



Yealm Woods

Management Plan 2019-2024

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM Page No.

Introduction

Plan review and updating

Woodland Management Approach

Summary

1.0 Site details

2.0 Site description

2.1 Summary Description

2.2 Extended Description

3.0 Public access information

3.1 Getting there

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 Long term policy

5.0 Key Features

5.1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

5.2 Informal Public Access

6.0 Work Programme

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Glossary

MAPS

Access

Conservation Features

Management

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Yealm Woods
Location:	Newton Ferrers
Grid reference:	SX545488, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 201
Area:	23.32 hectares (57.62 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Newton Wood and Hollacombe Quarry are set in the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the slopes of the River Yealm valley. Look out for the twisted shapes created by a clump of old Monterey pines. Fine views across the river.

2.2 Extended Description

Yealm Woods is a management unit consisting of Newton Wood and Hollacombe Quarry which, as the name suggests, is located in the River Yealm Valley near the villages of Wembury and Newton Ferrers in South Devon. The two woods lie within the South Devon National Character area (NCA 151 and the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. They also both have Ancient Semi-natural Woodland and County Wildlife Site designations. They both provide good levels of woodland access as well as links to the public footpath network, but generally their main usage is by local residents only.

Newton Wood lies on the Northwest facing slopes of the River Yealm just north of the village of Newton Ferrers and closely resembles the ancient woodland types present in estuarine valleys across South Devon and Cornwall. It is accessed from the village via two roads both of which stop well short of the wood then becoming privately owned stoned tracks over which public footpaths run. The wood is of predominantly stored oak coppice although a section at the southern end and

another area in the north eastern corner contains mainly mature and over-mature high-forest Beech, Sweet Chestnut and Oak trees. Understory is predominantly holly and beech regeneration with some sycamore and hazel coppice. Ground flora is sparse under dense understory, but where light levels are higher the spring flora of extensive carpets of bluebells and wood rush give way to light bramble during the rest of the year. A small clump of conifers stands on the 'point' where the main river bank meets the creek along the northern boundary. These trees are over-mature and receding, but create an interesting feature especially because of their contorted shape. Visitors often use this small area, the ground beneath made bare by the trees' shade, as a viewpoint across the river and as a picnic site. Access around the wood is limited to paths and no management tracks exist in the wood. From the private Court Wood track the public footpath narrows and follows the riverside edge of the wood to just beyond the viewpoint at the creek end. At this point the footpath stops, possibly because it was used to access a ferry from the creek across the river. From there the WT permissive route extends up the northern boundary zigzagging up the steeper inclines in the North east corner and then follows the upper (south-eastern) boundary back towards the village. Close to the southern corner of the wood the path turns downhill and a long flight of steps descends the steep slope to the entrance point. Because of the wood's location, while the paths that follow the upper and lower boundaries are quite level, the paths that link into them to form the circular route do need to negotiate the slopes. The northern most path zigzags to the top so is less steep but longer while the path at the southern end of the wood is so steep that it has been fitted with a long flight of steps. All paths are naturally surfaced and narrow and wind in and out of trees for most of their lengths. The lower public footpath follows along close to the edge of the 3-4metre high 'cliff' of the river. It is also uneven underfoot due to path use eroding the soli surface and leaving tree roots exposed on the surface

Hollacombe Quarry has undergone a range of intensive management over recent years with the most intrusive being the quarrying activity that gives the wood its name. Once likely to have been typically Ancient semi-natural as in the areas of woodland extending to the east, Hollacombe Quarry still contains remnant mature oaks, but has been planted and colonised during the 1900's with Ash, Sweet Chestnut and Sycamore. Many of these have remained un-thinned and as a consequence have relatively small crowns and appear to be very closely spaced. Much of the younger sycamore and coppice from trees previously felled or blown over has been squirrel damaged. Access is directly from the main road through Wembury and down a narrow lane, through a WT entrance and into the wood. From there a surfaced track (the old track to the quarry) heads gently downhill into the centre of the wood before levelling out near the quarry. Beyond that point the tracks and paths are naturally surfaced and can be muddy in wet weather. At this point there are views of the old quarry face and its base including a good sized pond where stone was removed from below 'ground level'. These have now naturalised with dense gorse, willow and scrub and provide a valuable and complimentary habitat within the wood. At the eastern end of the wood the path meanders further down the slope to the northern boundary where it either exits eastward into adjacent woodland or follows the boundary hedge westwards for almost the length of the wood before exiting into adjacent land or returning uphill to the main gateway. The woodland to the east of Hollacombe Quarry is owned by the National Trust who with cooperation from the WT and other local landowners has created a number of circular walks in the area.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Yealm Woods consists of two separate woods brought together into one management unit because of their location within the River Yealm valley and South Devon Area of Outstanding Beauty and their similar management requirements

