



Duncliffe 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Duncliffe Wood
Location:	Stour Row, Shaftesbury
Grid reference:	ST826222, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 183
Area:	93.04 hectares (229.91 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Duncliffe Wood is a large (93ha) woodland which stretches over the double summits of Duncliffe Hill like a saddle as they rise out of Blackmoor Vale.

Lying 4.8km (3 miles) west of Shaftesbury, its prominent setting ensures it can be seen for miles around. The surrounding landscape is characterised by sweeping valleys and rounded hills with a dominance of woodland on the scarp faces. The site is well known locally for its spectacular spring display of bluebells - but due to its location there are some steep paths in places.

Due to the presence of livestock in surrounding fields, please ensure all gates are kept securely shut.

2.2 Extended Description

Duncliffe Wood is a large 93 ha ancient woodland prominently situated on the double summits of Duncliffe Hill, a few miles west of Shaftesbury. The site lies within National Character Area 133 Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour, which has a key characteristic of wooded upper greensand scarp and outliers, Duncliffe is specifically referenced as a 'striking... almost conical, heavily wooded [hill], which forms an important landmark, visually closing off the southern end of the Vale of Gillingham.'

The wood is typical of the woodland type and geology of the NCA -mixed woodland on Greensand and predominantly clay surface leading to seasonally high water table with standing water. Duncliffe Wood contributes to the 3,821 ha of ancient woodland within the NCA as well as towards the 2% of NCA land which is Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and Ancient re-planted woodland (PAWS). It also contributes to the <1% of the NCA comprised of meadows.

The surrounding landscape is characterised by sweeping valleys and rounded hills. The rich clay vales are in mixed agricultural use but pasture predominates overall with improved grassland almost exclusively surrounding the wood. The soils at Duncliffe reflect the underlying geology of heavy Kimmeridge clay with large parts of the site being wet for much of the year. Towards the summit the soils on the Upper Greensand are characteristically freely draining neutral to acidic.

Formerly an oak, ash, & hazel woodland with a tradition of coppicing, the wood was largely felled in the 1950s and 60s and re-planted with groups and mixtures of Norway spruce, oak, larch and beech. Since the Trust's acquisition in 1984 there has been a reduction in the coniferous element and a move towards returning the wood to native broadleaves and conserving the ancient woodland components. Such features include the coppice stools of small-leaved limes (Conservation feature CF1) scattered throughout the wood, these are very old and the multiple stems probably all originate from the same tree.

Duncliffe is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) due to its good structure and species-rich ground flora. Dorset 'notable' species include Moschatel, Yellow Archangel, Wood Speedwell and Early-purple Orchid. The wood is a reservoir of wildlife that has a rich butterfly assemblage including Silver-washed Fritillary. Other wildlife includes tawny owls, various bat species and birds such as buzzards, woodpeckers and tree-creepers.

Between New Lane and the western edge of Duncliffe Wood is Heygate reserve - an area of open grassland, ponds and a recently created wildflower meadow, which is not within Trust ownership. Between Heygate reserve and the main area of Duncliffe Wood are two fields owned since 2005 by the Trust, with the long term intention being to plant these areas to buffer, extend and link ancient woodland and surrounding semi natural habitats. A wild flower meadow was created in the interim in the southern field. The northern field was planted in 2012 with the southern field partly planted in 2013 aiming to retain a mixed habitat mosaic of open meadow, shrub and glade areas as well as areas of trees.

The main visitor access into the wood is via a track from New Lane into the western side of the wood. There is a car park for approximately 20 cars just off New Lane, accessed via the start of the track that leads to Duncliffe's western edge. Other access points are along public footpaths and bridleways from the north, south and east.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

By Car:

Duncliffe Wood is 3 miles west of Shaftesbury. It is most conveniently accessed from the west side from a car park just off New Lane, from which a surfaced stoned track leads to and through the Wood. The car park does have a height barrier restricting access to vehicles of 2m and under.

Directions to main entrance

1. From the A350 that passes to the east side of Shaftesbury take the A30 west towards Sherborne for just over 3 miles.
2. At the cross roads with the Kings Arms Inn, turn left onto New Lane.
3. After 0.6 miles the car park for Duncliffe Wood is on the left hand side (partly hidden by a roadside hedge). The car park does have a height barrier restricting access to vehicles of 2m and under.

As well as the main entrance from the west, there are other access points (kissing gates) via public rights of way from the south, north and east. The main track bisecting the wood is a stone track which is steep in places. The other paths in the wood are mostly grassy, but there are numerous wet patches which can be extremely muddy in wet weather.

Buses

Nearest Bus Stop: East Stour or Stower Provost - both approx. 1.5miles with no pavements on routes to the Wood. (Damory Coaches number 309 - correct at time of management plan review)

There are various public footpaths leading from Stower Provost and East Stour to the Wood but the condition of ground surface/infrastructure e.g. sign and stiles/kissing gates is unknown and will require walking along minor roads (which do not have pavements) for part of the journey.

