



# Park Wood, Kent

## Management Plan 2014-2019

---

## 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 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

6.0 Work Programme

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Glossary

### MAPS

Access

Conservation Features

Management

## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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

---

## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

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

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

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk). Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

## SUMMARY

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

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Park Wood, Kent
<b>Location:</b>	Chilham
<b>Grid reference:</b>	TR042526, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 189
<b>Area:</b>	22.73 hectares (56.17 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

## 2.1 Summary Description

Park Wood (22.73 hectares) is located 1.5 miles west of Chilham village within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1978, its second site in Kent at the time. A small section of Park Wood (6.4ha) remains in private ownership on the eastern side of the wood. Park Wood forms an outlier to Kings Wood (607ha), one of Kent's largest woodlands but separated by the A252. It was designated in 1981 as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as a good representative of long established woodland on chalk soils in Kent. This shows in the varied tree species growing at this wood, but also in the shrub layer with species characteristic of chalk soils such as buckthorn, wild privet, wayfaring tree and guelder rose. There is a rich ground flora which includes a number of uncommon plants which are indicative of long established woodland, including the spectacular lady orchid. Small areas of chalk grassland are found along the ride network.

Although now managed as a mixture of coppice and high forest, the wood appears to be the remnant of ancient parkland and is designated as ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW). The eastern side of the wood historically had more open space areas and is now dominated by hazel, hawthorn and hornbeam coppice under standards of pedunculate oak interspersed with ash and veteran beech trees. The west side of Park Wood had sweet chestnut established in pure blocks in the 18th and 19th century which were cut and managed by coppicing as were areas of native mixed broadleaved coppice. These coppiced areas are interspersed with ash dominated high forest. Several dense stands of yew exist within Park Wood as well as well as veteran hornbeam pollards. An ancient wood boundary bank passes through the woodland.

Ash dieback fungus was confirmed present on site in 2012 and which since then has caused a severe decline in the health of ash at Park Wood.

Public access is provided by a good network of permissive paths which circulate through the Wood part of which is along a wide ride managed for conservation benefits.

The Wood lies on a south-east facing slope, with a shallow dry valley running up through the centre of the site from the main entrance off the A252. The soils are clay with flints over chalk. Old chalk pits and shallow quarries are situated along the southern boundary of Park Wood.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Park Wood (22.73 hectares) is located 1.5 miles west of Chilham village within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1978, its second site in Kent at the time. A small section of Park Wood (6.4ha) remains in private ownership on the eastern side of the wood. Park Wood forms an outlier to Kings Wood (607ha), one of Kent's largest woodlands but separated by the A252. It was designated in 1981 as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as a good representative of long established woodland on chalk soils in Kent. This shows in the varied tree species growing at this wood, but also in the shrub layer with species characteristic of chalk soils such as buckthorn, wild privet, wayfaring tree and guelder rose. There is a rich ground flora which includes a number of uncommon plants which are indicative of long established woodland, including the spectacular lady orchid. Small areas of chalk grassland are found along the ride network.

Although now managed as a mixture of coppice and high forest, the wood appears to be the remnant of ancient parkland and is designated as ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW). The eastern side of the wood historically had more open space areas and is now dominated by hazel, hawthorn and hornbeam coppice under standards of pedunculate oak interspersed with ash and veteran beech trees. The west side of Park Wood had sweet chestnut established in pure blocks in the 18th and 19th century which were cut and managed by coppicing as were areas of native mixed broadleaved coppice. These coppiced areas are interspersed with ash dominated high forest. Several dense stands of yew exist within Park Wood as well as well as veteran hornbeam pollards. An ancient wood boundary bank passes through the woodland.

Ash dieback fungus was confirmed present on site in 2012 and which since then has caused a severe decline in the health of ash at Park Wood.

Public access is provided by a good network of permissive paths which circulate through the Wood part of which is along a wide ride managed for conservation benefits.

