



# The Glen

## 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk)) to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

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## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

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

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

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

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

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## SUMMARY

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

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	The Glen
<b>Location:</b>	Heads Nook
<b>Grid reference:</b>	NY493550, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 86
<b>Area:</b>	0.89 hectares (2.20 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Woodland Preservation Order No.25

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This small wood is located near Heads Nook village on a steep bank and is part of a bigger, linear area of woodland. It consists mainly of broadleaf trees, both native and non-native, as well as a number of conifers. It is popular both with local people and also ramblers and walkers using the footpath as a route in to the wider area.

## 2.2 Extended Description

The Glen, gifted to the Woodland Trust in 1991, is small rectangular woodland on a steep south west facing bank leading to a small flood plain adjacent to Cairn Beck; within the Eden Valley Natural Area. The area, extending to 0.91ha, is located along the western edge of Heads Nook village, near Warwick Bridge, Carlisle. The surrounding countryside is predominantly gently undulating agricultural land with small isolated blocks of woodland; though these become more extensive to the north and south. The high fells of the Pennines are situated only 3 miles to the east and the flat flood plains of the river Eden and the Solway Firth to the distant west.

The river Cairn bounds the woodland to the south west with extensive semi natural woodland on the opposite bank, a railway embankment to the north west, broadleaved woodland of a similar nature to the south east and houses and gardens to the north east. A public footpath bisects the site entering on the north west boundary and exiting in the south east corner. In addition a permissive path adjoins the public footpath from the north east boundary.

The wood is predominantly broadleaved in nature with both native and non-native trees as well as a number of conifers. The main species are mature ash, oak, sycamore, cherry, silver birch and Scots pine. Ash dieback appeared in the area in 2017 and affecting the ash which is about 20% of the dense canopy. A small area of newly planted trees (planted 2000) is located in the most northerly corner. Generally shade tolerant species make up the understory with holly being the most abundant. In this area ground flora is limited to the peripheries of the site where sufficient light is available here can be found bramble, nettle, ground elder, foxglove and buttercup among others.

The level ground at the foot of the slope is damp and locally wet in places, canopy species (planted circa 1940), including alder, ash, sycamore, silver birch and willow. Within The understorey there is natural regeneration of ash and two small areas of planted trees (planted 1993). The ground flora in this area is extremely diverse with nettle, bracken, dead nettle, rose bay willow herb, male fern, buttercup, red campion, hawkbit, meadowsweet and foxglove noted to be present. A number of potentially invasive species are present within the woodland; these are Himalayan balsam, snowberry and Spanish bluebell.

The woodland is used frequently by local residents and also by ramblers and walkers who use the public right of way as a link from the minor public road at Broadwath to the north west and the south eastern end of Heads Nook village.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

The Glen is in the village of Head's Nook, 1.5 miles south east of Warwick Bridge and 5 miles east of the Border city of Carlisle, off the A69 in Cumbria.

Three points of access exist into the woodland the first on the north east boundary is gained via an access road from the highway through Head's Nook serving the houses above the woodland; at the point where the access road turns due north a Woodland Trust welcome sign is located. At the entrance to the woodland (some 50m north west of the corner of the track) there is a small welcome sign denoting the start of the permissive path which leads approximately 45m downhill in a westerly direction to join the public right of way.

The second point of access is on the north west boundary where public right of way no 138026 enters the woodland via a wooden pedestrian gate by a Woodland Trust welcome sign. The public right of way, extending to approximately 160m, is cut into the banking and descends at a gradient of 8% to the level course of the river, past a wooden seat before exiting the site in the south east corner of the woodland this being the final pedestrian access point. A Woodland Trust welcome sign is located at this entrance.

The woodland is frequently used by local residents but is also used by walkers as a link between the minor public roads to the north west and a number of public rights of way and minor public roads located to the south east of Heads Nook. The paths are steep in places and can be slippery when wet and muddy.

Parking is restricted to the public road in Heads Nook village; turn south off the A69 at Warwick Bridge traffic lights (for the A69 use junction 44 from the M6). The access track can be located between the railway and the village shop heading west off the main road. The Hadrian's Cycle Route (number 72) passes to the north of the village. For more information on cycle routes contact [www.cycleroutes.org/hadrianscycleway](http://www.cycleroutes.org/hadrianscycleway) or contact Sustrans 0845 113 00 65.

For visitors wishing to use public transport the Brampton to Carlisle bus service 95 stops at Head's Nook. The nearest train station is at Wetheral on the Newcastle-Carlisle Tyne Valley Line some seven minutes from Carlisle. Passenger services are provided by Northern Rail. Access to the station is by a dead-end road from Wetheral village green, or by a footpath from the B6263 opposite Plains Road. A footbridge links the two platforms. The Glen is some 1.5 miles east via Great Corby. For up to date timetable information on buses and trains call Traveline on Tel: 0871 200 22 33 or go to <http://traveline.info/>

There are no public toilets in the immediate area but there are many local pubs and hotels. For other local information try Brampton Tourist Information Centre on 01697 73433.

