



Home Farm

Management Plan 2019-2024

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Home Farm
Location:	Burkham, Bentworth
Grid reference:	East:SU658421 /West:SU650418 , OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 185
Area:	136.08 hectares (336.26 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Set in the Hampshire Downs, a rolling landscape of farmland, woods and hedgerows, Home Farm is one of the largest native woodland creation sites in southern England. A special place, it's somewhere to hear the song of the skylark, to encounter various butterfly species and - if you're lucky - to spot a red kite.

2.2 Extended Description

Home Farm is situated in rural north-east Hampshire, between Alton and Basingstoke, within the Hampshire Downs National Character Area (NCA), a rolling landscape dominated by large arable fields with low hedgerows on thin chalk soils and scattered woodland blocks, including pockets of ancient semi-natural woodland and flower and invertebrate-rich remnants of chalk grassland.

Home Farm is typical of this landscape with all of the aforementioned habitats present on a variety of depths of clay over chalk soil. It covers approximately 136ha, divided into two parts east and west of the minor road that runs from Burkham to Bentworth. It is loosely connected by hedgerows and small woods (where they are not separated by the A339 and other minor roads) to the wider landscape of predominantly arable agricultural land, with scattered copses and woodlands, notably Preston Oak Hills, Herriard Common (a planted conifer wood), Middle Common Wood and New Copse to the north, and Bradley Wood, Mayhew's Wood, Stubbins Copse and South Lease Copse to the south.

Formally an agricultural farm, the site is now a mixture of 60% (80ha) planted secondary woodland, including some remnant conifer plantations, 38% (53ha) open grassland and scrub, with one small area of ancient semi-natural woodland, known as Wigdell Copse at 2% (3ha). Much of the secondary woodland was planted with mixed native broadleaf trees and shrubs between 1991 and 1994, following the sites' acquisition in 1990. In 2006 and 2007, a further two hectares was planted with trees as part of the Trafalgar Woods and Scouts Centenary projects. With 67,000 trees planted Home Farm remains one of the largest native woodland creation sites in southern England.

The open grassland was sown with a grass and wildflower mix between September 1994 and April 1995 to improve its diversity following years of intensive agricultural management and sheep grazing prior to the Trusts ownership. It is now grazed with a small number of cattle whose browsing keeps self-sown trees and scrub from the surrounding woodland and other coarse vegetation in check. The grazing also fulfils the requirements of a five year Countryside Stewardship grant (2018 - 2022). Some of the vegetation will succeed however, and this deliberate form of management ultimately results in patches of scrub, small stands and occasional open-grown trees that blend the large swathes of mixed ground flora including chalk-grassland flowers and grasses with the surrounding woodland.

This mosaic of habitats provides a rich haven for wildlife and the site is notable for its breeding populations of skylark and summer migrants such as chiffchaff, willow warbler and tree pipit, alongside more common woodland birds and soaring birds of prey such as buzzard, red kite, kestrel and the occasional hobby. A wide variety of grassland plants has been recorded at the site from notable chalk grassland species such as ploughman's spikenard, fairy flax, field scabious, wild basil and pyramidal orchid, to the unusual woolly thistle, alongside more common species such as bird's foot trefoil, common knapweed and agrimony. Such a rich variety of plant life also attracts good numbers of butterflies with holly blue, clouded yellow and painted ladies recorded alongside an abundance of marbled whites, with silver-washed fritillaries on woodland edges in past years.

Small marl pits throughout the site and the remains of a historic tree-lined avenue near the centre of the site provide added interest and as part of the Trusts Welcoming Sites Programme, more than 12 kilometres of footpaths, a waymarked circular trail and two car parks have been installed and upgraded to provide a place where visitors can experience the historic landscape character and wildlife that the richest areas of the Hampshire Downs have to offer.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

By bus:

The nearest bus stop is in Bentworth, which is a mile (2km) to the south along a minor road. Buses also serve the village of Lasham, which is two miles (3.5km) away. For further details contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit traveline.org.uk

By train:

The nearest station to Home Farm is at Alton, which is about five-and-a-half miles (9km) south of the wood. For further information on public transport, contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit traveline.org.uk

By car:

Home Farm is 1km (0.5 miles) south of Burkham and, 3km (2 miles) north-west of the village of Bentworth, just west of the A339 Basingstoke Road.

