WOODLAND TRUST

Reynolds Wood

Management Plan 2016-2021

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MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Reynolds Wood
Location:	Brogborough
Grid reference:	SP957397, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 153
Area:	96.62 hectares (238.75 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest, Planted Ancient Woodland Site

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Set on a ridge with views over Marston Vale. Old hazel and ash coppice are common but you'll also find oak, field maple, Midland hawthorn and hazel. Look out for muntjac and Chinese water deer, foxes and hares. Good network of bridleways and paths.

2.2 Extended Description

Reynolds wood is a large area of semi natural habitat situated on part of the northern clay ridge of Marston Vale Community Forest area. The site broadly consists of large blocks of mixed broadleaved planting, a substantial area of created meadow and ancient woodland. All these elements are interconnected by many kilometres of hedgerow some of which are of ancient origin. Within this mosaic are several ponds and watercourses. The large area of woodland planting is based on the old woodland community type situated at the northern end of the site - Holcot Wood.

Present day Holcot Wood is mostly ASNW with a small area of 19th century re-colonisation. The two large ponds were dug and pond plants introduced in 1985.

A wet ash, oak, field maple and hazel woodland Holcot Wood has a rich and varied fauna and flora characterised by a largely oak-ash canopy with field maple in the under storey and a shrub layer containing hazel, midland hawthorn, dogwood, spindle and blackthorn. Beech, Norway maple, larch and pine have been planted in some areas.

The field layer is dominated by dogs mercury, bluebell, bramble and pendulous sedge with other woodland species including: wood millet, wood melick, yellow archangel, wood anemone, wood sedge, the soft shield fern - Polystichum aculeatum, early purple orchid, wood sanicle.

The complicated history has given rise to a very diverse structure with areas of mature high forest, over stood ash coppice, recent coppice, pole stage plantings, blackthorn thickets, old rides, one large glade and several ponds.

The Reynolds wood site was planted at a density of 1100 to 1600 trees per Ha between 1993 and 2000. Much of the older planting has good vitality following some early failures in parts due to deer browsing and wind damage. The design of the wood also included several wide woodland rides, which were seeded with a neutral grassland mix. The 11ha meadow was created in 1995 under a MAFF countryside stewardship scheme with the long term aims to become part of a wood pasture system. Grazing began with Hereford cattle in 2012 and the area is under HLS scheme running to 2024.

There is much of historical interest within the site including ancient boundary banks and ditches, varied aged of field boundaries, parish boundaries, Saxon farmstead sites, ridge and furrow and wood banks.

The wood is a significant landscape feature within the Forest of Marston Vale standing on a prominent position at the eastern gateway to the forest.

Management access is via a small side road off the A421 which leads into a hard surfaced tracking running the length of the site.

The key features Are:
-ASNW
-Informal Public Access
-Mixed Habitat Mosaic
-Archaeological Features

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access can be achieved on foot or bicycle from public rights of way at several points around the site. The nearest parking is the first layby on the left after leaving Brogborough village heading east towards Marston Moretaine/Bedford on the Bedford Rd. From the layby walk along the path leading to the turning for Manor farm/The Granary B&B. Walk over the bridge over the A421 and turn right through a hand gate opposite the phone mast.

A surfaced track runs from the southern end of the site for 2km through the wood to link up with the Bedford to Milton Keynes SUSTRANS cycle route that runs east west through the wood. The SUSTRANS route links up with further surfaced PROW in the wider area. Disabled access off the surfaced track is restricted by wet ground, long distances and steep slopes, Holcot wood can be especially wet. The nearest public toilets are at the Forest of Marston Vale Visitor Centre located next to the village of Marston Moretaine a couple of miles further along he A421 or Bedford Road towards Bedford. Disabled facilities, 9am > 5pm. Regular bus service along the A421 between Bedford and Milton Keynes. For bus times ring Traveline on 08712002233 or visit wwwtraveline.org.uk.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention is to develop 1990's planting into high forest with structural and species diversity. Providing a stable and resilient woodland habitat to compliment a wide variety of habitats over the total 98 ha and wider landscape, while at the same time promoting public access and managing the historical/archaeological interest of the site.

