



# Bunkers Hill

## Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](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.

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## 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.

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## 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>	Bunkers Hill
<b>Location:</b>	Nr Stourbridge
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SO875824, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 139
<b>Area:</b>	41.55 hectares (102.67 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Bunkers Hill has a wonderful mix of broadleaves and conifers, providing a haven for butterflies and flora and providing excellent views of the countryside. A good path network enables you to explore the site thoroughly - many are suitable for wheelchairs.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Bunkers Hill Wood lies approximately half a mile west of the town of Stourbridge on the outskirts of Birmingham. The wood has a gentle westerly aspect and contains an interesting mix of predominantly secondary plantation trees with both mature and veteran broadleaves and conifers including Sweet Chestnut, Oak, Scots Pine and Corsican Pine. These are contrasted by younger stands of broadleaves and conifers and areas of naturally regenerated Birch. The wood also contains an unusual range of hybrid-cultivar rhododendrons which occupy isolated locations with exceptionally large and colourful flowers.

The site once formed part of Iverley Heath but is now predominantly wooded through gradual phased planting from approximately 1860 to 30 years ago. The majority of the site is set amidst pasture land with some rotational management including arable crops to the east of the site. Himalayan Balsam, a non-native invasive species is spreading through the site dominating the ground flora in many places.

The woods history of management for shooting purposes has given rise to a diverse mosaic of habitats and a wonderful network of paths and large open 'glades' providing a haven for many interesting plants, flowers and butterflies. This extensive network of permissive rides and paths provide the ideal means to explore the wood and enjoy the excellent views of the countryside beyond including Kinver Edge to the west and Stourbridge and Birmingham to the East.

In addition to the permissive paths are two public footpaths (PFPs) that cross the wood. The first of these enters the site at the main entrance point off Whittington Hall Lane (north-east corner) and through a less-able kissing gate. The management access point into the wood is also sited here, adjacent to the less-able kissing gate. This PFP runs along the edge of the wood, parallel to the boundary hedge just short of the halfway point along its length where it meets a further public footpath. This second PFP enters the site via a stile from the west (complete with dog access gate set to one side) and from the fields adjacent. It bisects the wood in an east-west direction. This second footpath crosses the site exiting the eastern boundary (kissing gate) which leads onto Sugar Loaf Lane.

There is one further public access point (stile) in the south-western most corner of the site following agreement between the Woodland Trust/Ramblers Association and Severn Trent Water (land owner). This access point connects to an extension/diversion of an existing Public Footpath which previously fell short of the wood.

The sites underlying geology of the Sherwood Sandstone group from the Triassic period has given rise to sandy and in some instances quite gravelly soils. This allows many of the flatter rides to remain drier and free-draining throughout the year with the gentle gradient smooth enough to facilitate wheelchairs and pushchair access.

The site is extremely popular with visitors, particularly dog walkers.

The key Features for this site are:-

Secondary Woodland

Connecting people with woods and trees ( new label as it's been identified as a WSP woodland)

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Bunkers Hill Wood is located a short distance to the west of Stourbridge.

The site can be accessed at a number entrance points but the main entrance to the wood is off a minor road called Whittington Hall Lane through a less-able kissing gate at the north of the site. Others access points include via a public foot path leading off Sugar Loaf Lane to the east of the site and into the wood through another less-able kissing gate; and on the western boundary in two places. The first of these is via a public footpath and over a stile into the site approximately half way down the western boundary, and the second at the southern most tip of the western boundary, again via the public footpath from neighbouring fields. The paths are approximately 1.5 to 2 metres wide and are quite dry along the western boundary due to the sandy nature of the soil. There's a vast choice of paths around the wood including two public footpaths which pass through the site. The wood is moderately flat in the north-west and along the western boundary but gradually increases in steepness towards the south east. There are several kilometres of path to explore within the site.

Parking for several vehicles is available at the main entrance off Whittington Hall Lane

Bus stop - nearest is on the A449 approximately 2 miles walk west from the main entrance. There are also several further stops on Shenstone Avenue on the Western edge of Stourbridge which are a few miles walk from the main entrance.

Railway station - nearest in is Stourbridge city centre approximately 2 miles away.

You can try [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info) or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) on the internet for the most up to date details for public transport in the area.

Nearest toilet - Stourbridge library - in the Crown Centre, Stourbridge centre.

\*\* Further information about public transport is available from Traveline - [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0870 608 2 608

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The management of Woodland Trust woods are based on our charitable purposes. Management is undertaken 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. Where there is conflict, the interests of biodiversity take precedence over people.

