



Uig Wood

Management Plan 2018-2023

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
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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 Woodland Site

5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

6.0 Work Programme

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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:	Uig Wood
Location:	Uig, Portree
Grid reference:	NG396643, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 23
Area:	17.60 hectares (43.49 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Uig Wood lies within the village of Uig on the Trotternish Peninsula of Skye. It is made up of three distinct parts - a fringe of mature woodland along the shore of the sheltered Uig Bay, and two steep-sided ravine woodlands, which follow the courses of the Rha and Conon Rivers respectively. Together these make up one of the most extensive broadleaved woodlands in the North of Skye. In a largely treeless landscape, Uig Woods are of great importance, both for their aesthetic value, and for the flora and fauna that they support.

2.2 Extended Description

Uig Wood lies within the village of Uig on the Trotternish Peninsula of Skye. It is made up of three distinct parts - a fringe of mature woodland along the shore of the sheltered Uig Bay, and two steep-sided ravine woodlands, which follow the courses of the Rha and Conon Rivers respectively. Together these make up one of the most extensive broadleaved woodlands in the North of Skye. In a largely treeless landscape, Uig Woods are of great importance, both for their aesthetic value, and for the flora and fauna that they support.

The underlying geology of the site is tertiary igneous rock; olivine-basalt and dolomite, which gives rise to fertile, neutral to slightly alkaline soils.

Native broadleaves, including ash, wych elm, alder and hazel, make up the majority of the woodland. Much of the site is likely to have been planted sometime before the mid 19th century, but over the years it has developed the characteristics of a natural woodland. The deepest and most inaccessible parts of the ravines are likely to have supported trees for a very long time.

Non-native tree species are present in significant numbers, including sycamore, Norway maple, mixed conifers, and the occasional horse chestnut. Some of these non native species would have been planted in the 19th or early 20th century for their ornamental value, while others, mainly sycamore, larch and Sitka spruce were planted much later, in the 1970's when the site was owned by the Department of Agriculture.

After 1988, when the woodland was acquired by the Woodland Trust, most of the younger conifer plantings were removed; some of the resulting open areas were later restocked with native broadleaves. In 2005, a major storm blew down a number of large Douglas and silver firs in the Shore woods; this area now is now filling in with naturally regenerating native species and sycamore.

The woodland supports a rich and diverse flora. At the base of the ravines, damp and fertile soils support a number of 'ancient woodland indicator species' such as wild garlic, alternate leaved golden saxifrage, bluebell, and common figwort. Their presence suggests that there has been continuity of woodland cover here over a very long period. Lichens enjoy the mild, oceanic climate, and while some species grow luxuriantly in the Shore Woods, a wider range is found on the sheltered upper slopes of the gorges. 142 lichens have been recorded in the woods, with elm the most frequent host species. Alder, ash, and, to a lesser extent, hazel and sycamore are also important.

A well-used footpath runs through the Shore Wood from the Community Hall to the local shop and post office. The entrances to Rha and Conon woods are on the East side of the main Portree to Uig road. This is a busy route during the summer months with traffic crossing to the Outer Isles by ferry from Uig daily, as well as the many thousands of tourists drawn to Uig by the Fairy Glen and Rha waterfall en route to the Quiraing.

In each of the two glens there is a short path that allows access into the bottom of the ravine. In Rha Glen, the path ends with an impressive view of a waterfall. In Conon Glen there are traces of an old burial ground -the larger part of which was washed out to sea in the Great Flood of Uig, 1877, which also destroyed the bridge over the Conon, and Uig Lodge, which stood close to the bay.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location

The Uig Woods are situated in and around Uig village on the Trotternish Peninsula in the North of Skye.

The woodland is divided into three sections: the Shore Wood on the seaward side of the main A87 road, and Rha Glen and Conon Glen woods, each in a river gorge on the landward side. The A87 is a busy route during the summer months, with traffic crossing to the Outer Isles by ferry from Uig daily.