Much of Holcot wood has not been actively managed for several decades and the intention is to retain the existing structural diversity that has developed by managing as high forest. Existing rides and the ecologically important grassy glade area in the middle will be managed by a regime of ride edge coppice as needed, mowing and scrub removal.

Ponds throughout the site will be managed on a cyclical basis to retain all valuable stages of a ponds successional development.
The created grassland is to be incorporated into the surrounding areas of woodland to create a mosaic of scrub and wood pasture.

The whole area is to be incorporated, in broad management terms and neighbour/partner co-operation, into the wider network of semi-natural habitats, including Marston Thrift wood, Rectory farm Wood and the restored landfill area. This would create the largest area of semi-natural habitat in Bedfordshire.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

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

5.1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Holcot Wood is SNAW comprising ash- field maple - oak woodland with crab apple, aspen, and a mix of shrubs including hazel, dogwood, spindle, midland hawthorn, blackthorn and wayfaring tree. There are some very large coppice stools. Good woodland field layer dominated by bluebell, dogs mercury, wood anemone with yellow archangel, early purple orchid, sanicle, wood sedge, pendulous sedge and county rarity Soft Shield Fern. Within the ancient woodland are many ancillary habitats of note including old ponds, neutral grassland rides and natural streams. In places the boundary of the wood is defined by medieval age wood banks and ditches

Significance

In Bedfordshire there is only 1% cover of ASNW. Several important BAP species, including several species of bat - Black Hairstreak Butterfly and Soft Shield Fern, have been recorded within the wood. It also has a good diverse ground flora including some areas of unimproved neutral grassland. The wood is an excellent source for woodland species to colonise more recent habitats created by the WT. It is the core of Reynolds Wood - a regionally important new planting site within the Marston Vale Community Forest.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints
A very wet woodland all year round with fairly steep slopes which can inhibit access for management. At least 1.5km from the nearest public highway.

Opportunities
The wood is an ideal source of woodland wildlife species for re-colonisation of the areas of new (circa1995>2000) planting surrounding the south, west and when the landfill is restored in the east. A surfaced SUSTRANS route passes along the southern edge of Holcot wood.

Factors Causing Change

Deer Pressure
Climate change - Pests and Disease

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A structurally diverse native broadleaved ASNW, exhibiting areas of high forest, scrub and associated glades, rides, ponds and streams. With a diverse range of associated flora and fauna.

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

Mow all main rides on a 2 zone mowing regime and coppice ride edges (zone 3) as required following annual inspection by Site manager. Triggers for action will be over shading, wetting of rides (muddy sections) or access difficulty (see KF3).

Deer management should continue to take place monitored through biennial Deer impact surveys, with cull guidelines adjusted dependent on evident impact. Deer exclusion plots should be constructed during the plan period to better inform the impact surveys.

Natural regeneration is preferred for recruitment of new trees, however under planting of compartment 5 is desirable to speed up this process in light of ash dieback (hymenoscyphus fraxineus) confirmed on site in late 2014 and the heavily ash dominated canopy in this block, compounded by number of over-stood coppice trees within the canopy. Species mix will be: Hornbeam, cherry, field maple, oak, aspen & crab apple. this should be a phased approach filling in light gaps as they appear at 3m spacing. (wider pacing preferred to allow management access into the compartment. Weed control will be undertaken where needed to aid establishment and deer tubes used to protect from browsing until established. Monitored annually by the site manger.

Ash will be retained as long as possible, but to protect ancient ash coppice stools "in-tact", these should be re-coppiced when the canopy shows greater than 75% dieback. After this point it is reasonable to expect the trees not to recover or be regarded as "tolerant" Stools identified for felling following annual summer inspection by site manager.

5.2 Mixed Habitat Mosaic

Description

Reynolds wood is a large site (250 acres) containing several features and habitats notable in their own right, but taken together, of great biodiversity importance. A large area within the new wood was seeded, from arable land, as semi-natural grassland. This was originally a separate grazing area but is now (2010) managed as a part of a larger area as wood/wood pasture grazing.