Long term, Bunkers Hill Wood will be maintained as a site dominated by a high forest structure with a mixture of broadleaves and a small proportion of conifers with dedicated open glade areas as these features contribute greatly to the sites special internal and external landscape character. The large blocks of non-native recent secondary conifer woodland, will in accordance with the Trusts approach to woodland management, be converted to predominately native woodland. Native woodland is an important component of ecologically functional landscapes for woodland biodiversity and has the potential to reverse fragmentation of semi-natural habitats significantly and thereby place woodland biodiversity on a more sustainable footing. The high forest canopy will be maintained through native natural regeneration where possible with supplementary planting as required depending on the rate of successful establishment.

Although the site once supported heathland vegetation, many years have passed since this was last visible. This is largely a consequence of previous woodland planting and the habitats resulting fragmentation and vegetation change. There is also an absence of heathland vegetation on surrounding land. As such, woodland clearance in favour of heathland restoration would not be a viable management option for this site and will not be undertaken.

Veteran trees will be maintained through appropriate management to conserve and retain them to over-maturity. Dead and live veteran trees with holes and hollows, rot columns, torn off limbs and rotten branches, will be retained where they do not present a risk to health and safety e.g. the ride edges, thereby supplementing the existing deadwood habitat. Steps will also be taken to identify and select suitable future veteran trees to ensure continuity of this valuable woodland component.

Rhododendron is present in the understorey of the woodland, notably in the eastern portion of the site. While this species is non-native and potentially invasive, further investigation into the specimens found at Bunkers Hill has revealed the majority to be hybrid-cultivars. These develop at a much-reduced rate compared with their common counterpart. Visually they are very appealing to visitors developing large, colourful flower heads. Given the sites history and their cultural value in accordance with the Woodland Trusts position statement of native species conservation, these unusual rhododendrons are considered an acceptable component of the wood providing they are maintained in their present proportions.

The wood has an excellent network of both public and permissive rides and paths. These will be maintained to ensure year round visitor access and enjoyment with all public access points managed to ensure they continue to be safe and welcoming.



## 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 Secondary Woodland

#### Description

Bunkers Hill Wood lies just half a mile from the town of Stourbridge. It has a gentle westerly aspect and contains a wonderful mix of predominantly secondary plantation trees with mature and veteran broadleaves and conifers including Sweet Chestnut, Oak, Scots Pine and Corsican Pine. These are contrasted by younger stands of broadleaves and conifers and areas of naturally regenerated Birch. The site, which was formerly part of Iverley Heath, saw planting take place from around 1860 with subsequent r approximately 30 years ago and forms an important woodland habitat. The mixture of tree species and planting spacing affords particular visual appeal, both internally and externally. There is an unusual range of hybrid-cultivar rhododendrons occupying isolated locations at the highest points by the ride within compartment 1c. When in flower these shrubs can be seen from a considerable distance and add further interest and enjoyment to visitors walking through the site.

#### Significance

While the site is of plantation origin, many of the trees have reached maturity. The site also includes a number of veteran examples which are of both conservation and cultural/historical importance. The wood actually feels much older and richer than one might otherwise expect as a result which is clearly valued by visitors and of conservation importance. The mixture of conifers and broadleaved species complement the site visually both internally and externally, providing an important landscape feature as well as an increasingly valuable and diverse habitat for wildlife over the passage of time.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

**Constraints:-**

The site is very popular with visitors and as such, numbers are very high throughout the year. This can make organising and delivering silvicultural work more challenging. There is also a moderate level of vandalism to estate works etc. and fires on site, the latter often linked to school holidays. The above combined present a potential risk to the use and storage of equipment on site.

There is only one management entrance point in the north-east corner of the wood. Its positioning is awkward making its use difficult as it also multi-functions in providing an small and informal area of parking. This can prove difficult when trying to complete any site management work, when obstructed, which is increasingly the case. The problem is unavoidable due to the physical restrictions and practical layout afforded at area of the wood.

Vandalism by children/ youths through using some of the veteran trees for hideouts.

A number of the tree stands on site are even aged and have subsequently received limited intervention. A sympathetic programme of thinning/selective felling/restocking where necessary will therefore need to be undertaken to improve resilience where required.

**Opportunities.**

The site is free draining and sandy and is, therefore, y easier to work with silvicultural and other machinery with minimum of surface disturbance providing extreme wet weather conditions are avoided.

Regular EMC visits and other site regular visitors are keen to inform the Trust of any problems or potential damage.

On site consultation has worked well in terms of informing visitors and their understanding and support of forthcoming work programmes and the rationale behind them.

