



# Whittle Dene

## Management Plan 2017-2022

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
-------------	-----------------

Introduction

Plan review and updating

Woodland Management Approach

Summary

1.0 Site details

2.0 Site description

2.1 Summary Description

2.2 Extended Description

3.0 Public access information

3.1 Getting there

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 Long term policy

5.0 Key Features

5.1 Informal Public Access

5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

6.0 Work Programme

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Glossary

## MAPS

Access

Conservation Features

Management

# 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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>	Whittle Dene
<b>Location:</b>	Ovingham
<b>Grid reference:</b>	NZ072650, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 88
<b>Area:</b>	19.58 hectares (48.38 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Local Wildlife Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Wildlife thrives in this ancient woodland including, it is believed, otters. Bats and birdlife, including willow warbler, kestrel and owl bring the woods to life at night. Relics from a water-driven flourmill testify to the site's industrial past.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Whittle Dene Wood lies between the River Tyne to the south and the A69 to the north and on the edge of Northumberland National Park. It is formed in the steep sided valley of the Whittle, the name given to the small 'burn' (river) which runs through the valley, north to south. The wood extends along both sides of and further up and down the valley. The area in the Trust's ownership is mainly on the west-facing slope in the middle of the long valley.

This ancient semi-natural oak-ash woodland is long and thin, with steep, exposed rocky outcrops to the north becoming more flat to the south. The north is characterised by mixed broadleaves including oak, ash, sycamore, beech, elm and (on acquisition) Norway spruce and Scots pine in areas that had been replanted. There is much standing and fallen deadwood. To the south the woodland is more varied with a coppice of hazel. The ground flora is stunning in spring with wood anemone, bluebell, primrose and wild garlic. There are also many ferns including hard shield fern, broad buckler fern, oak fern and hart's tongue fern. Parts of the wood have been coppiced, so the wood has a mosaic of trees and shrubs of different ages.

Whittle Dene has an industrial history. At the southern end of the wood are the remains of a mill pond, a well, weir structures and associated derelict mill buildings from old water driven flour mill. The mill pond has been colonised with willow, alder, Dutch rush and opposite-leaved golden saxifrage.

The wood is rural but well used by locals and visitors alike and there are many footpaths through the wood linking with public footpaths in the surrounding countryside. In places the paths are quite narrow and steep. To the west of the wood is a bridleway that links with routes to Ovington.

The wood supports a diverse bird life including kingfisher, dipper, heron and great spotted woodpecker. Roe deer are frequently seen in the area.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Whittle Dene lies between Prudhoe and the A69, approximately 8 miles west of Newcastle along the banks of the Whittle Burn; just north of the River Tyne, in the county of Northumberland.

The wood offers interesting walks with quite long routes; linking up with routes across the surrounding countryside. However, in places the footpaths are quite narrow and steep, all routes have steps and are uneven with tree roots and rocks.

There are 6 entrances to the wood:-

Access to the north of the wood (just off the A69) via footpath number 12 has a kissing gate just off the Woodland Trust property; from which a concrete track leads down into the wood. From the centre of Ovington public footpath numbers 4 and 5 lead to the western boundary of the wood. Additionally bridleway no 2 can be picked up at Ovington or via Ovingham to the wood. On leaving the bridleway and heading on foot into the wood there are a number of steps and a narrow footbridge across the Dene. Access can also be gained on foot from public footpath 5 from Ovingham to the southern boundary at the mill buildings entrance. Access to the south east from the public footpath 11 from Horsley and from the east from Whittle Farm. The distance to the wood from both Ovington and Ovingham it is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile.