Facilities

Nearest public toilet: Shaftesbury Bell St carpark (4 miles) (with disabled facilities) (Information from Shaftesbury Town Council 2017)

3.2 Access / Walks

Access/walks

The main visitor access into the wood is via a track from New Lane into the western side of the wood. This access point can be extremely popular, especially at weekends. There is a small car park just off New Lane, accessed via the start of the track that leads to Duncliffe's western edge. There is a squeeze gap leading from the car park onto the main track. Alternatively there is a bridlepath gate at the start of the main track, by the car park entrance. Other access points are along public rights of way from the south, north and east

These access points (permissive and public rights of way) link with several permissive paths and rights of way which run throughout the Wood. The main track which runs east to west, bisecting the wood, is an old Forestry Commission track which is topped with stone and is fairly steep near the entrance gate on the western side but is the driest route. Most other paths leading from this main track are grass and are steep in places with numerous wet patches that can be extremely muddy in wet weather. Some path upgrade works in 2017/18 have improved some paths and do have a loose stone surface.

The long distance path, The Hardy Way, runs through the wood. Information boards installed at the three main entrances also highlight three walking routes.

The wood's size and prominent position makes it a natural attraction for local people and an important amenity where they can enjoy an interesting and varied woodland habitat.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

As Duncliffe Wood is a Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) the key long term intention is to restore its ancient woodland characteristics, principally by increasing native broadleaf cover and promoting conditions suitable for ancient woodland communities. This will be achieved through thinning the remaining larch stands and encouraging natural regeneration throughout the wood. The long term intention is for Duncliffe Wood to remain a mixed, predominantly native broadleaved woodland with high diversity in structure and age maintained through a limited intervention, continuous cover forestry approach encouraging natural regeneration processes.

The remaining scattered spruce are likely to thin out naturally, creating holes in the canopy and therefore creating opportunities for broadleaf regeneration to thrive. For previously thinned areas the aim is for there to be increased diversity through a developing understorey, with the aim of maintaining continuous cover and retaining the visual appeal of the Wood from the wider landscape. Rideside coppicing will help provide a good edge structure and important habitats for butterflies and invertebrates.

The aging oak, ash and beech scattered throughout the wood will be left to senescence, where possible, with respect to visitor H&S e.g. if located adjacent to a permissive/public path, resulting in a large number of veteran trees. The old coppiced lime stools will be left to continue to develop naturally.

The two fields to the west of the main Wood will continue to buffer, extend and link ancient woodland and surrounding semi natural habitats, creating valuable new habitats through development of the planted areas and management of the open and meadow areas to maintain a diverse sward and in doing so will provide a valuable niche in the site biodiversity by providing a mixed habitat mosaic of open areas, scrub, woodland edge and linear corridors to the surrounding countryside.

The wood should remain attractive in the local landscape; be welcoming for visitors, with paths maintained in a good condition having regard to their locations and natural limitations. The high recreational value of the wood will continue to be recognised by continued inclusion as one of the Trust's 'Welcoming Sites.' These are sites that are the top 250 sites managed by The Woodland Trust for people. Access provision, where enhanced, will need to be maintained and managed to a high standard to reflect this.

The Wood will provide a variety of people engagement opportunities including, events and opportunities for volunteers/conservation organisations/interest groups to assist with management and surveys/monitoring of wildlife to help both on-going management of the wood and helping engage with a wide variety of people. This will fulfil the Trust's aim to increase people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland and also to achieve the Trust's vision of "a UK rich in native woods and trees enjoyed and valued by everyone and protecting native woodland, trees and their wildlife for the future."

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Duncliffe Wood is situated close to Shaftesbury and is extremely well used by the public (no official visitor numbers currently available), mainly by walkers enjoying quiet recreation and by horse-riders utilising the public bridleways. Public rights of way enter the wood from all directions but the majority of visitors use the main access on the western side where there is a small car park able to accommodate approximately 25 cars and a stone surfaced track leading up and into the Wood. This access point can be extremely popular, especially at weekends/holiday times.

Permissive paths and the right of way create a network of paths that provide good access to all parts of the Wood. Currently these can be extremely muddy, especially in winter. The main stoned path runs east to west with numerous other paths leading off from it, some of them steep in places and wet and muddy for part of the year. The long distance path The Hardy Way runs through the wood and Duncliffe is heavily promoted by the local Tourist Information Centre

There are two bridle paths entering the wood from the east, one following the stoned track through the wood and out onto New Lane. The other comes in slightly higher on the eastern side, and follows the northern path of the wood, exiting into a neighbouring field on the western side of the wood. The bridle path then comes back onto Trust land in the northern of the two fields on the western side, continues through the southern field and joins up with the bridle path on the surfaced track.

