WOODLAND TRUST

# Vigo Woods

# Management Plan 2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:** | Vigo Woods |
| **Location:** | Rickleton, Washington |
| **Grid reference:** | NZ288540, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 88 |
| **Area:** | 8.16 hectares (20.16 acres) |
| **Designations:** | Community Forest, Great North Forest, Tourism Restraint Area, Tree Preservation Order |

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This is really four woods that are joined together and form an important recreational and wildlife oasis within the New Town. Although some of the wood is only fifty years old, it is designated as a Strategic Wildlife Corridor and is well used by local people.

## 2.2 Extended Description

The Vigo Woods consist of four urban woods covering 8.16 hectares located on clayey soils overlying coal measures and sandstones. They occupy flat sites surrounded by roads and residential housing and consequently are heavily used by local people for informal recreation. Originally part of the Lambton Estate, they consist of mixed high forest woodland consisting of oak, ash, sycamore and Scots pine, most of which is estimated to have been planted around 1960. All four woods lie within a Strategic Wildlife Corridor as identified under the Tyne & Wear Nature Conservation Strategy and New Vigo Wood is covered by a Tree Preservation Order. An old pond is located at the southern end of New Vigo Wood which in the past has been home to great crested newts.

The value of these woods is, principally, as local aesthetic and recreational resources for people living around them and as havens for urban wildlife. They also serve an important function as attenuation barriers, helping to reduce the effects of noise, dust and pollution, generated by vehicles using the adjacent A1(M).

# 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

## 3.1 Getting there

All four woods can be entered directly off Vigo Lane, Picktree Lane or Rickleton Way via entrances with no access furniture. New Vigo Wood can also be entered at its southern end via a tarmac footpath, either from Forest Drive to the east or Lambton Court to the west. A public footpath (Harraton No 11) crosses the eastern end of Rickleton Way Wood running north to south whilst a tarmac path running northeast to southwest passes through the middle of The Chase. Links to the Sustrans Cycle Way that follows the route of the old Railway Line to the north of Picktree and Rickleton Way Woods is provided by steps up the embankment on the northern boundary of Picktree Lane Wood and by the public footpath through Rickleton Way. All four woods are on level ground, though the path through Rickleton Way crosses a large ditch via steps at its western end. All paths (except the tarmac ones mentioned above) are unsurfaced earth paths that may become muddy in wet weather but otherwise have reasonably good surfaces.

Parking within the immediate vicinity of most of the woods is difficult and confined to on-road parking within the surrounding urban area. However, a public car park is available off Vigo Lane opposite the southern end of The Chase from where all four woods can be reached within a few minutes walk. For visitors wishing to reach the wood by public transport, bus stops are located alongside the woods on Vigo Lane, Picktree Lane and Rickleton Way.

## 3.2 Access / Walks

All four woods have permissive footpaths within them allowing walkers to freely explore each of them, although only Rickleton Way has a short stretch of public footpath passing through its eastern end.

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The principle aim of management for the Vigo Woods will be to maintain their existing high forest structure by protecting and encouraging any regeneration/under planting remaining following re-spacing in 2005/06. Appropriate action will also be taken to combat any activities likely to adversely affect their recreation and wildlife value. Although, during 2005 and 2006, broadleaves were favoured over conifers when re-spacing the understorey, no active programme of conifer removal from the canopy will be carried out in these woods. The permanent foliage of conifers has good attenuation properties, and their presence in these small urban woodlands adds interesting structural diversity.

Public access will continue to be promoted in the future through maintaining paths and entrances to allow unobstructed access on foot in all four woods, thereby helping to fulfil the Trust's corporate objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland.