There is no parking near the wood; local parking may be available in Ovingham or Ovington or 4 miles south at the Tyne Riverside Country Park just south of the River Tyne across the narrow vehicular bridge in Ovingham. The Tyne Riverside Country Park has a pay and display car park and toilet facilities. Additionally, public toilets can be found in Prudhoe on Tyne View Terrace behind Front Street near to the police station. Two RADAR toilets are also available in Prudhoe, one on Neale Street and the other on South Road. For further information about the country park visit [www.northumberlandlife.org/tyneriversidecountrypark](http://www.northumberlandlife.org/tyneriversidecountrypark)

For visitors using public transport to get to the wood Prudhoe is on the main Carlisle to Newcastle railway line and there is a station in Prudhoe adjacent to the Tyne Riverside Country Park. Visitors could then walk over the bridge, over the Tyne into Ovingham, straight ahead past the church and pick up the public footpath behind the church leading across the fields to the wood; the total distance is approximately 1 mile. There may be steps on the route and once out of Ovingham the paths are not surfaced. The nearest bus stops to the wood are at Prudhoe railway station and Ovington. Buses come from Newcastle and Hexham into this area. For further details please contact Traveline at the website [traveline.info](http://traveline.info) or tel 0871 200 22 33.

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term vision for Whittle Dene is in line with the outcomes in the Trust's Action Plan 'Keeping Woodlands Alive'. This is to maintain, improve and restore the biodiversity of this rich ancient semi natural woodland and increase people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland. Specifically through the management of 2 key features this will involve:

### Key Feature 1: Informal Public Access

Key to the Woodland Trust objectives is the provision of informal public access commensurate with the level of use the woodland receives. Whittle Dene is close to a large population, it links well via public paths to local villages and across the wider countryside and is very well-known and well-used. Access will be maintained (category A) and improved where necessary so that a wide variety of local users and visitors to the area can continue to share in its beauty, gain an understanding of the woodlands importance in the landscape and its rich wildlife habitat, which is irreplaceable.

### Key Feature 2: Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

The ancient semi-natural woodland will be conserved, the planted areas restored, and the coppicing continued whilst sustainable, to achieve the greatest biodiversity in this ancient wood. This will be achieved by perpetuating the predominantly broadleaf high forest continuous cover woodland within the landscape. Improving stand conditions by reducing the impact of the non native coniferous species; reverting the woodland slowly back to predominantly broadleaves anticipating no more than 10% scattered non native conifer in the canopy overall. Although it is expected that some control on non-native spruce seedlings will always be required. As long as it is feasible it is desirable to continue the reinstatement and maintain the traditional coppice regime in compartment 1b. This will maintain and improve the rich wildlife sustained by the long term continuity of the traditional practice of coppice. Maintaining small-scale structural diversity to the woodland with trees at different points of establishment and growth, with cycles going no longer than 30 years and ideally at approximately 15 years. The key to the success of this vision will be successful regeneration of the coppice coupes. Retention of decaying and dead fallen and standing timber to provide a habitat for many fungi and wood boring beetles which help the wood to decay and form an essential part of the woodland ecosystem. To enhance biodiversity maturity and uneven aged structure within the woodland working practices that do not impact adversely on the integral environment will be adopted using minimum intervention where possible.

It is anticipated that these works will safeguard and enhance the existing environmental and historical value of the wood and maintain and enhance the level of public access in the 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 Horsley footpath (No. 11) crosses the site from north to south. Additionally crossing the Whittle Burn there are two footbridges, one in the middle of the wood from east to west and one at the south west of the site (responsibility of the Council). Bridleway no.2 follows the western boundary of the wood for a short distance on it's route through Ovington. Other informal footpaths exist throughout the wood (over 1.2km) and connect to longer routes in the surrounding area; all are regularly used. Towards the north of the site the footpaths are narrow and eroding in places down to the Burn. Other areas are quite boggy in winter and most routes have steps and are uneven with rocks and tree roots. There is also a well in the footpath in the middle of the wood and a bench at a second well in the coppice area adjacent to the pond.

