



Beeslack Wood

Management Plan 2015-2020

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
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	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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:	Beeslack Wood
Location:	Penicuik
Grid reference:	NT245614, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 66
Area:	13.31 hectares (32.89 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Beeslack Wood is an ancient woodland, most which is located in a river valley situated off the A701 trunk road on the outskirts of Penicuik, Midlothian. The horseshoe-shaped site surrounds the grounds of Beeslack Community High School and Aaron House residential care home. Much of the woodland lies on the valley sides of the River North Esk, which forms the eastern boundary of the site, and of its tributary, the Loan Burn, which runs through the southern arm of the wood. There is a good diversity of ancient woodland flora under a canopy of mainly native broadleaves, with an interesting fauna that can often be seen or heard including dippers along the loan burn, woodpeckers, nuthatches and deer. The woodland leads from Penicuik onto the Penicuik - Dalkeith cyclepath and as such is well used by local people for walking and cycling.

2.2 Extended Description

LOCATION

Beeslack Wood is situated within the town of Penicuik, Mid Lothian, off the A701 trunk road. The horseshoe-shaped site surrounds the grounds of Beeslack Community High School and Aaron House, a residential care home. Much of the woodland lies on the valley sides of the River North Esk, which forms the eastern boundary of the site, and of its tributary, the Loan Burn, which runs through the southern arm of the wood.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

The geology of the area commonly comprises fluvioglacial sands and gravels, although underlying sedimentary rock is visible as terraced formations along the bed of Loan Burn, which enters the River North Esk at the east of the site. The parent material gives rise predominantly to fertile brown forest soils, which are generally free draining, with damper areas on lower slopes and wet flushes along the burnside and next to the river. Soil depth tends to be shallower on the slopes and some of the steeper north-facing slopes long the Loan Burn are prone to slumping when saturated.

Most of the site lies on valley slopes of northerly, southerly or easterly aspect, with flatter ground only to the north. The north east boundary with the River North Esk is inaccessibly steep, with slopes exceeding 40 degrees.

The MLURI climate map of Scotland classifies the area as fairly warm, moist lowland subject to moderate exposure and moderate winters.

WOODLAND DESCRIPTION

Beeslack is a former estate woodland consisting predominantly of mature broadleaved trees with occasional conifers scattered throughout. Part of the woodland is recorded as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) with the remainder as long established of semi-natural origin. Most of the current tree cover was planted in the mid to late 1800's and is dominated by oak, beech, ash and sycamore. Secondary species include Scots and Corsican pine, yew, wych elm, Norway spruce, willow, alder and downy birch. A number of notably large 'veteran' beeches within the wood may pre-date this planting. Ash and sycamore are regenerating across much of the site and successfully colonising the numerous gaps left by dead and fallen elms, particularly next to the burn. Oak regeneration is rare, although there are some younger trees from restocking carried out in the mid 80's.

The under storey consists mainly of regenerating ash, sycamore, beech and wych elm, with elm understory emerging from older stems infected by Dutch elm disease. Regeneration is generally frequent and quite vigorous with the exception of the northern strip of woodland, which appears to have had a more recent history of stock grazing. Rhododendron has been reduced to a few isolated bushes, mainly in the area bordering Aaron House.

The ground flora varies and indicates several NVC woodland classes while there are several wet flushes south of Loan burn covered with dense stands of butter burr. Part of the site appears to be generally characteristic of moist herb-rich ash/elm/sycamore woodland types (NVC W9) with large swathes of wild garlic, dog's mercury and opposite leaved golden saxifrage. The drier areas, particularly to the south of the burn are more typical of grassy oak/birch woodland (NVC Type W10e) with a rich mosaic of grasses, buckler ferns, wood sorrel, wood anemone, pignut, violets, moschatel, sanicle, and other more common woodland flora.

Due to the close proximity of the Ladywood estate and other housing there are a great deal of garden escapes and other flora that has been introduced into the woodland. This is having a detrimental effect on the native flora that has been replaced in some areas and continues to lose ground to this invaders. In particular pick-a-back (*Tolmiea menziesii*) and few-flowered leek (*Allium paradoxum*) appear to have the most potential to replace native flora, but leopard's-bane (*Doronicum pardalianches*) and variegated yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* ssp *argentatum*) are also highly invasive and well established in some areas. Other Garden plants are regularly introduced by planting or being thrown over the fence.