Newton Wood - Is located 1 mile north of the village of Newton Ferrers. It stands on the moderately steep west facing slopes of the yealm valley. Access from Newton Ferrers village is either along the footpath following the Court Wood private lane or along Court Road and then lower Court Road and down a public footpath to meet Court Wood lane just before the wood's entrance. From there the path network follows a public footpath route along the river edge boundary to Shortafleet creek at the northern end of the property where it stops and a WT permissive path continues to form a 'circular' route around the upper boundaries and then back down a long flight of steps back to the Court Wood lane. Because of its location, while the paths that follow the upper and lower boundaries are quite level the paths that link into them to form the circular route do need to negotiate the slopes. The northern most path zig zags to the top so is less steep but longer while the path at the southern end of the wood is so steep that it has been fitted with a long flight of steps. All paths are naturally surfaced and the lower public footpath follows along the edge of the low 'cliff' of the river.

There is no parking at the wood, however there is restricted carparking areas and roadside parking in the village and at the end of Yealm Road near the Yealm Hotel there is parking space for up to 8 cars. This is also as close to the wood as can be reached by vehicle. Public transport services the village and there are two stops one at the Court Road junction and the other in yealm Road near the yacht Club. Both require an additional walk of approximately 1000m to get to the wood

Public toilets offering 24hour facilities (disabled facilities unknown at the time of writing) are present opposite the Church in Newton ferrers or near the Ship Inn in Noss Mayo just across the river.

Hollacombe Quarry is accessed directly off the main road from Plymouth through the village of Wembury. Running east off this road towards Train Brake is a narrow grassy surfaced track which leads to the wood's main entrance gate. From there a track (the old roughly stoned track to the quarry) heads gently down hill into the centre of the wood before levelling out past the quarry. Beyond that point the track become naturally surfaced and can be muddy in wet weather. From there the path undulates down hill via some short flights of steps to the lower boundary where the path levels out and follows the boundary hedge before ziz-zagging back up the slope to the main track near the entrance gate. There is a pedestrian entrance to and from the adjacent woodland in the eastern corner of the wood and two squeeze gap/stile links to adjoining permissive paths along the northern boundary. There is no parking at the wood and parking is not really possible along the main road. Public transport routes pass through Wembury and there is a stop at the end of Train Road which is approximately 100m away on the opposite side of the road from the entrance lane to the wood and therefore leves a walk of about 100m along the road and then lane to get to the entrance gate. The lane is also an access track to a small industrial unit and staff and delivery vehicles use it regulalry. As the lane is narrow this occasional traffic may cause difficultly for some visitors.

There are no public toilets close-by but there is a RADAR accessible toilet in Dean Hill in Plymstock which is approximately 2 miles away (information from the Disabled Access register as of 16/11/06). There are also public toilets in the carpark at Jennycliffe 3 miles to the northwest and in Wembury Village 1 miles East. The latter is located 50m from a carpark and offers 24hour facilities including Disabled access.

Information for toilet facilities found at www.plymouth.gov.uk on their A-Z search under public conveniences and via the National Disabled Access Register at www.directenquiries.com. Public transport information obtained from www.travelinesw.com.uk or via 0870 608 2 608. Information collected January 2007