Parking:

The wood's main car park is at the southern end of Spain Lane, via either of two turnings on the west side of the A339, signposted for Burkham. Nearest postcode: GU34 5RT. The car park is free and has space for approximately 24 cars.

A second, smaller car park is situated on the west side of an un-named road, approximately 1.5km north of the junction of Ashley Road and Drury Lane in Bentworth. Nearest postcode: GU34 5RP. The car park is free and has space for approximately 10 cars.

3.2 Access / Walks

There are no public rights of way over Home Farm, but free public access is allowed on foot. In all there is a network of more than eight miles (13km) of maintained permissive paths, including a waymarked circular path that can begin from either of the wood's two car parks.

Paths at Home Farm are mostly grassy and can be muddy when wet. Access to the wood is via kissing gates and there are several benches along the main footpaths.

A public footpath to Bradley runs along the western side of the wood.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) is scarce within the Hampshire Downs due to historical clearance for agriculture, and unimproved species-rich chalk grassland is confined to marginal land out of the reach of machinery, or land managed primarily for conservation. Therefore, though modest in size, Home Farm is large enough to be of significant value in the landscape being that the priority habitats of ASNW and remnant chalk grassland are present and that the site is under FSC certification, managed primarily for nature conservation and recreational access. The fact that this form of management is in contrast to much of the surrounding intensively managed land means that Home Farm is a sanctuary and potential hub from which wildlife may populate the surrounding land. Therefore, Home Farm will be managed as a diverse and resilient mosaic of viable habitats that benefit wildlife and visitors for the long-term.

The secondary woodland will comprise actively managed areas with ride-side coppicing and silvicultural interventions carried out where appropriate, particularly where management of tree diseases such as ash dieback are required, supplemented with non-intervention areas that develop naturally. This will result in a variety of woodland structures including high forest with shrub and understorey layers well represented in parts, coppice areas, and wide rides and intersections with flower and scrub-rich margins and occasional open grown trees.

Wigdell Copse, Home Farms ASNW compartment, will be managed with minimum intervention, regenerating naturally following the effects of ash dieback and supplemented and buffered by surrounding secondary woodland, with occasional coppicing only carried out when it will aid the diversity and regeneration of the wood.

Hedgerows will be diverse in structure and composition following a variety of management from laying to flailing on roadside boundaries, and minimal intervention in some areas. Boundary and hedgerow trees will be plentiful with new trees recruited and establishing after losses from disease such as ash dieback. These habitats will form corridors connected to the wider landscape, and will also be integrated into the site with transitional habitats such as scrub and long grass swards.

Dead wood will be retained on the ground or left standing where it does not pose a safety risk and will be plentiful following the natural aging of trees and some tree works operations which allow the retention of dead hedging and habitat piles.

This variety of woodland management will provide a diversity of age classes of trees and habitats for a range of invertebrate, fungi, bird and mammal species, including woodland specialists which rely on temporary open space and those that benefit from the continuity of non-intervention and dead wood retention.

The open grassland areas will be as equally diverse as the woodland using grazing cattle as a management tool, and sympathetic scrub and tree management, with chalk grassland plant communities and a range of grasses and meadow flora well-represented. Retained scrub and occasional trees will provide a transition between the surrounding woodland and grassland, but will not dominate the grassland which will remain primarily open, supporting breeding populations of ground and scrub nesting birds.

The presence and effect of invasive species such as ragwort, diseases such as ash dieback, and browsing by animals such as deer will be monitored, and management tailored accordingly. The sites diverse and dynamic habitats and structure should add to the sites resilience, particularly to single species threats such as ash dieback.

Historic archaeological features such as the marl pits and the historic tree-lined avenue will be preserved and highlighted with interpretation where appropriate.

There will be a moderate number of visitors each year supported with well-maintained car parks, path networks, signed entrances, way-marked trails and sympathetic interpretation, resulting in a tranquil site for quiet recreation activities and thriving wildlife.

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 Secondary Woodland

Description

This key feature is made up of sub-compartments 1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 2a, 3a, 3b, 3d, 3e and 5a. See compartment descriptions for detail recorded in the last woodland condition assessment (2017).

The majority of the key feature comprises mixed native broadleaf plantations, planted between 1992 and 1995. Wide rides are present throughout, although some sections are narrowing from the establishing trees. Ride edges and triangular glades at path intersections provide space for a developing herb layer, scrub and occasional tree regeneration (mainly oak and ash). Some young oaks at these glades have been singled out for long-term retention as open grown trees. There is little understorey in the plantations as most of them are at a high density following planting and will remain so through pole stage until natural thinning (including losses from disease such as ash dieback) or silvicultural interventions take place.