Paths and Entrances

The main entrance is from the car park at the Community Hall into Shore Wood. Shore Wood links the Community Hall to the Village Shop, where 600m of flat firm gravel path with a short moderate ramp at the East end to a kissing gate takes visitors through a small yet diverse woodland with views out to Uig Bay. Two picnic benches and an orientation board can be found here to inform the visit, or encourage the visitor to linger with a picnic. In the Conon Glen, a flat narrow uneven gravel path with muddy sections takes the visitor through a narrow kissing gate and around 300m along the base of the glen between the River Conon and the steep sides of the glen itself. The highlight of a visit to Uig Wood is to visit the dramatic Rha Glen with the two stage waterfall at the end of the path. To access the waterfall via the 300m path, pass through a dry stone wall, where there is an orientation board, up a flight of wide steps then along a short section which is rough and narrow with a steep drop to the side. From there another flight of steps takes the visitor down into the Glen, where a narrow, flat, rough, muddy, unsurfaced path winds its way to the base of the waterfall.

Parking

There is no Woodland Trust car park. However, parking is available at the community hall, which is signposted to the left on the A87 100m after the junction with the A855. There is also a small, informal parking area at the junction of the A855 and the A87 in the village. Visitors are asked to leave the parking area at the Post Office clear for customers.

Public Transport

A bus service is available from Portree to Uig, visitors to the woods should alight at the stop opposite the junction between the A87/ A855. There is also a coach service from Glasgow via Fort William which terminates at Uig pier. Visitors arriving on this service can walk back approximately 1km from the pier towards the village to reach the woods. Ferry services operate between Uig and the Isles of North Uist and Harris.

For further information on bus and ferry services, contact Traveline tel. 0871 200 2233 or on the web at www.travelinescotland.com. Detailed information on ferry services from Uig can be obtained from Caledonian MacBrayne tel. 01470 542 219 or on the web at www.calmac.co.uk.

Fully accessible public toilets are available at Uig Pier, approximately 1km from the woods.

Additional Information

There are two orientation boards available in the wood. One is at the entrance to the Rha Glen, and the other at the Community Hall entrance to the Shore wood.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term vision for Uig Wood is for a biologically rich, semi-natural woodland habitat, which continues to make an important contribution to the biological diversity and landscape character of North Skye.

The processes of natural succession will remain dynamic within the woodland, resulting in evolving age, structures and densities of cover. The rich flora and fauna associated with the site will remain secure, and woodland specialist flora will remain locally abundant and otherwise frequent throughout the two gorge woodlands. Elm will continue to be a key component of the wood, and small scale planting of elm, using saplings grown from seed collected on site, will be done in gaps, where appropriate, to ensure a continuation of the species in this part of Skye.

Non native tree regeneration and shrub species that could be, or are becoming, a threat to the native tree and shrub species, as well as the ground flora, will be removed. Mature non-native tree species will be allowed to see out their natural lives, unless they become an issue for users of the public roads or paths.

The site will provide an area of quiet informal recreation to a wide range of users both from the local community and from further afield. With the massive increase in pressure to sites in Skye from global tourism, the information we provide will be low impact high quality visual information that orientates the visitors to discover the site on their own terms. The path infrastructure will be robust in the face of increased foot traffic and rainfall. Working with the relevant committees and community members in Uig, we will play a role in providing a positive experience in the North of Skye that promotes responsible tourism.

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 Woodland Site

Description

The whole site is classified in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as being of Long Established Plantation Origin, however it is likely that the most inaccessible parts of the gorge woodlands have been relatively undisturbed over a very long period, and could better be described as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland.

The gorge woodlands are dominated by ash, wych elm, alder and hazel, but some areas have been modified in the past by the planting of conifers (larch, Sitka spruce and Scots pine) and exotic broadleaves (sycamore, Norway maple and occasional horse chestnut). The shore wood comprises planted sycamore, Norway maple, elm and mixed conifers but there is also a significant component of alder and ash that are likely to be of native origin. The shore wood was originally planted as a policy wood and shelterbelt. It was grazed by cattle until 1998 but all stock is now excluded from the wood.

Significance

Broadleaved woodland of all types is rare in Skye, but native woodland of any antiquity is particularly rare. The woods adjoin other areas of scattered native trees and hazel scrub.