#### Significance

Whittle Dene is an important local resource offering open access in an area of much private land. This means visitors have the chance of getting off the public footpath network and experiencing an range of habitats from an actively worked coppice area to the more wild ancient stands of semi-natural woodland and the rich industrial heritage of the site. The woodland is also only 2km from Hadrian's Wall, a World Heritage Site and a popular tourist destination. It is also close to a large urban population and well connected to the local villages. The access at Whittle Dene also compliments other local resources including the Tynedale Riverside Country Park on the south side of the Tyne.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

**Opportunities** - There is some opportunity to improve the footpaths in conjunction with Northumberland County Council and to have more formal walks through the wood and to work closely with local people and the parish councils of Ovington and Ovingham. Build on relationships with other organisations and volunteer groups like the Northumberland National Parks Authority volunteers

**Constraints** - There is no parking close to the wood, so all access requires walking some distance to get there.

The footpaths are only for well-abled users and in the north of the site access off the footpath is restricted due to the steepness of the site. Horses and cyclists have at times used the wood quite regularly causing conflict between users and having various problems of erosion and creation of muddy areas.

#### Factors Causing Change

Other -Erosion of footpath causing slippage, Floods

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

To maintain high level of public access, with the current entrances and paths, both PROW and permissive, providing good access along the length of the wood and excellent links in all directions with the surrounding countryside and villages. The paths and entrances will all be maintained for pedestrian access and for horse access where this is authorised, in line with the level of use, which is high. Where possible improvements will be made to improve the surface of paths working with the County Council footpaths division where appropriate on public rights of way. The Trust will continue to promote the woodland amongst people in the region and members nationally so long as the primary objective of 'no further loss of ancient woodland' (in terms of both quality and quantity) is compromised.

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

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

- Annual management of the main paths, a total of approx 2.5km.
- Improving accessibility at the main entrance points and ensuring it is clearly signed and welcoming. Working with Northumberland County Council where possible to improve path condition on the PROWs
- Conducting a tree safety survey along the main path network at least once during this plan period.
- Starting a dialogue with the local community about further ways they can be involved in the management of the wood. This will involve meeting with the Friends of Whittle Dene once a year to discuss and take forward any community projects or volunteer group development.

## 5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

### Description

The whole of the wood is registered as Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) of oak and ash with hazel coppice in the Nature Conservancy Council Inventory of Ancient Woodland. It is, however, Planted Ancient Woodland (PAWS) in part. The woodland is very mixed in character typical of mixed ash woods dominated by ash, oak and elm (NVC W9 grading to NVC 10/11 in areas), with intricate stand types, including alder, hazel, rowan and additionally with non-native conifers of Scots pine, spruce, and colonised beech and sycamore. There is a very good uneven aged structure throughout the wood with mature trees of around 70+ years (P1930) and many woody shrubs present in the understorey including hazel, hawthorn, rowan, holly and regenerating ash, birch, beech and sycamore. There is much dead wood both standing and fallen. The ground flora is abundant, very varied and has a great many ancient woodland indicators. These include relatively common species such as dog's mercury, bluebells, wild garlic, but also less common species such as early purple orchids and guelder rose. In the southern end of the wood the traditional management of coppice with standards is still practised and supports excellent regeneration from cut stools, further diversifying the age structure of the wood.

### Significance

Although Northumberland has relatively large area of woodland cover 80,000ha+, compared to some counties, 71% is coniferous plantations and only has 10% semi-natural ancient woodland in various conditions. This makes Whittle Dene's 18.9ha contribution and protection vital. Equally this ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) directly abuts other ASNW and planted ancient woodland (PAWS) so has a larger core area than that solely in WT ownership. As it is restored it will make a vital contribution to the biodiversity of the whole area and restoring the remaining areas (outside WT ownership) would also be beneficial. As the site has been woodland with coppice for hundreds of years the traditional coppice has a historical value and is unusual for Northumberland which has little hazel coppice with the associated mix of woodland plants and animals. The more the site is managed to resemble a 'true' semi-natural ancient woodland the richer and more valuable it will become. The woodland is a feature within the landscape as ancient woodlands cover the full length of the Dene

### Opportunities & Constraints

**Opportunities** - Continue to restore these Planted Ancient Woodland Areas by removing the non native conifers which will improve the biodiversity. There is an opportunity to continue with the traditional coppice practices but this is constrained by deer browsing and steep working conditions (particularly for extraction) and the availability of skilled coppice workers.

