



Stoke Wood

Management Plan 2017-2022

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Stoke Wood
Location:	Stoke Albany
Grid reference:	SP800863, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 141
Area:	10.91 hectares (26.96 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

An ancient woodland that is home to a tawny owl that is full of hazel and oak trees with a few exotic conifers which are currently being phased out to let the wood return to its former glory.

2.2 Extended Description

Stoke Wood is a wet Oak/Field Maple ancient woodland designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest that was traditionally managed as coppice with standards and was still actively coppiced in parts as recently as 1970. Ash is very dominant with Field Maple and Oak and small areas of Birch. The under storey consists of Hazel, Field Maple, Ash, Dogwood, Spindle, Blackthorn, Dog Rose, Willow, Buckthorn, Crab Apple and Wych Elm. Its structure is varied with high forest and neglected coppice to the north and south and actively managed Hazel coppice with standards in the central areas. The ground flora is very diverse for a wood of its size, dominated in parts by Bluebell, Dogs Mercury and Tufted Hair Grass. The woodland contains a number of locally and nationally rare animals and plants.

Stoke Wood has a very rich assemblage of plants associated with ancient woodland and more open ride habitats including; Herb Paris, Wood Anemone, Wood Sorrel, Yellow Archangel, Early Purple Orchid, Birds Nest Orchid, Wood Speedwell, Nettle Leaved Bell Flower, Broad-leaved Helleborine and Greater Butterfly Orchid as well as a good assemblage of grasses, sedges and rush.

Dormice once frequented Stoke Wood and the wider woodland of which it is a part, unfortunately no dormice have been recorded at Stoke Wood since 1999.

Stoke Wood sits on the eastern edge of and is contiguous with a larger woodland block called Brampton Wood, this wider wooded area is divided up between three landowners, The Woodland Trust, The Wildlife Trust and The Forestry Commission. The areas under Woodland Trust and Wildlife Trust ownership are the most diverse from a habitat and species point of view with Stoke Wood being one of the most significant areas of ancient Ash woodland in Northamptonshire in terms of its habitat value, despite its small size.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The wood is accessible along a track leading from the B669, Stoke Albany -Desborough road. Access route can be very uneven and muddy as can the internal path network in the wood itself. Two PROW (Jurassic Way long distance walk) cross fields close to the south and north ends of the wood. Entrances have pedestrian gates through the deer fence

Limited parking is available at the start of the access track off the B669

The nearest bus stop is by the pub in the village of Stoke Albany about 1km to the north along the B669, no footpath. For bus routes and times contact Traveline on www.traveline.org.uk or 0871 2002233

There are no public toilets within five miles

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

As per the Woodland Trusts corporate aim associated with Conservation the overall objective is to sustain the various plants, animals and other features that make Stoke Wood of special interest through the maintenance and where possible the enhancement of the structural and species diversity of the site.

Specifically:-

- To manage the majority of the wood as coppice with standards with ash as the dominant species but maintaining the present diversity of other species in the canopy and under storey.
- To ensure that the above areas are stocked with a proportion of over mature, dying and dead trees (both standing and fallen).
- To maintain and enhance the species rich and diverse rides through appropriate path cutting techniques.

Coppicing will be maintained on a 15 year rotation in the areas cut since re-coppicing began. Coppicing will also take place along the rides with the intention of maintaining a variety of ecological niches throughout the wood for ride side plants and animals.

The remainder of the wood will be managed through minimum intervention. Due to threats from pests and diseases such as ash dieback the woodland will be monitored on a regular basis and appropriate action taken where necessary should any threats be noted.

Due to the properties status as a Site of Special Scientific Status, Natural England will be formally consulted before any major management operations take place and at management plan review periods.

The size of the deer population and its effects on the regeneration of the wood will be monitored and action will be taken to control excessive browsing through culling and/or fencing.

Further survey and monitoring must be continued over the next few decades to build up an accurate picture of the wood fauna and flora, in the immediate future (as of 2016) Keith Walkling a local individual with a keen interest in the property is key to this and currently holds the best collection of survey and monitoring data as well as being responsible for carrying out the coppicing regime.

It is our intention to foster a relationship with neighbouring landowners in particular the Forestry Commission and the Wildlife Trust in relation to management and particularly deer control so as to coordinate management that best enhances and protects the woodland as a whole.