Significance

Many wildlife species require a range of habitats from shaded woodland to open grassland for aspects of their ecology. The sheer size of Reynolds wood and the mix of habitats it contains will provide a huge range of suitable niche habitats for a wide range of species, especially if it forms part of a wider habitat creation including the FMV planting and restored landfill site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints
The soils can lie very wet restricting management options
High value utilities along the length of the site. (High pressure Gas, mains water & slurry pipe) limiting management options and access for larger machinery, etc.

Opportunities
Potential for land to form part of a much larger (400ha+) semi-natural habitat area as the decommissioned (2013/14) landfill site develops and the Forest of Marston Vale planting at Rectory farm matures.

Factors Causing Change

Climate change - pests and disease
Scrub encroachment of open space

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A large area of native broadleaved woodland which mirrors the diverse structure of Holcot Wood and retains the present range of other semi natural habitats.

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

Encourage greater structural diversity in well established planting through appropriate thinning operations to stimulate natural regeneration. *Opportunity to work with FMV to add value to small-diameter round-wood arising from first thinnings.

Continue grazing in comp 2&3 to diversify grass sward and reduce scrub encroachment of open space (comp 3) and breakup even age structure in in comp 2 without need for human intervention. Level of grazing/ herd size will be monitored though annual visual inspection by the site manager. Ideal stocking density is believed to be between 20 and 30 beasts through the spring and summer. *Management should not contravene HLS T&Cs as laid out in the agreement with Natural England on file - (2014- 2024)

Rides and open space outside grazing area (including wayleaves) will be maintained through annual mowing in September, once most things have seeded, along side cutting back of scrub/ vegetation as identified in biennial inspection by site manager.

5.3 Informal Public Access

Description

The entire site has a good network of permissive paths, rides and glades. There are also public bridleways and footpaths crossing the site which connect the wood to Brogborough and Cranfield and the wider network in the Vale. Open areas, seats and view points are scattered around the site. The Clay Way, Brogborough Gateway trail and the Bedford / Milton Keynes SUSTRANS route run through the site. A large proportion of the wood occupies the top of the clay ridge that overlooks much of the Marston Vale Community Forest providing views of the Greensand ridge, and central Bedfordshire. The site has the opportunity to become part of an area of over 1000 acres of accessible semi-natural habitat formed by the Forest of Marston Vale planting, Beds CC woodland and the restored landfill site.

Significance

Very close to the population centres of Milton Keynes, Bedford and it is at the gateway of the MVCF. The site is the largest area of woodland in the Forest of Marston Vale Area

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints
Parking restricted since 2010.
Signposting not effective due to location of site and access points.
The heavy clay soils lie extremely wet in winter.

Opportunities
Very large and can accommodate many people without giving the impression of overcrowding.
Likely future access to the east when landfill site is restored as part of 1000 acre accessible area of woodland and semi-natural habitats.
Linked into surfaced PROW network in the Marston Vale area.
On Sustrans route 51

Factors Causing Change

scrub encroachment restricting paths
changes is surrounding land use affecting (+ve & -ve) access and visitor numbers.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Accessible site welcoming and inviting to a range of visitors. Views will be maintained where possible and the site will provide a valuable wildlife experience, linked into the wider Forest of Marston Vale habitats.

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

Mow ride/path network to minimum of 2 m width three times through the growing season. Maintain all access points and seating and signs to latest WT specifications. Overhanging or obstructive vegetation will be cut back as required and identified through biennial inspection by the Site manager. All managed paths will be safe (see risk assessment for tree safety zones and inspection frequency) and well defined.

Engage with surrounding stake holders where possible to improve visitor offer and link access to surrounding landscape. (likely partners are Central Beds council, Sustrans, FMV, and neighbouring land owners.)

5.4 Archaeological Feature

Description

The site contains much of historical/ archaeological interest. Sites of medieval farmsteads with associated ponds. Medieval ditches and banks associated with the ancient woods. Old parish boundaries and field boundaries from ancient to post enclosure. Small area of ridge & furrow.