# 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

All four woods making up the Vigo group of woodlands are fully integrated into the urban environment of Washington New Town and consequently are very well used for informal recreation by local people of all ages living in this extensive residential area. Although extensively used by the public, only Rickleton Way contains a recorded public right of way (Harraton No 11), though both The Chase and New Vigo Woods contain short stretches of surfaced footpath with accompanying street lighting. Most access to the woods is provided by an extensive network of informal paths running through them. Access to the woods is facilitated by maintaining16 formal entrance points, marked by Woodland Trust welcome signs. The Sustrans' C2C national cycle route runs along the outside edge of cpts 2 and 3 and a local cycle route branches off this to follow the route of the public footpath through Rickleton Way and south along The Chase alongside cpt 4.

### Significance

Providing public access to woods is a cornerstone of the Trust's management approach to its properties and is encapsulated in its corporate objective of increasing enjoyment of woodland. The Vigo Woods provides an important local amenity for people living in this part of Washington and the surrounding area and are very well used. Being located alongside the Sustrans' C2C cycle route (Cpts 2 & 3), they also have the potential to provide informal recreation opportunities for a much wider body of people than just the local community.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Individually, the small size of these woods limits the scope of recreational opportunities they can provide. However, because they are so closely associated and linked by public highways, their collective area can provide a good woodland walk and a circular walk through all four woods is easily achieved. For people not living in the immediate area, the public car park off Vigo Lane, opposite the southern entrance into The Chase provides an ideal starting point for a circular walk taking in all four woods. The two entrances on the northern boundaries of Cpts 2 & 3 also link these woods into the Sustrans Cycleway, linking the woods into this important strategic route. Due to the high local population the woods are extremely well used by the local community and as such the paths can become incredibly wet and poached in the wetter months meaning that the paths become unusable.

### Factors Causing Change

Path damage caused by cyclists

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure the current level of public access provision to the woods continues to be available in the future by maintaining the present number of entrances and permissive paths.

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

Entrances to the woods will be inspected at least once a year by the EMC contractor to ensure they are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition for use by the public. The network of permissive paths recorded on the legal map will be kept open for walkers by cutting back encroaching vegetation and collecting litter and any fly tipping at least once a year. Public safety will be protected by carrying out a tree safety survey once every year along boundaries adjacent to houses and once every two years along paths and by maintaining a site risk assessment of all known hazards within the woods and carrying out any necessary work identified in order to minimise the dangers these present to visitors and neighbours.

## 5.2 Local Woodland Habitat

### Description

All four woods have an important role as refuges for urban wildlife, in what is otherwise a heavily built-up area. Birds in particular benefit from the habitat the woods provide, offering nesting, feeding and roosting sites. They also provide living space for small mammals and insects within the urban environment and provide places where people can experience something of the natural world on their doorstep.

### Significance

Being a new town, Washington is a heavily built-up area with few natural green spaces. Gardens and any open space tends to be heavily manicured and roadside verges and hedges are kept well cut, so suitable habitats for wildlife are few. Consequently, the habitat provided by Vigo Woods in this area has an important role to play as refuges for wildlife. This importance is reflected in the designation of these woods as part of a Strategic Wildlife Corridor.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Because the four woods are so close together, even though individually they are relatively small, cumulatively, they create an area of woodland habitat covering 8.16 ha (20.16 acres) among the urban spread of Washington. Each wood is only separated from its neighbour by the width of a single road, so reasonably mobile species can exploit more than one wood. Migration opportunities for wildlife into these woods is further enhanced by both Cpts 2 & 3 directly adjoining the Sustrans Cycleway (the old mineral railway) that forms an extensive green corridor along which animals can move and reach these woods. The intensive public use these woods receive will cause disturbance to wildlife and is likely to prevent some species from maintaining a permanent presence here (e.g. ground nesting birds, larger mammals etc.), therefore some conflict is always going to be present between people's needs and that of wildlife.

### Factors Causing Change

Littering & fly-tipping, Disturbance due to increasing public use

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure biological and structural diversity is maintained or improved through sensitive management in order to preserve the habitat value of these woods for wildlife.

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

A programme of thinning work will be carried out between 2014 and 2017 focusing on boundary and roadside trees, removing those that could interfere with the passage of traffic on the roads and those that are in poor health, heavily suppressed or require removing to favour native broadleaved trees.