WILDLIFE

The dominance of beech in some areas contributes to sparse ground flora in those areas and much of the woodland is of plantation origin. However, around 60% of the tree cover consists of native species, compatible with the natural woodland types. Under storey structure is developing as gaps in the canopy break up the existing high forest structure. Grey squirrels are abundant throughout the wood and roe deer occasionally present. Pipistrelle bats are present along Loan Burn, but roost sites are not known. Otters are present in the River North Esk and probably use the Loan burn also. Grey wagtails, dippers and heron also feed along the burn. Great spotted woodpeckers and other hole nesting birds use the over-mature and standing deadwood present in the woodland.

SITE HISTORY

Beeslack Wood (The southern section is locally known as Ladywood), was gifted to The Woodland Trust in July 1995 by Lothian Regional Council. Little detailed information is currently available about the history of the site, although before the council took ownership, it was part of a larger farming estate. Whilst some of the site appears to have had continuous woodland cover for a long period of time, it is likely that more accessible slopes have had a history of periodic clearance for grazing. Much of the wood formed part of the grounds of Beeslack (Aaron) house and most of the present tree cover dates from plantings in the mid to late 19th century, associated with the house. Some small scale replanting was undertaken in the mid 80's and pedestrian access to the wood was improved by the construction of a new footbridge across the burn in 1997. In 1999/00 improvements included drainage and surfacing works of poor sections of path and step construction up valley sides from the footbridge. The main school run path linking the school and Ladywood estate was upgraded to a stone surface in 2008. The wood suffered from damage to a number of older trees in the wood in storms of 1998/99, again in 2001 and a few loses in 2012.

ACCESS

Situated within Penicuik and bordered to the south by a housing estate and north by the secondary school, the wood is easily accessible and well used by a large number of people locally. It has direct links to the Penicuik to Auchendinny footpath which runs along the disused railway to the east of the wood. The western boundary also has access from the A701.

The wood is well served by a network of 3.5km mainly un-surfaced footpaths with steps located at several key points. The Loan is crossed by a bridge at the western end of the site and connects to the Railway Walk at the eastern end of the site. Whilst there are no notable viewpoints within the wood, the site provides excellent opportunities for quiet recreation, especially in the more secluded northern section.

Exclusion of motor-cycles from the wood will continue to be a priority. The wood also suffers abuse in the form of littering and some vandalism to structures including fences, bridges and signs, especially at the western end along the path route between Ladywood Estate and Beeslack High School. Casual dumping along the Ladywood housing estate edge and accumulation of dumped material along the Loan Burn is also a problem.

Management access by vehicle is limited to the track running along the Loan Burn, accessed from the railway walkway, which is owned by Midlothian Council. This track is prone to erosion when the burn floods and in 1999 work was undertaken along the burn channel to protect the main track. The

northern end of the wood can generally only be accessed by following the woodland path behind Aaron House.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The main part of the wood along the Loan Burn is situated between Beeslack High School and the Ladywood housing estate. Within this the wood is well served by a network of 3.5 km mainly un-surfaced footpaths, some of which can be muddy in winter. There are several entrances along the boundary with the Ladywood Estate, some with steps and several with steep sections. The Loan Burn is crossed by a footbridge at the west end of the wood and this leads via a flight of steps to the A702 Edinburgh Road, a popular route with school pupils. A path runs east along the bank of the Loan burn to the southeast corner of the wood where there is a link into the Penicuik-Auchendinny walkway along a disused railway line. The northern section tends to be quieter and the path rises high up above the River North Esk giving some good views to the east.

The wood can be easily reached by the regular bus services on the Edinburgh Penicuik route, stopping at the entrance to Beeslack High School. From there follow the Edinburgh Road footway 200m toward Penicuik to reach the entrance to the wood, where a flight of steps takes you down to the Loan Burn. The nearest rail link is via Edinburgh, then by bus. Further information about public transport is available from Traveline Scotland - www.travelinescotland.com

The nearest public toilets (with disabled access) are at Bank Street, Penicuik (1.5 km, 1mile).

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The management of Beeslack Wood will further The Woodland Trust's corporate objectives of increasing public enjoyment of woodlands, protecting ancient woodlands and improving woodland biodiversity.

The site will remain a predominantly broadleaved woodland with minimal management intervention. Much of the site appears that it would naturally be dominated by ash/elm type woodland with some Oak/birch on more acidic areas. The dominance of oak in the canopy is expected to decline and the current spread of *Chalara fraxinea* (ash dieback) to our ash trees means the future of the woodland species mix is more uncertain. *Chalara fraxinea* may have a big impact on the ash tree population within the wood and given the likely loss of ash from *Chalara* over the medium to long term, ash is likely to be replaced by sycamore. Coppiced elms are regenerating but will continue to suffer from Dutch elm disease. Yew is also widespread and regenerating on the drier slopes. The few remaining conifers including some fine specimens of Douglas Fir, probably planted when Beeslack House was built, will be retained.