As per the Woodland Trusts corporate aim associated with People, paths and entrances will be monitored and maintained in perpetuity.

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

Stoke Wood is a wet ash / field maple woodland which has been traditionally managed as coppice with standards and was still actively coppiced in parts as recently as 1970. Ash is very dominant with Field Maple, Oak and small areas of Birch. Under storey consists of Hazel, Field maple, Ash, Dogwood, Spindle, Blackthorn, Dog rose, Willow, Buckthorn, Crab apple and Wych elm. Its structure is varied with high forest and neglected coppice to the north and south with actively managed coppice with standards in the central areas.

The ground flora is very diverse for a wood of its size, dominated in parts by Bluebell, Dogs Mercury and Tufted Hair Grass. The wood has several less common woodland plant species including Greater Butterfly Orchid, Wood Speedwell, Nettle Leaved Bell Flower and Broad-Leaved Helleborine. It was once well known for its dormouse population which unfortunately is now extinct.

Significance

This is a semi natural ancient woodland of the wet ash-field maple type which has been in decline across the country as a whole and is of importance due to its rarity as a habitat type of this condition in Northamptonshire, hence its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Stoke wood is still under traditional coppice with standards management having had a 20 year break with little if any management from 1970 to 1990. There is a very rich assemblage of plants associated with the woodland and its open ride habitats including:- Herb Paris, Wood Anemone, Wood Sorrel, Yellow Archangel, Early Purple Orchid and Greater Butterfly Orchid as well as a good assemblage of grasses, sedges and rush. There are various micro-fauna such as hover fly and moth associated with Stoke Wood which are considered nationally rare.

Opportunities & Constraints

OPPORTUNITIES:

Part of a larger complex of woodlands within the Rockingham forest area. Stoke Wood lies adjacent to Wildlife Trust managed Wood Stoke Wood and Forestry Commission owned Brampton Wood. Stoke Wood has a very active, very knowledgeable, influential local individual associated with the property, Keith Walkling, who is well connected with local stakeholders and special interest groups. Regular opportunities to engage with local stakeholders / landowners and also Natural England who have a vested interest in the site due to its Site of Special Scientific Interest status.

Stoke Wood is well known amongst local special interest groups, there is the opportunity for the Woodland Trust to demonstrate best practice concerning woodland habitat management to external audiences given Stoke Woods special and unique status in the area.

CONSTRAINTS:

Very wet for vehicle access at any time of year

Isolated from the public highway by a poorly surfaced, very rutted farm track some 800m in length.

Factors Causing Change

Deer Damage to coppice re-growth and the sensitive ground flora.

Potentially pests and diseases such as Ash Dieback.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the wood as Ancient Semi-Natural woodland of the wet Ash / Field Maple type; National Vegetation Classification W9. Managed under a mixture of long term retention and coppice with standards to maintain the diverse age, species and physical structure of the woodland and its associated status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Ash die-back and other pests and diseases have the potential to have a significant negative impact at Stoke Wood, the woodland will be regularly monitored and assessed and appropriate action taken to mitigate any negative effects where required. This may include silvicultural operations in light of impacts from ash dieback.

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

COPPICING:

Coppice hazel annually as per the management plan.

Identify standards to be maintained within the coppice coupes in order to achieve 30% to 40% canopy cover; advanced broadleaved regeneration may be recruited to achieve a greater diversity of age classes within the canopy where appropriate.

Path and ride habitats will be maintained based upon monitoring and consultation with Natural England and other local stakeholders. Coppicing will take place on ride edges where required up to a depth of 3m in from the ride edge in order to preserve the ride side habitat. The Deer Stalker will also be consulted so that appropriate sight lines can be maintained for deer control within the woodland. Communication amongst the various stake holders is key to the successful management of Stoke Wood.

Coppicing is to be undertaken on a 15 year rotation over a total area of 6.62ha, equating to approximately 0.4ha per year. Due to access constraints, materials are not able to be extracted from site. The quantity of timber coppiced on site with a desirable measurable volume (material 15cm or less for cutting coppice) will be less than 5m³ thus no requirement for felling licence.

Larger diameter material will be processed and stacked neatly into habitat piles which will slowly rot down, providing habitat for a variety of insects, birds and small mammals. The smaller brash wood will be used to dead-hedge around the coppice plot, providing additional protection from deer browsing. Where additional brash wood is leftover, this will be burnt on raised tin sheets, protecting the sensitive nature of the woodland floor below. Where dead-hedging around coppice coupes is providing insufficient protection from deer browsing, internal deer fencing will be installed to reduce the level of impact on hazel regrowth.

