



# Grappenhall Heys

**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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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.

## 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.

## 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>	Grappenhall Heys
<b>Location:</b>	Warrington
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SJ630856, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 109
<b>Area:</b>	7.33 hectares (18.11 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Community Forest, Designated by Mersey Valley Groundwork in 2001

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Grappenhall Heys lies in a commanding and elevated position to the south of Warrington, Cheshire and close to the village of Grappenhall. It is formerly part of the Parr estate which included landscaped gardens, parkland and historic features including a Ha-ha wall and walled garden which still exist today. The woodland contains a mix of species including oak, beech, Corsican and Scots pines, sycamore, yew, lime, hazel, hawthorn, holly and elder. The surrounding landscape is becoming more urbanised as new housing developments are built nearby, however the core area of the historic estate near the walled garden still retains a parkland feel to it.

### 2.2 Extended Description

Grappenhall Heys is to the south of Warrington in North Cheshire. It occupies an elevated position with the village of Grappenhall to the north east and overlooks the Lumb Brook valley and the suburb of Appleton to the south and west. The local landscape is still mainly rural, predominantly farmland for grazing pasture, although it is becoming increasingly urbanised with new housing estates being proposed as part of the future development of the area.

In the 19th century, the Grappenhall Heys estate was owned by Thomas Parr. The estate included a Manor house and walled garden with impressive views over the surrounding landscape and Appleton Park. Formal gardens surrounded the house with lawns, terraces and a bowling green,

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surrounded by parkland, woodland and farmland. The family left the house and estate in the 1940s and it eventually passed into the hands of the Warrington-Runcorn Development Corporation in 1975. They demolished the Manor house which was in a derelict condition leaving only the walled garden in place.

Much of the farmland surrounding the site is now owned by the Homes and Communities Agency ( previously the Commission for New Towns ) and earmarked for future housing development. The walled garden is now owned by Grappenhall and Thelwall parish council and has recently been restored with a HLF grant and is open to the public on a limited basis. Most of the woodland areas were gifted to the Woodland Trust by the Commission for the New Towns in 1992 including the woodland gardens next to the walled garden and a woodland shelterbelt to the north of this towards Grappenhall village.

A key feature of Grappenhall Heys is the secondary broadleaved woodland which can be subdivided into the following areas:

#### House Covert:

This was the informal woodland garden close to the house. It contains a large central pond with at least three secondary ponds connected by ditches. The water flows from south to north and leaves the woodland via an outfall culvert in the northern tip of the site. The central pond was restored in 1998 involving the removal of over 1000 cubic metres of silt. The margins were graduated and lined with stone and dense clay to improve public safety and enhance the biodiversity of this important water feature. This area once contained a rock garden with a water cascade although there is little evidence of it left now. There is a circular footpath (restored in 1999) that links the surrounding new housing estate to the wall garden, village green and beyond. Tree species include pedunculate and Turkey oak, sycamore, yew, lime with hazel, hawthorn and elderberry. When the Trust was given the site there was significant amounts of rhododendron ponticum which was suppressing the regeneration of the woodland. Over the years since much of this has been cleared by volunteers, although there are still areas of rhododendron remaining, some of which is on neighbouring land not owned by the Trust.

#### Pine Wood:

This small pocket of woodland lies to the south west adjacent to the walled garden. It was formerly the site of the old house and in recent years the footprint of the house has been restored for historical interest. Access has also been improved by the installation of a surfaced footpath linking Lumb Brook Road to the new housing to the north/east. There is also evidence of a terraced garden with sandstone steps along with a sandstone ha-ha that runs parallel to the western boundary. There are entrances to the compartment from the south, west and east. In recent years the recreational pressure had increased along with misuse of the site (fires in particular).

