



Riverside South

Management Plan 2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Riverside South
Location:	Washington
Grid reference:	NZ314535, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 88
Area:	8.96 hectares (22.14 acres)
Designations:	Community Forest, Green Belt, Nature Conservation Area, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tourism Restraint Area

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This is one of eight blocks of woodland scattered along the south bank of the River Wear. This is by far the biggest and is classified as an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. It contains mature oak, ash, beech and sycamore, along with some Scots pine. Most of these woods are located in James Steel Park alongside the River Wear and all are in a heavily urbanised area so they are all very well used by local people and informal public access is a key feature on all sites.

2.2 Extended Description

Riverside South Woods consists of eight blocks of woodland/scrubland scattered along the south bank of the River Wear in Washington, Tyne & Wear growing on clayey soils within the Wear River valley. Of these, Reach Wood is by far the biggest at 6.14ha, whilst the rest are all below 1ha in size. The management of these woods is driven by three key features: Informal Public Access, Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW), and Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS).

Because most of the woods are located in James Steel Park alongside the River Wear and are in a heavily urbanised area, they are very well used by local people for informal recreation. Part of Reach Wood (sub-cpt 2c) is classified as an Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) and contains mature oak, ash, beech and sycamore, along with some Scots pine and a ground flora that is characteristic of ancient woodland including wood rush, wood anemone, bluebell and ransom. This area was under planted in 1983/4 with mixed broadleaves and conifers but in 2005, most of the conifers and other non-native species were removed from the understory to ensure further ancient woodland is not lost. The remainder of Reach Wood consists of recent mixed planting established between 1969 and 1979, some planted on what once would have been part of the ancient woodland site (PAWS).

Adjoining Reach Wood to the southwest are sub-cpts 1a & 1b at Mount Pleasant. These narrow strips of woodland were planted in 1988 on ex-arable land and directly adjoin housing. Sub-cpts 3a and 3e to the northeast of Reach Wood, beyond historic Victoria Viaduct, form part of the continuous woodland cover running along the valley side this is classified as ASNW. These small plots contain some mature oak, ash and sycamore with hawthorn and elder in the under storey. Ivy dominates sub-cpt 3b and both woodland blocks are generally degraded and impoverished. Sub-cpts 3b, 3c and 3d are all on disturbed ground on the river's edge that once contained buildings and are also impoverished and weedy. Sub-cpts 3b and 3c are both less than 0.1ha in size whilst sub-cpt 3d extends to 0.53ha and contains remnants of a garden in the form of a beech hedge as well as thorny scrub. During 2003, to help increase the woodland cover in this plot, enrichment planting was carried out.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Mount Pleasant Plot B can be entered either from Stonedale at its southwest side or from Chandlers Ford from the northeast, both of which lead off from Station Road. Plot A can be entered at its southern end off Station Road at the western end of Lambton Terrace or from Reach Wood at its northern end. Entrances to both plots A and B are via squeeze stiles and the paths are unsurfaced, with that in plot B having short, steep slope at its northeast with a flight of steps.

Reach Wood can be entered from the southwest or the northeast via the public footpath that runs alongside the River Wear Between Mount Pleasant Lake and Victoria Viaduct or from the east along public footpath that runs down through the wood from Railway Cottages. The wood can also be entered from its southeast end via the permissive path running through Mt. Pleasant Plot A and down into Reach Wood. No entrance furniture is located on the riverside path, which is mostly level except at its southwest end where it climbs up a gentle slope.

The Low Lambton and South Bank Plots can be reach by following the riverside path northeast beyond Victoria Viaduct or by crossing over the river from Barmston Ferry to Cox Green and following the same riverside path southwest. Low Lambton Plot 1 and the South Bank Plots can be reached from the south by following the public footpath down from Low Lambton Farm to the north of Victoria Viaduct. Low Lambton Plot 2 can also be accessed from the south via the public footpath leading off Coxgreen Road down past Coxgreen Gill Wood. None of these small blocks of woodland have any formal entrances and paths within them.

Public car parks are available at the southwest end of Reach Wood, next to Mount Pleasant Lake, off Beatrice Terrace (James Steel Park car park) or at Barmston Ferry on the north bank of the river, from where the south bank can be reached by using the footbridge over to Cox Green. For visitors wishing to reach the woods by public transport, bus stops are located on Station Road from where the woods can be reached by a few minutes walk.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To maintain native high forest broadleaved woodland of diverse age structure and with a well developed shrub understorey across most of Reach Wood. This will be achieved by removing most non-native species from the Ancient Semi-natural Woodland core of Reach Wood and gradually removing conifers through a series of selective thinning from other parts of the wood. This work will aim to achieve a high forest structure similar to lowland mixed broadleaved woodland as described in the Forestry Commission Forestry Practice Guide 3 and roughly characteristic of a W10 woodland type as identified in the National Vegetation Classification. Managing Reach Wood in this way will help achieve the Trust's corporate objective of no further loss of ancient woodland.