The Wood lies on a south-east facing slope, with a shallow dry valley running up through the centre of the site from the main entrance off the A252. The soils are clay with flints over chalk. Old chalk pits and shallow quarries are situated along the southern boundary of Park Wood.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

**General location:**

Park Wood is situated approximately 1.5 miles west of Chilham, and approximately 8 miles south west from the centre of the city of Canterbury.

Park Wood can only be reached by road.

**By road from Chilham:** Take the A252 west bound heading for Charing. Park Wood will be found on the right hand side after approximately 1.5 miles.

**General overview of paths & entrances:**

**Entrances:** There is 1 entrance to Park Wood and is directly off the A252 via a pedestrian squeeze gap beside the wooden 3.6m gate.

All the paths are unmodified grass and earth surface, which can get slippery and muddy when wet. There are some steep slopes near the northern end of Park Wood.

**Parking:**

Parking is available for up to 1 car at our main entrance way off the A252.

**Public Transport:**

The nearest bus stop: Taylors Hill on the west side of Chilham.

The nearest train station: Chilham station which is on the Canterbury - Ashford line. Chilham station is approximately 2 miles from our main entrance along the A252.

This information is from Traveline website as at December 2014. Further information about public transport is available from Traveline - [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Public Toilets:**

Public toilets are found on the west side of Chilham at the junction of A252 with Taylors Hill. There is a public car park here as well as a bus stop.

There are male and female toilets here and access for disabled is by a RADAR key. Information from Ashford District Council Website as of December 2014.

## 3.2 Access / Walks



---

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

In fifty years' time, Park Wood will have a resilient structure within its ancient woodland by providing a good range of different habitats typical of this lowland mixed broadleaved woodland type. There will be a mosaic of areas managed within a coppice rotation interspersed by areas of high forest managed through minimal intervention. Linked to the active coppice areas will be a wide ride habitat centered on the main tracks whose edges are coppiced on a short rotation which will exhibit a good range of specialist calcareous ground flora plants as well as woody shrub species. Through the active management of the coppiced areas and ride edge management habitat for a range of invertebrate, bird and mammal species, including woodland specialist species which rely on temporary open space, will be provided for such as the Duke of Burgundy fritillary which may have returned to this site.

Park Wood will have probably lost most of the ash trees to the ash dieback fungus, but there may be a few individual ash trees which will have survived. Ash will have been replaced by other species which will become established by natural regeneration as the tree canopy opens up such as field maple, hornbeam, sweet chestnut and sycamore, particularly in the minimal intervention areas. The yew grove will remain dominated by yew along with woody shrub species where there are gaps in the canopy. Minimal intervention will allow natural processes to occur which will in time lead to more diverse habitat structures being present. There will be an increase in the age of the trees and the accumulation of dead and decaying wood which will help to support a large range of invertebrates and fungi. In addition, as the trees of coppice origin senesce there will be an increasing prevalence of coppice stools splitting and falling apart. This will not only help to generate more dead and decaying wood but also allow the regeneration of an understory through increasing light levels.

The majority if not all of the veteran beech trees will have collapsed or fallen apart over the next 50 years. There will be a considerable gap of 100's years before any beech tree is of any considerable size again. However, there are other species of tree such as specimens of hornbeam, field maple and oak which will be becoming of conservation interest as their sizes increase.

The site will retain its tranquil character, and will be visited by a small number of visitors each year who appreciate and respect walking in a wooded landscape with diverse habitats and archaeological features, along a well-maintained network of paths.

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing people's understanding and enjoyment of woodland to help create a UK rich in native woods and trees, for people and wildlife.

Many of the Tree Charter principles are brought to life at Packing Wood, such as "sustain landscapes rich in wildlife", "grow forests of opportunity and innovation", "protect irreplaceable trees and woods", "make trees accessible to all", "combat the threats to our habitats" and "strengthen our landscapes with trees".

