



Buck's Valley Woods

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Buck's Valley Woods
Location:	Buck's Mills
Grid reference:	SS350229, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 190
Area:	41.23 hectares (101.88 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserve, Planted Ancient Woodland Site

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Buck's Valley woods include Barton, Buck's, Keivill's, Steart's, Loggins and Walland woods and largely enclose the tiny village of Bucks Mills. Much of the wood can be viewed from the North Devon coastal path and other public footpaths running through and linking them.

2.2 Extended Description

Barton, Bucks, Keivill's, Steart's, Loggins and Walland woods lie in the wooded coastal fringes and adjoining valleys around the tiny and attractive historic fishing village of Buck's Mills to the east of Clovelly in North Devon. The woods lie within The Culm national character area No 149 which extends from northeast Cornwall across Northwest Devon to Exmoor and southwards to Dartmoor. The culm measures are characterised by heavy clay soils which combined with exposed wetter Atlantic conditions support a specialist grass sward over much of the area. It is sparsely wooded across the plateaus but often, as at Bucks valley, is densely wooded in the small but steep sided valleys that extend up from the coasts and river valleys. They also fall within the Hartland Heritage Coast, North Devon Area of outstanding Beauty (AONB) and Hobby to Peppercombe Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Much of the woodland stands on clay/loam soils with shellat that allows free drainage although areas lying in the valley bottoms, close to the streams and around spring heads remain wet throughout the year and offer small areas of wet woodland/wet flush habitats. Most of the woodland consists of mixed broadleaf trees, although some were cleared and planted with conifers in the 1960s and 1970s. Some of these are being gradually restored to a broadleaved composition while others have been felled and replanted with native broadleaved tree species; Keivill's and Buck's woods lie within the Hobby to Peppercombe SSSI and are important for many nationally rare species: - string of sausage, lungwort and other lichens and Devon whitebeam, as well its own importance as sessile oak woodland growing on and above the Atlantic coastal cliffs. All are associated with low air pollution levels and coastal aspect. The other woodlands in the management unit link to these but fall outside the SSSI boundaries. As ancient woodland they are no less important and act as a large 'buffer' zone protecting the SSSI woodland and providing a continuous habitat for possible species migration. Much of ground flora is of wood rush, bilberry, ferns and bluebell with tree regeneration and coarser species prevalent in localised areas. Bucks, Keivill's and Barton woods were acquired in '76, '80, and '86 respectively and Steart's Loggins and Walland was acquired in 1996. Lying as they do on steep valley sides and cliffs, access within some of the woodland is impossible or poor, but the North Devon Coastal path and other public footpaths do pass through some of the woods and link into management tracks to give active walkers a selection of 'circular' routes. Due to its location in a rural area and around a village where a large proportion of the houses are 2nd homes, access levels in the wood during the winter months is limited to regular visits by a small number of locals. However during the holiday season the public path network locally and therefore the woodland through which these paths pass becomes more heavily used. As they pass through these areas of high conservation and landscape value they offer some spectacular views of the surrounding areas and sea

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Bucks Valley Woods is an extensive area of woodland that lies in the steep valley sides and coastal cliffs around the village of Bucks Mills in North Devon. It can be reached by following the A39 between Higher Clovelly and Bideford and turning north at Buck's Cross towards Bucks Mills. At the bottom of the hill just before the village is a local authority car park for visitors to the area. The wood stands on both sides of the road down to the car park then follows the western valley side from the car park to the coast and then along the coastal cliffs westwards towards Clovelly. From the car park there is a public footpath that links to Steart's Wood and other adjacent woods. Other access points can be found along each side of the road towards Buck's Cross and most of these are via pedestrian gates. Buck's and Keivill's woods which stand on the top of the sea cliffs can be reached by following the road down into the village and then walking along the coastal path towards Clovelly. This also takes walkers past Barton Wood a small outlying woodland of the Buck's Valley group. Given the valley side location of the woods many of the paths and tracks are steep to very steep in places and almost all are naturally or grassy surfaced. Tracks and paths running along the contours are similarly surfaced but flatter and easier to walk, but obviously require the use of the other steeper sections to form circular routes. Due to the heavy soils that characterise the area the paths can be quite wet and muddy in wet weather.

