



Catwalk (Den) Wood

Management Plan 2019-2024

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
10. Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Catwalk (Den) Wood
Location:	West Linton
Grid reference:	NT146521, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 72
Area:	3.92 hectares (9.69 acres)
Designations:	Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Mixed woodland, predominantly broadleaf interspersed with some fine mature specimen conifers. The woodland ground flora is rich and diverse and includes locally rare species. Birds and other and wildlife is abundant and varied, including sightings of woodpeckers, nuthatch, dipper, bats, roe deer and foxes. The open haugh by the Lyne Water has a diverse herb layer.

2.2 Extended Description

Catwalk Den Wood is located in the village of West Linton, 21.5 km south west of Edinburgh. The wood lies on a steep southerly facing slope on the northern bank of the Lyne Water. The wood has a south-westerly aspect, but the steep narrowness of the valley means that for much of time the woodland is in shadow. There is one, small flat section right on the riverbank, which probably forms part of an old floodplain of the Lyne Water.

The underlying geology of the valley of the Lyne Water is formed from the Pentland Hills Volcanic Rocks (acidic tuffs). The soils are generally thin, with rock outcrops and cliffs. The soils on the flat floodplain area next to the river in Catwalk Den Wood are alluvial.

The area around West Linton is described by the MLURI climate map as cool, rather wet lowland, foothill or upland.

Most of Catwalk Den Wood is recorded on the SNH Ancient Woodland Inventory as Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO) (it is shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1860, but is not shown on Roy's map of 1750). It is mixed woodland occupying the steep slopes and cliffs of the gorge of the Lyne Water and consists of a mix of mature broadleaves and conifers. A vegetation survey by Lothian Regional Council (1976) described it as the best example of a wooded cliff in the Pentland Hills. It has many mature trees and much deadwood and is developing a semi-natural structure following losses by Dutch elm disease over recent decades. The broadleaves (85%) consist mainly of sycamore, lime, beech and ash. The conifers (15%, in groups) are found throughout the site, but particularly at the southern entrance and consist of mainly of Scots pine, with some spruce and other non-natives. Many of these trees are large in diameter and height, and some have been affected by root and butt rot resulting in occasional windblow. There is frequent regeneration of beech, sycamore and ash which shows little sign of browsing despite the presence of brown hare and roe deer at low levels.

The ground flora is surprisingly diverse for LEPO woodland, with several locally rare species occurring. Although the steep slopes and outcrops may not have been wooded pre-1750, it is likely that they would have held scrub and semi-natural vegetation communities associated with gorges and gorge woodlands. The ground flora varies from bare ground under dense beech, through dog's mercury in partial shade, to grasses and raspberry in more open areas. However, there is a richer herb layer than might be expected, which includes local rarities such as moschatel, sanicle, mossy saxifrage and hard shield fern. Garden escapes are a feature of the woodland in places. Snowberry, variegated yellow deadnettle, Spanish bluebell and various forms of cotoneaster garden escapes are all present on the north-eastern boundary but will not threaten the wood whilst they remain north-east of the path.

A number of bird species have been recorded on the site, including greater spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, nuthatch, kingfisher, dipper, wagtails, blackbirds, blue tit, great tit, tree creepers, wagtails, chaffinch, tawny owl, willow warbler, chiffchaff, wood pigeons and crows. The site supports a wide range of wildlife e.g. bats roe deer and fox.

There is no other nearby ancient (pre-1750) or LEPO woodland, although the 1860 maps show some tenuous links into a system of shelterbelts to the north-east. There are many more recent shelterbelts and small woodlands (mainly conifer) running up the Lyne Water as far as Baddingsgill Reservoir, some 4km upstream. There are also scattered shelterbelts in the lowlands to the south, but they are not well linked.

There is small area of flat open ground which forms part of the river flood plain with dominant rosebay willow herb, with frequent meadowsweet, stinging nettle and hogweed. Beneath this is quite a rich herb layer including wood cranesbill, water avens and lady's mantle. Close to the river are patches area free of rosebay willowherb and dominated by grasses (mainly cocksfoot) and meadowsweet, with an herb layer including yellow rattle, melancholy thistle and greater birds-foot trefoil. There is substantial ash and sycamore regeneration on the margins between the wood and the open ground. A number of scrubby goat willows grow along the river bank itself.