#### Parrs Wood Shelter Belt

This shelter belt runs east/west and consists of pine (Corsican/Scots) along with occasional oak, beech, and horse chestnut. The belt is narrow (15m in parts) and has a prominent position in the landscape. There is a small seasonal pond located in a spur close to the western entrance. The belt has been extensively under planted in the late 1980's with a wide range of mixed broadleaved species (oak, rowan, hazel and cherry). Much of this under planting has been suppressed by the closed canopy. However there is a significant amount of side light that has allowed it to establish particularly along the woodland edge. The shelterbelt has been lightly thinned (2001) but a

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significant amount of timber has been left in situ, providing deadwood habitat. There is a linear footpath running through the compartment which is part of the Mersey Valley Timberland Trail long distance footpath.

#### Beech Wood:

This lies to the east of the Shelter Belt. It contains mature and over mature beech with occasional horse chestnut, pedunculate oak, birch, pine, large leaved lime with some under planted hazel, hawthorn, and rowan. There is a significant amount of rhododendron through this compartment. There are significant levels of both fallen and standing deadwood and tree safety programmes have tried to enhance this in recent years. The ground flora is somewhat sporadic with occasional pockets of bluebell, lesser celandine and a good deal of bramble. Soils appear to be variable from sandy loam to pockets of heavy clay and mudstones in the lower lying areas. There is a linear footpath running through the compartment which is part of the Mersey Valley Timberland Trail long distance footpath. This has recently been diverted from the wetland area via a section of steps and a boardwalk. There is also a significant pond (former marl pit complex) in the centre of the compartment. The large central pond was de-silted in 2002 and re-profiled in an effort to improve public safety and enhance biodiversity. In addition a new outfall ditch has been constructed to enable water levels to be regulated more effectively. There is also a small balancing pond nearby that is used to regulate storm water flow from the new housing development next to the site. Finally there is a small season pool to the west of the main pond. This appears to dry out completely in the summer and is useful addition to the wetland mosaic.

The woodlands have open access for the public and are well used by local people, particularly for dog walking.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

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Grappenhall Heys is located on Witherwin Avenue, Appleton next to Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden which has a brown tourist sign on the road nearby. The woodland doesn't have a single main entrance, and there are several pedestrian entrances into the two main blocks of woodland, House Covert wood and the Shelterbelt/ Beechwood.

House Covert wood has an entrance on Witherwin Avenue to the left of the walled garden and another on Astor Drive at the northern corner of the wood. Both these entrances have metal kissing gates. There is also an entrance along Astor Drive about 200 yards from the roundabout with Witherwin Avenue, that leads through gateposts and along an access track (previously the old carriage driveway) towards the site of the old house and the walled garden. The southern half of this woodland block contains only one unsurfaced footpath which runs from the track towards the walls of Grappenhall Walled Garden before coming out onto Witherwin Avenue. There are some gentle gradients in places in this compartment. There are several other small entrances (with open access) on the eastern side of the wood leading from the new village green area and adjoining footpaths. The Shelterbelt & Beech Wood have three pedestrian only entrances: one on Lumb Brook Road on the western boundary, one on the corner of Tresham Drive and a third entrance can be found leading out onto green belt land on the eastern tip of the woodland. All these entrances have standard kissing gates and the paths are only partially stoned. The site is generally flat with little in the way of gradients although there is a gentle gradient in Beech Wood near the large pond where there are some steps leading to a boardwalk.

There are no public toilets in the vicinity although there are toilets and a café at the walled garden, but this has limited opening hours to the public.

<http://www.ghwalledgarden.org.uk/>

There is no public car park at the site and no official parking area, although there is roadside parking for visitors on Witherwin Avenue and Astor Drive.

The nearest bus stop is on Witherwin Avenue about 10 minutes walk along the roadside to the Witherwin Avenue entrance into the woodland by the Walled Garden. To access the Shelter Belt woodland block walk north along the track that leads off from the path leading down to the Witherwin Road entrance, after about 10 minutes you will see the Shelterbelt entrance on the left handside through a metal kissing gate marked with Woodland Trust signage.

For more information visit the Traveline website for details of bus services in the area and locations of bus stops <http://www.traveline.org.uk/index.htm>.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intention for Grappenhall Heys is to manage the woodland area as high forest of predominantly mixed broadleaves while retaining an element of pine and non-native specimen trees to reflect the original historic planting on the estate. Both native and non-native regeneration will be accepted within the woodland. The woodland should have a diverse structure with a mix of species and ages, well developed shrub layer and diverse ground flora layer.