Control and removal of invasive non-native flora including Japanese knotweed, rhododendron, snowberry, pick-a-back, montbretia, few-flowered leek, leopard's-bane and other garden escapes will continue with monitoring to review the effectiveness of control measures and the recovery of native flora.

The current network of paths will be maintained to provide access for quiet recreation and education opportunities. Improvements will be made to surfacing, drainage and steps where necessary to maintain the existing path network. It is not intended to provide a complete network of hard surfaced paths throughout the wood. Surfacing will be used only where path sections are likely to be extremely muddy.

Litter and fly-tipping will be removed as far as resources allow, to maintain the natural appearance of the wood. Limited, robust interpretation will be used to make the wood more interesting.

Litter and garden flora have a huge impact on the woodland and only by educating our neighbours and people who use this woodland can we hope to preserve the unspoilt ancient woodland character that parts of this woodland still possess.

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 wood has a long history of public use with a network of 3.54 kilometres of informal and surfaced paths linking into the wider path network around Penicuik. The unsurfaced paths can generally tolerate current levels of use, but can be very muddy when wet. A short section of path between Beeslack High School and Penecuik is heavily used and blighted by litter (as is the boundary with the housing estate to the south).

Significance

Situated within Penicuik, Beeslack is a popular local wood accessible to a large number of people and easily reached without transport. This woodland could once again form part of better promoted local path circuit and this is something to pursue with Midlothian Council.

Currently the wood is well used by dog walkers and school children using it as a shortcut to school. Visitor numbers to parts of the wood will therefore be over 100 per day but some of the minor paths will be much less well used. During the school holidays and evenings there are likely to be many children from the neighbouring estate playing in the woodland.

Access management supports the Trust's corporate objective of increasing people's enjoyment of woodlands. Beeslack is in WT access category A and portfolio code 2

Opportunities & Constraints

There are limited opportunities for additional paths in the wood and the steep gradients severely limit the provision of disabled access facilities. However there are opportunities to try and encourage greater use of the woodland as a resource for tenants at Aaron House care home adjacent to the woodland.

Un-surfaced path sections subjected to heavy use soon deteriorate in wet weather and there is concern that erosion of the main access track by the burn may threaten management access to parts of the wood. The lower section of this path from the railway to Aaron House has been upgraded by Midlothian Council to a tarmac path as part of a 'safe route to school'. Between the Ladywood estate and Beeslack high school the paths are well used as a shortcut by pupils at the school.

The current paths link the eastern edge of Penicuik with the Penicuik-Dalkeith cycle path which is a candidate core path. The paths through Beeslack are shown in this plan as 'other paths'.

Opportunities for providing interpretative facilities in the wood are constrained by vandalism and will need to be carefully located. Subtle and robust interpretation points will have a better chance of survival.

Lunchtime Litter from school pupils and fly-tipping in the wood are major constraints to public enjoyment, as is illegal use of motorbikes occasionally.

Factors Causing Change

Fly Tipping and litter are detrimental to the natural beauty of this woodland. Signage is often vandalised.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To provide quiet and informal access for people to enjoy this woodland by maintaining and upgrading the present footpath network and other infrastructure as necessary; and by removing litter and fly-tipping and discouraging further abuse of the woodland.

To encourage the school and community groups to help keep the woodland clean.

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

Access provision will be in keeping with WT access category A (high usage) and during this plan period the following will be carried out at Beeslack Wood.

- Annual path and infrastructure maintenance will ensure the site remains in a safe condition.
- Litter management by working with the Community Council, neighbours and Beeslack high school to organise community litter picks annually.
- Litter picks 3 times a year in Feb/June and Oct
- Annually assess eroding section of riverbank and undertake works as necessary to maintain access track.
- Replace missing welcome and access point signage as necessary (entrance upgrade carried out in 2016)
- Tree safety Zone A surveyed annually alternating between summer and autumn surveys, Zone B survey every 3 years (2015, 2018 and 2022)

5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Most of the wood is recorded as ancient woodland and there is a diverse and interesting ground flora with many ancient woodland indicator species present and widely distributed. The woodland has a varied age structure and includes riparian habitat along the North Esk and two of its tributaries. Canopy cover is dominated by mature oak, beech, ash and sycamore with abundant ash regenerating in any gaps. Age structure is dominated by these mature and over mature trees, however as these decline and create openings in the canopy the amount of natural regeneration is generally good and is filling the openings in the canopy.