3.2 Access / Walks

Newton Wood - Is located 1 mile north of the village of Newton Ferrers. It stands on the moderately steep west facing slopes of the Yealm valley. Access from Newton Ferrers village is either along the footpath following the Court Wood private lane or along Court Road and then Lower Court Road and down a public footpath to meet Court Wood lane just before the wood's entrance. From there the path network follows a public footpath route along the river edge boundary to Shortafleet creek at the northern end of the property where it stops and a WT permissive path continues to form a 'circular' route around the upper boundaries and then back down a long flight of steps back to the Court Wood lane. Because of its location, while the paths that follow the upper and lower boundaries are quite level the paths that link into them to form the circular route do need to negotiate the slopes. The northern most path zigzags to the top so is less steep but longer while the path at the southern end of the wood is so steep that it has been fitted with a long flight of steps. All paths are naturally surfaced and the lower public footpath follows along the edge of the low 'cliff' of the river. Hollacombe Quarry is accessed directly off the main road from Plymouth through the village of Wembury. Running east off this road towards Train Brake is a narrow grassy surfaced track which leads to the wood's main entrance gate. From there a track (the old roughly stoned track to the quarry) heads gently downhill into the centre of the wood before levelling out past the quarry. Beyond that point the track become naturally surfaced and can be muddy in wet weather. From there the path undulates downhill via some short flights of steps to the lower boundary where the path levels out and follows the boundary hedge before zigzagging back up the slope to the main track near the entrance gate. There is a pedestrian entrance to and from the adjacent woodland in the eastern corner of the wood and two squeeze gap/stile links to adjoining permissive paths along the northern boundary. There is no parking at the wood and parking is not really possible along the main road.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Yealm Woods lie within the River Yealm Valley and the South Devon AONB. Both Newton Wood and Hollacombe Quarry fit well into the local, regional and National Habitat Action Plans. As such they help fulfil the Woodland Trusts aims and objectives of preventing any further loss of ancient woodland and protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future while at the same time providing informal public access to help inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees and to provide woods with open access close to everyone's home, developing the recognition that trees and woods are an essential part of a healthy environment.

Yealm Woods will be managed as predominantly native species broadleaf high forest with varied age, species and size structures through a limited intervention continuous cover management regime. The canopy will be occasionally broken with lower level shrub and wood edge habitat adjacent to glades, paths and track sides and boundaries. Beech and sycamore are common in the local landscape and their presence may help create a more resilient woodland/landscape and therefore they will be accepted as a viable component of the woodland structure. However as Newton Wood has a predominantly native oak composition dense natural regeneration and seed trees of beech, sycamore and Holly clumps may be controlled if they adversely affect the woodland's structure and ground flora.

Shrub clump and woodland colonisation areas in Hollacombe Quarry will be managed via continuous cover systems to develop and maintain healthy scrub and lower canopied woodland in order to increase wood-edge type habitat and shelter.

Newton wood hosts a population of a rare lichen and the host trees should be managed to maintain their, and therefore the lichen's, presence for as long as possible. The quarry and derelict works areas adjacent to it in Hollacombe Quarry will be managed to maintain the natural scrub in a young and vigorous condition both for its conservation habitat values and to maintain a good level of difficulty in accessing the quarry face, pond and rubble areas.

The small cluster of conifers on the 'point' of Newton Wood will be retained as long as they remain healthy and safe as a relic of past management and to retain the 'atmosphere' of that area as a view point and informal amenity area.

Deadwood habitat both standing and fallen will be increased with the retention of dead trees, where safe to do so, and lying felled material.

Tree safety works and path maintenance works will continue in order to maintain the good levels of local public access in both woods at a level appropriate to demand. The public footpath in Newton wood running along the 'cliff' edge of the river boundary it may require work to stabilise surfaces or reroute in places in liaison with Devon regarding permissive rerouting of sections of the path as they become eroded or develop an increased safety risk.

Invasive species will continue to be controlled and eradicated as and when they occur

Cycling in the woods will not be allowed and measures will be implemented as and where necessary to prevent unauthorised mountain biking due to conflicts with woodland conservation, and other informal public access