At Mount Pleasant Plots A & B, healthy high forest broadleaved woodland dominated by native broadleaves will be maintained. The woods will be managed principally to enhance their role as amenity woods for informal public access, providing green routes between places in the urban environment and as landscape features. The Low Lambton and South Bank Plots will be managed as high forest broadleaved woodland. Within all the Riverside South Woods formal paths, steps and entrances will be maintained to ensure public access continues to be available in the future, thus helping to realise the Trust's corporate objective of increasing enjoyment and understanding of woodland.

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 Riverside South Woods are located in an area of high importance for recreation. Most of the woods are directly alongside the River Wear in James Steel Park through which the River Wear Trail follows the public footpath that runs along the bottom of Reach Wood and past the Low Lambton & South Bank Plots. Although not on the riverside, the Mount Pleasant Plots are linked to the riverside woods via Reach Wood and are in themselves important local amenities, particularly for children.

Significance

These woods are located in an area surrounded by urban and industrial development where ready access to open countryside is limited. By providing free access for people to roam the Trust is providing an important local amenity and fulfilling its corporate objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

The woods are linked into the local urban landscape via the riverside footpath that runs from Mount Pleasant Lake to Cox Green and beyond. By upgrading and linking in the permissive path running through Mt. Pleasant Plot A and Reach Wood into the public footpath network in Reach Wood, direct access from Station Road can be created that is accessible to a much wider range of people.

Factors Causing Change

Loss of riverside path in places due to undermining by river.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the current level of permissive and public footpath provision in the woods, whilst upgrading key permissive footpath links to form a comprehensive access provision for people on foot. Informal permissive paths (i.e. desire lines) that present no danger to the woods or the people using them will be allowed to come and go over time and will not be maintained. No further public rights of way should be created within the woods.

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

Formal footpaths will be kept clear of encroaching vegetation and litter by the operation an Estates Maintenance Contract programme of annual works within the woods. Entrances, steps and other access furniture will be maintained in a safe and serviceable condition by carrying out repairs as required. Public safety within the woods will be protected by carrying out periodic tree safety surveys on trees alongside paths and through monitoring and/or controlling hazards existing in the woods.

5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Sub-compartments 2c and 3a carry ASNW designation. 3a is generally an impoverished and degraded habitat but form part of the continuous woodland cover on the River Wear's south bank. Remains of an old building occupy much of sub-compartment 3a whilst both sub-compartments have suffered damaged through Dutch Elm Disease killing off most of the elms within these woods. Under planting with exotic conifer species in 1983/84 has also compromised the ASNW character of sub-compartment 2c in Reach Wood.

Significance

Ancient Semi-natural Woodland is a nationally important habitat as well as being locally scarce. Their well-establish ecosystems are high in biodiversity and intimately linked to river valley environment they occupy. Besides being an ASNW, Reach Wood is designated a Site of Nature Conservation Importance in the City of Sunderland's Unitary Development Plan and lies within a Strategic Wildlife Corridor.

Opportunities & Constraints

Most of the non-native species were removed from the understorey of Reach Wood during 2005 to prevent these competing with native regeneration and suppressing ground flora. A potential constraint on any further work is the very steep slopes in various parts of the wood and the limited access to it.

Factors Causing Change

Introduction of exotic species during 1983/84. Dutch elm disease.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To improve the health and vigour of these ASNW areas by the gradual reduction in the number of non-native trees present, in order to achieve a high forest woodland structure broadly characteristic of locally native lowland mixed broadleaved woodland.

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

Before the end of 2015, the understorey of sub-cpt 2c will be inspected to check that the re-spacing carried out in 2005 has improved the spread of ancient woodland ground flora and favoured sufficient natural regeneration of locally native species to mitigate the impact of Dutch elm disease. If this has been achieved, sub-cpt 2c will be treated as a minimum intervention area in the future, allowing the woodland cover to develop naturally. If this has not been achieved, during the next plan period (2015 to 2020) the sub-cpt will be resurveyed to establish what further intervention is required to achieve this objective and this will then be carried out before the end of 2020.

5.3 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description

The stretch of woodland growing on the southern slope of the River Wear Valley that includes Reach Wood and Low Lambton Plot 1 is designated by English Nature as ASNW. As parts of Reach Wood have been replanted with non-native species since 1969 and Low Lambton has been built on in the past, this is not accurate, and these areas should more correctly be designated PAWS.