Active thinning work will take place to promote long term stand stability and for public safety; this work will be focussed where the woodland borders housing, footpaths and roads. Mature trees will be retained across the site for as long as naturally possible and safety permits, to promote a succession of future veteran trees. Invasive rhododendron will be controlled to encourage natural regeneration and the development of more diverse ground flora.

Existing features of historical interest such as the Ha-ha wall and the footprint of the old house will be maintained so as to prevent them deteriorating. The ponds/ water features are intrinsic to the character of the site and will require maintenance, however restoration of these features will not occur unless significant funding becomes available.

Open public access will be retained at the wood in perpetuity. A good standard of access provision and visitor facilities will be provided at the wood, which acknowledges the high level of use. There will be a good network of well-managed paths for pedestrian access and the main paths will be opened up to enhance visitor enjoyment. Signage and information will be provided at the main entrances to enable visitors to explore the site. Continued investment in visitor access facilities will be made to ensure the wood is welcoming. The wood will be made as safe as practicable through regular safety inspections of high-risk tree zones and access infrastructure. Where possible we will work with the local parish council to enhance visitor access and understanding of the heritage of the site and encourage more people to enjoy the 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

Grappenhall Heys has a network of approximately 2300m of surfaced and unsurfaced footpaths through the site. There are 10 entrances with welcome signs, with most entrances being open access, apart from the one on Witherwin Avenue by the walled garden and one in the north east corner by the ponds from Astor Drive, both of which have black wrought iron kissing gates. There is a long distance footpath, the Mersey Valley Timberland Trail, that passes through Parris Wood Shelterbelt & Beech Wood. The site does not have a visitor car park, but there is informal roadside parking on adjacent roads. The site is well used by local people, especially for dog walking, and is classed as Woodland Trust access category A which equates 'regularly used at all times of year, with more than 15 - 20 people using one entrance every day'.

#### Significance

Increasing enjoyment and access to woodland is one of the Woodland Trust's key outcomes. Grappenhall Heys is an urban fringe site that provides accessible green space for informal recreation for local people and visitors to the surrounding countryside. Grappenhall Heys is part of a prominent local network of footpaths in this part of south Warrington. The area is increasingly become more popular for recreation as the surrounding land is developed for housing. The woods intrinsic qualities and historical links make it an important local amenity and an educational resource for visitors.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints: Limited parking means that most visitors to the site will be local people who walk there. Opportunities: The site's location and path network means it is likely to be visited by large numbers of people visiting on foot all year round and there may be opportunity to work with to promote the history of the woodland (part of the Parris Estate) and improve the standard of access for visitors.

#### Factors Causing Change

Development of the adjacent green spaces for housing will increase public access pressure to use the woodland which could cause more wear to footpaths and may lead to increased vandalism, damage and other anti-social behaviour.

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

The Trust will maintain informal access provision at its current level of public access to Grappenhall Heys so that visitors can continue to enjoy the woodland. Paths will be kept clear of vegetation and easy to use. The site will be made as safe as practicable for visitors and neighbours through regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones, site hazards and access furniture. Any threats to the wood arising from public recreation or misuse will be monitored and appropriate measures taken if necessary.

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

During the plan period the short term objectives will aim to maintain the current level of public access to the site by:

1. Carrying out annual maintenance of the entrances, signage, bridges, steps & boardwalks, cut back any vegetation encroaching on the footpaths and remove litter/ fly tipping as necessary.
2. Undertaking regular safety inspections of trees in high risk zones (i.e. next to houses, roads and footpaths) and site hazards as per the Trust's safety inspection regime to ensure safety of visitors and neighbours, and undertaking any remedial safety work identified.
3. Monitoring public use of the site and review the current standard of access provision by the end of the plan period to identify if there are any issues/ threats to the wood from public usage, and taking appropriate action to address them if necessary.