Buses (route 319) run along the A39 to and from Bideford and there is a stop at Buck's Cross which leaves a walk 1 mile to reach the centre of the wooded valley and car park. Public transport information obtained from www.travelinesw.com.uk. Information collected January 2017

3.2 Access / Walks

The wood stands on both sides of the road down to the car park then follows the western valley side from the car park to the coast and then along the coastal cliffs westwards towards Clovelly. From the car park there is a public footpath that links to Steart's Wood and other adjacent woods. Other access points can be found along each side of the road towards Buck's Cross and most of these are via pedestrian gates. Buck's and Keivill's woods which stand on the top of the sea cliffs can be reached by following the road down into the village and then walking along the coastal path towards Clovelly. This also takes walkers past Barton Wood a small outlying woodland of the Buck's Valley group. Given the valley side location of the woods many of the paths and tracks are steep to very steep in places and almost all are naturally or grassy surfaced. Tracks and paths running along the contours are similarly surfaced but flatter and easier to walk, but obviously require the use of the other steeper sections to form circular routes. Due to the heavy soils that characterise the area the paths can be quite wet and muddy in wet weather.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Bucks Valley Woods will continue to help deliver three of the Trust's management aims:- to prevent further loss of Ancient Woodland, to protect native woodland, trees and their wildlife for the future and to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

The Planted Ancient Wood (PAWS) areas will be restored to a diverse age, size and predominantly native broadleaved species woodland, in line with the Woodland Trust's restoration guidelines. The majority of the conifers will be removed, although a small proportion of select species, excluding those that regenerate freely, will be retained for aesthetic and conservation benefits.

The Ancient semi-natural woodland areas and those areas of secondary woodland interspersed throughout the site will be managed as predominantly broadleaf high forest through a limited intervention continuous cover management regime. The woodland will have a diverse species, age and size woodland and shrub layer structure and a rich and varied woodland flora. The canopy will be occasionally broken with lower level shrub and wood edge habitat that line glades, water courses and track sides

The SSSI within Buck's and Keivill's woods will be in favourable condition and areas of adjoining woodland within the property will also be in a similar condition so that they act as a buffer against external factors and provide an extension of the designated habitats.

All non-native invasive species will be eradicated or under management regimes to eradicate them. In line with geological reports, areas of coastal slope woodland on and surrounding existing landslip scars close to village and coastal infrastructure will be managed via coppicing systems to retain healthy root systems but low sail area structure to help stabilise the slopes.

Public access facilities will be managed to provide a valuable local access resource that extends the accessibility of the local and national public footpath network that pass through it, providing vistas and viewpoints over the local coast and countryside as well as access to additional habitat types. The wood will also act as an alternative amenity and help 'spread and absorb' the proportionately large numbers of visitors that come to the small village in the summer season.

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 Woodland Site

Description

Buck's Valley woods consist of a spreading woodland complex that lines a number of small valleys reaching down to the North Devon Coast as is characteristic of the area. Acquired by the Woodland Trust in four stages in 1976, 1980, 1988 and 1996 the whole of the woodland is designated as ancient. The woodland is typical of many in the surrounding area which are renowned for their Atlantic Oak Wood status and the wide range of fungi, lichens and ancient woodland plants that the largely un-disturbed and unpolluted habitats support. Many woods stand on the steep and largely inaccessible cliffs and are festooned with many nationally important lichens such as the String of sausage lichen (*Usnea articulata*); lower plants such as the Tree Lungwort (*Lobaria pulmonaria*) and the rare Devon Whitebeam (*Sorbus devoniensis*). Keivill's Wood (Cpt2) is included within the Hobby to Peppercombe SSSI as internationally important sessile oak woodland influenced by the action of sea spray laden winds leading to their stunted form and the clean air necessary for the lower plant populations. The coastal cliffs often 'slip' into the sea especially after wet and stormy weather and the woodland and flora as well as the underlying geology can change dramatically over time. At the northern end of Bucks Wood where it forms coastal cliff there is an old landslip scar that is regularly coppiced to maintain low sail area growth to reduce wind rock, but strong root growth the stabilise the soils. At the time of writing the SSSI was in favourable condition. While the SSSI only includes a part of the complex the whole property is designated as a County Wildlife Site (CWS) by the local wildlife Trust as a good example of ancient woodland under favourable management systems. While there are no records of European Protected Species (EPS) in the woodland complex Dormice, Greater Horseshoe bats and Brown Long-eared bats are reported to be in adjacent woodlands and may forage into Bucks Valley or migrate there over time as restoration progresses. As the woodland extends inland, even for just short distances the shelter afforded allows trees to grow to a larger high-forest canopy Barton Wood (Cpt 1) and Bucks Wood (Cpt3). Bucks Wood, being contiguous to Keivill's Wood is designated as SSSI also, however Barton Wood to the west and separated from the wood's main ownership has been influenced by management, rhododendron colonisation and developing beech and sycamore canopies to have lost its conservation values. General plant species like wood rush and bilberry, mosses and ferns remain similar throughout, often in large localised areas dependent on the soils, shade and aspect of their location, however the accessibility of some areas having allowed coppicing and felling of the woodland to take place and this has in turn homogenised and reduced flora diversity allowing bracken, brambles and gorse to predominate but has in places created some structural and species diversity to the woodland structure. Within the woodland the canopy falls into two types. Most of the woodland remains designated as Ancient semi-natural high-forest of predominantly native broadleaf species and particularly sessile oak, with occasional groups of birch, ash and alder; however this is interspersed with beech, often planted along boundaries and sycamore which appears to have colonised naturally into certain areas. Both of these regenerate more freely than the native species and may have an effect on the condition of the SSSI if it starts to dominate, but currently it adds species diversity and some higher levels of resistance to exposure.