Beech and Yew are locally dominant and cast dense shade in some areas limiting the development of the understorey. Beech and sycamore regeneration is occurring but locally native species will be favoured if thinning becomes necessary to protect the ancient woodland ground flora. Natural regeneration will be preferred to tree planting.

Dead wood habitat is present as a few small standing trees and large fallen trunks. There are limited options for leaving standing deadwood due to the proximity of housing, roads and busy footpaths. All felled material is left on site to decay.

Significance

The southern section of the wood is recorded as ASNW (Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland) and the remainder as LEPO (Long Established of Plantation Origin) on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. The site has value and importance as a diverse broadleaved woodland and also links into other surrounding semi-natural habitats of the river valley and disused-railway walkway that provide good semi-natural habitat links to other woodlands in the area. There is a good range of ancient woodland indicator flora and they are widespread and numerous throughout the woodland. Further survey work is required to provide a fuller evaluation of botanical interest and is planned to take place in 2016.

Beeslack contains ancient woodland features that are worthy of protection and restoration and this supports the Trust's corporate objectives of protecting ancient woodland and improving woodland biodiversity.

Opportunities & Constraints

The only opportunities for expanding the woodland area onto land directly adjacent to the site is onto abandoned fields to the east of the River North Esk or onto land that is currently Beeslack High School playing fields.

Other boundaries are constrained by other built developments (Ladywood housing estate to the west, MOD barracks to the East).

Factors Causing Change

Invasive non native species are causing the most damage to our native ground flora. These include *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese knotweed), *Tolmiea menziesii* (pick a back), *Allium paradoxum* (few-flowered leek), *Rhododendron ponticum* and other garden escapes and neighbours planting along the woodland edge. Most of these are in small clumps or individual bushes, the exception being *Tolmiea* that has colonised most of the damp valley floor.

Chalara fraxinea is expected to have a big impact on the ash tree population and the loss of ash trees may also have an impact on associated ground flora.

A few roe deer can still be seen using the site occasionally but they are thought to be rare visitors due to the number of dog walkers using the site and the increasingly built up nature of the area. The impact of deer has not been monitored as control within the site is unlikely.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To increase, enhance and perpetuate the ancient woodland composition by gradually restoring the woodland characteristics to uneven aged high forest composed predominantly of native species typical of ash/elm (W8/9) and oak/birch (W10/11) woodlands.

The existence of non-native tree species will be accepted as an occasional feature of the canopy. To support a healthy and secure ground flora throughout which is indicative of the NVC site types within the woodland.

Safeguard species diversity by controlling the spread of invasive non-native ground flora.

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

(i) Allow the woodland tree cover to develop with minimal intervention in this plan period. Exceptions being tree safety felling and other path edge felling to improve safety.

(ii) Continue to remove invasive non-native species during this plan period:

- Japanese knotweed with round-up annually in June. Currently only found in Cpts. 1a, 1f and 3 (2014).
- *Rhododendron* in 1a and 1c by lever & mulch annually.
- Snowberry in 1c by cutting and pulling out annually.
- monitor spread of *Tolmiea menziesii* in 1a, 1f, 2a, and 3a and continue to trial control methods.
- control small patches of few-flowered leek in 2a and 3a - reduce to rare isolated patches by annual hand pulling of bulbs before flowering in March/April.

(iii) Monitor the change in flora due to invasive species colonisation and removal. Assess the impact of garden introductions from the neighbouring Ladywood estate. Map invasive non-native flora at start and end of the plan period.

(iv) In 2016 post letter/information sheet to inform neighbours about the damage done to our native woodlands by garden flora escapees and their planting/dumping of them on the woodland edge.

(v) Monitor impact of *Chalara* on ash trees and deer on ground flora/natural regen as part of annual woodland condition monitoring programme.

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	5.34	Beech	1850	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
<p>Mature, predominantly broadleaved high forest dominated in some areas by beech plantation of c.1850. Beech situated largely on top of the slopes and including two veteran trees noted by the Ancient Tree Hunt. Mature Yew is occasional and dominant in several areas. Scot's pine and non-native conifers are scattered throughout. Natural and coppice regeneration of varying ages is frequent, particularly of ash, elm and sycamore, and numerous small areas of open ground are regenerating successfully. Two areas planted c.2002; an area of pole stage ash in the east of the sub-compartment and mixed broadleaves on the bank below the school. Ground flora is dominated by a mosaic of wood anemone, bluebells, wild garlic, dog's mercury and wood sorrel in spring. Moschatel, violets, water avens, buckler ferns, woundwort, and other occasional species add great floristic diversity to this and many other compartments. A small number of cut rhododendron stumps still remain in the area around Aaron House. An area of bare ground along the boundary with the school offers an opportunity for new planting. An overhead power-line crosses this sub-compartment to the south of Aaron House.</p>							
1b	0.36	Open ground		Non-wood habitat		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
<p>Glade of semi-natural grassland that was once a pony field. Meadow grasses, sweet vernal, tufted hair-grass, sorrel, and buttercup dominant. Angelica, marsh thistle, violets, blinks and other species present indicating nutrient rich and moist grassland. Yellow Rattle added in 2012 to aid opening of sward for other flora. Grassland is now left unmanaged to see how it develops without further intervention.</p>							