Ride edges are to be coppiced during the cutting of adjacent plots as per rotation. Rides to be inspected, along with footpaths through Informal Public Access and Ancient Semi Natural Woodland Key Feature monitoring, with additional coppicing of ride edges undertaken where needed for access or deer stalker sightline requirements.

DEER CONTROL:

Although the wood is deer fenced it is important that deer control is undertaken in order to prevent damage to coppice growth and the sensitive ground flora. The boundary fence will be maintained/replaced as needed and checked for breaches regularly - to note Fallow Deer have been observed jumping over the fence and in the case of Muntjac which is the predominant species on

site, going underneath it via badger tunnels - as such although a deterrent, as a control measure on its own the fence is not totally effective. Temporary coupe fencing will be erected as required inline with assessed impact levels. Regular deer stalking will take place at Stoke Wood undertaken by a specialist deer cull contractor. It is also important to maintain lines of communication with neighbouring landowners pertaining to deer management. Annual monitoring and assessment will take place to assess the impact of deer control and will include periodic catch ups with the Deer Stalker, Keith Walkling who is coppicing on the site and Natural England; this will be key to monitoring the effectiveness of control at the property.

A contracted deer stalker will visit the site at least once per month and use a high seat and existing sight lines where slots/deer paths are present to carry out deer control. Sightlines to be maintained/improved after need identified through key feature observations and/or at the request of the deer stalker, and after consultation with Natural England. Stalkers operating within Stoke Wood will be required to hold a DSC Level 1 and Level 2 Certificate, appropriate insurance, first aid +F certificate and complete risk assessments and cull records.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Although located in a fairly remote part of Northamptonshire, Stoke Wood is regarded by many local people as the best woodland open to the public in the area. Although not directly linked to any public rights of way it is accessible from the public highway via a rough farm track. The ride and path network are well distributed but do tend to be extremely muddy most of the year round. The woodland also attracts a number of special interest groups due to the abundance of flora and fauna contained there in.

Significance

Well known and well used, Stoke Wood gives visitors an idea of what a working coppice woodland looks like and is an exemplar in the local area. A number of species of plant and animal that are locally or nationally rare exist within Stoke Wood, this fact regularly attracts visits by a variety of special interest groups.

Opportunities & Constraints

OPPORTUNITIES:

Links in to other woods in the immediate vicinity owned by the Forestry Commission and Wildlife Trust.

A well known place to visit locally, particularly popular with special interest groups attracted to the sites abundant flora and fauna.

CONSTRAINTS:

Regularly wet and muddy paths sometimes can be difficult to negotiate.

Access to the wood is a relatively long way down a rough and rutted permissive farm track.

Factors Causing Change

Natural Succession to scrub on the rides and paths.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the current path network, Woodland Trust "Welcome" signage and entrances in perpetuity.

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

To keep paths clear of overgrowing vegetation on a biannual basis in July and September.

Footpath cutting in July will consist of a single width cut, not cutting onto path/ride edges which are extremely sensitive, displaying flora such as Bluebell, Tufted Hair Grass, Greater Butterfly Orchid, Wood Speedwell, Nettle Leaved Bell Flower, Herb Paris and Broad-Leaved Helleborine.

September cut will include full path width.

To maintain and upgrade the Woodland Trust "Welcome" signage at the entrance as per work programme. Signage to be inspected and cleaned by the contractor in September annually.

To maintain and where needed enhance the existing pedestrian access points as part of the visits made by the contractor as detailed in the work programme.

All of the above to be included in the Estates Management Contract for the property.