There are several areas of older secondary woodland, including two areas of predominantly beech woodland and two areas of conifers (Norway spruce and larch). These areas are all quite small (between 1-4ha) and are spread across the site. Three natural regeneration areas have also been fenced to protect them from grazing deer and cattle to increase the woodland footprint gradually and naturally and to provide transitional areas on the margins of open grassland compartments.

Significance

Secondary woodland makes up the largest proportion of habitat (60%/80ha) at Home Farm. It provides a diversity of predominantly native woodland habitats and structure, bridging previous gaps in tree cover across the landscape and complementing the small amount of ancient woodland on site. The low proportion of conifers remaining following previous silvicultural works provide diversity in an otherwise predominantly broadleaf landscape. There are a number of schedule 1 bird species recorded at the site which benefit from conifers for nesting sites: hobby, red Kite, and firecrest and therefore, it appears that removal of the conifers would currently be disproportionate to the benefits that they provide, where they are not threatening native ancient or priority habitats.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

The low quantity of conifers remaining, restricted access and previous fell to waste mean that further thinning is unlikely to be viable.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback is present, with ash of each age class present showing decline symptoms.

Natural regeneration, tree establishment and scrub are diminishing open space and access along rides and glades. Glades and wide rides are still apparent, but are beginning to close over from prolific growth now that trees and shrubs are through the establishment phase, with the estimated 20% open space at the time of planting reduced down to approximately 10 - 15%.

Bramble, ragwort and old man's beard are present in the natural regeneration enclosures of cpts 1d, 3b and 3e and can prevent and/or dominate tree and ground flora regeneration.

Mammal damage (e.g. from squirrels and deer) is an ongoing influence and is likely to be a more significant threat as secondary woodland ground flora establishes and to natural regeneration as the stands mature.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The secondary woodland will comprise a variety of stand-types and structures including high forest with shrub and understorey layers well represented in parts, coppice areas, and wide rides and intersections with flower and scrub rich margins and occasional open grown trees. This will be the result of actively managed areas with ride-side coppicing and silvicultural interventions carried out where appropriate, particularly where management of tree diseases such as ash dieback are required, supplemented with non-intervention areas that develop naturally.

It is anticipated that the majority, if not all ash within the compartments will be affected and lost as a potential canopy component. This will result in individuals, groups or small stands of dead ash ultimately leaving canopy gaps that will allow crown space for other tree and understorey species to establish in. Dead wood will increase and will be left standing or fallen where safe to do so, but removed where it could present a risk to visitors (e.g. adjacent to maintained footpaths). The variety of tree species present across the majority of the key feature will provide resilience to diseases and maintain canopy cover, with oak, beech and rapid colonisers such as sycamore and birch present. A small proportion of conifers will be retained if they benefit the diversity of the site and are not threatening native ancient or priority habitats.

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

To sustain or increase the open space and diversity within the secondary woodland over the 5 year plan period. This will be achieved through the following:

- Annual ride-widening works along up to 500m of ride edge throughout the 1990s plantations to maintain open rides and access and increase diversity of edge structure. To include coppicing and cutting back of trees to remove narrow pinch-points and enhance existing scallops. Individual trees will be retained as open grown specimens/long-term veterans on ride edges and glades where possible. Ash on ride edges affected by ash dieback will also be removed as part of the ride widening works, however, ash that do not present a risk to visitors will be left to decline naturally, increasing dead wood within the stands.
- Mowing of rides three times a year to maintain wide corridors with a variety of sward heights including close cropped grass and herb and scrub margins.
- Annual ragwort control by pulling or spot treatment with organic citronella in cpts 1d, 3b and 3e to prevent excessive levels that dominate tree and ground flora regeneration and present a risk of spreading to neighbouring land.
- Mowing (cut and collect) or topping of dominating species (e.g. bramble) in cpts 1d, 3b and 3e as required, where they are preventing and/or dominating tree and ground flora regeneration.
- Annual removal and disposal of redundant tree guards.
- A woodland condition assessment will be carried out in 2024 across the whole site and will include a deer impact assessment of this key feature.

5.2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description

This key feature is made up of sub compartments 1c, 1f and 3c. See compartment descriptions for detail recorded in the last woodland condition assessment (2017). It comprises open grassland with scrub (mainly hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble) natural tree regeneration (mainly oak, birch and goat willow) and hedgerows on thin layers of mildly acidic to neutral clay over chalk, making up 38% (53ha) of Home Farm.