## 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 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

#### Description

Park Wood is a good example of long established woodland on chalk soils supporting a vegetation community of NVC (National Vegetation Community) W10, oak woodland with bramble and bracken and W8, ash, field maple woodland with dog's mercury. There are small areas which contain NVC W13, yew woodland where the soils are particularly chalk rich and yew forms a dense grove. The ground flora is diverse and is dominated by bramble, dog's mercury and bluebell but also contains other species including primrose, wood spurge, green hellebore, stinking iris, herb paris, butterfly orchid and lady orchid. Ferns are frequent and include buckler fern, narrow buckler fern and male fern.

Insects species recorded in the past include two rarities, the wasp (*Crossocerus distinguendus*), and the fly (*Stratiomys potamida*), and several uncommon species including the woodland grasshopper, the plumed prominent moth (whose larvae feeds on field maple), satin lutestring moth and a micro moth (*Ectoedemia argyropeza*) which feeds on aspen. The Duke of Burgundy fritillary was listed as a species within the SSSI citation but is currently not present on site. Nightingale has been recorded breeding on site.

The western part of Park Wood has been actively managed by coppicing with approximately 6.0ha of in rotation coppice in cpt.3a. Sweet chestnut forms pure cants of coppice over 4.5ha with smaller cants of mixed broadleaved species over 1.6ha. Sweet chestnut coppice areas in cpt.4a are now out of rotation and are beginning to form a high forest type. In cpt.5a there is ash-field maple stand types with evidence of coppice management in the past now managed as minimal intervention areas. These areas are taking on a high forest type with ash regeneration now forming significant trees within the canopy. With ash dieback fungus now causing ash trees to die, the canopy of such areas will become re-structured as natural regeneration of field maple, birch, hornbeam and sycamore begin filling the gaps. In the southwest of cpt.5a is a distinctive area of yew woodland covering approximately 1.5ha and a smaller area of yew woodland on the east side of the site in cpt.2a.

The eastern area formed by cpts. 1a and 2a historically had more open space areas but now is covered by a rich mosaic of species through natural succession: hazel, ash, hornbeam, field maple, hawthorn and several species characteristic of chalk soils such as buckthorn, wayfaring tree, wild plum and guelder rose. Standard trees exist of beech, hornbeam, ash, field maple and yew with areas of birch.

Ancient trees exist within Park Wood, mainly beech and yew. Old pollards of hornbeam in cpt.4a can also be found along the old boundaries where typically these trees are found on top of a bank or beside a ditch. Few beech standards now remain due to age with many having collapsed or blown over.

Ride edges managed as short rotation coppice provide important habitat for invertebrates and provide sunlight conditions beneficial for the areas of chalk grassland sward on some of the rides.

## Significance

Protection of ASNW is a key objective of the Woodland Trust. Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) is a dwindling and irreplaceable habitat and as such all remnants of ancient woodland needs to be protected from further loss. On the North Downs the ASNW areas are predominately situated within an intensive farmed (arable) landscape, with little habitat connectivity. Park Wood however, benefits from its proximity to Kings Wood, one of the largest woodlands in Kent, but limited in its connectivity to it by the A252.

Park Wood has a rich and varied flora and fauna and is notified as a SSSI for this. It has a small but significant number of veteran trees as well as pollards which are important for containing deadwood and therefore its associated invertebrate and fungi species.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Opportunities:

To further develop the wide ride through the centre of the wood into a 2 zoned habitat for the benefit of invertebrates and birds.

The reintroduction of Duke of Burgundy fritillary subject to the correct and sustainable habitat being in place could be a possibility.

#### Constraints:

Fallow deer are present from time to time travelling across from Kings Wood, and a high grazing pressure could cause damage to ground flora and regeneration if the deer numbers become too high.

The clay soils which become wet in winter time and the European Protected Species status of dormouse, which are present, restricts the seasons in which active management work can be accomplished.

Ash dieback fungus will have a long term effect on the wood through reducing the prominence of ash trees within the wood.