**Factors Causing Change**

Invasive rhododendron, Squirrel damage, Fire, Frequent wind damage

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

Maintain as predominantly mixed broadleaved woodland with a proportion of dedicated open glade areas.

Maintain existing proportions of hybrid cultivar rhododendrons on site.

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

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

At the end of this plan period, there will be a reduction in bracken dominance in key areas previously thinned to encourage native natural regeneration. The reduction in bracken will also provide a much improved environment for supplementary native woodland planting which will enhance species diversity in areas where this is also very limited. This will be achieved through:

2019/20/21 Bracken control - x 2 cuts in 1b and 1c. Timing May-June and again early August.

2022 Planting of native mixed broadleaves in 1b and 1c if bracken control has led to sufficient reduction in dominance to accommodate successful planting.

The presence of invasive and non-native Himalayan Balsam will also be significantly reduced through further annual treatments in 2019/20 Himalayan balsam control across the site.

The presence and quantity of rhododendron will be surveyed on site. Any significant change in spatial coverage will be noted with any responsive management planned thereafter if required.

## 5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

### Description

#### Access/Infrastructure:

Bunker's Hill is generally in good condition; access points and fences are well maintained, the main entrance is obvious and well-branded, and paths are wide and open. Some footpaths are stoned, the majority are grassy/natural tracks.

There are 4 access points into the wood, the main one being located off Whittington Hall Lane. Entrances have either a kissing gate or stile present. There is no formal parking at site, although there is informal space for several cars close to the main entrance (this can be problematic at busy times as cars park inappropriately, blocking access to the site and the adjacent farm track). Two public footpaths cross the site, and there is cycle parking present at the Whittington Hall Lane entrance.

#### General communication drivers

Bunker's Hill is located immediately SW of Stourbridge, and the footpaths that are present onsite link the wood to the Stourbridge suburb of Norton.

The key features of the site that provide interest are as follows:

- Various rides and glades which provide open space that is great for butterfly spp, and potential picnic opportunities for visitors.
- There is a diverse range of trees onsite, both in terms of species and age structure, along with some excellent veteran tree specimens.
- Rhododendron (hybrid cultivars, not the nasty invasive!) that provide impressive displays of flowers in late spring/early summer.

The current visitor offer at Bunker's Hill is very much in line with the Trust's original intention of creating places for quiet, informal recreation. Despite being on the doorstep of a large, urban conurbation, the wood is tranquil and quiet with an interesting amount of variety and seasonal change for visitors to enjoy.

Although not connected to it, there is a national trail (North Worcestershire Path) that passes approximately half a kilometre to the south of the wood. The closest Woodland Trust sites of significance are Pepper Wood and Uffmoor Wood (The Wilderness is closer but has no parking and very limited access). Highgate Common (Staffs Wildlife Trust) and Kinver Edge (National Trust) are close by but not within walking distance.

In 2013 a very basic visitor survey was conducted at Bunker's Hill, but the number of participants was low and consultation was conducted during a limited time frame, meaning the resulting data cannot be automatically assumed as an accurate reflection of the site. However, the key findings (most visitors are dog walkers and live within 5 miles) are in line with anecdotal evidence that makes clear that currently the vast majority of visitors are local and using the wood to walk dogs; including a significant number of professional dog walkers. Subsequently Bunker's Hill suffers from an acute dog-fouling problem, along with large numbers of dogs being walked at once that are not always deemed to be under control. There is also unauthorised use of the site by cyclists.

#### Events:

Bunker's Hill is currently not used for Woodland Trust events or delivery of any brand moments, and

although the wood itself would potentially be suitable, the car parking situation means that running events is not overly feasible currently. An alternative would be to target events at the immediate community and encourage attendees to walk to the site, perhaps with an incentive for those that do (anecdotally, it appears that most people drive to the site even if they live within walking distance). It is also worth noting that there are no onsite facilities, such as covered shelters/indoor space or toilets

Events that could work well would be guided walks, nature trails and drop-in family activities during school holidays.

**Volunteering:**

There are no current volunteers associated with the site, but there may be potential for this dependent on staffing capacity to manage them.

**Schools:**

As far as we are aware, the site is not currently used by schools, but there are a number of schools close by, some potentially within walking distance:

The Ridge Primary School Ridgewood Primary School Gig Mill Primary School

Brindley Heath Junior School Foley Infant School Kinver Pre-School

Kinver High School and Sixth Form Hagley Primary School Hagley Catholic Primary School

Haybridge High School and Sixth Form

There are also a number of nurseries, play groups etc that operate locally.