Compartments 1c and 3c are grazed with cattle; mainly rare breeds such as Devon, Gloucester and highlands, chosen for their docility and suitability for conservation management, supported by a 5 year Countryside Stewardship grant (2018 - 2022). Compartment 1c is grazed year round and 3c is grazed annually from 1st May to 30th September, with a maximum of 15 cattle in each compartment at any one time.

Compartment 1c has been grazed for the longest period and together with aspect and soil types the scrub and tree regeneration is occasional at approximately 5%. By comparison compartment 3c, which had a cessation in grazing for 7 years, is abundant with scrub at approximately 40% and tree regeneration at approximately 10%.

There is a diverse range of ground flora across the Key Feature, from semi-improved and grass dominated swards, to remnant chalk grassland communities partly naturally colonised, and partly supplemented with a grass and wildflower mix sown in 1994/95. Notable species include the chalk grassland indicator ploughman's spikenard, fairy flax, dropwort, sainfoin, field scabious, wild basil and pyramidal orchid, along with kidney vetch, cowslip, salad burnet, wild basil, field scabious, small scabious and woolly thistle. More common species include Yorkshire fog, red fescue, rough meadow-grass, meadow buttercup, dandelion, bird's foot trefoil, common knapweed and agrimony. Ragwort is also present.

There are also small excavated marlpits (chalk quarry pits) sporadically spaced across the key feature, naturally colonised with ash and oak. In addition, two very small planted mixed broadleaf stands and 10 chestnut post and rail enclosures housing 4 oak and 2 walnut trees each were planted across compartment 1c in 2015 to commemorate the battle of Agincourt.

The smallest area of grassland, compartment 1f, has been excluded from grazing during the Trusts ownership, leaving a natural regeneration area which mainly consists of hawthorn. Half a hectare in the centre of the compartment was mown in 2018 and will now be left as a non-intervention area as required within the 5 year Countryside Stewardship grant.

Hedgerows to the north of compartment 1c are under a Countryside Stewardship grant to improve their structure and blossom and fruit productivity for wildlife.

Significance

Chalk grassland is a nationally rare habitat and is scarce within the Hampshire Downs. It is the Trusts aim and one of Natural England's Landscape Opportunities for the Hampshire Downs National Character Area to protect, restore and enhance this priority habitat. A 2016 flora survey reported that this Key Feature has remnant chalk grassland plant communities and indicator species, and indicated that the site has the potential to restore and sustain these with a modest amount of proactive management, with a proportion of scrub and occasional trees providing a transition to the surrounding woodland.

A 2016 bird survey recorded many species of conservation concern including an estimated 11 pairs of skylarks breeding in the grassland, along with other ground nesting birds such as tree pipit, chiffchaff, willow warbler, pheasant and partridge. A number of other scrub and hedgerow nesting birds are also present including yellowhammer, whitethroat and dunnock.

This is the only area of habitat of this type in the immediate vicinity, with intensively managed arable farmland comprising the majority of open habitat in the landscape.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

The BTO and Forestry Commission are running bird surveys for some sites under Farm Woodland management grants to assess for birds in open farmland habitats. Home Farm may be assigned surveyors to carry out the survey in 2019.

Factors Causing Change

Natural scrub and tree regeneration: This growth together with dominant coarse grasses and other vegetation (e.g. wild parsnip) means that an estimate of up to 50% of the open grassland across the site is currently vulnerable to loss of potential value as priority grassland habitat, as the current vegetative communities are not in stasis. Succession to scrub and woodland is inevitable without intervention to maintain the open grassland.

Ragwort is present and in this agricultural setting with livestock on site and horses potentially present in neighbouring properties, it requires management to prevent spread into neighbouring land.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The open areas will predominantly comprise grassland with a balanced mosaic of complimentary habitats following continual grazing with cattle and sympathetic scrub and tree management. Chalk grassland plant communities and a range of grasses of varying heights and meadow flora will be well-represented.

Retained scrub (10-20%) and occasional trees (2-5%) will provide a transition between the surrounding woodland and grassland, but will not dominate the grassland which will remain primarily open, supporting breeding populations of ground and scrub nesting birds.