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	2.10	Ash	1940	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Sub compartment 1a is the oldest stand of mature coppice, situated at the northern end of Stoke wood. A small proportion of Oak standards estimated to have been established around 1920s are scattered throughout the stand, as well as slightly younger Oak and Ash standards estimated to have been established around the 1940s. Mature Ash coppice makes up the greater proportion of canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut around the 1940s. One particularly large Ash stool is about 6 feet in diameter and could be classed as ancient. The under storey consists of frequent coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Field Maple. The compartment has a moderate northerly aspect, and an abundance of dead wood material is present throughout. There is much evidence of deer activity in the compartment including stem damage, browse line and runways. The northern and eastern boundaries of the compartment are running spring fed streams. There is evidence of an old pond in the extreme north, where the dominant tree species is Willow. Ground vegetation is dominated by Bluebell and Dogs Mercury.</p>							
1b	0.65	Ash	1975	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Sub compartment 1b is an area of coppice with standards. Existing Ash standards were originally coppice stools which have now been singled. Estimated age of the standards is split into two age ranges, 70 years of age, estimated to have last been cut around the 1940s, and 40 years of age estimated to have last been cut around 1975. The under storey consists of frequent coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The compartment has a gentle to moderate north easterly aspect and an abundance of dead wood material. Bluebell and Dogs Mercury dominate the ground flora.</p>							
1c	0.45	Ash	1960	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest

Sub compartment 1c is an area of coppice with standards. Existing standards include a small proportion of Oaks estimated to have been established around the 1940s, and Field Maple estimated to have been established around the late 1960s. Ash coppice makes up the greater proportion of the canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut around the 1960s. Under storey consists of dominant, coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. Sub compartment 1c has a gentle to moderate north easterly aspect. Bluebell and Tufted Hair Grass dominate the ground flora.

2a	0.13	other oak spp	1920	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
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Sub compartment 2a contains a proportion of Oak standards estimated to have been established around 1920s which are scattered throughout the stand. Mature Ash coppice makes up a smaller proportion of canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940's early 1950's. Other species which make up a proportion of the canopy composition include Birch, Field Maple, Goat Willow and some large Crab Apples. Under storey consists of frequent to abundant coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The compartment has a gentle to moderate south westerly aspect and adjoins the most northerly point of Brampton wood/Stoke End Quarter. Dead wood material is present throughout the stand. Bluebell dominates the ground flora.

2b	0.42	Ash	1960	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
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Sub compartment 2b is an area of coppice with standards. The compartment contains both Oak and Ash standards. The Oak are estimated to have been established around the 1920s to 30s. Existing Ash standards were originally coppice stools which have now been singled and are estimated to be around 45 years of age, last cut around the late 1960s. Other species making up a small proportion of the canopy composition are Silver Birch and Field Maple. Several large Crab Apples are scattered throughout the stand. The under storey consists of frequent, coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn, Goat Willow and Field Maple. The stand has a gentle to moderate south easterly aspect, and an abundance of dead wood material is present throughout. The ground layer is very grass dominated.

2c	0.45	other oak spp	1940	Coppice	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
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Sub compartment 2c is an area of coppice. Existing standards are predominantly situated around the edge of the cant and include a small proportion of Oaks estimated to have been established around the 1940s, and Field Maple estimated to have been established around the late 1960s. Occasional to rare Birch stems also occur. The under storey consists of dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The compartment has a gentle to moderate south westerly aspect and is reasonably sheltered by adjoining Brampton wood/Stoke End Quarter. The ground layer is grass dominated.

3a	0.40	Ash	1940	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
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Sub compartment 3a is an area of over mature coppice, situated at the southern end of Stoke wood and contains a proportion of Oak standards estimated to have been established around the late 1920s which are scattered throughout the stand. Oak and Ash standards are estimated to have been established around the late 1940s and also make up a percentage of the canopy composition as well as a small proportion of mature Ash coppice estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940's early 1950's. Other species within the canopy include a small proportion of Birch and Field Maple. Under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The stand has a gentle to moderate south westerly aspect and adjoins Brampton wood. Dead wood material is present throughout the stand. The ground layer dominated by Bluebell and Dewberry.

3b	0.20	Birch (downy/silver)	1960	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
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Sub compartment 3b is a small area of coppice with a few remaining Ash, Birch and one Norway Spruce all estimated to have been established around the early 1960s. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Goat Willow. Ground cover is dominated by patchy Bramble becoming quite heavy in places.

3c	0.70	Ash	1940	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
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Compartment 3c is an area of coppice with standards. Standard Oak are estimated to have been established in the 1930s. Ash coppice makes up the greater proportion of the main canopy species and is estimated to have last been cut in the 1940s. Birch also makes up a small percentage of the canopy composition. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple and Goat Willow. Sub compartment 3c contains an abundance of dead wood material, the ground layer is dominated by patchy Bramble and Bluebell.