1c	1.58	Sycamore	1950	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>A area of steep ground with an easterly aspect sloping down to the River North Esk. The northern section is designated Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and contains a large proportion of mature beech with mixed broadleaves. Old growth yews and beech, including a veteran tree of note, border the footpath at the top of the slope. An underground pipeline passes through the middle of the slope and coincides with a strip of younger mixed broadleaves and open ground. Broadleaf natural regeneration (mainly sycamore, ash is abundant throughout the sub-compartment. Slope down to river is dominated by bluebells with small patches of dog's mercury and buckler ferns. A small area of snowberry still remains but rhododendron has been successfully removed.</p>							
1d	0.76	Beech	1850	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This narrow strip contains a high proportion of mature sycamore and Scots pine, together with other mixed broadleaves including oak, Norway maple and beech. The uniform age structure may be the result of a history of prolonged stock grazing. Natural regeneration is hindered in many areas by the existing canopy shade and rabbits. Ground flora is dominated by wood sorrel and pignut with patches of bluebell, moschatel and dog's mercury in the eastern corner.</p>							
1e	0.30	Ash	1990	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Semi-mature mixed broadleaves of natural origin, predominantly ash and sycamore, with stream running through centre of this sub-compartment. Densely shaded with occasional or frequent bramble. There are no footpaths within the sub-compartment. Trees on the banking below Beeslack Cottages are important for stabilising the slope.</p>							

1f	0.31	Sycamore	1970	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Area of flat damp woodland adjacent to River North Esk and cycle path along disused railway. Dominated by old sycamore coppice, willow and birch with occasional alder and beech. Elder is present in the shrub layer and ground flora is dominated by buckler ferns, lesser celandine, wood sorrel, opposite leaved golden saxifrage, pignut, tufted hair-grass, bugle, moschatel, wood avens and pick-a-back (<i>Tolmiea menziesii</i>). <i>T.menziesii</i> is spreading and becoming more dominant, replacing the native species that should be more common in this woodland.</p>							
2a	2.55	other oak spp	1850	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
<p>Mature high forest dominated by oak planted c.1850 with naturally regenerated ash, sycamore and elm regrowth. This Sub-compartment extends along the steep southern bank above the burn and is generally well stocked with numerous areas of open ground regenerating successfully. The understorey consists of abundant mixed broadleaved regeneration, some planted, that is varied in age. Natural oak regeneration is absent. Ground flora is dominated by a mosaic of grasses, buckler ferns, wood anemone, wood sorrel, wood rush and indicates NVC W10e type woodland.</p>							
2b	0.31	Ash	1960	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
<p>This compartment denotes an area where previously land has slumped into the burn and the soil appears generally wet and unstable. Now dominated with abundant butter burr. The tree canopy is dominated by ash and oak mainly towards the top of the slope and there is a substantial area of ground with ash regeneration.</p>							
2c	0.27	Sycamore	1970	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
<p>Dense, thicket stage mixed broadleaves with a high proportion of sycamore and beech. The understorey is also composed of abundant broadleaved regeneration. Limited ground flora under heavy shade.</p>							

2d	0.31	Ash	2008	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
Composed of occasional mature trees with recent ash, sycamore and wych elm regeneration.							
2e	0.27	Sycamore	1970	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
Site of an old quarry and now dominated by mature sycamore with some recent regeneration of ash and elm. A safety fence along the top edges is maintained for health and safety purposes.							
3a	0.93	other oak spp	1850	High forest	Management factors (eg grazing etc), People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Tree Preservation Order
A small hummock lies at the centre this compartment which is separated from adjacent compartment 2 by a well used cycle path along a disused railway line. Oak planted c.1850 dominates throughout with occasional ash, elm, Scots pine, sycamore and beech. Ground flora is a diverse mosaic of wild garlic, wood rush, tufted hair-grass, wood anemone, wood sorrel, pignut, buckler ferns, lesser celandine, greater stitchwort and a small area of bracken on top of the hill. Non-native invasive species including Japanese knotweed, few flowered leek, pink purslane and pick-a-back are present in small patches but will spread if not controlled.							

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.