The woods are mainly modified upland ash woods (W9), which have their own biodiversity habitat action plan. Mixed ash woods are amongst the richest habitats for wildlife in the uplands. Uig Woods supports a rich specialist woodland ground flora, including several ancient woodland indicator species such as wild garlic, alternate leaved golden saxifrage, bluebell, upland enchanter's nightshade, pignut, sweet woodruff, yellow pimpernel, , barren strawberry, sanicle, common figwort, hard fern, and common polypody

Survey work in 2001 recorded a total of 142 lichen taxa from the three Uig woodlands, of which 132 were from trees and shrubs and 24 on rocks and stonework (14 species common to both substrata). 11 Nationally scarce species were recorded. The three woodlands are assessed as Grade 6 Local Importance (Coppins 2001).

Management and maintenance of the site contributes to meeting the Woodland Trust objective of 'No further loss of ancient woodland'.

Opportunities & Constraints

The disease of ash, *Chalara fraxinaea* may present a significant threat to the woodland's integrity and biodiversity. Given the sites relative isolation, however, there is a chance that it could remain disease free, in which case it would offer a valuable resource for research and for genetic conservation.

Dutch Elm disease is not present in the woodland. However, it has the potential to be a significant threat if it expands beyond its present northerly limit.

Natural regeneration in the gorge woodlands is relatively good, and is likely to respond to future canopy gaps as they develop. Where there is a grassy understory in the Shore woods, there is little or no seedling regeneration, and it is unlikely that new canopy gaps will be colonised naturally without management input. Elm is the dominant native species in the canopy, but its light seeds are at a disadvantage on grassy sites.

Scattered fuchsia and exotic conifer regeneration has required an ongoing programme of control, which will continue in this plan.

Gaps within the fences have allowed grazing of the field layer and regeneration in the south side of both glens for the last number of years. Maintenance of these fences will remove the sheep from these woods and allow them to recover.

Locally, in Conan Glen, bracken is encroaching from the edges. These gaps may infill with young trees in time, or could be planted.

Factors Causing Change

The unchecked regeneration of non native conifers, sycamore, bracken, and fuchsia would impact upon the diversity across much of the site.

As the site is exposed to the West, an increase in extreme weather patterns from the South West may cause an increase in wind blown trees and damage throughout the wood, which will have an impact on choices of tree species for the future, particularly in the Shore Wood.

The site has a healthy population of ash and elm. Should Dutch elm disease or *Chalara* appear on Skye, these diseases would have a massive impact on the species diversity in the wood and would result in a more ambitious plan of planting.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The total area of ancient woodland will not diminish. The associated species assemblage will remain secure through sensitively removing non natives tree and shrub species. Natural succession will remain dynamic within the woodland, resulting in an evolving age and species structure that is robust in the face of tree disease impacting ash and elm in particular.

Shore Wood will be sensitively managed to ensure there is a sheltered vista across Uig Bay nestled amongst native tree species and a thriving native understorey.

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

Removal of non natives:

- All non native conifer regeneration will be removed from the Shore Wood by the end of 2022. This will be targeted to the 0.25 hectare section of compartment 2a to the south of the River Conon, then moving north through compartment 2a and 2b up to the stream crossing. The total area is 3 hectares. All young trees will be either pulled or cut at ground level.
- All fuchsia will be removed from the Shore wood (compartments 2a and 2b) and accessible locations in Conan Glen (compartment 1a) and Rha Glen (compartment 3b) by the end of 2020. The fuchsia bushes will be cut at ground level and the stump treated with glyphosate. In compartment 1a, there are a few larger bushes in the southern part of the compartment that will be removed. In compartment 3b, there are several bushes to be removed on either side of the river below the waterfall, and the occasional bush on the south side of the river upstream of the waterfall.
- Sycamore regeneration will be thinned in 1.5 hectares of the Eastern part of the Shore Wood (compartment 2a) to give light and space for native ground flora and shrubs, or planting of elm by the end of 2021. Thinned regeneration will be stacked and left to rot down.

Ensuring diversity:

- To collect elm seed from trees in Conon Glen (compartment 1a) or the Shore Wood (compartment 2a) and grow on in a nearby poly tunnel, to plant out as they become available in appropriate locations. Seed collected in 2017 will be planted in 2019. Seed collected in 2018 will be planted in 2020/21. It is aimed to be able to plant between 20 and 30 elm in 2019 and again in 2020. Before the end of this management plan, the quantity, survival and success of this will be reviewed.
- To plant 100 native trees in the Shore Wood in Spring 2022 (compartment 2a) to ensure diversity of native species once sycamore and non native conifer regeneration has been removed as well as the fuschia. 30 hazel, 30 rowan, 30 hawthorn, 15 aspen.