5.0 KEY FEATURES

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

5.1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Newton Wood (Cpt1) Almost pure stored Oak coppice of W10 type throughout. This stored coppice has not undergone much thinning other than via natural processes probably since it was last coppiced probably in the early 1900s. It therefore has a dense canopy and a relatively high numbers of thin stems per stool. However some mature Sweet chestnut, Beech, Oak and Sycamore are present in localised areas of the wood and in cpt1b a number of mature Monterey pine persist to form a well-used picnic/viewpoint feature in the wood. At least one of the pines hosts a population of *Parmelia minarum*, a rare lichen. In sub cpts 1c and 1d the trees are of mature to over mature age range and some have reached senescence providing natural deadwood habitat. Ground flora is localised following its suppression by patches of holly and beech regeneration however where it exists it is very representative of ancient woodland flora. It is generally comprised of extensive patches of sedge and wood rush or bluebell with the latter giving a superb display of colour in May. Patches of bryophyte lie in shadier hollows and by the stream on the northern boundary, and wood anemone and sorrel remain in small clumps throughout. Bare ground remains under the holly and bramble is present where light levels are highest.

Hollacombe Quarry (Cpt 2) A densely stocked woodland with remnant mature Oak and Ash with a high percentage of Sycamore in mature, coppice and regeneration stages indicating the wood is succeeding to Sycamore rapidly. Ground flora throughout the majority of the wood is limited to Dogs mercury, bryophytes and bramble where light levels are higher. Bluebells dominate some areas of the wood floor while bracken thrives around the coppice under the power line. Occasional, but very small and fragile clumps of wood anemone and wood sorrel still remain around old stumps and in areas where native tree species persist and sufficient light levels are available. The quarry centrally has high vertical sides dropping to its base where the excavations to below ground level have led to the formation of a pond of unknown maximum depth (thought to be 2-3m). The surrounding area is strewn with boulders, rubble and the ruins of old buildings which have become colonised with gorse, birch, willow and rowan to form a valuable but transitional series of habitats that complement the surrounding woodland.

Significance

The wood fulfils an important role within the County, Regional and National Habitat Action Plans. While much of the Yealm valley slopes are wooded few are actually managed for conservation objectives or public recreation. Most others tend due to inaccessibility, neglect, and little economic values to be stagnating. Devon itself has only 2.2% ancient woodland cover. The woodland hosts a local population of the rare *Parmelia minarum* lichen, which is reliant on sympathetic management, good air quality and the retention of the host trees for as long as possible. It helps fulfil the Trusts aims and objectives of No further loss of ancient woodland and to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future.

Opportunities & Constraints

Newton Wood has limited access, only having a right of access across adjacent agricultural land and along a private lane. There is no vehicular access within the wood. The location and conservation values constrain the need for internal access and so the wood will almost certainly remain as a minimal intervention site. This however will provide an opportunity in its self-improving habitat levels and especially deadwood as the closed canopy starts to self-thin. *Parmelia minarum*, a RDB lichen is present on Monterey pine in wood and care needs to be taken not to adversely affect the host tree or the lichen

Hollacombe Quarry has limited access beyond the reach of the quarry track and ground conditions limit the level of management work possible. The quarry/pond and quarry spoil areas restrict the amount of manageable woodland present on site, however with safety maintained this forms a number of valuable conservation habitats. Access to 2c is limited to pedestrian paths

Factors Causing Change

Deer browsing particularly natural regeneration, woodland creation and flora

Squirrel damage

Large scale tree loss caused by tree pests and diseases such as, *Phytophthora ramorum* (Pr), Sweet Chestnut Blight and particularly *Chalara* dieback of Ash where there may be a need for pre-emptive felling of trees to manage safety issues

Invasive non-natives species colonisation particularly resulting from garden escapees tipped in woods or imported by flood events along the river.

Extensive/progressive wind damage

Natural Succession of ASNW areas to sycamore and beech

Dense regeneration and colonisation of holly shading out extensive areas of ground flora

Fly tipping, Fire lighting, and abuse

Unauthorised mountain bike and motor bike and horse access,

Stock intrusion into Newton Wood from adjacent agricultural land

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The ancient woodland areas of Newton Wood and Hollacombe Quarry will be managed via a Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) approach through selective thinning/singling, felling and coppicing interventions to create and maintain an irregular woodland structure with a diverse range of predominantly native broadleaved woodland with a diverse species, age and size structure with a good proportion of mature trees with large spreading 'open grown' type crowns supporting a rich under-storey of woodland shrubs and flora acting as a refuge for biodiversity in the wider landscape. Woodland edges and especially those close to boundaries, open spaces and adjacent properties will be managed via the same Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) approach through selective thinning, felling and coppicing interventions moving stands towards a lower canopied woodland edge habitat to help develop more robust edges and to improve long term tree safety. Deer populations and any damage caused will be regularly assessed and management options undertaken where necessary to enable natural regeneration processes to occur. Open space will be maintained through a network of rides and small glades promoting transitional woodland habitat and associated species. Existing and future veteran trees throughout the wood will be protected and actively managed as part of the adopted silvicultural strategy, using halo, selective thinning or selective felling as appropriate. Non-native invasive species, particularly once widespread laurel and rhododendron, as well as other species will be eradicated as and when they establish.