There are information boards at the three main entrance points on the west, south and east sides of the Wood. A stable located in the car park area has been turned into an information point through local supporters donating the stable; creating benches and commissioning art work inside. This is a fantastic resource for schools/educational visits but has yet to be used to its full potential. It will need maintenance but also requires a local key holder to be available to open/close at appropriate times e.g. summer weekends/occasionally during holidays/organised school visits.

Volunteers have been involved with the management and wildlife monitoring of the Wood since the Trust's acquisition in 1984. Volunteers known locally as the Friends of Duncliffe, Fifehead and Kingsettle Group have been involved on the site since 1984 helping with ongoing management such as ride-side coppicing as well as helping with the guided bluebell walk which has been run for many years

Butterfly Conservation organise butterfly transects during the summer months and have done so since 1986. Owl boxes were installed in 1999 and continue to be monitored today. Bat surveys organised by the Vincent Wildlife Trust and Dorset Bat group in 2007-2009 have given valuable information into bat species within the wood. The boxes remain onsite and there needs to be decision by these organisations as to the long term future of these boxes. Third party organisations such as U3A, Dorset Fungi Group as well as private organisations such as health walking groups/foraging events also use the Wood regularly.

Duncliffe Wood has been chosen as one of the top 250 sites owned by The Woodland Trust as part of the Welcoming Sites Project. The project will result in an initial programme of appropriate upgrades to access, interpretation and site furniture to ensure a high quality and more engaging visitor experience combined with a developed engagement plan to be working during the plan period which will set out an appropriate programme of events and activities and long term engagement aspirations.

Significance

The wood's forms an important part of the National Character Area of the region and its size and prominent position make it a natural attraction for local people. It is one of the most accessible large blocks of mature woodland in north Dorset, making it an important place for people to enjoy an interesting and varied woodland habitat.

In 2017 the site was selected for the first phase of the Trust's Welcome Sites Programme, the top 250 WT sites managed for people. It is located a few miles west of Shaftesbury and lends itself to future engagement opportunities; already has excellent parking facilities and being within the Blackmore Vale, as a gateway site for people to explore this part of Dorset.

It helps fulfil the Trust's aim of inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees. The wood provides an excellent place for people to walk; provides opportunities for educations/outdoor opportunities and the appreciation of the countryside and also adds to the local rights of way network.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

The Welcome Sites Programme presents an opportunity to upgrade and maintain existing access infrastructure/interpretation/signage including the promotion of a better quality circular access route, more accessible to wider range of visitors, as well as general repairs and maintenance to the track/path network which is currently in poor condition.

Upgrading of interpretation to tie in with access provision, including better use of the information point located in the car park

Improvement works to the car park area to re-design unsightly and awkward entrance to car park as well as erosion/drainage issues to the stoned track surface

Opportunity to explore provision of grid system in overflow parking area to increase capacity of temporary parking and also crease informal seating/picnic area

Opportunity to further develop the stable information point in both development of further informative material and increase use of the stable by looking to connect to interested groups.

Opportunity to explore provision of dog waste bin to prevent unsightly and unsanitary discarding of dog waste

Opportunity to widen the range of visitors by providing improved quality access provision with consideration to limit of size of car park.

Opportunity to work in partnership with other individuals and organisations, including wildlife monitoring groups/conservation organisations/health groups/private companies, to better engage the local community and sector with our conservation management.

Opportunity to engage directly with a wide range of local people through the development of events/posters/demonstrations, schools/interest groups/ forest schools led by an engagement plan

to be developed during the plan period.

Opportunity to increase understanding of current and potential visitors to the site, including their motivations and potential requirements through further visitor survey and engagement analysis.

Constraints:

The majority of the current paths are very muddy when wet due to underlying heavy clay soils and deter certain visitor groups particularly those with any access impairment or young families, as well as limiting accessibility for all visitors. Currently only the main track running east/west through the site is surfaced.

Potential conflict between different user groups and activities - e.g.

- horse riders using permissive footpaths and causing increased erosion and ongoing maintenance to extend horse barriers which as well as incurring additional costs to the Trust, results in increased site infrastructure which is not very welcoming/accessible to walkers;
- mountain bikers not keeping to the public bridleways and building jumps within the woodland,
- local hunt not keeping to public bridleways when passing through the site.

-Visitors not keeping dogs under control and potential threats to visitors and neighbouring livestock

-Unauthorised occupation of car parking area as temporary dwelling

-Potential threat to the woodland and its biodiversity due to increased recreational pressure.

-Currently no facility for dog waste and litter

Factors Causing Change

Increase in visitor numbers leading to increased erosion/damage to biodiversity and also potential conflict between user groups

Significant deterioration of path network further limiting access

Increase in anti-social activity

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Welcoming Site Programme will lead to a series of lasting upgrades that improve the visitor experience and will likely increase the number and range of visitors to the wood. An attractive and serviceable network of tracks and paths will further encourage the appreciation of the woodland both on the site and in the locality.