The wood is bordered by the Lyne Water (the ownership boundary is on the river centre-line). The river itself is an important feature of the site and can regularly be glimpsed through the trees as one walks along the footpath. The Lyne Water is part of the River Tweed SAC (which extends up to 5m

from the bank) and SSSI (1949 Act). Otters and lamprey are known to frequent the Lyne Water along with occasional sightings of; heron, dipper, kingfisher and mink.

The woodland is assumed to have been planted around the beginning of the 19th century and its species composition is typical of policy woodland of the time, probably planted for landscape reasons. It was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1988. There are several specimen trees found within the woodland. Two tall conifers; a Douglas fir and a Norway spruce are situated in the woodland and are relatively tall (about 150 feet).

Whilst the woodland is referred to as 'Den Wood' in our deeds, we understand it became known locally as 'Catwalk' due to the steep slope below the path at the top. Walking along the path is akin to a cat walking along the top of a wall.

There is a standard footpath sign on the opposite side of the A702 which points towards Catwalk Den Wood. One path runs the full length of Catwalk, from the A702 in the south, into the adjoining area of woodland to the north. The path is mainly un-surfaced, moderately steep in places and with two flights of moderate to steep steps. The path is narrow in places, with steep slopes to one side, giving it the name of Catwalk and providing precipitous views to the Lyne Water below. Revetments have been placed on the down-slope sides in some areas in order to prevent path erosion. The total length of the path is 600m -much of which was upgraded in 2019. There is a standard Woodland Trust ladderboard at the roadside by the A702. Woodland Trust welcome signs are located at either end of the path as it enters the site, with a kissing gate where it enters neighbouring woodland to the north. The Trust also holds a right of access across the Lyne Water to Lyne Park via a short connecting path known as "the shortcut". Further north access into Catwalk Den Wood is via a private road that connects Medwyn road with the upper end of The Loan.

Catwalk Den Wood provides easy access to woodland in an area otherwise devoid of woodland walks. The path is well-used by mainly local people and leads into more woodland in the Lyne Water gorge to the north. There are few other local woodland paths. The route links into a network of farm tracks and private roads. One of these, The Loan, which runs nearby and parallel to the wood, is designated as a Core Path. Users are almost exclusively pedestrian, the steep terrain making it unsuited to horses or cycles.

There is a Volunteer Warden, who carries out small amounts of path maintenance, litter removal and other tasks.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Catwalk Den Wood is situated on the steep slopes to the east of the Lyne Water on the north western edge of the village of West Linton, Scottish Borders. The wood can be accessed from two entrances: The southern one leads directly from the A702 main road. The northern entrance can be accessed on foot from The Loan (private road) via neighbouring woodland.

By public transport, there is a regular bus service to West Linton on the Edinburgh-Biggarr route, stopping opposite the Gordon Arms Hotel. From here walk south-west (toward Biggar) for approx 100m before descending some steps on the north side of the road just past the last house before the river. The entrance to the wood is at the bottom of the steps. There is no nearby rail link.

By car, enter West Linton on the B7059 and park at Lower Green, next to St Andrews Kirk. Walk across the Green crossing the Lyne burn at Chapel Brae to reach the main A702 road (250m). Turn right, following A702 footway across the Lyne Burn, then cross the road and descend the flight of steps just before the first house (150m) to reach the entrance to the wood, a few metres from the bus shelter.

There is a single path through the wood which runs along the top of the steep slopes and cliffs that fall way to the Lyne Water. The woodland is mainly mature broadleaves with some conifers and provides views through the trees to the Lyne Water below. The path is unsurfaced, moderately steep in places and somewhat uneven with two flights of steps near the southern end. The steep slopes directly below the path gave it the name of 'Catwalk' and mean that access is only safe on foot. Beyond the Trust wood to the north the path follows the gorge of the Lyne Water for a further few hundred metres before meeting a private road.

There are public toilets (with disabled access) at the north end of Lower Green in West Linton.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Woodland

Our long-term vision (100 years plus) is that the woodland will remain a mixed-species woodland habitat, becoming more age-diverse as regeneration becomes established in gaps left by the loss of older trees. When larger gaps are created and where it is safe to do so enrichment planting will be included to diversify native species composition. The canopy will be predominantly broadleaved, with a scattering of veteran trees. There will be a diverse ground flora including woodland specialist species and those typical of gorge woodlands. There will be abundant deadwood.