Throughout Steart's, Loggins and Walland Woods (Cpts 4,5,6,) along the 'inland' slopes of the valley running from the village up to Bucks Cross on the A39, access has historically been easier and as a result of that approximately half of the woodland area was felled in the late 1960s and early 1970s and restocked with commercial conifer crops. These areas are designated as Plantations of ancient Woodland sites (PAWS). Much of this area was planted with larch sometimes in mixture with beech and sweet chestnut and as such the canopy still retained its deciduous and lightly shading canopy which helped to retain some ancient woodland species, and allow broadleaf tree species regeneration. However in some areas of cpts 4 and 5 the conifers are of Douglas fir and Western hemlock, which cast heavy shade and have largely suppressed ground flora below it. The Hemlock also regenerates freely and creates a low level dense canopy that increase shade levels and flora suppression and therefore generally does not respond well to gradual approach to restoration. All of the larch was clear-felled in 2014 under a 'plant health notice' following confirmed infection by *Phytophthora ramorum*. It was quickly restocked with native broadleaf species with an inter-planting of hazel at close spacing to try to re-establish a broadleaf canopy as quickly as possible to restrict the colonisation of coarser species and protect remnant ancient woodland flora. Much of the wood was once heavily colonised by rhododendron, but this has largely been removed other than occasional seedlings and growth that arise from surviving plants. The generally drier slope woodland habitats are further complimented by wet flushes and wet woodland areas in the valley bottoms, streams and associated broadleaf woodland fringes along the roadside, western and eastern boundaries and by two large quarries in Loggins wood which are steadily colonising towards woodland

Significance

The Bucks valley complex lies adjacent to or within the Hobby to Peppercombe SSSI and Tintagel to Marsland SAC for its internationally important status as Atlantic oak woodland and for the nationally important lichens, lungworts and tree species it supports. It also falls within the Hartland heritage coast and is designated a County Wildlife Site as a good example of ancient woodland and PAWs under appropriate conservation management. It helps deliver county, regional and national Biodiversity Action plan targets. Restoration is a high priority for the Trust and this site will help demonstrate the Trust's commitment to restoration. The wood fulfils the Trust's aims to prevent further loss of Ancient Woodland, to protect native woodland, trees and their wildlife for the future and to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

Opportunities & Constraints

Limited access for management outside the previously coniferised areas on the wood. It also restricts the levels of management access available which increases logistical and cost considerations when work in inaccessible areas needs to be undertaken. The road into the village is a 'dead End' single track road therefore access for machinery/lorries is difficult and can cause blockages to resident traffic. Fallen trees and roadside tree safety operations can easily cause serious disruptions to local traffic flow. Following clear-felling of all the larch in the wood, only two sizeable evergreen conifer blocks remain. The WH hemlock elements of both are regenerating prolifically hindering the response of ground flora. The block in Loggins Wood cannot be thinned easily due to proximity to road and the risk of encouraging windblow which will increase road safety concerns. If WH felled and restocked to progress restoration then the remaining Douglas fir stand will be very small and difficult to manage. Coastal cliff areas fall within the SSSI and SAC and need to be maintained in favourable condition, however as slopes are so steep and uneven management access across these to control non-native invasive species etc. can be difficult, often needed roped access systems, and costly. Opportunity may be to clear-fell remaining conifers and restock on similar basis to the clear-felled larch areas and in doing so combine the restocking and subsequent maintenance as one larger operation. Manage the roadside woodland slopes proactively to develop a lower wood edge habitat and in doing so reduce future tree safety liabilities and road blockages.

Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration of western hemlock, rhododendron and possibly other invasive species.
Impacts of forced clear-felling due to Phytophthora infection and potential effect of the disease if it spreads to Sweet Chestnut
Fly tipping of rubbish and pollutants/contaminants
Other tree diseases such as Ash Die-back
Large scale loss of coastal slope woodland through land slippage
Deer and squirrel damage
Blocked culverts causing flooding, erosion and land slippage
Abuse/misuse of site by local mountain bikers creating trails riding trials bikes
Heavy shade cast by conifer canopy and by coarse species in restock areas

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The ancient woodland site will be managed as predominantly native broadleaf woodland with a diverse age, species and size structure and a good proportion of mature trees with large spreading 'open grown' type crowns. It will have a rich understorey of woodland shrubs and support a robust and secure population of ancient woodland flora and such it will provide and sustain a good resource of ancient woodland species.

The Planted ancient woodland areas will have been restored to predominantly native species woodland with a developing age, size and species structure either, robust shrub and understorey layers and ancient woodland flora.

The SSSI (Bucks and Keivill's Woods) will be in favourable condition. Adjoining areas of woodland will be in similar condition to ensure there are no external factors within WT control directly affecting the SSSI.

Deadwood levels will be increasing throughout.

Non-native and invasive species such as rhododendron/laurel growth and conifer regeneration will have been controlled

Water courses will be in good condition with riparian zones managed to provide dapple shade and good water flow.

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

Continue restoration process throughout PAWs areas (Cpt 4,5 and 6) by selective-felling the heavily regenerating and unresponsive stands of WH plus the small remaining stand of DF and restocking with mixed native broadleaved species at a minimum 1600/ha to re-establish a broadleaved canopy quickly to ensure protection and enhancement of precursor broadleaves, ancient woodland flora, deadwood and other remnants and move more quickly towards a predominantly broadleaved species woodland habitat

Continue management of non-native invasive species within the whole wood, but particularly cpts 2 and 3 to maintain favourable condition of SSSI and cpts 4,5,6 to eradicate existing presence, deliver restoration and maintain a buffer zone to the SSSI

Continue management of the roadside banks and wood edges via tree safety works, thinning, shrub coppicing and hedge flailing to deliver statutory highways clearances and maintain road-user safety.

Maintain and, as necessary, upgrade track network throughout the wood following harvesting operations to facilitate management access and support future public access. In particular this applies to tracks in Cpt 4, 5, 6 can suffer slumping after heavy machinery use.

Undertake deer impact assessments as a part of the Woodland Condition assessment to monitor population and damage levels and undertake deer control as necessary

Increase levels of standing and fallen deadwood throughout the whole woodland as part of on-going thinning and tree safety operations to benefit fungal and invertebrate species but in particular those areas in Cpt 4,5,6 which have been coniferised and lack this important habitat

Maintain water courses and culverts to reduce blockages and associated flooding issues within the wood and onto the adjacent highway

Manage occasional misuse and abuse of the wood (e.g. unauthorised mountain bike, trials bike and horse access, fly-tipping) as necessary to protect the woodland habitat from damage, introduction of invasive species and contamination

Maintenance of all restocking on site, by removal of all tree shelters from p97 and 2001 restocks and gradual removal of shelters from 2015 restocks as trees establish and undertaking weed control to encourage establishment and canopy development of both planted and regenerating trees.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Bucks Valley Woods consists of a large woodland unit of 41.23 hectares (101.88 acres) that cloaks the coastal cliffs and steep valley sides around the village of Bucks Mills in north Devon, providing shelter and aesthetic values as well as direct conservation and recreational ones. Barton Wood, (Cpt1) lies slightly separate and west towards the famous village of Clovelly from the main woodland area but the North Devon coastal footpath passes along two of its boundaries before running along the cliff tops towards Buck Mills with the largely inaccessible stunted oak woodland of Keivill's Wood (cpt 2) lying on the steep coastal cliffs below. Bucks Wood (Cpt 3) adjoins the eastern end of Keivill's and starts the woodland's extension inland along the western slopes above the village. The coastal path follows the wood's northern, coastal boundary and drops down a winding and moderately steep path to the village. From there visitors can cross the village and continue along the coastal path; follow a public footpath down to the sea wall, limekilns and beach below the cliffs or walk up the road through the village to the public car park. From the car park, which offers parking for 20- 30 cars the wood cloaks both sides of the road up the valley to Bucks Cross on the A39. Loggins Wood (cpt 5) to the north is an extension of Bucks wood and continues for some distance with areas of mixed broadleaves, conifers, old disused quarries and younger broadleaf woodland. A rough management track extends from the highway along the contour through this wood to a dead end just short of St Anne's Church from where some locals use a short informal link between the two.