The access will be managed to meet the required high standards of the Welcoming Site Programme and will provide a clear welcome; well-maintained car park, entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as well as sustainable path and track surfaces across the variable ground conditions. Access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors potentially including those with mobility constraints and/or those with young children using off road pushchairs. Paths will also continue to provide more abled bodied visitors with access to the wider and wilder areas of the wood. An engagement plan will set out a developed programme of engagement activities and events further enhancing people's visit to the site. The site will be a truly valued resource in the local community and well respected.

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

- Repair and improve car parking facilities, by grading and filling potholes, improving water drainage and re-surfacing as necessary.
- Implement conclusions of access audit; repair, renew and improve entrance gates/access points, associated fencing and install new signage at woodland entrances to meet the required WSP standard
- Investigate potential off-site signage to improve visitor orientation
- Develop interpretation theme and associated infrastructure promoting use of enhanced access
- Grade, level, drain and improve selected track and path surfaces, and renew and repair steps and other infrastructure to enhance the visitor experience and provide greater levels of accessibility along main tracks and to maintain access along priority circular routes through the wood.
- Maintain and improve trackside drainage/ditch systems
- Manage track and path-side woodland to create structural diversity, reduce overhang, encroaching growth and shade etc. to help path surfaces dry more quickly and to create lighter and brighter and more attractive access routes.
- Develop engagement plan setting out programme of engagement activity within plan period and to encourage responsible use of site (including sticking to path, taking home of litter, control and clearing up after dogs)
- Ensure visitor safety via ongoing tree and infrastructure monitoring regime and actioning works as necessary
- Investigate potential for installing and maintaining dog/litter bin

5.2 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

The Wood is designated ancient woodland and is mentioned in the Domesday Book, is formerly oak and ash over hazel probably most closely associated with NVC W8/W10 with W10 towards the top of the summit over greensand and W8 more towards the bottom of slopes where the more base rich soils are present. Although some older fringes and individual trees remain (including the old lime stools, Conservation feature CF1), the wood was almost entirely felled in the 1950s and 1960s and re-planted predominantly with Norway spruce and oak, with smaller areas of Japanese larch and beech. There has been since significant regeneration of ash which now forms a major component of the canopy.

Under the Woodland Trust's ownership, a number of selection felling was carried out during the 1990s and early 2000s as part of a programme of PAWS restoration aimed at restoring the coniferous dominated areas to the previous native broadleaved canopy, supporting ancient woodland flora and fauna. Largely completed, the canopy is now formed of an intimate mix of uneven-aged broadleaved and conifer, mostly oak, ash, and in areas beech, with hazel and birch understory, with remaining clusters of Norway spruce, larch and occasional Scots pine. There are a number of small areas which were clearfelled under previous management plans, which have recently been planted (sub compartments 3b, 5b, 5c) and there are areas of directly planted younger broadleaved trees interspersed with the most established mixed stands (sub compartments 2b and 4c).

A new area of woodland has been planted to the west of the main woodland (cpt 8a and 9a) primarily to buffer the ancient woodland. Part of this (9a) will be managed as a mixed mosaic habitat covered under that specific key feature.

The woodland's diverse structure supports a high diversity of woodland flora - the springtime prominence of bluebells is a fantastic sight.

The Woodland is home to a wide range of wildlife. Birdlife include Jay, great spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, spotted flycatcher, goldcrest, ravens, woodcock and tawny owls, who have been monitored since 1999.

As an SNCI, Duncliffe Wood has a wide range of important and interesting plants. The ground flora is marked by an abundance of bluebell, greater stitchwort, wood anemone, celendine and dogs mercury. There are a number of ancient woodland indicator species such as wood melick, goldilocks buttercup, pignut and early purple orchid. Small damper glades are home to species of open woodland and damp acid grassland such as yellow pimpernel, bitter vetch, tormentil and greater birds foot trefoil. There are a number of Dorset notable plants. These are characteristic species for ancient woodland habitats, thus have limited distribution and are often in decline. They are also often important food sources for butterflies, moths and beetles. Such species found at Duncliffe include bluebell, wood anemone, moschatel, pignut, wood spurge, yellow archangel, hairy wood-rush, yellow pimpernel, wood melick, wood millet, early purple orchid, wood sorrel, small leaved lime, wood speedwell, bitter vetch and tormentil.

There is an established management access network through the site (having been previously managed commercially) although only the main track running east-west is surfaced and has formalised drainage. The majority of the tracks are in a state of disrepair for management purposes and being unmade becomes very slippery during persistent wet weather.

Significance

Duncliffe is a prominent landform in the heart of the Blackmore Vale, just a few miles outside the Cranbourne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The site is locally important as remnant ancient woodland largely isolated in the landscape and thus acting as a local refuge for associated species. Duncliffe contains specialist woodland flora, which are a key characteristic of ancient woods, as well as other important species such as veteran trees, lichens, fungi and deadwood.

