



COED CADW  
WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Dyffryn Woods

## Management Plan 2014-2019

## 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 Connecting People with woods & trees	
5.2 Planted Ancient Woodland Site	
5.3 Ride Margins	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)	
Glossary	
<b>MAPS</b>	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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>	Dyffryn Woods
<b>Location:</b>	Neath
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SN729000, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 170
<b>Area:</b>	116.52 hectares (287.93 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This extensive ancient woodland, clinging to the side of Mynydd Drumau mountain, provides dramatic views over the valley and coast. Once part of an old country estate, it is steeped in history, and its wealth of bird and plant life, and many paths to explore, make it a delightful place to visit all year round.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Situated on the eastern side of the Mynydd Drumau, the upper section of the woodland is highly visible and is prominent in the local landscape. It slopes steeply down from a line of rocky crags to flatter areas on lower ground. Surrounding land is almost all improved pasture, but there is semi-natural ancient woodland to the south, which links Dyffryn woods to Coed Maesmelin, also owned by the Trust. Dyffryn woods form part of a concentration of ancient woodland and Planted Ancient Woodland Sites in the Vale of Neath.

Key features are the Planted Ancient Woodland Site, the public access and the ride margins. Numerous streams run from springs along the cliff line. This is an Ancient Woodland Site, formerly part of a large private estate, which was felled and planted with conifers in the 1930s. Most of the wood was clear felled in the 1980s by the Forestry Commission, but a few blocks of conifers and beech were retained. Replanting was mostly with larch and other conifers, but is now largely dominated by dense thickets of birch, willow and other broadleaves. Plentiful rhododendron has been subject to a programme of control. There are nine entrance points and an extensive network of paths and tracks that provide attractive walks and rides, and an excellent ride edge habitat.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

### By car

Dyffryn Woods is just west of Bryncoch, around two miles (3km) north of Neath. From Neath, head north on Briton Ferry Road (A474) towards Windsor Rd and at the first roundabout, take the second exit towards Skewen/Pontardawe (staying on the A474). At the second roundabout, take the second exit onto Neath Abbey Road (A4230), passing Tesco. At the roundabout, take the second exit onto Longford Road. Pass the Glyn Clyddach Hotel and take the sharp left turn after St. Matthews Church. There is small car park on your right with space for around six cars. Take care not to block the wood entrance or the entrance to the property at Bryn Dewi.

### By bus

The following buses run from Neath to Bryncoch:

- 158 Swansea-Banwen
- 122 Pontardawe - Neath
- 132 Pontardawe - Neath via Rhos, Bryncoch and Caewern
- X22 Pontardawe - Neath via Bryncoch

From Bryncoch community centre bus stop (Main Road) there is a pedestrian walking lane signposted at a diagonal to the bus shelter. The footpath passes over the River Clydach and comes out at Dyffryn Road. Turn right, pass St. Matthews Church and follow the road for around 100m. Turn left and continue for a further 40m and you will find the wood entrance on the right.

### By train

The nearest train stations are at Skewen, two miles (3.5km), or Neath, just under three miles (4.5km) from the wood.

For further information on public transport, visit [traveline.org.uk](http://traveline.org.uk), [traveline-cymru.info](http://traveline-cymru.info), or [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk).

## 3.2 Access / Walks

An extensive network of footpaths and bridleways provide fantastic views over the Neath valley. The part of the wood below and to the east of Dyffryn Farm has easy main paths and is not steep, but after Dyffryn Farm there is a steep ascent up Mynydd Drumau.

The main entrance is a hunting gate adjacent to a padlocked five bar gate off the main car park. Once through the hunting gate, there is a squeeze stile and a wooden sleeper footbridge. There are many other entrances via the network of paths that extends into surrounding areas.

Entrances and air shafts of old coal workings have been fenced off. Please avoid these areas and take care if you walk off the paths. Visitors should be aware that the woods surround a working farm and some of the tracks are used by agricultural machinery.