Extending westwards from the car park on the southern side of the road Steart's Wood (cpt4) and Walland Wood (cpt 5) consists of steep valley slopes combined with flatter but wetter ground adjacent to the valley bottom and road. Its roadside and western boundaries as well as internal valley bottoms are characterised by small, but attractive streams. A public footpath extends from the car park along the wood's eastern and southern boundaries and another runs between Steart's and Walland woods, both linking to the external footpath network and a number of wider management tracks that extend around the wood providing permissive access throughout. All paths are naturally surfaced with a robust sward of grasses and woodland plants. Some have sufficient stone in their soil base to make them more robust, but all are inclined to be wet and muddy in places, especially around springs and in wet weather.

Significance

The coastal path in this area is well used especially during the holiday season when it provides recreational value to long distance walkers, those staying in the local camping and caravan parks and as an additional amenity to those visiting the small coastal villages. The woods act as a 'sponge' where visitors can walk and picnic and this can help slow the pressures in the small village. They also provide a beautiful back drop, shelter and aesthetic benefits to those holidaying or living in the village.

Opportunities & Constraints

The limited access throughout some of the woodland areas and steep gradients of some paths and tracks restricts the levels of public accessibility that might otherwise be available to visitors. It also restricts the levels of management access available which increases logistical and cost considerations when work in inaccessible areas needs to be undertaken.

Factors Causing Change

Erosion of steeper paths and track,
Wet flushes making path sections muddy
Reduction in the wooded 'ambiance' of the valley through the felling rather than gradual restoration of conifer stands and potential loss of broadleaf wood through Ash die back and Phytophthora in Sweet Chestnut

Long term Objective (50 years+)

An attractive and sustainable network of tracks and paths through the variety of types of woodland and open ground habitats that provide recreational opportunities for seasonal visitors and locals, views and vistas of the local landscape, link into the public footpath network and encourage the appreciation of the woodland both on the site and in the locality.

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

Maintain and upgrade, as necessary, all paths and management tracks to provide adequate public and management access throughout the wood.

Maintain all public footpath and permissive path routes furniture and infrastructure through the woodland in good and welcoming condition, liaising as necessary with local authorities and organisations, to provide appropriate levels of sustainable accessibility.

Maintain safety along path and track routes through regular tree and infrastructure inspections and completion of works identified

Maintain safety in and around quarries by repair or renewal of fences to WT specs

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	3.19	Oak (sessile)	1890	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast
<p>Barton Wood is coastal woodland lying adjacent to the larger complex of oak woodland in the Hobby to Peppercombe SSSI and Tintagel to Marsland SAC which stretches for 6 miles along North Devon's steep coastal slopes and cliffs. Barton wood is on the landward facing fringe of the wooded coastal slope and is situated in a steep sided and quite inaccessible gill sloping towards the cliffs. A spring just outside the property feeds wet flushes at its head and then flows through the wood along a stony gully towards the sea. Mainly of stored sessile oak coppice with similar aged maidens, and with elements of mature sycamore, beech and ash. Access is not possible through the wood and so is limited to the coastal path, which runs along the inside of the woodland boundary on the north side and along the outside of the south boundary.</p>							
2a	7.42	Oak (sessile)	1800	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the 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, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation

Keivill's Wood is a coastal woodland forming part of the larger complex of oak woodland in the Hobby to Peppercombe SSSI and Tintagel to Marsland SAC, which stretches for 6 miles along North Devon's steep coastal slopes and cliffs. Keivill's wood lies on the seaward facing cliffs of the wooded coastal slope and is so steep it is generally inaccessible in all but a few small areas and even in these areas access is complicated by large boulders, landslips, windblown trees etc. Mainly of stunted sessile oak coppice, but with elements of mature sycamore, beech and small rhododendron clumps providing a seed source for regeneration. Occasional specimen conifers like silver fir are also beginning to colonise from local seed sources. The coastal path runs along its southern boundary, but due to steepness of the cliffs there is no internal management or pedestrian access. During wet and stormy weather parts of the local cliffs including the wooded ones can slump and often slip to the foreshore below.