Duncliffe contains extremely old lime stools (conservation feature CF1), old tracks, and earthwalls/banks (Historic Feature HF1) and was possibly the site of an ancient hill fort, all of which may be used to help explain the history of the landscape and how it developed. The site is highly visible forming a prominent landform in the heart of the Blackmore Vale, just a few miles outside the Cranbourne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB. It is vital therefore, to conserve and enhance these ancient woodland communities and species.

One of the Trust's main objectives is to ensure no further loss of ASNW and lead in the restoration of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites. Through managing Duncliffe Wood we aim to provide an example of this and deliver our aim of protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

Upgrade areas of tracks to facilitate PAWS restoration process and ongoing management.

Support development of young broadleaved stands through respacing and thinning to promote health vigorous trees of the future

Increase landscape aesthetics while buffering ASNW by promoting the planting of open area adjacent to the summit on the NE side of the wood, as well as sympathetic management of neighbouring woodland.

Explore opportunities to further buffer the existing ASNW area by further woodland creation of native broadleaved woodland.

Constraints:

Steep slopes in areas and heavy clay soils which gets waterlogged in winter, potentially restricting the timing of harvesting operations.

Impacts on the wider landscape need to be taken into consideration.

Factors Causing Change

Damage from deer browsing

Squirrel damage especially on young broadleaved trees

Ash dieback - potentially having a severe effect on the ash on site If ash dieback does affect the wood, then limited intervention may be necessary in order to a) address any tree safety issues and/or b) build greater level of resilience among unaffected species, such as promoting establishment/development of other species e.g. through managing ride sides/clumps of ash surrounding/suppressing minor species to encourage greater development and resilience of remaining species

Phytophthora ramorum likely to infect the remaining larch on site

Further windblow particularly of remaining conifers and potential to impact on future management by limiting access and/or prohibiting natural regeneration (through dense shading when windblown).

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Ancient Woodland Site will be restored to a predominantly mixed native broadleaved canopy with a rich understorey of native trees, shrubs and frequent natural regeneration broadly in line with NVC W8/W10. The conifer element will be minimal and limited to a few scattered specimens. The highly diverse structure of the woodland will support a healthy ground flora and remnant ancient woodland characteristics evident throughout the wood. The woodland's irregular structure will be maintained via a low intensity continuous cover forestry approach making use of selective thinning, coppicing and ride management.

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

- Depending on Woodland condition assessment and progression/severity of diseases such as ash dieback, maintain gradual approach to manipulating the stands through thinning, coppicing and planting, to create the conditions in which the remnant ancient woodland communities can be secured and enhanced. Notably thinning areas of larch in 4b, and beech in 4a and selective thinning of ash in 7a to reduce basal area, diversify structure and enable light to reach the ground better promoting natural regeneration and ground flora
- Continue to monitor and beat up areas previously cleared through clear felling to assist recovery of broadleaved canopy (3b, 6b)
- Maintain 2 zone ride management adjacent to main tracks to maintain a varied structure promoting edge habitat important for associated species.
- Upgrade areas of track that have fallen into disrepair to facilitate management access in tandem with aspirations with connecting people key feature.
- Mow logging bay glades to ensure an area of permanent open space in the woodland to the benefit of woodland flora and invertebrates
- Carry out deer impact assessment and develop subsequent deer control strategy

5.3 Mixed Habitat Mosaic

Description

The two fields at the western edge of the Wood provide a buffer for the core area of Duncliffe Wood through the planting of trees and shrub species. The long term intention for these fields since their acquisition in 2005 was to be planted to buffer, extend and link ancient woodland with surrounding semi natural habitats. A wild flower meadow was created in the interim in the southern field. The northern field was planted in 2012 with the southern field partly planted in 2013 aiming to retain a mixed habitat mosaic of open meadow, shrub and glade areas as well as areas of trees. Species planted in northern field (compartment 8a) were: field maple, silver birch, hazel, hawthorn, spindle, crab apple, wild cherry, oak, dog rose, sallow willow and lime. Species planted in the southern field (compartment 9a) were as 8a but also included aspen and alder. There is a good network of linear habitats, hedgerows and ditches, within the area which lead from the woodland into the wider countryside. The planted areas are monitored and maintained with the more open areas being managed to retain the floristic interest of the meadow.

Significance

These areas provide an important opportunity to increase habitat diversity; buffer the ancient woodland of Duncliffe, where protection of ancient woodland is a key Trust objective, and increase its connectivity to the wider landscape with the planting across the two areas. The overall result will be a mosaic of habitats of open areas, rides, shrubs and trees adjacent to the ancient woodland edge. This will create a transitional habitat and increased connectivity between the ancient woodland and the more open areas in surrounding fields. The new planting will provide additional nectar and seed sources for insects, birds and small mammals and provide a more varied structure and shelter and additional ride hedge habitat for a wide variety of species. Buffering and extending the ASNW fulfils one of the woodland Trust key objectives of protecting Ancient Woodland

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To develop a joined up management regime with owners/managers of the Heygate Reserve

Factors Causing Change

Deer damage to natural regeneration areas

Squirrel damage longer term

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A mosaic of habitats providing a rich mixture of open areas, woodland creation and established high forest thus increasing opportunities for biodiversity and buffering the core of ancient woodland.