Hedgerows will be diverse in structure and composition following a variety of management from laying to flailing on roadside boundaries, and minimal intervention in some areas. Boundary and hedgerow trees will be plentiful with new trees recruited and establishing after management and losses from disease such as ash dieback. These habitats will form corridors connected to the wider landscape, and will also be integrated into the site with transitional habitats such as scrub and long grass swards.

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

To establish and maintain predominantly open grassland with a balanced mosaic of complimentary habitats. This will be achieved in accordance with Countryside Stewardship agreement 545296

(01/01/2018 - 31/12/2022) through the following:

Compartment 1c:

- Year round grazing with a maximum of 15 cattle at any one time, maintaining a sward with a range of heights during the growing season so that at least 20% is less than 7cm and at least 20% is greater than 20cm.
- Retention of 5 - 10% scrub in discrete small patches, lines and occasional individual bushes scattered across the compartment, with annual hand or mechanical cutting (contractor or volunteer days) outside of bird nesting season to maintain levels and structure when appropriate. No more than 50% of the scrub will be cut in any one year.
- Annual non-native invasive species/injurious weed (e.g. ragwort) control with pulling or spot treatment with organic citronella outside of bird nesting season, to prevent excessive levels that dominate tree and ground flora regeneration and present a risk to livestock or spreading to neighbouring land.
- Mowing or topping of dominating species (e.g. bramble) in patches as required outside of bird nesting season where they are preventing and/or dominating ground flora regeneration. No more than 50% of the sward will be cut in any one year.
- Gapping-up any length of hedge with more than 10% gap by 2020.
- Allowing hedgerows to reach and then maintain a minimum width of 1.5m by 2020, excluding sections gapped up, layed or coppiced within the plan period.
- Cutting (non-roadside) hedgerows no more than one year in two between 1 January and 28 February, leaving at least one half of hedges untrimmed each year.
- Annual maintenance of Agincourt trees (10 enclosures containing 6 planted trees each) to include: weeding, mulching, guard maintenance or removal, and formative pruning as required.

Compartment 3c:

- Annual grazing from 1st May to 30th September, with a maximum of 15 cattle at any one time.
- Reduction of scrub cover to 10-20% with annual hand or mechanical cutting (contractor or volunteer days) to maintain a grass and scrub mosaic across the compartment. No more than 30% of the scrub will be cut in any one year.
- Annual non-native invasive species/injurious weed (e.g. ragwort) control with pulling or spot treatment with organic citronella outside of bird nesting season, to prevent excessive levels that could prevent and/or dominate tree and ground flora regeneration and a risk to livestock and neighbouring land.
- Mowing or topping of dominating species (e.g. bramble) in patches where they are preventing and/or dominating ground flora regeneration, outside of bird nesting season to maintain a scrub and grass mosaic across the compartment as required.
- Reduction of self-sown tree cover to 2-5% where young tree growth threatens the grassland and scrub mosaic by succession to closed canopy woodland. Trees will be cut annually (contractor or volunteer days) and those trees retained protected from livestock and wild animals.
- Retention of all mature and veteran trees (including standing deadwood, if safe to do so) with all fallen deadwood retained uncut and in place, stacked in piles.

Whole Key Feature:

- Annual inspection of perimeter boundary fencing and gates of whole site to ensure the site is secure for grazing livestock.
- Annual inspection of troughs and water supply for grazing livestock
- Fixed point photography will be set up across compartments 1c and 3c to monitor the scrub, open

grassland, and changes in habitat from the impacts from grazing. This will provide data and evidence in accordance with the Countryside Stewardship agreement.

- A woodland condition assessment will be carried out in 2024 out across the whole site and will include this key feature.

5.3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

This Key Feature consists of one compartment (4a) known as Wigdell Copse. It is the only area of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) at Home Farm, totalling 3ha. The canopy is predominantly comprised of overstood ash coppice interspersed with occasional oak standards dating from the 1920s. The understory is dominated by hazel coppice with frequent elder and occasional hawthorn, and ASNW ground flora including bluebells, wood anemone and Solomon's seal is abundant throughout, supplemented by more common woodland species. An ephemeral pond is located at the east end of the copse which temporarily fills in winter or prolonged periods of rainfall as a result of land drains from the WT land to the north, and remains largely empty for the remainder of the year. The south west of the compartment consists of a small belt of mature Norway spruce with emerging scrub beneath (mainly blackthorn and hawthorn) which is open to grazing, though barely accessible to livestock and consequently rarely grazed if ever, however, it does provide cover for the cattle.