In this plan period the woodland will be allowed to develop naturally without intervention (except for safety purposes or in response to pockets of windblow occurring, or tree death as a result of attack from pathogens e.g. ash dieback).

Public Access

The site will provide quiet informal pedestrian access through mixed and broadleaved woodland. The path will be maintained and kept clear of obstacles and overhanging branches. Near steep ground it will be maintained against erosion at a reasonable width for pedestrian users. The path will link into the wider path network where practical.

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

Catwalk Den Wood is a small (3.92ha/9.7 acre) ribbon of woodland situated on the northern bank of the Lyne Water - on the steep south-westerly facing bank of the gorge. Situated to the west of the village of West Linton, Scottish Borders, the wood is within easy reach of many of the surrounding towns and villages of the northern Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire and Midlothian and is only 17.5miles (28km) south west of Edinburgh.

The woodland consists of mature and semi-mature broadleaves with some mature conifers and provides views through the trees to the Lyne Water below. The woodland flora is of significant ecological interest; much of the wood is classed as Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO) woodland and is therefore gradually being restored to predominately native woodland species.

The woodland offers an excellent opportunity for a relaxing stroll or an interesting departure from walking on the nearby Core Path route (The Loan).

There is only one path through the wood, which runs along the narrow ridgeline at the top of the steep slope. The path is mostly unsurfaced, often uneven and moderately steep and has two steep flights of steps at the southern end near the A702. The steps were all renewed and several long sections of the path were revetted on the downside-slope in order to make those sections safer and slow down path erosion. Other sections were upgraded, drained and stepped (2019). have been added on several sections to improve access (2019). The very steep slope immediately below the path gives it the name of 'Catwalk', suggesting that access is only safe on foot. The path follows the gorge of the Lyne Water for approximately 600 metres before entering privately owned woodland with access along a private road (The Loan -a designated Core Path).

There are two access points: The southern one leads directly from the A702 main road, which runs through part of West Linton. The northern entrance is accessed on foot from The Loan (private road) via neighbouring woodland.

There is a regular bus service to West Linton on the Edinburgh-Biggarr route, stopping opposite the Gordon Arms Hotel. From here walk south along the main road for approx 50m to just past the last house before the river, and descend the steps. The entrance to the wood is at the bottom of the steps.

By car; there is a small car park in the village at Lower Green, next to St Andrews Kirk. There is no nearby rail link.

There are public toilets (with disabled access) at the north end of Lower Green in West Linton. Further information about public transport is available from Traveline - www.travelinescotland.org.uk or phone 0871 200 22 33.

The wood is appreciated by the local community, population estimate 3,000, and has an enthusiastic local volunteer warden. Regular users also come from surrounding towns and villages. A visitor numbers survey in 2001 estimated that there is approximately 9000 visit per year. The population within a 20 minute drive is estimated at 80,000 and within 40 minutes over 100,000. However, due to the good road network and the woods link to a Core Path it is visited by people from several large regional counties including; South Lanarkshire, Midlothian and Edinburgh City.

The wood is too narrow and steep to hold events.

There are several other Woodland Trust woods in the area; St Ronan's Wood and Flora Wood, both at Innerleithen, Beeslack Wood, Penicuik and Currie Wood, Borthwick.

There are numerous nature reserves and forests in the area e.g. Pentland Hills Regional Park, Roslin Glen, Falls of Clyde, Tweed Valley Forest Park and the Glentress Visitor Centre, and Dawyck Botanic Gardens -which houses one of Scotland's finest tree collections.

Significance

The path is well-used by local people as a circular walk joining up with The Loan -which is a Core Path and offers an alternative and interesting diversion. The path through the woodland provides access to an area otherwise devoid of woodland walks.

The ground flora is surprisingly diverse for woodland classified as Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO), with several locally rare species occurring. The rich herb layer includes local rarities such as moschatel, sanicle, mossy saxifrage and hard shield fern. Although the steep slopes and outcrops may not have been wooded pre-1750, it is likely that they would have held scrub and semi-natural vegetation communities associated with gorges and gorge woodlands. The ground flora varies from bare ground under dense beech, through to dog's mercury in partial shade, and grasses and raspberry in more open areas.