3a	9.07	Oak (sessile)	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation
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Bucks Wood lies on the eastward valley slopes of the wooded Bucks Mills valley and was incorporated into the larger complex of oak woodland in the Hobby to Peppercombe SSSI and SAC which stretches from 6 miles along North Devon's steep coastal slopes and cliffs in 2006. In the past parts of the wood were thinned by ring-barking coppice stems but this has not created much new understorey. As there is no public access through Bucks wood it will not pose a hazard to visitors, but its close proximity to adjacent properties may pose risks for the future. However deeper into the wood it has created valuable standing deadwood. Slightly more accessible for management purposes than Keivill's, it is still steep and so visitor access is only possible across the northern section of the wood along the narrow coastal footpath from Bucks Mills village. Soils are of clay/loam over shellat and generally free draining, but are very wet around the many springs that rise in the slopes.

4a	3.85	Oak (sessile)	1890	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve
<p>Stear's Wood - This sub compartment mirrors an area of ASNW as designated in the AWI and comprises the areas of broadleaf retained when felling and restocking with conifers took place in mid to late 60's. The largest area lies on the steep slopes of the spur valley on the eastern end of Stear's wood. The remaining areas lie on the southern edges of the wood and along the wetter valley bottoms adjacent to the northern roadside boundary. Access tracks generally run through the mid slopes to allow management. Streams bounds the eastern, western and northern edges of Stear's wood and a public footpath follows parallel to the eastern, southern boundaries with exits to the car park and Stear's Farm, from where the wood path becomes a permissive path that links to the footpath on the compartment's western edge . Soils are of clay/loam over shellat and generally free draining.</p>							
4b	3.89	Douglas fir	1965	PAWS restoration	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Stear's Wood - PAWS - Standing on the more accessible slopes of the valley this area within the mature broadleaf retentions around the compartment edges (4a) Clear-felled and planted with conifers in the mid to late 1960's with larch occupying the north facing slope and a mixture of Western hemlock and Douglas fir on the western facing slopes Soils at the bottom of the slope are quite wet but bare of clay/loam over shellat and generally more freely draining on the slopes. Two tracks leave the main management track close to the entrance and run parallel west-east across the slope but stop short of the rocky knoll above the car park. Another runs north-south from these, through the steep DF/WH stand and re-joins the main management track near its southern end. The Larch was clear-felled due to Phytophthora ramorum infection in 2014 and restocked with predominantly oak, birch and NBL at close spacing to re-establish a broadleaved canopy closure as quickly as possible.</p>							

4c	0.23	Oak (sessile)	1890	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve
<p>Stear's Wood - This sub compartment lies on the eastern side of 4a but outside of the areas designated as ASNW or AWS in the AWI. It comprises of the same type of woodland as that found in 4a which suggests that designation may be wrong or that the area has remained as woodland for sufficiently long for it to regenerate the AW character and species adjacent to it. Soils are of clay/loam over shellat and generally free draining.</p>							
4d	0.46	Oak (sessile)	1890	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve
<p>Stear's Wood - This sub compartment forms a long 'tongue' extending up the valley from the southern end of 4a but lies outside of the areas designated as ASNW or AWS in the AWI. It comprises of the same type of woodland as that found in 4a which suggests that designation may be wrong or that the area has remained as woodland for sufficiently long for it to regenerate the AW character and species adjacent to it. Soils are of clay/loam over shellat and generally free draining.</p>							
5a	2.15	Mixed native broadleaves	2001	PAWS restoration	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve, Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Compartment 5 - PAWS - Loggins wood lies on the northern side of the road to the village and is almost entirely south facing. Sub-cpt 5a (1ha) lies at the western end of the compartment close to St Anne's Church. Previously coniferised with larch and hemlock it was mostly clear-felled in 2000 for safety reasons and restocked with native BLs in 2001. After restocking it re-colonised to dense gorse, bramble and rhododendron and establishment of the trees has been slow as a result. A stand of western hemlock remains at its eastern end adjacent to the road. The stand has been irregularly thinned in the past and the trees are tall and well-drawn up with a closed canopy and instability after thinning is therefore a potential issue. To the north of that lies an area of mature oak. A track running roughly along the contours from the entrance gate through the centre of the wood provides adequate access for management and restoration as well as an 'out and back' public access route. Soils are of clay/loam over shellat and generally free draining.