## 5.3 Landscape Value

### Description

When creating Washington New Town, Washington Development Corporation's policy on landscape design was to have trees as a backcloth to the residential and industrial development of the town and to integrate the whole as naturally as possible. Consequently, from the outset, woodland such as the Vigo Woods were meant to form landscape features within the town, providing natural green space within the hard landscaping.

### Significance

Woods and trees form part of the essential character that defines Washington as a place and have formed an explicit part of the town's design since its inception in the 1960s. They help to maintain a village-like feel to the various parts of Washington by breaking up the urban sprawl and providing an aesthetic natural backcloth in what is otherwise an intensively developed area.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Perhaps the greatest threat to maintaining the landscape value of these woods is the pressures and abuses they receive being so intimately associated with residential housing. Although most of New Vigo Wood is covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), past incidents of unauthorised felling along boundaries has occurred, as well as vandalism to trees within the woods. That fact that the woods were included as an integral part of the new town design and are now managed by the Woodland Trust, they will continue to be protected and maintained as woodland in perpetuity, thus securing their future as landscape features.

### Factors Causing Change

Illegal tree felling, Fly-tipping

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the existing landscape value of the Vigo Woods through sensitive management that avoids abrupt or substantial changes to the existing character of the woods.

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

All four woods will be formally inspected at least every five years for signs of deterioration as part of the Trust's commitment under its Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certification to monitor the health of its woodlands. Boundaries adjacent to houses will also be inspected whilst conducting tree safety surveys and any damage to the woods or encroachments will be investigated and appropriate action taken to combat these.

## 5.4 Other

### Description

All four Vigo Woods (particularly compartment 2 being directly adjacent to the A1(M)) have an important role to play as attenuation barriers, protecting the surrounding houses from the noise and dirt generated by vehicles using the major roads that enclose this area to the west and north. Conifers in particular are important in this respect as their year-round foliage provides excellent noise and dust attenuation properties and it may be no coincidence that cpt 2 contains significantly more conifers than the other three woods in this group.

### Significance

The protection these woods provide for surrounding residential areas by reducing the levels of noise and dirt reaching them significantly adds to the quality of life local residents in Rickleton enjoy. Without the woods, houses in this part of Washington would be exposed to the full impact of the dirt, fumes and noise generated by vehicles using the A1(M) and the A195.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Because all four woods have been heavily under-planted with both conifers and broadleaves, the opportunity exists to ensure a conifer element is maintained within these woods (especially cpt 2) in the future for their year-round attenuation properties.

### Factors Causing Change

None identified at this time

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the existing attenuation properties provided by the Vigo Woods through sensitive management that avoids abrupt or substantial changes to the existing character of the woods and by ensuring an element of conifers continues to be present within the woods into the future.

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

During 2005 and 2006 the under-stories of these woods were re-spaced. Although the general presumption was to favour native broadleaves, selection also favoured some conifers, particularly Scots pine in cpt 2, to ensure the long-term survival of conifers within the woods for their superior attenuation properties. Following this work, no further intervention will be carried out (except for the path and boundary thinning that needs to be done for safety and access reasons) and the understories and canopies of these woods will be left to develop naturally.

## 5.5 Pond

### Description

Old pond covering an area of approximately 0.08 ha in the southern end of New Vigo Wood that is shown on the first series Ordnance Survey map and so is at least 150+ years old. Past surveys have shown great crested newts are present in the pond, which is one of only two known ponds to support this species within the administrative area of the City of Sunderland. Work to clear the pond of silts and re-establish its true area was carried out during the mid 1980s by BTCV. Further work on clearing and digging the pond was done in the mid 1990s by the Woodland Trust but Typha re-established itself leading to further work in 2004 and 2005 to clear the pond of silts and re-establish it as an open body of water.