The mature woodland is home to a variety of woodland birds such as: greater spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, nuthatch, long-tail tits, blue tit, great tit, coal tit, tree creeper, siskin, goldcrest, tawny owl, willow warbler, chiffchaff, etc. Whilst the Lyne Water offers ideal habitat for a variety of bird species such as dipper, kingfisher, heron, grey wagtail, pied wagtail common sandpiper have all been recorded on the site. The site is home to bats (mainly Pipistrelle species and brown long eared), whilst roe deer and foxes are frequent visitors.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity:

Opportunity for carrying out step renewal and improve sections of the unsurfaced path by completely replacing and renewing the existing steps, installing new signage and consolidating and improving the existing path, improving drainage and shoring and strengthening and areas along the path where soil erosion is a problem.

Constraints:

Terrain limits access for many disabled visitors and is hazardous for horse riding or cycling. The steep terrain means there is no opportunity to extend the path network within the site.

Factors Causing Change

Erosion

Non Native Invasive Species - non-native garden escapees from adjacent properties are also a feature of the woodland along the north and eastern boundary. Snowberry, variegated yellow deadnettle, Spanish bluebell and various forms of cotoneaster are attempting to colonise the site and will threaten the ground flora within the wood unless they are controlled and eradicated where possible

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site will provide quiet informal woodland access for local users and all who discover this attractive mixed woodland. The managed path and steps will continue to be maintained, well-drained and kept clear of obstacles and overhanging branches and will be maintained against erosion at a reasonable width for pedestrian use. The path will continue to link into the wider path network for as long as is safely practical. Close co-operation and opportunities to work together with other groups e.g. Scottish Borders Council Countryside Rangers, Scotways, etc will continue. The site will be maintained in good order and well cared for the benefit people, trees & wildlife. Visitors will continue to appreciate the elevated views across the Lyne Water and enjoy the peace and tranquillity the woodland provides.

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

Access management will be in line with WT access guidelines and site access and according to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. This will be achieved by;

- Renew all steps, build up and strongly re-vest sections of path that are being eroded, scrape out boggy sections, build up, and fit cross runnels, as required, to improve drainage, remove old entrance materials and erect new entrance signs (February-March 2019).
- Carry out a path safety and condition inspection every two years and keep the managed path well-drained and free from obstacles & over-hanging branches.
- Renew entrance and welcome signage every 10 years (scheduled for 2029 - unless required earlier).
- A Woodland Warden volunteer role will support the Site Manager during the period of the plan. Tasked roles for volunteers: will be encouraged and planned and managed by Site Manager e.g. litter collection, cutting back and clearing small windblown branches along paths, minor repairs and drain maintenance as required.
- The Site Manager and Engagement Officer will consider options and best approach for promoting the site and consideration towards holding a volunteer day to cut back any scrub encroachment and controlling by hand and spade any invasive non-native species found near path.

5.2 Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin

Description

Catwalk Den Wood appears on maps of 1860, although it is not shown on Roy's map of 1750. It is attractive woodland occupying the steep slopes and cliffs on the northern side of the gorge above of the Lyne Water and consists of a mixture of mature broadleaves and conifers. The broadleaves (approx' 85%) consist mainly of sycamore, lime, ash, oak and beech. The mature conifers (approx' 15%, in groups) consist of mainly of Scots pine, with some spruce and other non-natives. Mature elm has been lost in previous decades due to Dutch elm disease, but there is abundant stool growth which resulting in a diverse canopy structure that includes regenerating on of beech, sycamore, ash and an occasional shrub layer - mainly elder (two species), willow and current ash. There is abundant standing and fallen deadwood. The dominant ground flora components are generally consistent with its LEPO status, varying from bare ground under dense beech, through to dog's mercury in partial shade and grasses and raspberry in more open areas. However, there is a richer herb layer than might be expected, which includes local rarities such as moschatel, sanicle, mossy saxifrage and hard shield fern. Snowberry and other garden escapees are present on the boundary but will not threaten the wood whilst they remain north-east of the path.