**Wider community engagement:**

Being so close to Stourbridge, there are a plethora of community groups that are active locally, covering a hugely diverse range of causes and interests.

[http://www.stourbridge.com/stourbridge\\_clubs\\_charities.htm](http://www.stourbridge.com/stourbridge_clubs_charities.htm). Interestingly, Stourbridge is also a Transition town: <https://transitionstourbridge.co.uk/>. It is unknown whether any community groups use or access the site; it is thought to be unlikely.

**Significance**

Bunker's Hill is a large, publicly accessible green space on the edge of a very urban area, providing all those who live within the vicinity the opportunity to benefit from experiencing woods and the outdoors. It has an extensive path network that means it's easy to get 'lost' and feel completely removed from the urban environment, despite its proximity to it; it has the 'power of absorption' and feels remote despite the reality of being adjacent to Stourbridge. It has broad spectrum appeal, with a diverse range of habitats and tree species, a mix of open areas and more enclosed woodland blocks, and a combination of flat areas and those with a considerable gradient.

**Opportunities & Constraints**

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Access and infrastructure**

There are several simple actions that could be taken to improve the quality of visit at Bunker's Hill. It would be useful to consider the installation of a circular surfaced loop; there are currently some sections of path that have been surfaced, but they do not link together. Poster holders on the ladder boards are not currently being used; these could be utilised to provide opportunities for disseminating WT messaging around membership, campaigns, brand moments (if relevant to site), or to give visitors information on seasonal highlights of the wood. It would be useful to have an orientation/welcome point at the main entrance, to provide a map and basic info about the wood.

(See the VB audit for more detail on this section)

### Events

Events that could work well at Bunker's Hill would include guided walks, nature trails and family drop-in activities during school holiday. There may also be scope to organise community Himalayan balsam pulling days; subsequently helping with site management (this is managed by contractors at the moment using machinery, but often hand-pulling works better and means that areas inaccessible to machinery can be tackled).

### Volunteering

Although there are no current volunteers associated with Bunker's Hill, a gentleman has been identified as a potential 'Wood Warden' who may be able to liaise regularly with the Site Manager as to on-the-ground activity and take on the responsibility of updating information in poster holders etc. There may be opportunity to run occasional, standalone volunteering events (rather than establishing a formal volunteer group) to undertake activities such as Himalayan Balsam pulling, with support from the Site Manager or Comms and Engagement Officer. However these would be subject to the same parking constraints as other events (see above). Alternatively, it may be worth exploring the feasibility of encouraging individual visitors to undertake pulling while on their normal, regular walks, with either staff or signage onsite to support/facilitate this.

### Schools

If a map is created for the wood, it would be worth some low-key promotion of Bunker's Hill to the most local schools, to raise awareness of the site both with the schools and the children/families. This could be linked in with the promotion of the GTSA. Self-led visits could be encouraged, although the creation of some Woodland Trust resources to help support this would greatly enhance this offer.

### Wider community engagement

It may be worth considering promoting the site to local groups that may find it of interest, eg photography groups, Transition Stourbridge etc.

It would also be worth considering promoting Bunker's Hill via other close by attractions/facilities, e.g. local pubs/cafes, and Highgate Common/Kinver Edge.

## CONSTRAINTS

### Access and infrastructure

Internal financial resources would be the biggest constraint when considering delivering large pieces of capital work, such as path upgrades.

Posters need to be changed regularly and kept up-to-date; this requires time from either staff or volunteers.

### Events

Unless the car parking situation changes at the wood it will be very difficult to deliver events at this site.

In addition, the current dog-fouling problem would make running events challenging, and potentially distract from what would otherwise be an enjoyable experience.

### Volunteering

There is currently no staff capacity to take on the management of significant numbers of volunteers.

This could potentially be alleviated through the development of 'lead volunteer' roles, although this would still need to be managed carefully to ensure a high quality volunteer experience is maintained.

#### Schools

The lack of facilities will always be a limiting factor/barrier for some schools, along with transport costs for those who are not located within walking distance.

As with event, the dog-fouling issue would currently be an additional, unnecessary barrier to access.

#### Wider community engagement

We need to be mindful how widely we promote the site due to its limited parking and subsequent limited ability to take significant increases in visitor numbers. It may be best to focus on local awareness-raising and encourage access on foot.

### Factors Causing Change

The main issue here to be aware of is the increasing numbers of dog walkers using the site, and in particular the rise in professional dog walkers. This has resulted in dog fouling becoming a major problem and, anecdotally, a decrease in the numbers of families using the site.