### Significance

The considerable age of the pond makes it important in ecological terms, allowing considerable time for complex ecological associations to have developed. In 2004, the presence of great crested newts, last recorded in 1993, was again confirmed. This species is a regional and national biodiversity action plan priority species protected under European law and is on the short list of the UK Steering Group report. Besides pond ecology, this water body is an important habitat within the wood, increasing biodiversity and is also valued by local people for the aesthetic quality it adds to the environment.

### Opportunities & Constraints

Because New Vigo Wood is a very well used by the public, safety considerations are paramount and this has constrained how deep the pond was excavated to in order to prevent Typha re-colonising. However, this pond is very popular with local people and so improvements to it are likely to be welcomed by local residents who, in the past, have expressed to the site manager their desire to see the pond re-established. The presence of great crested newts in the pond does place considerable legal and practical constraints on both the management of the pond itself and the surrounding woodland.

### Factors Causing Change

Spread of Typha, Fly tipping of debris in pond, Presence of non-native garden species, Deterioration of bridges & boardwalk

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

To improve the habitat value of the pond through appropriate management so that it’s ecological value increases, improving biodiversity within the wood and increasing its aesthetic value as a landscape feature.

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

During 2003, an ecological survey of the pond was carried out to establish its current wildlife and habitat value and to identify any work required to improve the pond’s ecological and habitat value. During 2004 and 2005, the programme of work recommended in the survey report was carried out to re-establish the pond as an open water body. In 2006, the pond was resurveyed and the findings of this survey, along with the one done in 2003, will provide the baseline information against which future monitoring of this key feature can be made. During 2016, the pond will be resurveyed to establish if great crested newts still colonise this water body and to advise on what future actions are needed to improve this habitat's ecological value.

## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

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

## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

| Cpt No. | Area (ha) | Main Species | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints | Key Features Present | Designations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1a | 3.39 | Ash | 1960 | High forest | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Legal issues, People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site | Informal Public Access, Landscape Value, Local Woodland Habitat, Other | Tourism Restraint Area, Tree Preservation Order |

New Vigo Wood was established some time after the 1855, as the wood does not appear on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map. It occupies a flat site consisting of wet poorly drained clay loam soils over clay on a very gentle south-facing slope to the south of Vigo Lane. It covers an area of 3.39 ha, most of which is covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO No 46) issued on the 1st of November 1987. The wood lies in a Strategic Wildlife Corridor as defined under the Tyne & Wear Conservation Strategy and red squirrels were recorded in the wood during 1995 but no further sightings have been reported since this time.

The current mixed high forest woodland, consisting of oak, ash, beech, birch, sycamore and Scot/Corsican pine is believed to have been planted around 1960. In early1984, following a heavy thinning in 1983, the wood was under-planted with 12552 young saplings consisting of both native and non-native broadleaves and conifers. These were beat-up in 1984/85 with 8,870 trees and a further1760 in 1985/86. Today, the wood has a well developed mixed understorey dominated by sycamore, ash, beech and hawthorn. The field layer holds little of interest being dominated by bramble, ferns, nettle, docks, rosebay willowherb, etc., with clumps of garden daffodils scattered here and there.