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The semi-natural characteristics of Dyffryn woods will have been enhanced through the restoration of coniferised areas and control of rhododendron. The woods will be dominated by diverse native species, with well developed shrub and field layers. Areas of re-planting will have developed into semi-natural woodland emulating ancient woodland characteristics. Open areas along the upper slopes will be left to develop naturally, and the dramatic skyline pines will have been retained although thinned to enhance the stability of the remaining trees. The extensive areas of young birch and conifer mixed woodland on the lower slopes will have had the conifer proportion reduced, allowing the birch and the oak to develop.

Walking and horse riding will be encouraged by maintaining the path network and entrance points in good condition, with riding confined to selected routes. Track margins will be cut on rotation to maintain herb and woodland edge habitat, and light will be let into the track margins by periodic coppicing on ride edges - this will also serve to diversify the structure of the wood. Local community and volunteer involvement will continue to be welcomed and supported.

## 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 Connecting People with woods & trees

#### Description

Dyffryn Woods are located on the edge of the town of Neath. Two public footpaths and two public bridleways pass through the site. A network of maintained permissive paths has been maintained within the site extending to over 6km. Some tracks/paths have also been designated as permissive bridleways creating a more circular route linked back to the public bridleways in the area. Public entrances into the site have Woodland Trust signs welcoming walkers and horse riders to the site.

#### Significance

Dyffryn woods is a large, accessible site near to relatively large populations in Neath and Swansea. It is the main recreational site adjacent to the local village of Bryncoch in the parish ward of Dyffryn Clydach and is therefore important for informal public access. The site is also one of the largest, free open access sites within the county borough of Neath Port Talbot neighbouring a population of 50K people within a 10 mile radius and connected to wider population of over £250K when the nearby city of Swansea is included in the figures.

Other significant factors to the site include the large overall scale of the site and its proximity to nearby woodland trust sites including Coed Maesmelin and the woodlands overall aspect within the landscape being located on the valley slopes of Mynydd Drummau, a significant landscape feature with the woodland being a large visual back drop to the region.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Due to the location of the site and mass of local populations the site offers engagement possibilities including volunteering, on site events and interpretation of the restoration of the ancient woodlands.

The large scale of the site and varied annual workload offers opportunities for practical volunteering to take place (working groups) on site offering training and engagement opportunities.

Site has an interesting historical aspect including coal mining and former estate features with remnants found on occasion within the woodland itself such as ruined buildings, ponds and cascades as well as non-native tree planting in certain parts as remnants of a former landscaped garden on site.

Limitations of the site include the lack of mass car parking for larger on-site events and other nearby locations would have to be considered in conjunction with mini-bus shuttling to site. Also, parts of the site are not accessible to all abilities with steep inclines and steps.

Opportunity to invite external partners and communities to use the site more frequently for events, training or activity days.

#### Factors Causing Change

Unpermitted access by mountain bikes and motor cyclists causing damage to paths across the site

Vandalism and Litter / Fly tipping from annual summer 'camps'

Inadequate maintenance on site with paths, tracks and rides becoming impassable due to tree growth immediately adjacent

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

Create a welcoming site with well maintained infrastructure and signage across the woodland with opportunities for local people and nearby groups to become involved with the site helping to shape its future management.

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

Maintain the access network including footpaths, bridleways, bridges and benches will be maintained as accessible and safe for visitors through the Estates Maintenance Contract, and regular litter picks carried out in hotspot areas.

Explore and implement volunteering opportunities and assign to budget to record details.

Look into possibility of hosting events on site within management plan period.

## 5.2 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

### Description

The majority of Dyffryn Woods has been designated Ancient Woodland, and the whole site will be managed as if it were all ancient woodland. The ground flora throughout contains AWS characteristics, except where the woodland has been suppressed by commercial conifer plantations and dense rhododendron for many years. Following conifer felling and significant rhododendron control since the Woodland Trust gained ownership of the site, there is much mixed broadleaved regeneration, mainly birch but also patches of oak and other species, and there is potential for further restoration. The majority of the rhododendron has been controlled and dense conifer stands thinned or felled, however some further work to thin coniferous areas and ensure rhododendron does not take hold again is required.