**Constraints** - Vehicle access to and within the site is very limited.

Deer and rabbit browsing new shoots can affect regeneration and coppice regrowth and measure to protect growth needs to be taken.

Natural regeneration of conifer species could occur in some areas especially as they are still present in adjacent woodland.

### Factors Causing Change

Increasing deer populations and deer browsing of regeneration, coppice regrowth and ancient woodland ground flora.

Natural regeneration of non native conifers.

Tree diseases, especially ash dieback.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The process of PAWS restoration is almost complete, Some areas still require thinning, this will create space for the natural regeneration of broadleaves to occur. Restoration will be complete when conifers occupy less than 10% of the tree species mix within all the former blocks of planted conifers. After restoration some of the remaining conifers will grow to over-maturity to become large specimen trees.

The wood will continue to be composed of largely native broadleaves such oak, ash, sycamore, beech, elm and hazel. Although the percentage of ash is likely to decrease substantially over the next 10 years through ash dieback. Despite this ash will continue to be encouraged within the species mix, in the hope that some trees will exhibit a degree of natural resilience. The broadleaved component of the wood will be managed so that it is diverse in structure and species, which will ensure it is as resilient as possible to future changes imposed on it (eg tree diseases). Hence if large parts of the wood become single aged or dominated by one or two species then silvicultural management will be carried out to counter this. As long as it is feasible it is desirable to continue the reinstatement and maintain the traditional coppice regime in compartment 1b. Minimum intervention will be used as a management tool for areas of broadleaved woodland that have an acceptable diversity of tree species and woodland structure.

Threats to the woodland habitat will be monitored and managed if possible. Hence, the population of deer using the wood will be managed to a level where their impact on the natural regeneration of trees and native woodland flora is minimal. The woodland will be monitored for the presence of tree diseases, in particular ash dieback as it becomes more prevalent in the wood.

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

During this plan period the short term objective is to:

- continue with the restoration programme in the conifer-dominated PAWS compartments,
- restore a coppice structure to a small proportion of the wood,

This will include the following operational works:

1. Thinning of approximately 0.5ha of conifer-dominated woodland. Sub-compartment 1e the dates given in the harvesting schedule.
2. Restoring traditional coppice management to approximately 6.7ha of the wood. Sub-compartment 1b will be progressively coppiced over the 5 year plan period.
3. Control of the deer and grey squirrel populations will be undertaken. The impact of deer on the wood will be re-assessed every 2 years and results of this will be fed into the level of deer control.

---

## 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	0.18	Mixed broadleaves	1950	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Local Wildlife Site
<p>Cpt1a is the southern section of the wood; adjacent to this, but off Trust property, are situated a number of wooden holiday lodges. Within this compartment are derelict mill buildings of an old mill and associated buildings. The surrounding mixed broadleaves are mainly of planting year 1950. A public footpath cuts in front of the buildings and goes down to a footbridge across the river. Another footpath runs past the buildings heading north into the wood towards the redundant mill ponds and a third rises steeply north east along the boundary. Additionally to the back of the buildings is an old cart track that winds up the hill to the eastern boundary.</p> <p>Constraints: Presence of derelict buildings</p>							
1b	6.78	Mixed broadleaves	1950	Coppice	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Local Wildlife Site
<p>Oak, ash and hazel coppice coupes, see map, last cut probably in the 1950's. There are nine coupes in the sub-compartment. The coppice with standards cycle was reinstated in 1995/6 in coupe 1 just north of the pond (Cpt 1c). To date (end 2011) ten coupes have been worked, see coppice map. Some 12 standards per acre are left favouring native species. At present, standards include oak, sycamore, ash, alder and occasional conifers. Some regeneration of ash and sycamore is apparent and hawthorn forms a significant understorey component. Deer are present but are having a varied effect on the regenerating stools. Diverse compartment structure with a good ground flora, particularly wood anemones, bluebells and garlic. The public footpath cuts through the compartment from south east to north west and a permissive path runs north to south. These are well used.</p> <p>Constraints: Vehicular Access Difficult, Disused well to north of the Cpt 1c</p>							
1c	0.25	NULL		Non-wood habitat	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Local Wildlife Site