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Trusts long term vision is to ensure retention and perpetuation of the woodland through minimum intervention maintaining continuous canopy cover to ensure continuity of the woodland in the landscape and the habitat value of this woodland. Where safe to do so, mature trees, old growth and standing deadwood communities will be conserved and retained. The woodland composition will be allowed to develop naturally and species will only be controlled if causing a threat to the habitat and if control is sustainable; following the Trust's Woodland Management Principles.

The Glen provides cover and habitat for a variety of wildlife including red squirrels and occasionally roe deer. In addition the wood is known to be important for a variety of bird species including owls and the voluntary warden has successfully maintained bird boxes on the site for many years. The Woodland Trust aim to maintain this through non-intervention, retention of old wood and deadwood communities and protection from degradation by adopting working practices that do not impact adversely on the integral environment, thereby protecting and promoting the ecology of the woodland.

The Woodland Trust will maintain the informal access to the woodland and public rights of way with the provision of entrance points, welcome signs, permissive path and in conjunction with Cumbria County Council, access to 160m of public right of way. Public access will be sustained, being maintained and improved where necessary to ensure that local users and visitors can enjoy the freedom of the woodland for walking and peaceful recreation. Public information through posters and local consultation will be provided to inform and involve visitors about the woodland and to enable them to gain a better understanding of the importance of woodland within the environment

It is anticipated that this approach will ensure perpetuation of the woodland and maintain and enhance the level of public access.

## 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 Informal Public Access

#### Description

Three points of access exist into the woodland the first on the north east boundary is gained via an access road serving the houses above the woodland; at the point where the access road turns due north a Woodland Trust welcome sign is located. At the entrance to the woodland (some 50m north west of the corner of the track) there is a small welcome sign denoting the start of the permissive path which leads approximately 45m downhill in a westerly direction to join the public right of way.

The second point of access is on the north west boundary where the public right of way enters the woodland via a wooden pedestrian gate from the disused railway station; a Woodland trust welcome sign is located at this point. The path, extending to approximately 160m, is cut into the banking and descends at a gradient of 8% to the level course of the river, past a wooden seat before exiting the site in the south east corner towards Glencairn Mill. A Woodland Trust welcome sign is located at this entrance point.

The woodland is frequently used by local residents but is also used by walkers as a link between the minor public roads to the north west and a number of public rights of way and minor public roads located to the south east of Heads Nook.

Parking is restricted to the public road in Heads Nook village; the access road serving neighbouring houses is private.

#### Significance

The woodland is extremely important as a link between the minor public roads to the north west and a number of public rights of way and minor public roads located to the south east of Heads Nook. The Glen offers a small area of woodland for informal and peaceful recreation for locals and visitors to the area; this is one of the Trusts key outcomes. Both activities promote the Woodland Trusts aims and objectives and also make people aware of woodlands managed by the Trust thus encouraging greater understanding of the importance of woodland in the landscape. The Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan incorporates the action for landowners to give the public the opportunity to experience and appreciate wildlife.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Due to the nature of the land it is not possible to extend the permissive path network however the woodland is used frequently by local residents and also by ramblers and walkers who use the public right of way as a link from the minor public road at Broadwath to the north west and the south eastern end of Heads Nook village. It is possible to do a small circular walk from the village through the wood or to extend the walk by linking with other public rights of way in the area. Opportunities exist to inform the public and local users of the Trusts objectives, the role of woodlands in the environment and management practices pertaining to The Glen through information boards posters, leaflets and consultation.

**Factors Causing Change**

Other - Tipping of garden waste, Other - Subsidence of steep banking above or below path.

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

The Woodland Trust will maintain informal access to the woodland through the provision and maintenance of three public entrances with welcome signs; commensurate with access category B. In addition the Woodland Trust will ensure, in co-operation with the County Council, maintenance of 160m of public rights of way and access facilities through the woodland. Standards of safety and maintenance will be consistent to ensure that local users, neighbours and visitors can enjoy the woodland for walking and peaceful recreation. Public information and promotion of the woodland locally will be enhanced where possible and posters will be used to inform and involve visitors to the woodland to promote greater understanding of the importance of woodland within the environment. The Woodland Trust will continue to work with the local community where possible on projects involving the woodland; providing public information through the website and posters to inform and involve visitors to the woodland and to promote greater understanding of the importance of woodland within the environment.