Another factor that may become pertinent to Bunker's Hill is the Woodland Trust's Urban Agenda. How this will directly impact the site is undetermined, but it may be that such sites are identified for increased investment in future years, or become a priority for engagement activity.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Bunker's Hill will be appreciated, valued and used responsibly by visitors, and will be a treasured asset within the local community.

Visitors will feel connected to the site via an improved visitor journey, have a sense of stewardship towards the site and act either as the Woodland Trust's extended eyes and ears of the wood, or be an extra pair of hands when help with practical tasks are needed.

Bunker's Hill will be an excellent example of the 'shop window' of the Woodland Trust within an urban environment, with good brand recognition, visitors who understand who we are and what we do and regular high quality engagement opportunities for local communities.

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

Install exit messaging at all access points, appropriate to the site and level of use - Dec 17

Ensure poster holders are used to display information about the work of the Woodland Trust or site-specific information. Devise an annual seasonal rota to identify what information should be displayed when. - Dec 2017

Undertake a review and refresh of online information and make site map available to download once created. - June 2018

Investigate how to manage behavioral issues on site and create action plan to implement - June 2018

Design, create and install a welcome/orientation board for the main entrance off Whittington Hall Lane, providing a map of site, basic info about the wood, and some generic WT messaging. Consider incorporating a public notice board as part of this installation, or creating a separate space onsite for this. - June 2019

Brand refresh of threshold 'asda' sign - to include website if possible - 2019

Once map is created, promote Bunker's Hill and GTSA to schools in the immediate vicinity - Sep 2019

Investigate feasibility of running community volunteer HB pulling event, and trial in 2021 if deemed appropriate - Dec 2020



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## 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	1.09	Mixed native broadleaves	1980	High forest		Secondary Woodland	
Mixed broadleaved trees majority of which are Silver birch interspersed with some oak. Groundflora dominated by bracken and brambles.							
1b	1.73	Scots pine	1970	High forest		Secondary Woodland	
Mixed conifers - Predominantly Scots Pine planted circa 1960. Limited understorey and ground flora. Bracken dominance. 30% thinning undertaken in 2012.							
1c	5.01	Scots pine	1975	High forest	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Secondary Woodland	
Mostly conifer woodland circa 1960 but with a number of mature conifer and broadleaved 'veteran' trees. 30% 2012 thin undertaken in 2012							
1d	7.58	Mixed broadleaves	1970	High forest		Secondary Woodland	
High proportion of open ground in this compartment ( approx 35% ) with broadleaf and conifer mix of trees of various ages ( 20-100 years ) and good age range/structure.							
1e	0.43	Birch (downy/silver)	1985	High forest		Secondary Woodland	
Open area dominated by bracken with isolated birch.							
2a	1.04	Scots pine	1975	High forest		Secondary Woodland	
Oak (60%) and Scots Pine (40%) p2002.							
2b	2.39	Sweet chestnut	1945	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Secondary Woodland	

Sweet Chestnut - planted circa 1930 - reasonable form.							
2c	2.90	Sweet chestnut	1945	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Secondary Woodland	
Mixed broad leaved - mainly oak/chestnut planted circa 1930. Some larch. Moderate understorey development.							
2d	13.52	Mixed broadleaves	1975	High forest		Secondary Woodland	
Broadleaved and conifer trees included in this compartment with quite a high percentage of open space ( 20% ) as this Sub compartment includes most of the rides and glades.							
2e	0.48	Birch (downy/silver)	1960	High forest		Secondary Woodland	
Large open area dominated by bracken with individual birch interspersed through out the compartment.							
2f	1.15	Birch (downy/silver)	1980	High forest		Secondary Woodland	
Large area of bracken interspersed with naturally regenerated birch.							
2g	0.72	Birch (downy/silver)	1980	High forest		Secondary Woodland	
Large area of bracken interspersed with naturally regenerated birch.							
2h	2.25	Scots pine	1987	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Secondary Woodland	
Stand of approximately 20 year old Scots Pine of poor form, and development. Quite intense squirrel damaged towards the core of the stand. Replanting has been undertaken in last 20 years but stock appears to fail or very poor form on reaching a certain age. Likely cause, poor environmental conditions in that area of the site, soil pan, waterlogging. Thinned approx 20% in 2012.							

2i	0.69	Mixed broadleaves	1985	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Secondary Woodland	
Mixed broadleaved stand including Oak, Ash, Wildcherry and Field maple. Planted circa 1985.							
2j	0.47	Mixed conifers	1985	High forest		Secondary Woodland	
Dense stand of average form Larch and Scots pine planted approximately 1975. Thinned 30% 2012.							

## 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.