Significance

Most of Catwalk Den Wood is recorded on the SNH Ancient Woodland Inventory as LEPO and has been described as the best example of a wooded cliff in the Pentland Hills (survey by Lothian Regional Council, 1976). It has many mature trees and much deadwood and is developing a semi-natural structure as older trees are lost. The ground flora is surprisingly diverse for LEPO woodland, with several locally rare species occurring. Although the steep slopes and outcrops may not have been wooded pre-1750, it is likely that they would have held scrub and semi-natural vegetation communities associated with gorges and gorge woodlands. The LEPO area extends both sides of the Lyne Water to the north-west, as far as Lynedale house. There is no other nearby ancient (pre-1750) or LEPO woodland, although the 1860 maps show some tenuous links into a system of shelterbelts to the north-east. There are many more recent shelterbelts and small woodlands (mainly conifer) running up the Lyne Water as far as Baddingsgill Reservoir, some 4km upstream. There are also scattered shelterbelts in the lowlands to the south, but they are not well linked. The management of LEPO woodland supports the Trusts corporate objective of protecting ancient woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Poor access and steep slopes limit management operations.

Factors Causing Change

Climate change, tree disease, INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species)

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland will remain a mixed-species woodland habitat, becoming more age-diverse as regeneration and occasional enrichment planting becomes established in gaps left by the loss of older trees. The canopy will be predominantly broadleaved, with a scattering of specimen and veteran trees. There will be a diverse ground flora including woodland specialist species and those typical of gorge woodlands. There will be abundant deadwood. INNS will be effectively controlled.

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

- Allow the woodland to develop with minimum silvicultural intervention in this plan period.
- Survey and map whole site in 2020 for all Invasive Non Native Species (INNS).
- Every two years (commencing 2020). Target rhododendron encroachment from woodland to north and snowberry and other garden escapees INNS along path and carry out weed control. Objective, to eradicate by 2023.
- Every two years (commencing 2020) inspect north bank of Lyne Water for INNS e.g. Giant Hogweed & Himalayan balsam, etc. Work with Tweed Forum to remove. Objective, to eradicate by 2023.
- Monitor annually spread of ash dieback and fell or make safe any trees that present a high risk to people or property. Leave timber onsite as deadwood habitat.
- Within the period of the plan arrange volunteer days to pull out any encroaching none - native plant species along the path and cut back any encroaching scrub on the flat open ground area next to the river.

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	3.30	Mixed broadleaves	1900	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees, Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin	Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation, Tree Preservation Order

This constitutes the main body of the woodland on steeply sloping ground above the Lyne Water. It consists of a mature mixed wood with approximately 85% broadleaves and 15% conifers (which tend to be in groups). The canopy trees consist of abundant sycamore and European lime, with frequent beech, elm (mostly understory) and Scots pine (mainly in south of compartment). There is also occasional ash, oak, rowan, elder (native & red berried variety) with some birch, holly, horse chestnut and a scattering of spruce and Douglas fir. The canopy has been somewhat opened by loss of elms in recent decades, and some of the conifers have blown as a result of root/butt decay. There is patchy, but locally abundant regeneration of ash, sycamore, beech and rowan, with only low levels of browsing. The ground flora is very variable, ranging from bare soil under dense shade through patchy dogs mercury with honeysuckle, broad buckler fern and meadow saxifrage under moderate shade, to grasses and wild raspberry in more open areas. Snowberry is well-established (as are other garden escapes such as pink purslane) along the upper boundary, but are generally confined to the east side of the path. There is abundant deadwood both standing and fallen.

1b	0.70	Open ground		Non-wood habitat	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Connecting People with woods & trees, Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin	Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation, Tree Preservation Order
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A small area of flat open ground which forms part of the river flood plain. There is dominant rosebay willow herb, with frequent; stinging nettle, meadowsweet and hogweed. Beneath this is quite a rich herb layer including wood cranesbill, water avens and lady's mantle. Close to the river are patches area free of rosebay willowherb and dominated by grasses (mainly cocksfoot) and meadowsweet, with a herb layer including yellow rattle, melancholy thistle and greater birds-foot trefoil. There is substantial ash and sycamore regeneration on the margins between the wood and the open ground. A number of scrubby goat willow grow along the river bank itself. There is a desire line from the main path to this compartment, the lower section of which is steep and difficult. The only management access to the site is via a ford over the Lyne Water from Lyne Park.

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.