Newton Wood (Cpt1). Stored coppice oaks will have matured to have larger developed crowns and become more stable, with high levels of deadwood in the suppressed stems and varied structure developing from coppice regrowth and regeneration. The wood will retain some mature and over mature feature trees including some Beech, Sweet Chestnut and Monterey Pines.

Hollacombe Quarry Manage towards a mixed broadleaf high forest with maintaining the existing proportion of native species (>40%), The old quarry, its pond and adjacent spoil areas will be colonised with gorse, birch and scrub of good diversity and provide valuable woodland associated habitats.

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

Implement a low level CCF intervention of single stored oak coppice and selective thinning and/or coppicing thinning of non-native tree species particularly along paths and tracks, boundaries and open space as appropriate within Cpts1 and 2 removing an average of 20% basal area to create more light reaching the ground, diversify stand structure and provide natural regeneration opportunities. Intensity of thinning will vary across the extent of the woodlands leaving some areas of mature woodland un-thinned and under minimal intervention while thinning within areas of woodland adjacent to tracks, glades, will be of higher intensity to reduce canopy height and develop natural regeneration and coppice growth with the objective of creating a graduated wood edge habitat structure. Canopy disturbance by factors such as wind damage and tree safety works will be considered part of the planned thinning programme

Manage path edge areas up to a maximum of 5% of woodland area during the next 10 years to enhance access by:-

Improving internal visibility and perceived safety of visitors by thinning wood edges along paths

Actively protect existing veteran and/or feature trees, veteran trees of the future, and culturally important trees such as remnant Pine at the viewpoint in Newton Wood by halo thinning around suppressed/threatened trees as part of the above selective thinning and coppicing process

Monitor holly understory for signs of over population and resultant detrimental effects of shading of ground flora and undertake control of clumps when they are too extensive and adversely affect ground flora.

Property boundaries will be inspected according to TS policy and maintained for safety and in line with legal obligations.

Undertake regular deer damage assessments across all woodlands possibly working with organisations such as the Deer Initiative, neighbours and other landowners to, where necessary, identify ways of reducing damage levels and increasing the regenerative potential of the woods. Third party access into Hollacombe Quarry will be maintained by cutting vegetation as required and ensuring management gate opens easily in case it is needed although does not appear to have been exercised for many years.

Manage tree safety throughout the woods (Cpts1, 2) as and when necessary to maintain neighbour and visitor safety. This will enhance deadwood levels, improve light levels in localised areas and open the canopy sensitively and allow development of trees towards the 'open grown' form and ground flora. This may be particularly relevant regarding infection by tree diseases such as Phytophthora infection of Sweet chestnut and ash as well as beech and Chalara dieback of Ash where pre-emptive felling of trees may be required to maintain both neighbour, visitor and operative safety

Manage public access paths and facilities to promote safe recreation locally

Quarry safety fences will be maintained for safety

Cut and control non-native invasive species such as laurel, rhododendron and Japanese Knotweed as and when these occur

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Newton - The site has a public footpath that strangely only travels for half of the wood's length before stopping. It is thought this used to provide access to Shortafleet Creek from where a ferry used to cross the river. The path itself follows along the riverside 'cliff' edge and occasionally erodes and crumbles away into the river. Devon County Highways regularly repair and or move path slightly inland. The path then links into a permissive access route which in turn has been extended to follow the upper boundary of the wood and back down a flight of steps to the Court Wood (private lane). There was massive local support for the Trust acquiring the wood and a large amount of money was raised locally in a short time to secure the wood's future. This local feeling of ownership, the link to the community and the minimal management really make the wood a quiet, unspoiled place to walk. It is also a popular site for visiting yacht crews to land and explore.