### Factors Causing Change

**Plant health:**

Ash dieback fungus identified on site in 2012 will have a long term effect on the wood through the killing of ash trees. Retain ash trees for as long as possible so that resilient trees can be identified and retained.

Ash forms a significant component within the canopy of the ASNW.

In losing ash in ash dominated canopies, an increase in bramble and invasive scrub is to be expected. In this situation, where there is no significant natural regeneration of site native broadleaves or regenerating understorey this can result in the structure of the woodland and its habitat potentially being harmed. Re stocking with site native mixed broadleaves following coppicing/clearance of dying ash trees should be considered. Sycamore is to be accepted as a component of the resulting woodland.

**Deer:**

Fallow deer are present moving through the landscape particularly from King's Wood and surrounding farmland. Deer impact assessments will be continued and culling continued to reduce to acceptable limits the threat and damage to ancient woodland components.

**Climate Change:**

This may bring changes and negative affects to ancient woodland habitats. Aim to keep canopy as closed up as possible.

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

Woodland biodiversity tends to be greater in wooded areas which are structurally diverse in terms of their age, species, edge habitat potential, understory and dead and decaying wood component. The long term objective is to achieve a resilient woodland habitat which is structurally diverse with an active and sustainable coppice rotation, retained standards allowed to become veteran trees, a managed ride network and areas left to develop by natural processes with dead and decaying wood all well represented within this woodland. Areas to coppice during particular plan periods will be dictated by their rotation age and their condition including factors such as windblow and tree disease.

The aim is to achieve a diverse age range of actively coppiced areas covering approximately 6ha connected to a maintained wide ride habitat of approximately 650m in length set within a matrix formed of over mature coppice and dying ash trees covering ???? where natural processes will have been allowed to shape the habitat. This will result in some of the coppice stools collapsing and splitting apart. This will increase the light levels through the canopy thereby allowing regeneration and a developing woody shrub layer to develop. The proportion of standing and fallen dead and decaying wood will be increasing.

To maintain this diverse habitat to ensure survival of a healthy and secure ground flora with appropriate deer numbers. The presence of threatening invasive species will be absent or minor with containment and eradication work as necessary.

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

The short term objective is to create and maintain structurally diverse woodland at Park Wood through coppicing, ride management and minimal intervention areas. In particular the objective is to improve the diversity of the overall habitat for all invertebrates, birds and mammals such as dormouse but also so that the reintroduction of Duke of Burgundy fritillary within the next 6-8 years could be considered. This will be achieved through:

- Coppicing

Approximately 1.93 ha of sweet chestnut dominated broadleaved coppice to be felled through the plan period (1.07 ha in 2020, 0.86 ha in 2022) felling coppice within compartment 3a. Standards will be retained within the areas coppiced and the recruitment of “new” standards will occur to create (in the long term) a density of approximately 20 to 30 per ha, with additional standards recruited where necessary each time the areas are coppiced. Standards are to be a mixture of long term species of oak, hornbeam, wild cherry if present or formed by stored sweet chestnut coppice stems. Adjacent cants will not be cut until the coppice regrowth has reached a minimum of 2m in height with successful regrowth of cut stools, supplemented with natural regeneration of tree species to maintain an adequate stocking density where coppice stools have died of no less than 1100 stems per hectare.

- Thinning

Approximately 1.78ha of over mature sweet chestnut coppice in part of cpt.4a to be singled in 2021 retaining oak standards. Over mature ash coppice stems are to be felled if they are within falling distance of a permissive path and have less than 50% canopy, otherwise all ash will be retained.

- Ride edge management

During the plan period the existing 2 zone wide ride habitat with short rotation coppiced edges is to be maintained along approximately 410m of rides maintaining pinch points where designated. There will be an annual programme of works to cut the vegetation within the 2 zones with zone 1 areas cut annually, zone 2 areas cut on a rotation of 3-5 years and all cut in a piecemeal fashion. This will accentuate the woodland edge habitat providing valuable temporary open space coppice habitat. In addition, the wide ride habitat to be extended by a further 240m in cpt.4a along the ride orientated towards the south west from the central track in 2021 with a similar structure and management of it as described above.