## 5.2 Secondary Woodland

### Description

Grappenhall Heys comprises three distinctive woodland compartments of secondary woodland which were planted in the 1880s as part of the Parrs Estate. The woodland is a mix of broadleaves and conifers. It stands in a prominent position in the landscape over looking the villages of Grappenhall and Appleton. House Covert compartment is nearest to the site of the old house and walled garden including a series of linked ponds next to Astor Drive. It contains oak, beech, sycamore, ash, yew as well as some ornamental species including Holm oak and Turkey oak. Parrs Wood lies to the north of House Covert Wood and was planted as a shelterbelt comprising mainly Corsican pine and Scots pine, along with oak, sycamore and beech. Due to the exposed location it suffers from frequent wind throw. It was thinned in 2002 and the understorey has responded well to the increased light levels. Further to the east is Beech Wood which comprises mainly mature beech, sycamore, oak, pines, lime and alder. The understorey throughout is well developed having largely been under planted in the 1980's and consists of oak, beech, rowan, pine, cherry, hazel, thorn and occasional sycamore. The ground flora is varied with bluebell, fox glove, bramble and bracken. There is rhododendron still present in places although large amounts have been removed in recent years. Ground flora is sparse with occasional bluebell, campion, fox glove and bramble.

### Significance

The woodlands occupy a prominent place in the local landscape and can be viewed from a significant distance. They contain a number of mature/ veteran trees, deadwood, ponds and ditches and together with neighbouring areas of semi-natural habitats, it offers a diverse range of wildlife habitats and provides an important refuge for wildlife in an increasingly urbanised local environment. The woods have an important heritage link being part of the former Parr estate which included areas of formal woodland planting and still retain some ornamental and specimen trees which are a legacy to the former historic landscape.

### Opportunities & Constraints

**Constraints:** Poor management access within the shelterbelt means that timber from previous felling work has had to be left on site.

Further development of the neighbouring land for housing further will increase tree safety concerns.

**Opportunities:** Tree safety work has increased over recent years partly due to the age of the trees and partly due to the increased recreational use of the site and further opportunities from this will help to diversify the structure/ species mix in the woodland.

### Factors Causing Change

Frequent wind throw and wind damage to trees particularly in the Shelterbelt due to the exposed location of these trees.

Invasive rhododendron spreading and regeneration of rhododendron which suppresses the ground flora and natural regeneration.

Further urbanisation of the surrounding land for housing development will increase visitors resulting in more trampling and possibly damage to natural regeneration and ground flora.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Trust will conserve and enhance this mature mixed species secondary woodland to maintain a diverse structure (in terms of species composition, age/size classification) with a variety of tree, shrub and ground flora species. The wood will develop largely through natural processes maintaining continuous canopy cover to produce a variety of age classes, mature and over mature trees (where they remain safe), deadwood habitats, and succession through natural regeneration. Non-native invasive species such as rhododendron will be controlled to prevent them spreading in the wood. The wood will be an intrinsic part of the local landscape and retain elements of the Parrs estate planting mix including pines to reflect the history of the site. Existing and future veteran trees will be retained and levels of deadwood will be increased where it is considered safe to do so.

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

During the plan period the short term objectives will aim to diversify the age and species structure of the woodland making it more robust for the future. This will be achieved by:

1. Thinning work in Parrs Wood to selective fell and halo thin around broadleaves for long term stand stability and tree safety.
2. Monitoring the health and resilience of the woodland by carrying out a woodland condition assessment by the end of the plan period to monitor levels of natural regeneration, identify any threats from tree disease, pests or non-native invasive species, and taking appropriate action where necessary.
3. Removing the remaining mature stands of rhododendron in House Covert and Beech Woods by the end of the plan period.

## 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	2.90	Oak (pedunculate)	1940	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest

Compartment 1A is 2.9 ha in size and is centred on the footprint of the old house that once stood in the area. This woodland was part of the formal gardens and contain a number of exotic and specimen trees. The site lies adjacent to an old walled garden (owned by Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish council). The area can be sub-divided into three distinct zones; namely House Covert, Pine Wood and Home Wood.