Hollacombe Quarry Cpt2. A permissive path loops around the wood to form a 'circular walk'. Accessed easily off the main road through Wembury down a short surfaced track between dwellings it is accessible to most of the local residents. The old surfaced quarry track offers reasonably stable and dry access well into the wood before it changes, closer to the quarry area, into a wetter, narrow natural earth surfaced path. This extends to the end of the wood before 'dropping' down the slope to the northern boundary hedge. The woodland path then either exits right into National Trust woodland where it continues to form part of a local circular route in the river valley or turns left and follows the boundary until it exits onto a public footpath across adjacent land or returns uphill through the wood to the main entrance.

Significance

Both woods provide valuable public access and recreation facilities for their respective communities. They are generally very supportive of the Trust, how it manages the woods and its management principles and is keen to help though feedback and occasional participation where appropriate. The local awareness of Newton Wood has been increased subsequently by the acquisition of Brookings Down Wood nearby and the leasing of it to a local group who manage it on their own with WT backup. It helps fulfil the Trust's by providing informal public access close to everyone's home, helping to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees and developing the recognition that trees and woods are an essential part of a healthy environment.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is an opportunity to retain the interest of the local community in the woods, the Woodland Trusts activities and ancient woodland by managing the woodland access facilities appropriately for a wide range of both the local and visiting public and by maintaining close links with Brookings Down Wood in the adjacent village of Noss Mayo. This wood was bought by the Trust following a very successful community fundraising appeal in 1999 and then leased to the River Yealm District Association in 2000. Since then it has been very successfully managed to WT objectives and principles by a community group and this became the forerunner of the Trusts' Community Woodland Network.

Factors Causing Change

Mis-use and abuse by mountain bikes and horses
Intrusion by stock from agricultural land adjacent to Newton Wood
Visitors to Newton Wood walking without permission out into adjoining agricultural land or woodland
Fires and littering caused by occasional barbeques lit in woods by visiting yachtsmen (Newton) and youths (Hollacombe)
Erosion of riverside 'cliff' causing public footpath in Newton wood to become close to edge or narrow.
Erosion of woodland floor and flora caused by visitors to Newton Wood walking 'inland' to avoid 'cliff edge' and/or the creation of a new path route further into the wood.
Possibility that new path route might become designated as Public Right of Way rather than permissive.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Locally accessible woodland areas with an attractive network of mainly naturally surfaced paths that will continue to provide safe quiet informal recreation for residents and visitors alike. The woodland will be attractive with a 'natural' appearance that will encourage visitor's to use them and enhance their awareness and appreciation of woodland

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

Maintain the Woodland Trust 'Welcome' to the wood.

Maintain, level, drain and improve track path and path surfaces, where required to maintain accessibility and improve track network if demand increases.

Repair and renew estate furniture, benches, stiles, squeeze gaps, management and pedestrian gates, steps and other infrastructure to maintain user safety and to enhance the visitor experience through the wood and where possible extend the range of woodland users.

Manage entrance, track and path side woodland to create structural diversity, reduce overhang, encroaching growth and shade etc. to help path surfaces dry more quickly and to create lighter and brighter and more attractive access routes.

Inspect trees along the tracks according to WT tree safety zoning and maintain tree safety.

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	16.30	Oak (sessile)	1900	High forest	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Newton Wood - Sub compartment 1a occupies almost the whole of the wood and is an area of almost pure stored oak coppice estimated to have last been felled around 1920. Occasional single 'standard' trees are dotted throughout as well, but generally these tend to be of similar size to the coppice stems probably due to the competition and the closed canopy. Closer to the south-western boundary and almost fully bounded on the other side by the flight of steps in the path network the woodland structure changes to a more high forest nature with a number of mature beech trees being present. Small pockets of sycamore located along the upper boundary have been targeted and controlled in the past, but regrowth from stumps and natural regeneration persist. A small area along the upper boundary was thinned around 1995 allowing more sunlight to reach the woodland floor and as a consequence, a dense blanket of bluebells developed offering stunning shows in April/May, however more recently brambles have established and in some areas smother the show of flowers. Understory now consists of predominantly holly, which becomes abundant and very dense in parts. The occasional early to mature beech are also scattered throughout the stand. Ground flora is comprised of patchy sedge, wood rush and bluebell with patches of bryophyte or bare ground under the holly and bramble where light levels are highest. Sub compartment 1a has a steep north westerly aspect.