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

To add value to the local landscape and the ASNW by creating a more diverse mix of habitats and allowing buffering of the woodland by planting in the two fields to the west of the Wood and continuing to manage the open areas of these fields.

- Treat areas of noxious weeds, such as creeping thistle as necessary.
- Cut hedges throughout on a 3 year rotation, in an A shape where possible, and identify future standards for retention.
- Hay cut of open areas in southern field (compartment 9a)
- The network of ditches and pond will be managed where necessary.
- Maintain planted areas in both compartments with potential to increase species mix of 9a to match 8a and interplant the planted areas to increase stocking density in sparser areas along with using taller tree guards to deter deer browsing.

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	4.89	Mixed broadleaves	1945	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Sub-compartment 1a is a mixed stand of oak and ash estimated to have established between 1950 and 1960. There's also some mature oak, especially on the edges and plenty of pole stage ash of coppice and maiden origin. Birch also makes up a smaller percentage of the canopy composition. There is a large group of fantastic and very old mature small-leaved lime coppice stools (Conservation features CF1), with the multiple stems believed to originate from the same tree. There are also some old multistem coppiced ash along the northern boundary (Conservation features CF1). The understorey contains elements of hawthorn but is dominated by hazel. A fantastic spread of bluebells can be seen in the spring. A ditch and scrub hedge on a wood/earthbank (historic feature HF1) make up the western compartment boundary, with a public bridlepath running through the adjacent fields to the west.</p>							
2a	27.21	Mixed broadleaves		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Sub-compartment 2a stretches from west to east in a band across the whole wood, south of the main track.

The more westerly third mainly comprises oak and ash of average form, estimated to have established between 1930 and 1960. There is also birch and mature Norway spruce scattered throughout. The stand is very open in places giving rise to heavy bramble. Understorey is made up of hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn elder and field maple with a variable ground flora including pendulous sedge, bluebell, dogs mercury, ferns, bracken and bramble. Violets, wood anemones and early purple orchid are also present.

The middle third of this sub compartment is predominantly a stand of ash and oak estimated to have established around 1930-50. The occasional oak and field maple can also be found mixed in throughout the stand. Understorey and ground flora is more sparse than the western third, hazel and hawthorn. Ground flora includes dogs mercury, fern, bramble, nettle and pendulous sedge.

The eastern third of this sub compartment is a fairly dense mixed stand of mature oak and ash estimated establishment around 1935-50. Age range varies greatly but most of the trees are around 80 years old, with some of the oak and ash over 100 years, especially ones on the boundary. Field maple and birch are also present; and mature Norway spruce are scattered throughout the stand but are noticeably beginning to succumb to windblow. Understorey is made up of hazel, hawthorn and holly. Ground flora dominated by thick grasses, pendulous sedge and patches of bramble, but orchids such as Twayblade and Common Spotted can also be found. There is also evidence of oak and ash regen.

There are a number of large trees (conservation feature CF1) found in this compartment, with the majority along the field boundaries. There is an earth bank (historic feature HF1) around the edge of this compartment.

2b	2.67	Mixed broadleaves	1990	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Sub-compartment 2b is predominantly an area of relatively recently established mixed broadleaves planted between 1990 and 1996. Main species include oak, ash, birch and field maple. Despite some squirrel damage, growth has been good and a few tree guards remain for removal. The proportion of birch has been increased due to prolific natural regeneration. A small proportion of maiden oaks are located within the area and are estimated to have established around 1920-55. The compartment is very dense with thick bramble, bracken and occasional hawthorn. Orchids, primroses and ferns grow on the track edge to the north.

3a	12.96	Mixed broadleaves		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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The western half of sub-compartment 3a is a large stand of mature oak and ash of established around 1950. There is also some birch and mature Norway spruce scattered throughout as well as a small-leaved lime coppice stool (conservation feature CF1). There are some larger, mature oak, particularly near the track edges. Hazel is dominant in the understorey along with hawthorn, field maple and holly as well as oak and ash regen. Ground flora is variable with bramble and foxgloves in the more open areas and ferns, bluebells and honeysuckle elsewhere. A public bridleway separates the northern boundary from the adjacent compartment 7a. There is a earth bank (historic feature HF1) running just inside the northern edge of the compartment.

The NE area of this sub-compartment is predominantly a mature stand of ash estimated to have established around 1950. Birch and a touch of oak are also present. Occasional hazel coppice, elder and hawthorn are all located within the understorey. Ground flora comprises dogs mercury, bluebell and sedge.