Ash dieback is present, affecting the majority of the copse due to the dominance of overstood ash coppice which makes up the majority of the canopy.

Significance

ASNW is a nationally rare habitat and is scarce within the Hampshire Downs due to historical clearance for agriculture. It is the Trusts aim and one of Natural England's Landscape Opportunities for the Hampshire Downs National Character Area to protect, restore and enhance this priority habitat. This is the only ASNW compartment and the pond the only significant natural water source at Home Farm. There was a high density of potentially breeding birds recorded at the copse in 2016 including tawny owl, song thrush, mistle thrush, nuthatch and marsh tit. Therefore, the mature habitat and continuity that this copse provides is a sanctuary and potential hub from which wildlife and ground flora may populate the surrounding land.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

It may be possible to buffer the wood by linking it to adjacent plantations.

Constraints:

The small size of the copse means that it is vulnerable to any impacts e.g. pests and diseases, visitor pressure.

The low quantity of conifers remaining, restricted access and previous fell to waste mean that further thinning is unlikely to be viable.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback is present, with ash of each age class present showing decline symptoms. As ash forms the majority of the canopy of the copse, the presence of ash dieback is highly significant.

Visitor pressure has created desire lines through the copse, which may be causing detriment to ground flora and could increase as the site becomes more publicised.

The southern coniferous end of the copse is open to grazing, though is rarely used by the cattle.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The copse will ultimately have a mixed broadleaf tree canopy. Any conifers present will have no adverse impact on native species and will provide a beneficial addition to the diversity of the copse. However, the composition of the copse will be directly influenced by the adverse effects of ash dieback and the copse's natural response to it. It is anticipated that the majority, if not all ash within the copse will be affected and lost as a canopy component. A small proportion of the ash on the periphery of the copse will be coppiced to manage the risk of falling trees and branches. The remaining oak (approximately 10% of the current canopy) may then serve as a seed source, providing some natural regeneration in the more open conditions following canopy loss. The oak is only likely to establish in the long-term and in intervening years may either be nursed by coarse vegetation (e.g. bramble) or suppressed by it, along with the significant woody debris from the collapse of ash. Other nearby tree species such as birch and particularly sycamore are likely to colonise the wood and form a significant or even dominant proportion of the canopy. This process will be monitored over the plan period and subsequent years, and if a successive canopy does not naturally establish it is possible that some intervention will be required, such as selective scrub and woody debris clearance and enrichment planting of UK sourced and grown native oak. Similarly the shrub layer and abundant ASNW ground flora will be monitored as the impact of the canopy collapse may detrimentally affect these components of the copse. The long-term aim is for an abundance of understorey, shrub species and ASNW ground flora, with no invasive species present. The impact of browsing animals should be negligible and controlled (e.g. through fencing) if required to secure and establish any planting.

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

To manage and monitor the impact of ash dieback over the 5 year plan period. This will be achieved through the following:

- Coppicing of ash with symptoms of mid to advanced stage of decline or where overhanging branches are at risk of falling onto the adjacent deer fence or paths along the perimeter of the copse within the plan period. Stacking of the cut material to block off the ride to the north of the copse, which will no longer be mown and maintained. Upgrade of existing pedestrian and management access gates into cpt. 3b to divert visitors to use this route. Removal of one pedestrian access gate and installation of one additional management access gate to facilitate management access only along the ride between cpts 4a and 5a. Installation of suitable signage to inform visitors.
- Annual observations of the copse to monitor the progress of ash dieback and the succession of the habitat.
- A woodland condition assessment will be carried out in 2024 across the whole site, however, the risk to surveyors from ash dieback may prevent a detailed assessment of this key feature.

5.4 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Home Farm is a category A access site (high usage, regularly used at all times of the year, with more than approximately 15-20 visitors using one entrance every day) and is part of the Welcoming Sites Programme (WSP), a Woodland Trust initiative which aims to improve recreation and access provision at our key sites. The WSP will lead to a series of lasting upgrades that will improve the visitor experience and aims to increase the number and range of visitors to this site. An attractive and serviceable network of tracks and paths will further encourage the appreciation of the woodland, both on the site and in the locality. The site will be managed to meet the required high standards of WSP and will provide a clear welcome: well-maintained entrances, furniture, signs and other infrastructure as appropriate. Improved access will better facilitate use by a wider range of visitors. A number of infrastructure improvements were made in 2018 with support from the People's Postcode Lottery, with ongoing improvements anticipated throughout the plan period.