1b	0.10	Mixed conifers	1880	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Newton Wood - Sub compartment 1b is a small area of woodland, situated along the lower slope. The stand is comprised of a small number of very old Monterey pine estimated to have been established around 1880. Understory is sparse with the occasional holly and oak coppice, but generally the area has bare ground. This is a very popular part of the wood often used as a picnic place or viewpoint by visitors as it offers very good views across the river and up the valley. It also provides a 'landing spot' for boat owners visiting the river for similar reasons. Ground flora consists of patchy sedge.</p> <p>Sub compartment 1b has a gentle north westerly aspect. One of the trees hosts a population of <i>Parmelia minarum</i> a red database lichen.</p>							
1c	0.26	Mixed broadleaves	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Newton Wood - Sub compartment 1c is situated towards the eastern end of Newton wood. The stand is predominantly a stand of thinned broadleaf high forest. The stand is comprised of large mature sweet chestnut estimated to have been established around 1880. Oak also makes up roughly half of the main canopy composition and is estimated to have been established around 1900. Understory consists of occasional to frequent sycamore and hazel coppice. Ground flora is comprised of bluebell and light patchy bramble. Sub compartment 1c has a moderate to steep north westerly aspect.</p>							

1d	0.22	Sweet chestnut	1880	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
----	------	----------------	------	-------------	---	---	---

Newton Wood - Sub compartment 1d is also situated towards the eastern end of Newton wood adjacent and contiguous with 1c. The stand is predominantly a stand of quite heavily thinned broadleaf high forest. It comprised of large mature sweet chestnut estimated to have been established around 1880. Oak also makes up roughly half of the main canopy composition and is estimated to have been established around 1900. Occasional 1900 beech and occasional ash stem are scattered throughout. Understory consists of occasional hazel and ash, as well as rare naturally regenerating beech, and patchy bramble. Ground flora is comprised of bluebell and light patchy bramble. Sub compartment 1d has a moderate to steep north westerly aspect.

2a	3.70	Sycamore	1910	High forest	Legal issues, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
----	------	----------	------	-------------	--	---	---

Hollacombe Quarry - Sub Cpt 2a. Area of few Oak, with Sycamore and Ash standards with a heavy understory of sycamore regeneration and coppice which the wood is likely to gradually succeed to. The wood is narrow and slopes fairly steeply northwards making the woodland floor shaded and cold enough to generally limit flora to Dogs mercury and bramble, although bluebell populations are increasing where light levels are higher. Some small pockets of tree planting in late 80s along the main track to the quarry. Access is generally via the old stoned quarry track which runs along its southern edge and the pedestrian path that loops through it.

2b	1.70	Open ground	1980	Non-wood habitat	Legal issues, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Hollacombe quarry - sub Cpt 2b Area generally occupied by the large quarry and adjacent works overspill/spoil areas. Most of the area has become densely colonised by gorse and scrub with the quarry pit and pond in its base remaining quiet and isolated. This area contains a number of conservation habitats in a relatively small area and apart from some light management of paths and a small grassy patch has generally been left as a low intervention area. The gorse has also helped to deter visitors from entering the spoil tips, stone piles and the quarry itself.</p>							
2c	1.19	Mixed broadleaves	1940	High forest	Legal issues, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Services & wayleaves	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Hollacombe quarry - sub Cpt 2c. Area of mixed woodland with similarities to 2a. It has much sycamore regeneration and coppice with a small percentage of hazel shrub layers. The eastern boundary has a number of mature broadleaves closely relating to the adjacent Train wood, which is very representative of ancient semi-natural woodland, but this changes immediately to a strip of coppice which lies under the power line, and results from the utility's management works. The area between the lines and 2b boundary is mostly hazel and sycamore coppice.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2023	2a	Thin	0.40	13	5
2024	1a	Thin	0.50	10	5
2029	2b	Thin	0.40	13	5
2030	1a	Thin	0.50	10	5

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.