Significance

Sub-compartments 2a and 2b adjoin an area of ASNW. Although planting of exotic species has occurred within these sub-cpts, it is possible that seed banks and remnant ground flora still survive. Appropriate management and the association with ASNW can help accelerate these plantations taking on the characteristics of ancient woodland. Work to restore Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) is a core activity for the Trust and will help increase woodland biodiversity which is one of its corporate objectives.

Opportunities & Constraints

Sub-cpt 2a was pastureland when planted in 1972/73 and so its continuity with woodland has been broken. However, sub-cpt 2b seems never to have been totally cleared of woodland and so is likely to be a Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS). Therefore, the opportunity exists to save some of the AW characteristics that may still survive this part of the wood. Although cleared, sub-cpt 2a is attached to both sub-cpt 2b and the ASNW in 2c and therefore its management over the long term to encourage ancient woodland characteristics is also an opportunity. The reduction of non-native species in 2a and 2b will have to be gradual because any sudden change in this area of landscape and recreational value is likely to meet with strong opposition.

Factors Causing Change

Past planting of exotic species on site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

By 2050, most of the Scots pine and any remaining exotic conifer trees in 2a and 2b will have been removed by successive light thinning or small group felling to favour (where these exist) native broadleaves and areas of remnant ancient woodland ground flora. The resulting woodland structure will be broadleaved dominated mixed high forest woodland.

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

Before the end of May 2020, sub-compartments 2a and 2b will again be assessed to review the impact the remaining conifers are having on ground flora and native broadleaved regeneration. If the surviving conifers are found to be having a negative impact on biodiversity, further selective thinning will be carried out before the end of 2021.

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	0.64	Birch (downy/silver)	1988	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Tourism Restraint Area
<p>Planted in 1988 for the Washington Development Corporation using 1+1 and 2+1 forestry transplants and half standard stock for oak, ash and beech. Trees species planted to a fixed pattern using a 12x12m grid layout at 1.5m centres. Tree species include: common alder (20%), silver birch (14%), beech (5%), ash (15%), Scots pine (30%), rowan (5%) and pedunculate oak (11%). 1,201 shrubs are planted around the edge of the plot to a fixed pattern using a 3x6m grid layout at 1.0m centres. Species include: dogwood (16%), hazel (12%), common hawthorn (20%), blackthorn (16%), dog rose (20%) and grey willow (16%). Ground flora is poor and is dominated by coarse grasses.</p>							
1b	0.94	Alder species	1988	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Legal issues	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Tourism Restraint Area
<p>Planted in 1988 for the Washington Development Corporation using 1+1 and 2+1 forestry transplants and half standard stock for oak, ash and beech. Trees species planted to a fixed pattern using a 12x12m grid layout at 1.5m centres. Tree species include: common alder (20%), silver birch (9%), beech (5%), ash (15%), sitka spruce (5%), Scots pine (30%), rowan (5%) and pedunculate oak (11%). 1,581 shrubs are planted around the edge of the plot to a fixed pattern using a 3x6m grid layout at 1.0m centres. Species include: dogwood (14%), hazel (10%), common hawthorn (19%), blackthorn (14%), dog rose (19%), grey willow (14%) and guelder rose (10%). Ground flora is poor and is dominated by coarse grasses.</p>							
2a	0.67	Sycamore	1973	High forest	Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Tourism Restraint Area

Former pasture land initially planted in 1972/73 with 4,300 trees at 5 foot spacing (1.52m), a further 2000 trees were planted in 1973/74, 615 in 1978/79 and 150 in 1979/80. The resulting species mix consisted of red oak (4%), pedunculate oak (4%), sycamore (24%), grey alder (20%), Sitka spruce (22%) and Scots pine (17%), beech (6%) and rowan (3%). The trees were subsequently thinned and pruned in 1983/84 and thinned again in 1991 so that the sub-compartment now consists predominantly of sycamore and Scots pine. There is a sparse understorey of hazel, elder and hawthorn. The soil in this area consists of a fairly heavy clay-loam and supports a ground flora that still contains some bluebells and wood anemone.

2b	0.83	Scots pine	1970	High forest	Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Tourism Restraint Area
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Initially planted in 1969/70 with 3600 trees at 5 foot spacing (1.52m), a further 2100 trees were planted in 1970/71, 545 in 1977/78, 540 in 1978/79 and 100 in 1982/83. The resulting species mix consisted of pedunculate oak (6%), sycamore (17%), alder sp (7%), Sitka spruce (15%) and Scots pine (41%), beech (3%), rowan (4%), hybrid larch (6%) and red oak (1%). The trees were subsequently thinned and pruned in 1983/84 and thinned again in 1991 so that the sub-compartment now consists predominantly of sycamore and Scots pine. There is a sparse understorey of hazel, elder and hawthorn. The soil in this area consists of a good fertile clay-loam and supports a ground flora that still contains some bluebells and wood anemone.