Below the path than runs through the sub compartment, following the contour of the hill, this part of the sub-compartment has a southerly aspect. Oak and ash are the main species along with a touch of birch. Estimated to have established around 1950 most of the trees are tall and drawn up. Norway spruce is present and several mature oak are scattered throughout. Hazel is dominant in the understorey, along with birch, holly and ash regeneration. Ground flora is predominantly bracken, brambles, ferns and grasses. The main hard track and public bridleway runs the entire length of the southern boundary with a permissive path forming the eastern boundary.

3b	1.53	Mixed broadleaves	2014	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Sub-compartment 3b is part of the area that was clear felled in 2002. Natural regeneration has struggled due to increasing vegetation of bracken and bramble. Grass, foxglove and gorse is also present as well as some larch regeneration. Planting has been undertaken in this area in recent years to promote broadleaf composition.

3c	0.51	Ash		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Just below the northern summit, sub-compartment 3c was part of the area clear felled in 2002. Japanese larch was removed to leave a scattering of 50 year old broadleaves, mainly ash. Dense pendulous sedge dominates the ground flora but there is also some ancient woodland species including moschatel.

3d	2.63	Birch (downy/silver)		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc)
<p>Just below the northern summit, sub-compartment 3d was part of the area that was clear felled in 2002 with the western area clearfelled in 2003. Sparse older trees exist in this area which is dominated by young birch. Ground flora is sparse but does include some bluebell. An earth bank runs along the very northern boundary (historic feature HF1)</p>							
4a	4.22	Beech	1930	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Sub-compartment 4a is an area of predominately beech, planted between 1930 and 1955. There is also a scattering of birch, two rows of mature poplar and a few over-mature oak. Hazel and hawthorn are present in the understorey but there's also young oak, beech and ash regeneration. Ground flora is characterised by a fantastic carpet of bluebells in the spring months. An old earthbank (historic feature HF1) runs the full length of the southern and eastern boundaries where some notable trees (conservation feature CF1 can be found). The ride along the northwest boundary is a public footpath.</p>							
4b	1.05	Japanese larch	1950	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Sub-compartment 4b is a stand of mature Japanese larch, estimated to have established around 1950. Form is average to good and the crop is well spaced. Some scattered birch and the occasional pole stage ash and oak are also present. A small amount of hazel is found in the understorey mainly on the edges. There is heavy bramble in places due to the fairly open canopy as well as bracken on the ride edge.

4c	4.14	Mixed broadleaves		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Along the western boundary of this sub compartment is a thin strip of mature oak and ash running along part of the southwest boundary established around 1955. Along this western boundary can be found notable trees (conservation feature CF1) and an earthbank (historic feature HF1). There are also some patches of aspen and a few Norway spruce mixed in. Understorey comprises hazel coppice, hawthorn and aspen regen. Ground flora includes bracken, bramble and some dogs mercury. A management access gate is located in the very southern tip leading out into open fields.

The majority of the compartment is an area mixed broadleaves planted in 1.2m shelters between 1994 and 1996. Main species include oak, ash, birch and field maple. Despite some squirrel damage, growth has been good and a few tree guards remain for removal. The proportion of birch has been increased due to prolific natural regeneration. The compartment is very dense with thick bramble and some bracken.

On the east of the ride is a thin rideside strip of mature ash, approx 50 years old and well spaced. Birch and willow are also present above an understorey of regularly coppiced hazel. Ground flora comprises dogs mercury, bracken, bramble and nettles.

5a	13.27	Oak (pedunculate)	1955	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Sub-compartment 5a is a mature mixed stand of oak and ash with some Norway spruce, established between 1955-60. Much of the spruce is of good form, generally growing in groups but spread throughout. The north west quarter is dominated by ash. Heavily thinned in 2001, the sub-compartment is fairly open in places. Some of the remaining spruce has succumbed to windblow. The broadleaves are generally tall and thin of maiden and coppice origin. There are several areas of old coppiced lime stools (Conservation feature CF1) within the sub-compartment. Running along the eastern and south eastern boundary is an old earth bank (historic feature HF1) covered with hazel, hawthorn and holly. Mature oak and ash edge trees dating back over a 100 years are also present (Conservation feature CF1). The understorey mainly consists of hazel and hawthorn. Ground flora varies greatly and ranges from bracken and dense bramble to patchy sedge, ferns and superb bluebells during spring. A public bridleway runs up through the centre of the sub-compartment.

5b	1.03	Mixed broadleaves	2014	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Positioned on the southeastern slope of the northern summit, sub-compartment 5b was clearfelled in 2003 as part of a much larger coupe. Japanese larch was removed to leave a scattering of 50 year old mixed broadleaves. A small amount of oak, ash, birch and hazel natural regeneration is struggling against an increasing vegetation of bracken and bramble. Grass, sedge, foxglove and gorse is also present as well as larch regeneration. Planting has taken place in this compartment to increase broadleaved composition.