Managing grazing:

- To repair the four major holes in the march fences in Conon Glen (compartment 1a) and Rha Glen (compartment 3b) ensuring the two glens are stock proof by the end of 2018, carrying out further repairs as required in 2019.
- To proactively remove limbs and dead trees that are potentially going to cause damage to the march fences as part of tree safety inspections in 2018, 2020, and 2022, as well as promptly removing trees that have fallen on the fences.
- To replace 75 metres of stock fence at Community Hall entrance (compartment 2a) in 2019.
- To remove 220m of rabbit fence inside Conon Glen (compartment 1a) by the end of 2020.
- To remove all tree shelters from Rha Glen by the end of 2019. These have previously been collected and bagged, but the bags are now disintegrating and the shelters are starting to be spread through the wood by wind. There are a minimum of six one ton bags full of tubes to be removed.

5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Uig Wood is made up of several distinct parcels of woodland in and around Uig. Shore Wood links the Community Hall to the Village Shop, where 600m of flat firm gravel path with a short moderate ramp at the East end to a kissing gate takes visitors through a small yet diverse woodland with views out to Uig Bay. Two picnic benches and an orientation board can be found here to inform the visit, or encourage the visitor to linger with a picnic. In the Conon Glen, a flat narrow uneven gravel path with muddy sections takes the visitor through a narrow kissing gate and around 300m along the base of the glen between the River Conon and the steep sides of the glen itself. The highlight of a visit to Uig Wood is to visit the dramatic Rha Glen with the two stage waterfall at the end of the path. To access the waterfall via the 300m path, pass through a dry stone wall, where there is an orientation board, up a flight of wide steps then along a short section which is rough and narrow with a steep drop to the side. From there another flight of steps takes the visitor down into the Glen, where a narrow, flat, rough, muddy, unsurfaced path winds its way to the base of the waterfall. Work is due to take place in 2018 to improve this path, however.

The paths are well used by locals and visitors who are offered fantastic views across Uig Bay, and to get up close and personal with a dramatic waterfall. Car parking facilities are by kind permission of the Uig Community Hall, where access to the Shore Wood with Conon Glen beyond can be gained. To access to Rha Glen from here, a five minute walk back along the road takes you to the entrance. The orientation board at the Shore Wood entrance will allow visitors to see the route round. The woods are only around a ten minute walk from the ferry terminal and café's, with ferry passengers driving past the woods on the way to and from the ferry.

Skye is a huge global tourist destination site with 100,000's of visitors every year. The Hollywood blockbuster 'Prometheus', TV series 'Outlander' and a music video by Harry Styles have all been done within a few miles of the site, attracting destination tourists. As well as that, the 'Best Sunset in the World' as voted by Rough Guides is only five miles from the site. These, along with new hostel accommodation in Uig, is increasing the numbers of tourists passing through the wood on the way to other attractions. Increasingly, Rha waterfall is becoming a 'must do' on the way between the Fairy Glen and the Quiraing.

There are currently no people engagement events planned on the site, although there would be potential to use the site for small scale events and activities in partnership with the owners of the car parking and community organisations.

There is currently a Volunteer Warden who lives nearby the site.

Two orientation panels are in the wood. One at the entrance to Rha Glen and the other at the Western entrance to Shore Wood. There are four public entrances, one of which has a ladder board entrance sign with the other three having smaller wooden signs in place.

There are two picnic benches in Shore Wood, marked on the orientation boards.

Significance

Uig Woods are a rare feature in a largely treeless landscape, giving visitors the opportunity to experience some ancient woodland within this dramatic setting. The Shore Wood gives visitors some shelter while enjoying the open vistas to the West.

The number of tourists visiting Skye is staggering. There are so many in fact, that Police were stopping tourists from crossing the bridge at some points in 2017 to reduce impacts on roads and verges. The site sits on the road between two of the largest destination sites for tourists in North Skye - The Quiraing near Staffin and the Fairy Glen on the edge of Uig. As Rha Glen waterfall is increasingly becoming a second stop in Uig, the numbers of tourists using the site are increasing at a rapid rate.

Public access to the wood by local people is important to the local community as the wood provides a link from the village to the shop without having to walk along the main road.