### Significance

Dyffryn is one of largest ancient woodland sites in South Wales and within an area where there is a concentration of ancient woodland. Restoration would meet the Trust's objective of restoring all its PAWS to native woodland.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The potential expansion of invasive exotic / non- native trees and shrubs, most notably rhododendron, could cause harm to the site by suppressing native flora and tree species. Conversely the majority of rhododendron has now been controlled and if follow-up control of re-growth is maintained, together with thinning of non-native conifer species, the site can be restored to native woodland. There are good levels of natural regeneration in the wood, and planted areas are developing well.

### Factors Causing Change

Invasive rhododendron, fire, maturing conifer, phytophthora.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

All ancient woodland components will be secure or improving in condition, following PAWS restoration programme and rhododendron control. Heavily-shading conifers will have been reduced through thinning in order to restore a canopy of broadleaved species and diverse ground flora. Some conifers and non-native broadleaves are retained long term to add visual and biological diversity.

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

Planned thinning operations will be conducted within this plan period as outlined in the PAWS strategy for the site. These will concentrate on the main areas of threat in sub-compartments 1a, 1e, 1c, 2a, 2c, 2d, 2e, and 2f. This will enhance the character of the wood, encourage natural regeneration and the eventual development of a canopy of native broadleaf throughout most of the site. The majority of rhododendron will be under control through rotational treatment of regenerating seedlings.

## 5.3 Ride Margins

### Description

A comprehensive network of tracks and rides exists in Dyffryn Woods - split broadly into stoned rides, and grassland/ tall herb rides. The ride edges and the grass rides support a large and diverse population of plant/flora communities with a few locally scarce species such as orchids.

### Significance

The network of rides is extensive with up to 6 Kilometres of edge to be managed. Some of this edge habitat has been opened up through rhododendron clearance, thinning and respacing with ongoing late summer mowing. As much of the rest of the site is even aged woodland, the ride margins offer crucial edge habitat; some are already ecologically rich with orchid species for example and others show potential to become so. Ensuring the rides are open also relates to the Informal Public Access Key Feature.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Rhododendron regrowth particularly around the watercourses at ride edges will need ongoing control. The rides are prone to waterlogging in places where existing ditches/culverts silt up, and it is likely that periodic drainage maintenance will be necessary. Currently much of the ride margins consist of secondary even-aged woodland immediately bounding the rides with no edge zone and offering no gradation of habitat. There is an opportunity to extend the area of ecologically rich edge zone through management, maintaining a gradation of open edge zones. This will also open up the rides to ensure continued public access.

### Factors Causing Change

Invasive Rhododendron, maturing secondary woodland.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Ride edges are managed so that there is a structurally graded woodland edge zone. Within this area will be a broad mix of tall herbs, grasses and shrubs. Areas currently rich in orchids will be maintained and hopefully extended.

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

Rides will be mowed annually and coppice selected ride edges on a 10 year rotation, as well as taking opportunities which are presented through felling operations to provide visual, structural and biological diversity. Invasive species, such as rhododendron will be controlled on ride edges.