Significance

The site provides an opportunity for study and or preservation of the existing features which are important in the history of this part of Bedfordshire. The woodland will ensure that these features will not be lost in the future

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints.
Maturing woodland may have a negative impact on above ground archaeological features e.g overtopping hedgerows

Opportunities
Woodland will preserve archaeological features from the most damaging impacts of agriculture or development e.g ploughing and other excavations

Factors Causing Change

Unintended damage through management of site
Visitor pressure

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Historical interest undamaged by management intervention

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

Consult archaeological records before undertaking intervention management and amend if necessary to reduce impact to acceptable level. Consider any visitor enhancements carefully to minimise damage or pressure to sensitive features.

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	8.29	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Community Forest
Broadleaved mixed planting in 1993- 94 comprising ash, field maple, oak, birch and aspen with mixed shrubs. Planting rate 1100 trees per Ha. Tree growth good throughout the compartment with a field layer of bramble and nettle underneath. There is a pond, excavated at planting, in the north eastern corner of the compartment. The ground lies very wet in winter. The surfaced access track continues throughout this compartment to eventually join up with the SUSTRANS route which runs SW > NE through the wood from Milton Keynes to Bedford. The open ground running through the middle is a under a 'wayleave' containing a gas main and a cement slurry pipeline. The cpt has good views over the Marston Vale area.							
1b	7.81	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Community Forest
Broadleaved mixed planting in 1993 - 94 comprising ash, field maple, oak, birch and aspen with mixed shrubs. Planting rate 1100 trees per Ha. Tree growth good throughout the compartment with a field layer of bramble and nettle underneath. The ground lies very wet in winter. The surfaced access track continues throughout this cpt to eventually join up with the SUSTRANS route which runs SW > NE through the wood from Milton Keynes to Bedford. The open ground running through the middle is a under a 'wayleave' containing a gas main and a cement slurry pipeline. The cpt also includes the narrow neck of land connecting cpt 1 with the rest of Reynolds Wood. This strip of land has evidence of 'ridge and furrow' along its length.							
2a	9.07	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	Wood pasture	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Community Forest

Broadleaved mixed planting in 1993 - 94 on the flat top of the hill, comprising ash, field maple, oak, birch and aspen with mixed shrubs. Planting rate 1100 trees per Ha. The ancient parish boundary hedge forms its western border. Sheltered by a neighbouring landowners block of older woodland to the southwest. Tree growth is good throughout the compartment with a field layer of bramble and nettle underneath. There is an old pond with associated older willows in the northern corner of the compartment; this is the site of a medieval farmstead. There is another more recently abandoned farm (1970's) on the SW boundary that contains a couple of ponds along with remains of the buildings. The ground lies very wet in winter. The surfaced access track continues throughout the cpt This cpt forms part of a grazing enclosure (2a, 2b, 3a, 9a) and as such some of the boundaries have been fenced. The boundary with cpt 3a is not clearly defined and will become less visible as the woodland edge creeps out into the meadow.							
2b	9.00	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	Wood pasture		Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Community Forest
Broadleaved mixed planting in 1996-97 at the bottom of the hill, comprising ash, field maple, oak, birch and aspen with mixed shrubs. Planting rate 1100 trees per Ha. The ancient parish boundary hedge forms its eastern border. There is a small area (0.5ha) of ASNW in the NE corner. Tree growth is good throughout the compartment, although it suffered in the early years with deer damage, with a field layer of bramble and nettle underneath. There is a pond in the cpt created at the same time as the planting. This cpt forms part of a grazing enclosure (2a, 2b, 3a, 9a) and as such some of the boundaries have been fenced. The boundary with cpt 3a is not clearly defined and will become less visible as the woodland edge creeps out into the meadow.							
3a	11.43	Open ground	1994	Non-wood habitat		Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Community Forest
Meadow creation area sown in 1994 with a conservation grass mix. Large swaths of the meadow were affected by cement slurry pipe relaying in 1999. There is public access through the meadow and good views to the east and south into the Marston Vale. Area is under a HLS agreement running to 2024.							
4a	14.42	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest

Planted 1993-94. A mix of broadleaved species - oak, ash, birch, field maple, sallow, hazel, wayfaring tree, dog rose, thorn, guelder rose at 1100/ha. Generally good growth throughout on the very wet soils, although some areas heavily affected by deer browsing. Good views to the south. Apart from the southern end most of the cpt is enclosed by a fence as one of the two grazing enclosures in the wood. Contains an old pond (we share with a neighbour) at the SE corner of the grazing enclosure. SUSTRANS route runs up the eastern edge along the boundary with our neighbour, another bridle way runs N > S along the eastern edge and a footpath SW > NE through the middle.							
4b	10.66	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest
Planted 1993-94. A mix of broadleaved species - oak, ash, birch, field maple, sallow, hazel, wayfaring tree, doge rose, thorn, guelder rose at 1100/ha. Generally good growth throughout on the very wet soils, although some areas heavily affected by deer browsing. Good views to the east. The whole cpt is enclosed by a fence as one of the two grazing enclosures in the wood.							
5a	7.90	Ash		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest
Holcot Wood. An area of ancient semi natural woodland exhibiting signs of past management as coppice with standards. Oak standards established around mid 19th century as well as a number of large ash stools make up the canopy. The species which make up the under storey include hazel and hawthorn with blackthorn becoming abundant in the NW of the cpt. A rich ground flora of dog's mercury with bluebell exists with some sedge and willow herb. Bramble is abundant in much of the compartment.							
5b	3.43	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
Holcot Wood. An area of ancient semi natural woodland exhibiting signs of past management as coppice with standards. Oak standards established around mid 19th century as well as a number of large ash stools make up the canopy. The species which make up the under storey include hazel and hawthorn. A rich ground flora of dog's mercury with bluebell exists with some sedge and willow herb. Bramble is abundant in much of the compartment. There is a pond in the centre on the compartment and a feature in the NW of the compartment that may be intended as ponds or as a result of historic quarrying. There is a partial3.43 clearing running N > S through the western end of the compartment as a result of cement and gas main laying.							

5c	6.02	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest
Holcot Wood. An area of ancient semi natural woodland exhibiting signs of past management as coppice with standards. Oak standards established around mid 19th century as well as a number of large ash stools make up the canopy. The species which make up the under storey include hazel and hawthorn. A rich ground flora of dog's mercury with bluebell exists with some sedge and willow herb. Bramble is abundant in much of the compartment. There are also examples of beech, walnut and Lombardy poplar indicating past management practices. On the southern edge small scale excavations are evidence of historical mineral digging (now taken over by badgers).							
6a	1.20	NULL	1985	Non-wood habitat	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest
Holcot Wood. Large woodland glade in the heart of Holcot wood which may go back hundreds of years and be associated with past cultivation. Plant species in this area include yellow rattle, hemp agrimony, wild carrot, black knapweed. The area is further enhanced by two ponds at the eastern end formed by artificial damming of the valley in 1985. These ponds exhibit gently shelving sides and a good assemblage of introduced floating, emergent and marginal vegetation. Could be very valuable for amphibian and insect species if the fish (Rudd) population is kept down.							
7a	2.79	NULL	1983	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest
Holcot Wood. Area of conifer (very few) and mixed broadleaves planted on an area cleared due to Dutch elm disease in 1983, occasional mature oak. Past use as pheasant rearing area. Little understory but there is some woodland ground flora outside the pheasant rearing area, bluebell/ sedges and bramble.							
8a	0.78	Oak (pedunculate)		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest
Area dominated by mid 19th century Oak with hazel and thorn understory. Higher percentage of mature ash along southern edge. Occasional larch still present, possible nurse crop? Suggestions from records that this may have been an area under some form of agricultural management (wood pasture?) or cleared of diseased elm and replanted.							

8b	0.76	NULL		High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Community Forest
Area dominated by mid 19th century Oak. Suggestions from records that this may have been an area under some form of agricultural management (wood pasture?) or cleared of diseased elm and replanted. Sparse understory of regenerating elm and ash with thorn.							
9a	3.06	NULL		Wood pasture		Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access, Mixed Habitat Mosaic	Community Forest
Area adjacent to Holcot wood left for natural regeneration which now contains several thousand stems of native species per ha (oak, ash, field maple, crab apple, hawthorn, blackthorn, willow, etc) . Was originally fenced against deer and rabbits. A public bridleway runs along the northern edge between it and Holcot wood and SUSTRANS route runs along the southern edge. The northern boundary is fenced as it is part of the grazing enclosure formed by cpts 2a, 2b, 3a, 9a.							

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.

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