2c	3.19	Mixed broadleaves	1900	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Tourism Restraint Area
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Sub-compartment 2c forms the ASNW core of the wood and consists of mature oak, ash, beech, birch and sycamore. The site was originally coppice woodland but was selectively thinned in 1983, leaving only single and double stems to facilitate intensive under-planting with a mix of conifers and broadleaves between 1983 and 1987. Growing on clay and sandy loam, the wood still supports a wide range of ground flora that includes wood anemone, ramson and bluebells.

2d	1.24	Hybrid larch	1979	High forest	Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Tourism Restraint Area
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This strip of new planting was established on old farmland that was alternately used for pasture and growing corn. The soil consists of clay-loam over clay and was ploughed and rotavated prior to planting in 1978/79. 4,300 trees were planted at 1.5m spacing in year 0 and beat up in each year until 1984/85 with over 6000 trees (heavy beat-up numbers partly due to severe cattle damage suffered in 1980). After beating-up, the proportion of species was as follows: pedunculate oak (12%), beech (12%), silver birch (9%), ash (5%), wild cherry (1%), Scots pine (22%), hybrid larch (28%), Sitka spruce (8%) and Corsican pine (3%). The sub-compartment received a 30-40% selectively thin in 1997 and was thinned again in 2007 (southern half) and 2009 (northern half).

2e	0.21	Mixed broadleaves	1970	High forest	Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Tourism Restraint Area
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Strip of plantation alongside Victoria Viaduct at the eastern end of Reach Wood planted in 1969/70 along with other areas around the Low Lambton Farm. Planted on fertile clay-loam used previously as pasture and arable land, the trees suffered persistent cattle trespass and rabbit damage and were beat up sporadically until 1982/83. Trees planted include: pedunculate oak, red oak, beech, alder sp., sycamore, Scots pine and Sitka spruce. Some beech under-planting was carried out between 1979/80 and 1982/83 and the area was thinned in 1983 and again in 1997. Ash has regenerated well and a good understorey of hazel, rowan and elder exists but sycamore predominates. The ditch at the bottom of the viaduct marks the sub-compartment boundary.

3a	0.31	Mixed broadleaves	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Other, Tourism Restraint Area
<p>Sub-compartment 3a forms part of the continuous woodland cover on the valley side next to the River Wear. It is situated on ground previously containing a building/structure and so contains much disturbed ground. Ash dominates the area but some sycamore and oak also occurs. This appears to be a mix of mature and semi-mature secondary growth with an understorey of elder and hawthorn (some as remnant hedges). Ivy and bramble predominate in the ground flora.</p>							
3b	0.01	Other		Non-wood habitat	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Other, Tourism Restraint Area
<p>Tiny patch of disturbed ground that once contained a building now consisting of an open area of scrub and weeds. Plot boundaries have been marked out with stakes in 1996 but are still difficult to identify on the ground.</p>							
3c	0.01	Other		Non-wood habitat	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Other, Tourism Restraint Area

Tiny patch of disturbed ground that once contained a building now consisting of an open area of scrub and weeds. Plot boundaries have been marked out with stakes in 1996 but are still difficult to identify on the ground.

3d	0.53	Other		High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Other, Tourism Restraint Area
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An area of disturbed ground that once contained a building and a garden. The topsoil consists of rich humus with fragments of coal, tile and cinders and is wet/boggy in places. Predominant ground vegetation is moss and rose bay willow herb dominates the field layer. Giant hogweed also grows in this plot and ivy is thick on the ground in places. Two rows of mature beech trees and a yew appear to be remnants of the old garden along with some cherry trees and a hawthorn hedge. In 2003, much of the open ground within this sub-cpt was planted with mixed native broadleaves consisting of oak, ash, alder and hazel. The remainder is covered with sprawling ash and willow coppice and a scattering of elder and some cherry regeneration.

3e	0.38	Ash	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Community Forest, Green Belt, Tourism Restraint Area
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Sub-cpt 3e forms part of the continuous woodland cover on the steep valley side above the River Wear next to Cox Green. The canopy is dominated by ash but still contains some dead elm. The understorey consists of a scattering of elder, hawthorn and crack willow, whilst the field layer is totally dominated by ivy and bramble. Evidence of quarrying and past structures exists in this area and the wood is generally degraded and biologically impoverished.

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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.