New Vigo Wood is now totally subsumed within the New Town development of Washington with residential housing surrounding most of it. Only a small finger of semi-mature mixed woodland remains undeveloped and this joins the wood to the south the BUPA Hospital and residential housing situated to the west of the wood. To the north, Vigo Lane forms its northern boundary, whilst to the south what used to be part of the wood is now part of the garden of Rickleton House; the land being sold to the residents soon after Washington Development Corporation acquired the woods. The pond that still occupies the southern end of the wood predates its establishment and is clearly shown on the 1st OS map. Great crested newts are known to be present in this pond.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2a | 1.28 | Scots pine | 1960 | High forest | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve) | Informal Public Access, Landscape Value, Local Woodland Habitat, Other | Tourism Restraint Area |
| Picktree Lane (sub-cpt 2a) consists of mixed high forest woodland occupying a flat site covering 1.28 ha on a very gentle south-facing slope. Bound by the A1(M) to the west and Picktree Lane to the east, the wood lies in a Strategic Wildlife Corridor as defined under the Tyne & Wear Conservation Strategy and was known to contain red squirrels in the mid 1999s but no sightings have been reported since then. An old mineral railway line that runs along the outside of the wood's northern boundary now forms part of the national C2C/Sustrans cycleway whilst to the south the boundary between sub-cpts 2a and 2b is marked by the old route of Vigo Lane that continued westwards along the edge of the wood in former times. Management access to the wood is provided by a wooden field gate in the eastern boundary located on Picktree Lane with a tarmac strip running up to it across the grass verge.<br><br>Although the wood was in existence when the first Ordnance Survey maps were drafted in 1855, most of the present woodland cover is believed to have been planted around 1960 and consists of Scots pine and oak with a scattering of Corsican pine, sycamore, beech, ash and birch. The wood has been extensively under-planted with both conifers and broadleaves during the mid 1980s and has a well-developed understorey dominated by beech, hawthorn and elder but also including spruce, sycamore and holly. The field layer is dominated by invasive species such as bramble, bracken and coarse grasses and contains nothing of great interest.<br><br>A small pond exists near the southeast edge of the wood that looks like it may be associated with old mining activity. During the under-planting carried out in the mid 1980s, 130 common alder are recorded as being planted around this pond, consequently it is now rather concealed and not an obvious feature on site. | | | | | | | |
| 2b | 0.35 | Sycamore | 1971 | High forest | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve) | Informal Public Access, Landscape Value, Local Woodland Habitat, Other | Tourism Restraint Area |

The southern end of Picktree Lane (sub-cpt 2b) covers a flat area of 0.35 ha and was planted in 1971 by Northern Forestry Products Ltd at 1.5m (5x5 ft) spacing on old pastureland consisting mostly of fertile loam. The site is bound to the west by the A1(M) and Picktree Lane to the east, whilst sub-cpt 2a lies to the north with further young mixed woodland to the south. It lies in a Strategic Wildlife Corridor as defined under the Tyne & Wear Conservation Strategy. Management access is taken either through sub-cpt 2a or directly across the roadside verge from Picktree Lane, subject to reinstatement of any damage caused. A water pipe runs through 2b east to west.

A total of 2,300 trees were planted consisting of sycamore, beech, Scots pine and Sitka spruce (note, the original area of this sub-cpt was probably larger and included the woodland to the south not in Trust ownership). These were then beaten-up in 1972 with 500 Sitka spruce and 500 Scots pine and again in 1982 with 200 ash and 400 common alder. The young plantings were thinned by Washington development Corporation in 1984, then thinned and pruned again in 1986 before being handed over to the Trust. In 1997 the trees were thinned again by Maurice Pyle to create a spacing of 3-4m between remaining trees. The present tree cover consists predominantly of sycamore within the centre of the sub-cpt with a thin band of Scots pine along the southern and western boundaries. Elder forms a scattered understorey and nettles dominate the field layer, both indicative of disturbed ground.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3a | 1.76 | Mixed broadleaves | 1960 | High forest | People issues (+tve & -tve) | Informal Public Access, Landscape Value, Local Woodland Habitat, Other | Tourism Restraint Area |

Rickleton Way Wood occupies a mostly flat site on a gentle south-facing slope. Covering an area of 1.76 ha, it lies between the old mineral railway line to the north (now part of the C2C/Sustrans cycle way) and Rickleton Way to the south. Picktree Lane runs along its western boundary whilst to the east, remnants of an old hawthorn hedge that runs through the wood marks the Trust's ownership boundary. Beyond this, the woodland continues eastwards, dominated mostly by young sycamore trees. The wood lies in a Strategic Wildlife Corridor as defined under the Tyne & Wear Conservation Strategy and was known to contain red squirrels in the mid 1999s but no sightings have been noted in recent years. A public footpath (Harraton No 11) crosses the eastern end of the wood running north-south and in the western end a large ditch (up to 3m deep) also crosses the wood from north-south. The nature and origin of this feature is unknown. Management access can be taken directly off either Rickleton Way or Picktree Lane across the roadside verge, subject to reinstatement of any damage caused.