- Minimal intervention areas

To monitor (through the annual summer tree safety inspection) ash trees affected by the ash dieback fungus and fell them as they become a hazard to the public if they are within falling distance of the ride network or public highway.

- 5-yearly formal woodland condition assessment to be undertaken across the whole site to inform next management plan review. Assessments will cover this key feature.

## 5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

### Description

Park Wood is classified by the Woodland Trust as a category “C” site, where we are expecting a low level of public access (less than 5 visitors using one entrance every day) although it is a site which demonstrates our corporate objectives.

The public have access to the wood through our main entrance on A252. From the main entrance the permissive path network is accessed immediately. The paths are permissive and un-surfaced and form two "loops" which start and finish at the main gateway totalling approximately 1.8km. One loop goes round the western side of the wood and the other loop goes round the eastern side of the wood. The paths can become very muddy with continual use during the wet winter months. There are no formal parking areas for visitors' cars.

Park Wood is used by mainly dog walkers during the daytime and serves the numerous villages and scattered communities within the area such as Chilham (2 miles, pop. 1,124), Challock (2.75 miles, pop. 830) with City of Canterbury (8.5 miles, pop. 55240) and Ashford (8.5 miles pop. 74204) being the largest populations near to Park Wood.

Park Wood sits equidistant between Woodland Trust sites of Denge and Pennypot Wood (49.73ha) near Chartham and Longbeech North (103.84ha) near Charing.

Within a short distance (less than 10 miles) there are a number of other attractions and areas for outdoor recreation including Wye National Nature Reserve managed by Natural England, Chilham Castle, King's Wood 588ha woodland owned by the Forestry Commission.

### Significance

Public access to this woodland helps fulfil the Woodland Trust's Woodland Charter objective of “a UK rich in native woods and trees, enjoyed and valued by everyone”.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

Parking is very limited.

The clay soil tends to make winter walking muddy and slippery on well used paths.

None of the permissive paths have any surfacing which makes wheel chair access difficult.

There are limited opportunities to enhance the public access beyond what is there already.

Opportunities:

This is a woodland site greatly helped by the fantastic display of spring flowers which could help attract more visitors to the site.

Public access to this woodland helps fulfil one of the Woodland Trust's corporate objectives which is 'Life's better with trees: Strengthening the role of trees and woods in our landscapes and communities and rekindling our love of them'; and also fulfilled in one of the 10 Tree Charter Principles: to "make trees accessible to all".

### Factors Causing Change

Fly tipping

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

A well established and safe network of paths for informal public access through Park Wood where responsible visitors can appreciate and respect this wood with its different habitats, archaeological and wildlife interest. The visitor numbers to be in line with its category C status with provision for parking a single car only in front of the main site gateway.

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

During this plan period, the short term objective is to continue to provide public access at Park Wood which is safe and enjoyable. How this will be achieved:

- Path mowing

1.8km (1.1miles) of paths will be maintained to allow continued access across the whole site for pedestrians by mowing once during the late summer or early autumn.

- Monitoring of antisocial behaviour

To monitor the space for parking in front of the main gateway and the surrounding woodland for flytipping and signs of antisocial use and liaise with Kent Police if and when this occurs to try and prevent it from reoccurring. The vegetation either side of the bell mouth off the A252 to be mown at the same time as the annual path cut.

- Annual inspections

All site infrastructure such as signs and kissing gates, squeeze gaps and gates will be inspected annually and any remedial work undertaken in an appropriate timescale.

- Tree safety in line with the Trusts Tree Risk Management Policy

Annual Zone A tree safety inspection. Fungal survey to be carried out once in every 24 month period in the autumn and an annual summer survey to check trees' crowns and in particular ash trees. Zone B tree safety inspections are to be carried out annually due to ash dieback fungus. Arboriculture work to be carried out when necessary.