Situated in the well-wooded countryside of the Hampshire Downs in north-east Hampshire, Home Farm is a 136 hectare (336 acre) site mid-way between the towns of Alton (pop. 16,584) and Basingstoke (pop. 87,275). It is 1km (0.5 miles) south of the hamlet of Burkham and, 3km (2 miles) north-west of the village of Bentworth, just west of the A339 Basingstoke Road.

The site is split into two 'halves' east and west of the un-named road that runs from Burkham to Bentworth. The main car park is at the southern end of Spain Lane, via either of two turnings on the west side of the A339, signposted for Burkham. Nearest postcode: GU34 5RT. The car park is free and has space for approximately 24 cars. A second, smaller car park is situated on the west side of the un-named road, approximately 1.5km north of the junction of Ashley Road and Drury Lane in Bentworth. Nearest postcode: GU34 5RP. This car park is also free and has space for approximately 10 cars.

Access to the site is via kissing gates and radar key kissing gates allow access for all abilities to each side of the site from both car parks.

There are no public rights of way over Home Farm, but there is a network of more than 12km (7.5 miles) of maintained permissive paths, including a waymarked circular path that can begin from either of the wood's two car parks. Paths at Home Farm are mostly natural so can be muddy during winter or prolonged periods of rainfall. There are some benches along the main paths.

There is also a public footpath that connects the north boundary of the west half of Home Farm to Bradley, a small village approximately 1km to the west of the wood.

From Bradley, visitors can pick up the Three Castles Path, a long distance route from Windsor to Winchester, providing 60 miles of easy walking through peaceful historic and beautiful countryside. The idea for this route was inspired by the well documented 13th century journeys of King John between Windsor Castle and Winchester, via the castle he built near Odiham in Magna Carta times. A straight line drawn on the map joins these three historic places, with Odiham exactly half way.

There is a plentiful choice of pubs and cafes within a 5 mile radius of the site, the nearest being the Sun Inn, Bentworth, and The Departure Lounge Café on Basingstoke Road just off the A339.

Gilberts White's house and gardens are also situated only 10 miles away in Selborne, a celebration of 'The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne' for which the author is best known.

For additional woodland visits there are also two Forestry Commission sites in the area: Weston Common, approximately 3km north east and Chawton Park Wood, approximately 5km south east of Home Farm. The Woodland Trusts Binswood Common SSSI is also approximately 11km to the east on the outskirts of Bordon (see the Woodland Trust website for more information).

Significance

Home Farm is close to the hamlet of Burkham, on the northern side of Bentworth parish. The land passed through different hands over the centuries until it was put up for sale in 1965. At that time the Home Farm area of the estate consisted of farmland, copse and uncultivated land. A part of this predominantly arable farm was earmarked for landfill use, but local opposition and a substantial donation by Lord and Lady Sainsbury enabled the Trust to buy the land in 1990 and remove the threat.

Between 1992 and 1995, the Trust planted 67,000 trees and shrubs on the site. Then in 2011 a Queen's Diamond Jubilee project to plant six million trees across the UK was launched and to mark the occasion, the Princess Royal planted the first of the Jubilee Woods' trees at Home Farm and wrote a personal letter of support that was buried in a time capsule.

Home Farm remains one of the largest native woodland creation sites in southern England and is one of few nature reserves in the area. Much of the woodland planted in the 1990's was planted through a dedication scheme which still attracts visits from those who donated. It also attracts visitors from a wide range of places, including the local villages Bentworth and Lasham, but also larger towns such as Alton and Basingstoke. The car parks, range of walks available, views across the site and varied habitats are key elements in attracting visitors.

A visitor survey (face to face and online) undertaken in 2018 showed that the majority of visitors to the site are aged 45+, with many coming regularly to walk their dog. Most visitors have been coming to Home Farm for over 3 years and live within 15 minutes of the site. The tranquillity and unspoilt nature of the site was very important for the vast majority of visitors, and many of the people questioned identified the need for more information about the site (wildlife, history etc) in situ to encourage more people to visit.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To engage better and with more visitors to promote interest and connection with the habitats and management, (e.g. grazing and protection of ground nesting birds) including events, educational workshops and forest schools.

To engage volunteers to carry out conservation tasks, site monitoring and surveys.

To develop a visitor base by promoting the site locally through a number of events.

Constraints:

Although there are footpaths through the whole site, these are largely natural and unsurfaced, meaning that many of the paths are muddy during the winter or prolonged periods of rainfall.