Prior to the construction of Rickleton Way and Picktree Lane, Cpt 3, along with Cpts 2 & 4, formed on continuous body of woodland known as Vigo Wood. The current tree cover is believed to have been planted around 1960 and consists of mixed high forest woodland containing Scots pine, Corsican pine, beech, ash, oak, birch and sycamore. The wood was thinned by the Washington Development Corporation in 1976 and again in 1983/84 when the wood was heavily thinned and then densely under-planted with pedunculate oak, beech, silver birch, common alder, rowan, Scots pine, Sitka spruce, Corsican pine, hybrid larch and western red cedar. The under-planting was heavily beat up during the subsequent three years following establishment prior to the wood being handed over to the Trust in 1987.

Today, the understorey is well developed and consists of hybrid larch, beech, silver birch, ash, sycamore, spruce, elder, hawthorn, rose, holly and honeysuckle. The field layer is floristically poor, containing ivy, grasses, bramble, ferns and nettles, with the odd cultivated daffodil here and there.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4a | 1.38 | other oak spp | 1960 | High forest | Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, People issues (+tve & -tve) | Informal Public Access, Landscape Value, Local Woodland Habitat, Other | Tourism Restraint Area |

The Chase forms a long narrow finger of woodland stretching from Rickleton Way to the north to Vigo lane to the south. A public footpath (Harraton No 11) runs down the outside of the northeast-facing boundary, alongside which is residential housing. Houses also lie along the west side of the wood, except where the wood borders the cricket field. The wood lies in a Strategic Wildlife Corridor as defined under the Tyne & Wear Conservation Strategy and was known to contain red squirrels in the mid 1999s but no sightings have been noted in recent years. Covering 1.38 ha, the wood occupies a flat site on a very gently sloping southeast-facing slope consisting of clay-loam. A tarmac path with street lighting passes through the middle of the wood but is not recorded as a public right of way on the Definitive Map. Management access can be gained directly off either Rickleton Way , Vigo Lane or from The Chase, subject to reinstatement of any damage caused to road verges, etc.

Prior to the construction of Rickleton Way, Cpt 4, along with Cpts 2 & 3, formed on continuous body of woodland known as Vigo Wood. The current tree cover is believed to have been planted around 1960 and consists of mixed high forest woodland containing Scots pine, Corsican pine, beech, ash, oak and sycamore. The wood was thinned by the Washington Development Corporation in 1976 and again in 1983/84 when the wood was heavily thinned and then densely under-planted with pedunculate oak, beech, silver birch, common alder, rowan, Scots pine, Sitka spruce, Corsican pine, hybrid larch and western red cedar. The under-planting was heavily beat up during the subsequent three years following establishment prior to the wood being handed over to the Woodland Trust in 1987.

Today, the understorey is well developed and consists of hybrid larch, beech, silver birch, ash, sycamore, spruce, yew, hawthorn, holly and common alder. Snowberry forms part of the hedge at the southern end of the eastern boundary. The field layer is floristically poor, containing grasses, bramble, ferns and the odd domesticated daffodil here and there.

## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

| Forecast Year | Cpt | Operation Type | Work Area (ha) | Estimated vol/ha | Estimated total vol. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2015 | 1a | Selective Fell | 0.12 | 0 | 0 |
| 2015 | 2a | Selective Fell | 0.13 | 0 | 0 |
| 2015 | 3a | Selective Fell | 0.11 | 0 | 0 |
| 2015 | 4a | Selective Fell | 0.03 | 0 | 0 |

# GLOSSARY

### Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

### Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

### Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

### Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

### Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

### Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

### Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

### Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

### Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

### Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

### Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

### Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

### Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

### Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

### Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

### Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

### Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

### National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

### Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

### Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

### Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

### Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

### Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

### Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

### Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

### Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

### Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

### Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

### Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

### Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.