(Wooded strip southeast of the boundary bank along the edge of A252 does not belong to The Woodland Trust but to Kent Highways and is excluded from these surveys.)



---

## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
------	--------------	-------------	--------

## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	1.00	Hawthorn species	1700	Coppice	Diseases	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Lowland mixed broadleaved woodland. Lowland mixed broadleaved woodland. The north and eastern side of Park Wood historically had more open space areas. These former open areas now contain mixed broadleaved scrub and coppice dominated by hazel, hawthorn, hornbeam with other calcareous loving woody shrubs (spindle, privet, wayfaring) with scattered ash and yew trees. Much of the ash is in decline due to ash dieback fungus.</p> <p>Ride between cpt. 1a and 2a has chalk grassland species.</p>							
2a	1.00	Hazel	1700	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Lowland mixed broadleaved woodland. The north and eastern side of Park Wood historically had more open space areas with yew and beech standards. These former open areas now contain mixed broadleaved scrub and coppice dominated by hazel, hawthorn, hornbeam with other calcareous loving woody shrubs (spindle, privet, wayfaring tree and guilder rose). Most of the beech standards have now collapsed creating substantial amounts of localised dead and decaying wood. The northern boundary adjoining privately owned woodland is marked by an ancient wood bank.</p> <p>Ride between cpt. 1a and 2a has chalk grassland species.</p>							

3a	1.00	Sweet chestnut	1700	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Lowland mixed broadleaved woodland. Areas of sweet chestnut established in 19th century with birch and managed by coppicing as well as areas of site native mixed broadleaved dominated by hazel, hawthorn and hornbeam with other calcareous loving woody shrubs. Ash is present as single trees scattered through the chestnut areas and along the ride edges in places. Much of the ash is in decline due to ash dieback fungus. The northern boundary adjoining privately owned woodland is marked by an ancient wood bank.</p>							
4a	1.00	Sweet chestnut	1700	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Lowland mixed broadleaved woodland. Areas of sweet chestnut established in 19th century and managed by coppicing. Unlike sub compartment 3a, most of the sweet chestnut coppice has a substantial mixture of site native mixed broadleaved composed of hornbeam, field maple and ash. Much of the coppice hasn't been coppiced for 30-40 years particularly in the south of this sub compartment. There are also small areas of pure site native mixed broadleaves dominated by hazel, hawthorn and hornbeam with other calcareous loving woody shrubs. Ash is present as single trees plus some trees managed by coppicing scattered through the chestnut areas and along the ride edges in places. Much of the ash is in decline due to ash dieback fungus. Impressive short (in height) veteran hornbeam pollards or stub trees forming a line and probably an old boundary along the northern edge.</p>							

5a	1.00	Ash	1700	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
<p>The southern part is dominated by a dense yew stand south and west of main internal track with individual ash trees scattered through the yew.</p> <p>North and east of internal track, the trees are dominated by ash trees, much of it pole stage (less than 30-40 years old) some of it having been coppiced in the past with an understorey of calcareous loving woody shrubs (spindle, privet, wayfaring tree and guilder rose) plus hazel, hawthorn and field maple. Much of the ash is in decline due to ash dieback fungus which is temporarily opening up the canopy to allow the understorey to develop. Ground flora is dominated by dog's mercury with specialist chalk loving plants such as herb paris.</p>							

## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	3a	Coppice	0.61	131	80
2019	3a	Coppice	0.45	133	60
2019	4a	Coppice	1.03	56	58
2020	3a	Coppice	1.06	148	157
2021	4a	Thin	1.00	110	110
2022	3a	Coppice	0.83	148	123
2024	4a	Coppice	1.00	75	75
2026	3a	Coppice	1.00	100	100
2028	3a	Coppice	1.00	100	100
2030	1a	Coppice	1.00	75	75
2032	1a	Coppice	1.00	75	75

## 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.