House Covert is the most significant of these and lies to the north west of the compartment. It is bounded to the west by a small grassland buffer and beyond that to a new access road. To the north lies the new housing estate and to the east lies a new "village green". The southern boundary of the compartment is bordered by part of the old estate parkland with grassland and trees which is now owned by the parish council. Along part of this boundary is the old Ha-ha wall and ditch feature which is in reasonably good condition. A management access track passes through the compartment to the walled garden.

The woodland contains oak (Turkey and pedunculate), beech, yew, lime, Scots pine, ash, birch, hazel, thorn and occasional exotics including holm oak. There is a central area of open ground where the house once stood. The footprint of the house has been recreated for visual and historic interest. There are a number of water bodies in House Covert. The largest of which was restored in 1998 (with over 1000 m<sup>3</sup> of silt being removed). There are at least three other wet areas some holding seasonal some permanent water. The outfall for the entire system is located in the northern boundary of the site. The entire site has a network of recently surfaced footpaths linking to the housing estate and offer access across the woodland out on to the southern boundary.

2a	4.43	Corsican pine	1970	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	Community Forest
<p>This compartment is known locally as Parr's Wood or the Shelterbelt and Beech Wood. It is 4.43 ha in size and consists of a narrow belt of mixed pines giving way to mixed broadleaves in the east. Management access comes in off Lumb Brook Road. The pine, predominantly Corsican interspersed with Scots pine was planted in the 1970s and had not received much management in the past. It is currently reasonably wind firm and there has been significant amounts of under planting of oak, rowan, pine, hazel and beech in the late 1980's. More recently the pine element has been thinned (20% of stems) which has opened the understorey to more light penetration. The belt is bounded by a thin and poorly formed hawthorn hedge which helps to control public access to the site. A narrow unsurfaced footpath runs through the middle of the belt which is also part of the long distance route Mersey Valley Timberland Trail. There is a small seasonal pond in the western part of the site.</p> <p>Towards the eastern end of the compartment the canopy changes to predominantly beech; this is known as Beech Wood. The area contains mature and over mature beech with occasional pine, sycamore, oak, lime and horse chestnut. Many of these trees have significant levels of deadwood and decay. The understorey is reasonably developed, but rhododendron is present in this area. There are three ponds (remnant marl pits) in Beech Wood. One was restored by English Partnerships to act as a balancing pond for surface water drainage off the nearby housing development. The levels of this pond fluctuate and the water quality is variable. Another is a seasonal pool that is heavily shaded by canopy trees. The largest pond was restored/ de-silted in 2002 with safety fencing erected along edges with steep drops. There is a linear footpath through the woodland (some of which was surfaced in 2002). An open ditch line runs from this larger pond and into a ditch across English Partnership's land in the north-western corner of Beech Wood. Significant additional buffer planting of mixed broadleaves has taken place to the north of the compartment in 2000 by English Partnerships (now the Homes and Communities Agency).</p>							

## Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2017	1a	Thin	4.43	2	10
2018	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.15	7	1
2021	1a	Thin	4.43	2	10
2022	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.15	7	1
2026	1a	Thin	4.43	2	10

## GLOSSARY

### Ancient Woodland

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

### Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

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

### Ancient Woodland Site

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

### Beating Up

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

### Broadleaf

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

### Canopy

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

### Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

### Compartment

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

### Conifer

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

### Continuous Cover forestry

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

### **Coppice**

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

### **Exotic (non-native) Species**

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

### **Field Layer**

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

### **Group Fell**

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

### **Long Term Retention**

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

### **Minimum Intervention**

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

### **Mixed Woodland**

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

### **National vegetation classification (NVC)**

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

### **Native Species**

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

### **Natural Regeneration**

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

## **Origin & Provenance**

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

## **Re-Stocking**

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

## **Shrub Layer**

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

## **Silviculture**

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

## **Stand**

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

## **Sub-Compartment**

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

## **Thinning**

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

## **Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes**

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

## **Weeding**

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

## **Windblow/Windthrow**

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