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

Maintain and repair three pedestrian entrances with welcome signs and 45m of permissive path to Woodland Trust specification; strimming and cutting encroaching vegetation from the entrances, path and the wooden seat. Work with the County Council to ensure continued maintenance of 160m of public right of way and access gate from the railway crossing, undertaking remedial works where necessary. Regularly inspect boundaries (every three-five years) and undertake repairs if required, working with neighbouring owners as appropriate. Litter pick site and remove material as necessary. Undertake regular inspection (see Site Risk Assessment database) of mature trees to ensure safety of visitors, surrounding dwellings, access road and public right of way. Inspect the disused septic tank once every five years to ensure stability of cover and surrounding land. Continue to involve local people by consultation and direct practical action where appropriate.

## 5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland

### Description

The compartment, extending to 0.91ha, comprises a steeply sloping bank facing south west and a flat damp area along the side of Cairn Beck. To the south east Cairn Beck forms a natural boundary between the Woodland Trust ownership and that of similar composition woodland beyond. The boundaries to the wood, as described in the compartment description are in various conditions and ownerships. Due to the location it is unlikely that stock will enter the woodland.

The woodland cover is made up of mature (planted circa 1900) and semi mature trees (planted circa 1940) with two areas of younger planted trees. The composition of mature and semi-mature trees comprises approximately 20% sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), 20% ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), 15% oak (*Quercus petraea*), 10% alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), 10% birch (*Betula pendula*), 5% Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and 20% mixed broadleaves including cherry (*Prunus avium*), pole stage beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) white willow (*Salix alba*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), elm (*Ulmus glabra*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*).

Understorey species include sessile oak, ash, common alder, gean, silver birch, bird cherry (*Prunus padus*), aspen (*Populus tremula*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), holly and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Naturally regenerated ash has a strong presence both amongst the planted trees, on the drier areas of flat ground and on the woodland peripheries, along with sycamore and occasional cherry regeneration. Where the ground is very damp and the herb layer strong there is rather less evidence of regeneration. Holly is abundant throughout the banking along with a good representation of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*). On the top of the bank, adjacent to the track, a small amount of planting with hedge species including hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) was undertaken in 1993 and whilst they do not currently form a hedge the shrubs are now well established.

The herb layer is particularly diverse along the peripheries of the woodland, the path edges and on the flat adjacent to the river. There is very little herbage below the dense canopy on the bank. Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) dominate the flat ground by the river with ivy (*Hedera helix*), dead nettle (*Lamium Spp*), rose-bay willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), ground elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*), male fern (*Dryopteris felix-mas*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus arvensis*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), rough hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) common dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), red campion (*Silene dioica*), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*) and flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*). There is a small patch of Lesser periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) present along the footpath. Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is present along the river and snowberry in the northwest corner. Other exotics are present including variegated yellow archangel (*Lamium maculatum*) and Spanish bluebell.

### Significance

The Glen is an important woodland forming part of a larger habitat corridor, extending to over one kilometre, running along both sides of Cairn Beck. It is also an important landscape feature offering a landscape backdrop to the village of Heads Nook and providing woodland habitat in an area that, whilst rural, has few woodlands in the immediate locality.

The woodland provides cover, food and nesting sites for a variety of bird species and mammals including red squirrels, woodpeckers and owls. The combination of the river, damp open areas, mixed woodland species and varied age classes offers a particularly rich variety of microhabitats and therefore the associated flora and fauna is also particularly diverse.

**Opportunities & Constraints**

The opportunity exists to implement the Trusts long term vision set out in ‘Keeping Woodlands Alive’ to ensure retention and perpetuation of the woodland through minimum intervention and the management of a continuous canopy of trees, securing succession, through natural regeneration. Retention of the mature canopy is constrained by the risk of safety due to the proximity of neighbouring houses, the access road and public right of way. Thinning and re-spacing of trees and shrubs, as appropriate, for safety reasons is an opportunity that will help diversify the age class structure of the woodland though due to the small area and safety concerns the retention of standing deadwood may be hampered. With the proximity to urban properties it is possible that exotic species from gardens may colonise the woodland directly or from garden waste. Where colonisation poses a threat or habitat loss control may be considered, where sustainable and achievable. Where there is no threat the species can be accepted as part of the succession characteristics of the woodland.

**Factors Causing Change**

Other - Loss of trees through tree safety felling, Other - Tipping of garden waste, Invasive exotic species, Other - Invasive Himalayan balsam. Ash dieback appeared in the area in 2017 and is affecting the trees which are about 25% of the canopy.

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

Woodland Trust aim to ensure retention and perpetuation of the woodland by retaining a continuous cover of trees and maintaining biodiversity through minimum intervention with the woodland developing through natural processes; where safe to do so retain deadwood communities standing and fallen thereby protecting and promoting the ecology of the woodland. The woodland composition will be allowed to develop naturally and species will only be controlled if causing a threat to the habitat and if control is sustainable; following the Trust's Woodland Management Principles.