This is the area of the old mill pond. It still has a pond gate at its southern end but is mostly silted up with encroaching scrub, willow and alder- these are generally of small size. There are mature yew trees at the northern end of the pond. Opposite-leaved golden saxifrage has colonised to the south of the pond along with marsh marigold and Dutch rush (a native horsetail). There is a retaining wall around the west and southern end of the pond adjacent to the permissive footpath. There are a number of streams running through the pond and draining into the river across the footpath.

Constraints: Vehicular Access Difficult

1d	6.34	Mixed broadleaves	1930	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Local Wildlife Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
----	------	-------------------	------	------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Mixed broadleaf compartment, planting year 1930's, of predominantly oak, ash with sycamore and it did have 0.5ha to 1ha of Norway spruce in several patches towards the north of the compartment. Uneven age structure with a good understorey (hazel, holly and hawthorn) and varied ground flora (abundant wood anemone, bluebell and grasses, dominant wild garlic). Varied regeneration depending on location - includes Norway spruce, beech, ash and sycamore. Much of the compartment slopes steeply down to the river, east to west. Many footpaths run through the compartment and close to the river on the footpath there is a deep well. Constraints: Very Steep Slope, Vehicular Access Difficult

1e	2.94	Mixed broadleaves	1980	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Local Wildlife Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
----	------	-------------------	------	------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Fairly young planting (1980) and regeneration of mixed broadleaves sycamore, silver birch and wych elm, Norway spruce and Scots pine. An area of Planted Ancient Woodland had been planted with Norway spruce and Scot's pine. These conifers were present in discrete blocks which resulted in degradation of the ancient woodland vegetation, especially compared with the rest of the compartment which includes frequent bluebells (particularly along the path edges), dogs mercury, ground ivy, male fern, woodruff, herb Robert, anemones in the more open areas, primroses on the craggy outcrops and occasional gorse. Understorey consists mainly of hazel, hawthorn and wych elm. At the northern end of the compartment there is an open grassy area with broom. The compartment slopes steeply down to the river, from east to west. The public footpath travels through the compartment from north to south but has been diverted slightly due to unsuitable ground conditions. An old tip is evident at the northern end with glass and rubble on the ground under the trees. Constraints: Very Steep Slope, Vehicular Access Difficult

2a	3.16	Mixed broadleaves	1975	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Local Wildlife Site
----	------	-------------------	------	-------------	----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------

This is the only compartment lying to the west of the burn. The south of the compartment is mainly birch with oak, ash and sycamore regeneration, P1975. It was respaced to about 3m in 1998 to favour oak and ash. To the north of the cpt are mature oak and beech, with mainly mature sycamore along the path edge. The understorey - consists of holly, hazel, occasional young rowan, birch, beech, sycamore, ash and oak and some guelder rose along the path edge. The vegetation consists of mainly bracken to the south of the compartment, changing to grasses and bluebells (close to the river) further north with wood sorrel, honeysuckle, herb Robert, wood rush, male fern, broad buckler fern and ground ivy. A hawthorn hedge, running alongside the public bridleway bounds the compartment to the west. A footpath from the bridle way goes down to cross the Burn by a narrow footbridge.

Constraints: Very Steep Slope, Vehicular Access Difficult



---

**Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)**

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2018	1b	Coppice	0.40	5	2
2020	1b	Coppice	0.40	50	20
2020	1e	Selective Fell	2.90	17	50
2021	1b	Coppice	0.40	50	20
2022	1b	Coppice	0.40	50	20
2023	1b	Coppice	0.40	50	20

## 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.