5c	0.45	Mixed broadleaves	2014	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Positioned on the southeastern slope of the northern summit, sub-compartment 5b was clearfelled in 2003 as part of a much larger coupe. Japanese larch was removed to leave a scattering of 50 year old mixed broadleaves. A small amount of oak, ash, birch and hazel natural regeneration is struggling against an increasing vegetation of bracken and bramble. Grass, sedge, foxglove and gorse is also present as well as larch regeneration. Planting has taken place in this compartment to increase broadleaved composition.

5d	0.80	Japanese larch	1960	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Sub-compartment 5d is a steep exposed area in the northeast of the wood. It mainly comprises Japanese larch of average quality along with some Norway spruce. The stand was established around 1960. Understorey is sparse with some hazel with a ground flora of ferns and sedge along with sorrel and foxglove.

6a	1.15	Oak (pedunculate)	1840	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Sub-compartment 6a is an attractive, mature stand of beech and oak estimated to have established around 1840-1900. In particular, two of the beech are huge specimens (conservation feature CF1). There's also a few mature Scots pine, large oak and some rowan and hazel. Ground flora is patchy consisting of bluebells and ferns. An earth bank runs along the northern boundary. An earth bank runs along the northern boundary (historic feature HF1)

7a	8.18	Ash	1955	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Woodland Site, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Sub-compartment 7a is a dense stand of mainly mixed broadleaves. Oak but primarily ash of average form, ranging from 30 - 100+ years and of maiden and coppice origin account for most of the sub-compartment. Birch and a touch of field maple are scattered throughout. Norway spruce is noticeable in small patches in the southern section. Many of the boundary trees are notable (conservation feature CF1) including against the eastern boundary, where there is an attractive row of very old small-leaved lime coppice stools. An earth bank runs along the eastern, northern and western boundaries (historic feature HF1). The healthy ground flora includes bluebells, wood anemone, moschatel, ferns, dogs mercury, honeysuckle and orchids.

8a	3.01	Mixed native broadleaves	2012	Wood establishment	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
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This is the most northerly field from the surfaced track on the western entrance to the Wood. Three sides of the compartment are formed from existing hedgerows, with fine examples of notable/veteran trees (conservation feature C1) and the fourth (eastern) side borders the woodland edge.

Prior to Trust ownership the area was grazed. Plans to allow natural regeneration were unsuccessful and so the land was managed as grassland to control noxious weed growth until planting in 2012.

There is a small pond in the south westerly corner with a good network of hedges and ditches linking the woodland into the wider countryside.

9a	2.38	Mixed broadleaves	2013	Wood pasture	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
<p>A meadow was created in this area during a previous management plan. This area has a good floral display in spring/summer including ox-eye daisies, white clover, buttercup, ragged robin, birds foot trefoil, vetch, yellow rattle, at least 6 species of grasses and Red campion; a variety of insects including 6 spot burnet moth, several grasshopper and bee species, marbled white butterfly, tortoiseshell butterfly, gatekeeper, common blue butterfly, skipper, hoverflies and moths. The surfaced track leading to the woodland forms the southern edge of the compartment. As with 8a its boundaries on three sides (N, W, and S) are marked by hedgerows with mature oak trees (conservation feature CF1) and the easterly boundary is formed by the woodland edge.</p> <p>A good network of linear habitats, lead into the wider countryside from the woodland</p> <p>The ground is wet and seasonally waterlogged. A bridleway runs in a north-south direction along the eastern side.</p> <p>Plans to allow natural regeneration were unsuccessful and so the land has been managed as a wildflower meadow with areas planted to create a mixed habitat mosaic in 2013</p>							
10a	0.93	NULL	2013	Non-wood habitat	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	
<p>Area of car parking just off the country road known as New Lane. Surfaced area for approx. 25 cars, surrounded by earth bunds. Currently height barrier and width restriction posts in place. Area to the east is grass and currently contains a stable which is used as an information point (when staff/volunteers onsite to open) as well as an information and notice board near the exit from the car park onto the main track leading through the wood. The main track is surfaced and runs the entire width of the wood. Main track from car park to the wood is bordered by hedges containing mature oak trees (conservation feature Cf1). Only part of the hedges are within Woodland Trust ownership.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	10a	Thin	0.00		2.5
2020	3a	Thin	5.42	15	81
2020	5d	Thin	0.41	15	6
2020	7a	Thin	8.18	20	163
2023	1a	Thin	4.76	17	80
2023	2a	Thin	8.78	20	175
2023	2a	Thin	8.78	15	131
2023	2b	Thin	1.15	17	20
2023	3b	Thin	5.94	15	89
2023	3c	Thin	4.74	15	71
2023	3d	Thin	0.30	13	4
2023	4a	Thin	6.07	0	0
2023	4b	Thin	0.67	0	0
2023	4c	Thin	0.62	15	9
2023	5a	Thin	1.45	7	10
2023	5b	Thin	5.25	15	78
2023	5c	Thin	0.41	17	7
2023	6a	Thin	0.28	18	5
2023	8a	Thin	3.01	3	10
2027	9a	Thin	2.38	4	10

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.