management by volunteers, which is less intrusive than mechanical alternatives.

Constraints:
- Small size of open ground area is expensive to maintain and quick to disappear if not managed.

Factors Causing Change

- Natural succession to scrub/woodland.

- Presence of the invasive mare's tail in subcpt 2b is limiting the floral diversity of the area.

- Deer browsing.

Long term Objective (50 years+)
Subcpt 2a to remain as a good quality unimproved grassland with a diversity of grassland flora . Edges may vary slightly, but overall area of grassland to remain at least half a hectare in size. Subcpt 2b will gradually turn, via scrub and encroaching woodland edges, to secondary woodland with a maintained wide scalloped ride running east to west near the northern boundary of the compartment.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Over the next 5-year period, the objective is to support the biodiversity benefits of the non-woodland habitat types in Edolphs Copse by: - Annually scything or mowing compartment 2a, cutting alternate halves of the meadow in alternate years. Cuttings to be left in compost pile in northwest or northeast of subcompartment. - Ensure that woodland scrub does not encroach into compartment 2a by more than 10%. Action to be taken to cut back scrub if levels exceed this. Two monitoring events within this plan period will ensure this objective is met. - Annual 3m wide path cut and maintenance of scallops through subcpt 2b (150m).

5.3 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Edolphs Copse is popular among local walkers. The Woodland Trust has categorised the site as a B2 access site – a maintained site of moderate usage. Situated only 1km from Charlwood and less than 5km from the northern edges of Crawley, the population of 100,000 within 6 miles of the site provides an excellent base for visitors. Two laybys off of Stan Hill Rd provide enough parking for 5-6 cars. The spring bluebell season brings visitors from further afield and the limited space for parking can be an issue as Stan Hill is a busy road with blind corners. During volunteer days and special events, the main entrance gate can be opened to allow for volunteers/guests to park up to 15 cars on the wide entrance track and the concrete pad approximately 80m from the gate.

There is a good but complex network of paths throughout Edolphs Copse, totalling just over 3.5km of trail. Most paths are grass or earth surface and can be wet and muddy, particularly in winter. They are mowed and cut back twice each summer. The paths take the public past many historic wooded banks and other features, including: the remarkably large wild service tree by the central pond; and the Wellingtonias near the main entrance and in other parts of the wood. The sloping topography near the eastern boundary of the wood allows for good views over the surrounding open countryside and even provides glimpses of the North Downs.

In 2017, the dilapidated way-marked trail and mapping signage at the entrances were removed from site. These have not yet been replaced. There are no public rights of way passing through, or immediately adjacent to Edolphs Copse. However, there are two public footpaths connecting to the western side of Stan Hill approximately 100m from the main entrance, thereby linking Edolphs Copse with the local rights of way network. Edolphs Copse is also only a short drive from three other Woodland Trust sites. Ricketts Wood is just 250m north, and Glovers Wood and Hammonds Copse are just 2 miles away.

Edolphs Copse has always been well supported by local volunteers. The Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP) hosts two to three volunteer days on site per year, tackling various tasks to either improve visitor access or enhance biodiversity on site (infrastructure repairs/replacements, coppicing, scything, ride widening, and scything). In recent years, Edolphs Copse has also been used by local vendors to host woodland wellness days and other educational events.

Nearby Rickett's Wood is just 250m north of Edolphs Copse. As a small woodland with no parking, it sees much fewer visitor numbers and is therefore categorised as a C3 site, meaning the entrance and small circular path is maintained but it is generally a 'wild wood'. However, for those walkers travelling cross country, they will be pleasantly rewarded by the ethereal beauty of the ancient woodland and gill that form Rickett's Wood.

Significance

It has been proven that access to woodland provides an improved quality of life with benefits to both mental and physical health. Edolphs Copse provides an accessible and varied woodland resource with a wide array of plants and wildlife for people to enjoy.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
- With its interesting and attractive features and proximity to a populated centre, Edolphs Copse is a suitable place for the Trust to consider appropriate woodland activities and small events - including those with a family and educational or fund raising theme.

Constraints:
- Tendency of the ground to become wet and muddy creating unwanted wider paths and new paths throughout the wood.

- Quiet enjoyment is frequently interrupted by aircraft activity at nearby Gatwick.

- Visitor impact on ancient woodland.

Factors Causing Change

- Path creep widening bare-ground surfaces and damaging woodland edge habitat along rides.