---

## 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	24.97	Birch (downy/silver)	1984	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub-compartment 1a has a gentle to moderate south easterly aspect, and contains a number of footpaths and streams. It is a large sub-compartment varied in nature with three main zones. All contain a dense thicket of birch with secondary species rowan, sycamore, sessile oak, hazel, holly and goat willow; and ground flora of ivy, fern, sparse bramble and bluebell. The first zone, in the South-east of the compartment near the entrance on both sides of the track, also contains significant levels of larch and Sitka spruce which appear to have been planted in the early 1980s, with a consequential lower shrub/ground flora element. It appears attempts were made to "clean" the birch after planting with conifers as up to 50% are multi-stemmed. This area is a priority for thinning to remove conifer and promote the sub-canopy and ground flora. The Western part of the compartment contains patchy Lawson cypress, which is also to be removed as a medium priority. The remainder of the compartment consists of secure broadleaf. Of historical interest within the compartment are a wood bank, mineshafts and an old mine track.</p>							
1b	2.18	Oak (sessile)	1950	Min-intervention	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub-compartment 1b has a gentle easterly aspect. The main canopy species of sub-compartment 1b are a mixture of sycamore and oak, estimated to have been established around the mid 1950s, an area of birch and rowan, and an understorey of holly, with some alder and willow. There is also an area of birch and rowan with dense bramble, bracken and ferns following felling in the previous plan period near the trackside. Patches of rhodendron have been subject to control but will require follow up weeding.</p>							

1c	3.54	Mixed native broadleaves	1954	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub-compartment 1c has a moderate to steep easterly aspect and mainly consists of two blocks of new native woodland along the edge of the main ride running along the lower edge. Sitka spruce was cleared from both areas in 2002 before they were planted with mixed broadleaves (oak, alder, rowan, hazel and blackthorn) in 2004. The northern block has a prominent and potentially unstable rock outcrop in the west, and the ride to the east has floristic interest including early purple orchid. Trees in both blocks are established together with much self-seeded birch. In the southern block by Keepers Lodge, as well as the area of planting, there is an area of mature beech estimated to have been established in the 50s. There is also a small block of larch. A buffer zone of mature trees including Scots pine, Sitka spruce, sycamore and oak surrounds Keepers' Lodge, and a heronry is situated here. There is an understorey of mainly beech, sycamore, holly and bramble.</p>							
1d	7.48	Birch (downy/silver)	1986	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub-Compartment 1d has a steep easterly aspect becoming greater with the increase in height and forms the majority of the top finger of Dyffryn woods. The northern part consists of densely stocked young birch with a small component of other broadleaves, rowan and oak. The grassy ride to the east has floristic interest including early purple orchid. An old wall is present. The southern part consists of a mixture of Japanese larch planted in the early 1980s with areas of sycamore, rowan, beech, Lawson cypress, oak and birch.</p>							
1e	0.87	Scots pine	1950	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub-compartment 1e has a steep easterly aspect and consists of a small remaining, exposed remnant of a mature Scots pine and Sitka spruce plantation, both estimated to have been established around 1950's. It was last thinned to waste in 2012. The skyline pines on the ridge are prominent in the local landscape. Holly and a small proportion of oak and rowan are scattered within the stand. Ground flora includes bramble, fern, birch, foxglove, holly, bilberry and bracken near the top of the slope. Some rhododendron has been subject to control but requires follow-up.</p>							

1f	6.87	Open ground	1992	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub compartment 1f consists of two areas of predominantly open ground with rocky outcrops, dense bracken, and occasional mature trees, mainly sitka spruce but occasional oak, larch. oak, beech and Scots pine. The slope is very steep and the northern area may be unstable. Although not technically a PAWS zone the mature, elevated and exposed sitka are providing a seed source and are potentially a causal agent for regeneration throughout the site.</p>							
2a	34.56	Birch (downy/silver)	1979	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub- compartment 2a is a large and varied compartment with good access, footpaths and streams. It has a moderate to steep easterly aspect. It consists predominantly of dense Silver birch at thicket/early pole stage, estimated to have regenerated naturally from the early 1980's onwards. Mixed in among the birch are planted areas of Larch and to a lesser extent Norway and Sitka spruce. Other broadleaves include Goat willow, beech, rowan, holly and occasional oak. Ground flora includes bramble, fern, ivy and moss, and there are orchids present on some sections of ride. Rhododendron has been subject to significant control and only requires follow-up control of re-growth as elsewhere on the site.</p>							
2b	3.93	Mixed native broadleaves	1950	Wood establishment	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub compartment 2b is a located in the centre of Dyffryn wood, with a moderate to steep easterly aspect. The area was felled of Sitka and Norway spruce in 2003 and replanted with mixed broadleaves: hazel, oak, alder, rowan . Mature beech trees vulnerable to the wind were retained at the margins, estimated to have been established in the 50s. There is a dense thicket of self-seeded birch developing around the planted trees together with bramble.</p>							