5b	1.48	Oak (sessile)	1965	High forest	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve
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Loggins Wood - PAWS - Lying centrally within Loggins Wood and mirroring an area of ASNW in the AWI the area is of predominantly mature oak woodland, but contains a part of the WH stand that overlaps from 5a and part of the quarry area overlapping into 5c. The Western Hemlock standing on the lower SW corner of has been irregularly thinned in the past and the trees are tall and well-drawn up with a closed canopy and instability after thinning is therefore a potential issue. The quarry area contain a high range of tree and shrub species and is steadily colonising to broadleaf woodland. Access within this area is restricted to the central management track. Soils are of clay/loam over shellat and generally free draining.

5c	1.98	Mixed broadleaves	1970	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
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Loggins Wood - Area of AWS as shown on AWI. Partly stocked with mature oaks and other broadleaved species towards the southern and eastern ends, interspersed with a few remnant conifers that remain following tree safety works and Pr felling of larch. Much of the western area of the wood is occupied by a large quarry that overlaps into 5b. Now colonising with trees and shrubs. Mainly rowan, birch and gorse. Dense rhododendron in the 'base' area was retained as a deterrent to people entering the area and attempting to climb the rock face but has been controlled in recent years

6a	1.58	Mixed native broadleaves	2015	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve
<p>Walland - Area that was planted with Japanese larch and a mixture of larch, beech and Sweet chestnut. This area lies on the east facing slopes of the valley side. The larch was felled due to Pr in 2014 and restocked the following winter Existing broadleaves were retained where possible and if necessary enriched with BLs as part of the restock process. The beech is poor with much squirrel damage. Occasional sweet chestnut stools are present with some sycamore specimens. Ground flora is representative of W10. Tracks created in 1997/8 now provide adequate access to these areas to enable management and restoration to broadleaf woodland as well as very good public access, helping to form several 'circular' routes throughout the complex. Soils are of clay/loam over shellat and generally free draining.</p>							
6b	3.54	Mixed broadleaves	1996	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve
<p>Walland - Area of mostly mature oak, beech, sycamore and sweet chestnut on the north facing slopes of the wood mirroring the area designated as ASNW in the AWI. The western section was planted in the 70s with larch, sometimes in mixture with beech and sweet chestnut. The larch was clear felled in 2014 due to Pr infection and subsequently restocked or enriched as necessary. Due to the previous larch crop a ground flora (W10) of predominantly bramble with some bracken and gorse persists. Rhododendron and sycamore regrowth was targeted during weed control operations since it was restocked to reduce competition and aid native broadleaf establishment. Tracks created in 1997/8 now provide adequate access to this area to enable management and restoration to broadleaf woodland as well as very good public access, helping to form several 'circular routes throughout the complex.</p>							

6c	1.60	Mixed broadleaves	1997	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Walland - Area designated as ASNW in AWI. Mostly an area of mature oak, beech and sweet chestnut with occasional ash extending along most of the north facing valley slopes. A small area of the eastern end of the compartment was stocked with larch and or beech. The larch was felled in 2014 due to Pr and the area restocked or enriched with mixed native BLs depending on levels of broadleaf retention. Management access tracks service this area but do not extend further west through the mature BL woodland due to steep slopes and damage to the AW that this would cause. They also provide very good public access, helping to form several 'circular routes throughout the complex</p>							
6d	0.94	Beech	1960	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, Local Nature Reserve
<p>Walland - Area of secondary woodland in the southern western section of the wood. Originally planted with larch and beech in separate blocks the larch was felled in 2014 due to Pr. Some natural regeneration was retained where possible. No access to the area to extract the timber meant the larch was felled to waste and this restricted ability to restock. Beech struggling in the exposure and badly squirrel damaged. Steep slopes prevent access within but management tracks provide limited access to the area.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2018	4b	Selective Fell	0.70	714	500
2018	4b	Selective Fell	0.10	640	64
2018	5a	Selective Fell	0.70	500	350

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.