3d	0.20	Ash	1960	Coppice	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Sub compartment 3d is an area of coppice with very few standards containing one Oak and three Ash standards. The Oak is estimated to have been established around the 1920s to 30s. Ash standards are estimated to be around 45 years of age, established around the late 1960s. The under storey consists of frequent coppiced Ash, Hazel, Goat Willow and Field Maple. The stand has a gentle northerly aspect and an abundance of dead wood material. The ground layer is grass dominated. Compartment 3d is separated from compartment 3e by a small stream on the northern boundary.</p>							
3e	0.25	other oak spp	1920	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Sub compartment 3e is an area of coppice with standards. Oak standards make up the greater proportion of the canopy composition and are estimated to have been established around the late 1920s. Ash standards are estimated to be 75 years of age established around the 1940s. A small proportion of Ash coppice also exists within sub compartment 3e and is estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940s. The under storey consists of frequent coppiced Hazel and Field maple. Ground flora is predominantly grass. Sub compartment 3e has a gentle to moderate southerly aspect and an abundance of dead wood material.</p>							
4a	1.70	Ash	1940	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Sub compartment 4a is an area of over mature coppice situated towards the southern end of Stoke wood and contains a proportion of Oak standards estimated to have been established around the late 1920s which are scattered throughout the stand. Oak and Ash standards estimated to have been established around the late 1940s make up the greater percentage of the canopy composition as well as a small proportion of mature Ash coppice estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940s early 1950s. Other species within the canopy include a small proportion of Birch and Field Maple. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The compartment has a level lying aspect and contains an abundance of dead wood material the ground layer is dominated by Bluebell and Dogs Mercury with Dewberry.</p>							
4b	0.40	other oak spp	1960	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest

<p>Sub compartment 4b is a thin strip of coppice with standards running along compartment 4's northern boundary. Oak standards are estimated to have been established around the 1960s and the birch 10 years latter in the 1970s. The under storey consists of frequent to abundant coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Goat Willow. The stand has a level lying aspect and contains an abundance of dead wood material. Broad Leaved Helleborine has been recorded here.</p>							
5a	1.30	Ash	1950	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Compartment 5a is an area of coppice with standards. Standards include Oak, Ash and Birch with the Oak and Ash estimated to have been established in the 1950s and the birch in the late 1960s. Other species making up a small percentage of the canopy composition are Field Maple and Goat Willow.</p> <p>The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple, Birch and Goat Willow. Sub compartment 5a contains an abundance of dead wood material and patchy Bramble. The compartment is divided in half by a small stream running east-west.</p>							
6a	0.23	Ash	1950	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Sub compartment 6a is an area of coppice with standards. Existing Oak and Ash standards are estimated to have been established around the 1930s. Ash coppice also makes up a proportion of the canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut in the 1950s. The under storey consists of coppiced Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. The stand has a gentle to moderate north easterly aspect and an abundance of dead wood . Ground flora is predominantly grass but Bluebells and Dogs Mercury do occur.</p>							
6b	0.45	Ash	1950	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Sub compartment 6b contains a proportion of oak standards estimated to have been established around the late 1920s which are scattered throughout the stand. Mature Ash coppice makes up a greater proportion of the canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940s early 1950s. Birch also makes up a small proportion of the canopy composition. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple and Goat Willow. The stand has a gentle to moderate north easterly aspect and an abundance of dead wood material. The ground layer consists mainly of grasses with some Bluebell and Dogs Mercury.</p>							

6c	0.62	other oak spp	1930	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
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Sub compartment 6b contains a proportion of Oak standards estimated to have been established around the late 1920s which are scattered throughout the stand. Mature Ash coppice makes up a greater proportion of the canopy composition and is estimated to have last been cut around the late 1940s early 1950s. Birch also makes up a small proportion of the canopy composition. The under storey consists of abundant to dominant coppiced Ash, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple and Goat Willow. The stand has a gentle to moderate north easterly aspect and an abundance of dead wood material is present throughout the stand. Ground layer is mainly grasses with some Bluebell and Dogs Mercury.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	5a	Coppice	0.50	10	5
2018	5a	Coppice	0.50	10	5
2019	1c	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2020	2c	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2021	2a	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2022	3b	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2022	3c	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2023	1b	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2024	4b	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2025	3c	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2025	3d	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2026	2b	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2027	3e	Coppice	0.25	0	0
2028	6c	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2029	6b	Coppice	0.50	0	0
2030	6a	Coppice	0.50	0	0

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.