2c	3.44	Scots pine	1950	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub compartment 2c is a narrow strip of Scots Pine running along the western boundary and extremely prominent in the local landscape. It has a steep easterly aspect. Occasional oak, ash, Sweet chestnut and holly within the stand. The stand was thinned to waste in 2003. Open areas on the higher slopes are being colonised by bracken and bramble. The Scots Pine on the lower slope below a small cliff face is estimated to have been planted around the early 1950's, and contains very little understorey or ground flora structure due to the dense main canopy. Sitka spruce is also regenerating on the lower slopes.</p>							
2d	4.84	Mixed broadleaves	1979	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub compartment 2d is located on the prominent south-western boundary of the wood on a steep and unstable slope with an easterly aspect. Major rock falls have occurred on adjoining land to the south and some ground instability has spread to the southernmost part of the Trust's land. Open areas at the top of the slope are dominated by bracken and bramble. There is an area of planted larch (P1955) but much of the wooded area is over-mature sweet chestnut coppice (estimated to have last been cut around the early 1940s) with some beech and sycamore, and oak, rowan and birch in the understorey. Ground flora includes bracken, fern, moss, ivy and some bluebell on the ride edges. A high proportion of the beech, sycamore and sweet chestnut stems have been severely squirrel damaged.</p> <p>There is an unused water tank present and wall at the western end.</p>							
2e	7.57	Mixed native broadleaves	1997	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area

Sub compartment 2e contains an area of planted trees 1997-8 following a fire, with some remaining oak, hazel and rowan throughout and dense bramble. Remnants of the previous woodland cover (PY1965 and 1987) are still visible within the planting area. There are also two blocks of Scots pine and larch. The northern block was subjected to a preliminary thin in 2011 but is still densely shaded. The southern block has also been thinned but possesses a much sparser canopy with ground flora threatened by ruderal species.

2f	15.91	Birch (downy/silver)	1983	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
----	-------	----------------------	------	------------------	---	---	---

Sub compartment 2f has a gentle to moderate south-easterly aspect, and contains a large number of footpaths and streams within the area. There are very wet and unstable conditions with flowing water to the southwest of the compartment adjacent to the landslide.

The area is predominantly made up of dense Silver birch at thicket/pole stage, estimated to have regenerated naturally from the early 1980's onwards. Some areas of conifer -mainly larch, with some Norway spruce and Scots pine- planted around the same time are also present and other broadleaves include beech, oak, Goat willow, alder and rowan. The ground flora consists mainly of bramble, fern, ivy and moss with some orchid present at ride edges. Extensive rhododendron control has been carried out.

2g	0.71	Mixed broadleaves	1950	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Ride Margins	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
----	------	-------------------	------	------------------	--------------------------------	---	---

Sub compartment 2g is a small distinct area of woodland with agricultural land to two sides, containing a stream and a number of mature stems of ash, oak, beech, sycamore and alder. The existing understorey includes oak, sycamore, beech, holly and yew, with bluebell and ferns on the ground.

---

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

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2014	1a	Selective Fell	8.00	26	210
2014	2c	Selective Fell	2.00	10	20
2014	2d	Thin	4.20	14	60
2018	2f	Thin	7.00	1	10
2019	1d	Thin	2.00	33	65
2019	2a	Thin	7.00	29	200
2019	2e	Thin	4.00	23	90
2020	1c	Thin	1.50	33	50

## 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.