- Bluebell season increasing visitor demand.

- Potential future Gatwick Airport expansion may reduce the number/size of local public green spaces, which could increase the number of regular visitors to Edolphs Copse. It could also increase noise disruption due to increased air traffic.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The wood will remain an attractive and popular place for local people to walk-in, explore, learn, and enjoy. On-site access facilities will be maintained and enhanced, responding reactively with changes in demand for the site. Ride management will improve the visitor experience by creating a variety of internal views and will help alleviate wet ground conditions.

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

During this plan period, the short term objective is to continue to provide public access at Edolphs Copse which is safe and enjoyable. This will be achieved by:

- Hosting a species Bio Blitz in May 2019 with volunteers from the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership to gather site information on flowers, invertebrates, fungi, and mammals.

- Biannual ride/path cut and entrance maintenance (June and August).

- Regular tree safety surveys and remedial work:
• Annual Zone A surveys, alternating summer and autumn.
• Zone B surveys every two years due to the presence of ash dieback (next due 2020).

- Annual survey of site infrastructure including gates, benches, and sleeper footbridges.

- Continuing to work with the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership on effective management of Edolphs Copse, by carrying out Work Programme items suitable for a small group of volunteers.

- Update entrance signage by installing welcome mapping and poster boards at two entrances in collaboration with the regional Engagement and Communications team (2020).

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	25.82	Oak (pedunculate)	1800	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/ Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Tree Preservation Order
The largest compartment of Edolph's Copse is a mixture of ASNW and old secondary woodland, mostly of native broadleaved species, although there are some large specimens of Wellingtonias near the main entrance and mature collapsing hybrid poplars in the northwest of the subcpt. Ancient woodland areas are mostly old ash, hornbeam, field maple and hazel coppice with some oak and ash standards. There are also rare specimens of large wild service and small-leaved lime. Ground flora is dominated by bluebell and dogs mercury, except in the north where ivy is present and in southern areas where primrose and anemone are also common. The secondary woodland areas are a combination of very old (+200 yrs) plantings, more recent plantings (<100yrs), and natural succession from woodland edges. Planted areas are generally oak standards and hazel coppice and the occasional non-native (Wellingtonia, horse chestnut, poplar). Younger silver birch is also frequent in some areas. The ground flora contains more bramble, nettles, willow herb, and pendulous sedge although ancient woodland indicators are present in these areas as well. Subcpt 1a is generally heavily shaded, but where gaps exist, the lower canopy consists of ash and hornbeam regeneration, holly, and hawthorn. Crab apple, honeysuckle and ribes are also present in patches. Other ground flora species include yellow archangel, herb Robert, male fern and wood avens. There are several small ponds scattered throughout the central and western parts of the subcpt with a stream developing into a steep sided small gill in the south east.							
2a	0.58	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Connecting People with woods & trees	Green Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Tree Preservation Order

This compartment is an area of unimproved grassland with "soft" wood edges. In spring and summer the meadow is full of wild flowers and fine grasses that include common spotted orchid, knapweed, betony, red clover, red bartsia, fleabane, centaury, agrimony, creeping and meadow buttercup, meadow vetchling, white clover, selfheal, meadowsweet, water mint, lesser stitchwort. A late season cut is carried out on half of the meadow by machine or scythe in alternating years.							
2b	1.06	Open ground		Min-intervention		Connecting People with woods & trees	Green Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Tree Preservation Order
Most of this compartment is densely covered in, nettles, brambles, wild roses, buddleia and hogweed with a scrubby edge blending into the mature woodland. The scrub is made up of hawthorn, blackthorn, goat willow and alder. The western part has an area of short grass that includes common spotted orchid, hawkbit, centaury, self heal, musk mallow and teasel.							
3a	2.54	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/ Rocky ground	Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt
Small woodland known as Ricketts Wood just north of Edolphs Copse. Mixed broadleaf woodland dominated by oak with secondary ash canopy and an understorey of hornbeam. A seasonal stream with sporadic sink holes dissects the area and a small pond with fluctuating water table is in the west of the wood. A circular path takes in all of the woodland and crosses the stream in the north and south over simple sleeper bridges.							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	0.70	143	100
2020	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.22	45	10
2021	1a	Thin	0.65	62	40
2021	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.21	48	10
2023	1a	Thin	0.50	70	35
2023	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.16	38	6

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.