Opportunities & Constraints

As the community of Uig, and Skye in general, struggles to cope with the volume of tourists, and begins to implement initiatives to provide a high quality experience to visitors without impacting on the features they have come to see, the Trust can play its part in Uig by sharing information with our visitors and ensuring there is a joined up approach to issues created by irresponsible use of land by tourists in the village. Examples would include fires, litter, and cutting trees.

There is potential for work party activities on the site doing a community beach clean, as was done in 2017, removing tree shelters, wildlife surveys, etc.

There is a primary school nearby that could be engaged with the woodland through activities such as tree planting.

The now out of date leaflet could be updated within the life of the Management Plan. However, further promotion of the site may jeopardise the experience of those who are already finding it.

The steep sides of Rha Glen make it impossible to increase the length of the path there. In Conon Glen, the route could be taken further into the wood, but would be dependent on the owner of the River Conon permitting a crossing. A crossing would also be very expensive. A previous, now overgrown, route on the south side could be explored, but would need to balance the loss of habitat and increased disturbance, with the positive benefits offered to users.

Factors Causing Change

The Rha Glen path is very rough and muddy and is becoming worse on the back of an increase in tourist traffic.

The number of tourists using the site is certainly going to increase over the coming years and bring with it pressure on the infrastructure and the natural environment.

With the increase in campervans and motorhomes coming to Skye, some have found their way to the beach area, which is a cause for some concern with an increase in litter, erosion, and human waste possible outcomes. This could have a negative impact on responsible users of the wood, and on access for the farmer.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Uig Woods will provide a place of quiet informal recreation for local people and visitors. Promoted carefully, with messages on responsible behaviour in line with other venues, the woods will form part of the package on offer in the Trotternish peninsula.

All visitors will be more informed about the importance of the woodland through high quality web based information, rather than an increase in on-site information.

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

Access provision will be in keeping with WT access guidelines. Achieved by ensuring that:

- Entrances and signage are welcoming to visitors and well cared for annually.
- All managed paths are kept well drained and free from encroaching vegetation by strimming, and that access features such as gates and steps are kept in good order annually.
- The site is kept safe and welcoming by repairing vandalism, clearing fallen trees and regular site safety surveys.

The visitor welcome and experience will be further enhanced by the following improvements:

- To upgrade 150m of the Rha Glen footpath to widen the surface, install handrails, build a surfaced path along the bottom to the rocks near the waterfall in Spring 2018 following consultation with the community.
- Ensure information on the ladder board is relevant and current, informing visitors on how to behave responsibly in the wood. Seasonal sign changes on fire, camping, etc will be managed by the Volunteer Warden.
- Estate Maintenance Contractor and volunteers to monitor instances of campervans and motorhomes parking at the beach in 2018 and impacts these have had. If there are negative impacts, to look to block the layby area with large stones in 2019, in agreement with farmer.
- As part of the 2018 and 2020 tree safety management work, to increase visibility for traffic coming downhill towards the Conon Bridge from the south by gradually thinning young trees at the roadside.
- To install visitor information on the ladder board in Spring 2018 to further inform visitors the route to the Rha Glen, beyond existing orientation boards, to reduce instances of 'lost visitors' going to peoples gardens.

Engagement:

- In 2019, 2020, and 2022, there are plans to plant elm and other native broadleaves. The pupils in Kilmuir Primary could become involved with the planting of some of these trees.
- After the success of the litter pick event in Spring 2017, an annual beach clean event will be organised, and done so in partnership with wider efforts across Skye.

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	6.58	Mixed broadleaves	1850	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>A steep and inaccessible gully along the course of the Conon River, levelling out into more moderate slopes towards the southern boundary. There is a concrete weir at the end of the short access route into the wood at NG 339637. On the north side of the river, close to the road bridge, are the remains of a burial ground. The woodland is mature, mixed broadleaf with wych elm, sycamore, Norway maple, ash and alder. There is a stand of hazel at the Northern end, on the North side of the river. A few individual mature larch are present on the upper edges. In the south east corner of the sub-compartment, sycamore is frequent on a moderately steep slope rising from the public road. Where the ground levels out along the southern boundary an area of c. 0.25ha sitka spruce was felled in approx 1994 (NG399636); this area is now dominated by bracken with occasional birch and rowan. On the gentler slopes above the ravine, in the southeast portion of the sub-compartment, the woodland has been influenced by past grazing and has an open, gladed structure. Ferns including Buckler Fern, Lady Fern and Hard Shield Fern dominate the ground flora on the steeper gully slopes, with pockets of woodland specialist flora including wild garlic and bluebell. The herb layer of upper slopes on the south side is generally grassy, or dominated by bracken in the open areas. There is relatively limited lichen interest in the bottom of the ravine, where the limited light and constantly humid conditions favour bryophytes over lichens. On the upper slopes, the gladed, open woodland to the south of the ravine supports the greatest diversity of lichen species. Conon Glen exhibits rather less diversity of ground flora and lichen species than Rha Glen, possibly attributable to past disturbance, including weir construction, grazing and the 19th century flood.</p>							
2a	3.21	Mixed broadleaves	1900	Min-intervention		Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees	