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

Respond to the recommendations contained in the recent Woodland Condition Assessment concerning the lack of recruitment to both the canopy and shrub layers. At this stage the response will be opportunistic, in that when canopy gaps appear; either through safety felling or natural collapse, a small number of both trees and shrubs should be planted. Both the monitoring and planting should be done by contractors within the EMC. It is envisaged that this operation would be undertaken twice during the plan period. Monitor existing invasive exotics once every five years and map changing densities and any need for control measures. Regular removal of litter and garden waste.

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## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

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

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.91	Ash	1900	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland	

The compartment, extending to 0.91ha, comprises a steeply sloping bank facing south west and a flat damp area along the side of Cairn Beck. To the south west Cairn Beck forms a natural boundary between the Woodland Trust ownership and that of similar composition woodland beyond. To the north west a post and wire fence skirts the base of the railway embankment and just within this is a narrow watercourse into Cairn Beck. On top of the embankment (outside the Woodland Trust ownership) a wooden slated fence follows the line of the public right of way, this links (beyond the access gate) to a small section of chestnut paling. The north east boundary is unfenced but has boundary markers from the north east corner to the point where the permissive path enters the wood. From this point to the boundary with Briar Hey a post and 5-line wire fence denotes the boundary; the remainder of boundary (to the south of Briar Hey) is a post and line wire fence with pig net. The south east boundary is denoted by boundary markers and due to the location with woodland adjacent it is unlikely that stock will enter the woodland. Management access to the site is gained via the road serving Station House from the highway through Head's Nook.

The woodland cover is made up of mature (planted circa 1900) and semi mature trees (planted circa 1940) with two areas of younger planted trees. The composition of mature and semi-mature trees comprises approximately 20% sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), 20% ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), 15% oak (*Quercus petraea*), 10% alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), 10% birch (*Betula pendula*), 5% Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) with 20% mixed broadleaves including cherry (*Prunus avium*), pole stage beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) white willow (*Salix alba*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), elm (*Ulmus glabra*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*).

During 1992/93 a small area (approximately 0.1ha) of pole stage sycamore, located in the south east corner, was felled (WGS Ref 010000092) to allow for planting with a mixture of native trees and at the same time open ground along the beck (approximately 0.1ha) was also planted. The last of the protective tubes were removed during 2003 and the trees are now well established. Species noted to be present include ash, common alder, gean, birch, bird cherry (*Prunus padus*), aspen (*Populus tremula*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Naturally regenerated ash has a strong presence both amongst the planted trees and on the drier areas of flat ground. Where the ground is very damp and the herb layer strong there is rather less evidence of regeneration. Some holly and

hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) were also noted to occur in this area.

On the upper slopes there is considerably less light available for natural regeneration. Ash was noted to be present, though this is mainly confined to the peripheries, along with sycamore and occasional cherry regeneration. Holly is abundant throughout the banking along with a good representation of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*). On the top of the bank, adjacent to the track, a small amount of planting with hedge species including hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) was undertaken in 1993 and whilst they do not currently form a hedge the shrubs are now well established. An area of sycamore felling in the north west corner amounting to around 0.05ha was undertaken during 2000 and the area replanted with oak and ash in 1.2m tubes.

The herb layer is particularly diverse along the peripheries of the woodland, the path edges and on the flat adjacent to the river. There is very little herbage below the dense canopy on the bank. Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) dominate the flat ground by the river however amongst others the following were noted to be present ivy (*Hedera helix*), dead nettle (*Lamium Spp*), rose-bay willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), ground elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*), male fern (*Dryopteris felix-mas*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus arvensis*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), rough hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) common dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), red campion (*Silene dioica*), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*) and flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium* - note this is a different species to giant hogweed). Lesser Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) is in evidence along the footpath. A number of invasive exotics are present on the site and though currently in small amounts control measures and monitoring should continue to be implemented if they are found to be threatening loss of habitat. Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria sachalinensis*) are now absent following control; whilst Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is still present along the river at quite high density covering an area of around 200 to 300 square metres. Other exotics that should be monitored are snowberry, lesser periwinkle in a patch adjacent to lower path, Spanish bluebells below bench, also variegated yellow archangel (*Lamium maculatum*) above bench and snowberry.

Three points of access exist into the woodland the first is on the north east boundary, the second is on the north west boundary where the public right of way enters the woodland via a wooden pedestrian gate from here the path, extending to approximately 160m, is cut into the banking and descends at a gradient of 8% to the level course of the river, past a wooden seat before exiting the site in the south east corner of the woodland this being the final pedestrian access point. Small Woodland Trust welcome sign are located at all entrances.

A disused septic tank is located on the bank below the dwelling of Briar Hey this is difficult to find and the possible site of a small quarry is located directly below the access road from Heads Nook. Underground services are located along the upper access track and adjacent to the railway and a small watercourse issues from a culvert (outside the Woodland Trust land) below the railway embankment on the north west boundary.

## 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.