A wide band of mixed deciduous trees along the edge of Uig Bay, extending up to the main road at each end. A path runs the length of the wood from an entrance by the road bridge over the Conon, to the Community Hall, from where a tree-lined lane leads back to the road. A handsome, stone wall encloses the wood, with an oak gate leading from the wood to the river Conon. This wall was repaired and embellished as part of 'Heartings', an art & interpretation project delivered with the local primary school in 2003, but suffered subsequent damage in the 2005 storm. The woodland is composed of mature elm, sycamore, Norway maple, alder and occasional hawthorn, with a few younger sycamore (approx. 1970) and some more recent plantings (c. 2000) of ash and rowan, and a handful of hazel in 2017. Trees close to the shore often exhibit scorched foliage caused by salt laden winds. Alder becomes more frequent along the banks of the Conon. A large number of mature, specimen conifers in the section of woodland between Conon Bridge and the shore blew down in a storm in 2005. Regeneration since then has been vigorous, and new native woodland cover is developing in this area. Ground flora is richest in the area below Conon Bridge, although dockens dominate some areas. Ragwort is also present. Elsewhere, the herb layer is grassy. The ground flora has been influenced by past grazing, but stock has been excluded from the wood for several years. Lichens are abundant and luxuriant, particularly on trees on the landward side of the wood. They are also frequent on the stone dyke and on boulders under the trees. Despite this abundance, the lichen species diversity in this part of the woods is relatively poor.

2b	1.15	Open ground		Min-intervention		Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees	
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Shore line and riverbank along high water mark, with scattered regeneration of ash and sycamore. Area of open shore beyond dyke extending to high water mark. Predominantly grassland. The shoreline forms a natural gathering point for large volumes of litter, particularly plastic, during the winter months.

3a	0.27	Mixed broadleaves	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees	
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Small block bounded by roads to the north and south, and by the River Rha to West. The line of the old road, which originally connected the Staffin and Pier roads can be clearly traced through the block. There is a closed mature canopy of sycamore and elm with some alder along the riverbank. There is a rich ground flora including bluebells and ferns.

3b	6.16	Mixed broadleaves	1850	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves	Ancient Woodland Site, Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>A steep and inaccessible ravine following the course of the Rha River. There is an impressive waterfall at the end of the short access path into the lower part of the wood. Mature ash and elm dominate the woodland with sycamore, Norway maple, alder, hawthorn and hazel. On the north side of the Rha, in the upper section of the ravine, there are steep slopes dominated by wind-sheared hazel scrub interspersed with hawthornh, which continues beyond the WT boundary further up the glen. On the south side of the river, 0.7ha of larch was felled in 1993, retaining a double row along the fence boundary. This area was subsequently restocked with native broadleaves. The upper reaches of the wood on the south bank are on gentler slopes with an open, gladed structure. Ground flora is dominated by grasses and ferns on the upper edges of the ravine, with a diverse and rich specialist woodland flora lower down including several ancient woodland indicator species such as wild garlic, alternate leaved golden saxifrage, hard fern, bluebell, upland enchanter's nightshade, sweet woodruff, yellow pimpernel and sanicle. Fuschia has been cleared from the gorge in the past, although a few individuals remain. Although the diversity of lichen species overall is greater in Rha Glen than in Conon Glen, as with the latter, there is relatively limited lichen interest in the bottom of the ravine and a greater diversity on the better-lit upper slopes. A power line crosses the sub-compartment and the river, just above the lowest waterfall.</p>							

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.