The rural location means that the site is only accessible by car for the majority of visitors.

Factors Causing Change

Increased visitor numbers could potentially bring positive and/or negative effects (e.g. conflicts with cattle/ground-nesting birds and dogs or increased interest in the welfare of cattle/ground-nesting birds and dogs).

Increased visitor numbers could damage unsurfaced paths and cause the trampling of specialist ground flora.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site will provide a safe, enjoyable and varied woodland experience for visitors, with a good network of accessible footpaths, entrances and car parks in line with the site's Welcoming Programme designation. The site will be well used and much appreciated by both the local population and visitors from further afield. It should be known for its wildlife interest, varied habitats, and history, and should retain its largely natural, rural aesthetic, with sympathetic infrastructure, signage and interpretation.

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

To provide a safe, enjoyable and varied woodland experience for visitors. This will be achieved through the following:

- Mowing of rides three times a year including maintenance of signs and way-markers.
- Annual car park hedge and entrance maintenance and litter picks.
- Annual infrastructure inspections and maintenance.
- Installation of new orientation panels with accompanying way-marked trails within the plan period.
- Installation of interpretation and seating within the plan period.
- A new leaflet highlighting key features of the site within the plan period.
- A selection of events within the plan period.
- Annual tree safety inspections in line with the Trusts Tree Risk Management Policy and remedial works as required.
- An assessment of access infrastructure in 2024 as part of the whole site woodland condition assessment and Welcoming Sites Programme.

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	21.97	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	High forest		Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>Mixed broadleaf plantation. Located in the north half of east side of the site. The northernmost section containing the circular path is known as 'Settlers Wood'. Species include oak, ash, beech, holly, field maple, silver birch, whitebeam, wayfaring tree, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, spindle and dogwood. Natural regeneration includes sycamore, ash (now affected by ash dieback) oak and goat willow. Willow is thriving in the southern section adjoining the east boundary as this area is particularly wet during autumn, winter and prolonged rainy periods. Rides are beginning to close over from prolific growth now that trees and shrubs are through the establishment phase, with the estimated 20% open space at the time of planting reduced down to approximately 10%. However, ride edges and triangular glades at path intersections still provide space for a developing herb layer and occasional tree regeneration (mainly oak and ash). Some young oaks at these glades have been singled out for long-term retention as open grown specimen trees. Ash dieback is present within the compartment, mainly affecting boundary trees at the north end and young plantation trees elsewhere. Settlers Wood is covered by a Farm Woodland Scheme grant until 31/03/2023.</p>							
1b	2.74	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	Min-intervention		Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>Mixed broadleaf plantation. Located on the west boundary of the east side of the site. Species include oak, ash, beech, holly, field maple, silver birch, whitebeam, wayfaring tree, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, spindle and dogwood. Natural regeneration of sycamore, ash (now affected by ash dieback) and oak. Rides are beginning to close over from prolific growth now that trees and shrubs are through the establishment phase, with the estimated 20% open space at the time of planting reduced down to approximately 10%. Ash dieback is present within the compartment, mainly affecting young and semi-mature trees on the west boundary and young plantation trees elsewhere.</p>							

1c	29.85	Open ground	1994	Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features, Management factors (eg grazing etc), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>Located in the east side of the site. This compartment was created in 1994/95 with grass/wildflower mix and mown until 2005. From 2006 until 2011 it was grazed by sheep, but is now being grazed by cattle, year round supported by a 5 year Countryside Stewardship grant. It is largely comprised of open grassland with emerging scrub (mainly hawthorn and occasional bramble) along the edges and occasional patches throughout. A diverse range of ground flora, from semi-improved and grass dominated swards, to remnant chalk grassland communities are present. Notable species include the chalk grassland indicator ploughman's spikenard (<i>Inula conyzae</i>), upright brome, quaking grass, common centaury, salad burnet, common sedge, hoary plantain, fairy flax, dropwort, sainfoin, and woolly thistle (<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>). Yorkshire fog, red fescue, rough meadow-grass, meadow buttercup, dandelion, bird's foot trefoil, common knapweed and agrimony are among the more common species present. Ragwort is also present.</p> <p>There are also three small areas of secondary woodland open to grazing: one small quarry pit naturally colonised with ash and oak to the north, and two very small planted mixed broadleaf stands near the south boundary. In addition, 10 chestnut post and rail enclosures housing 4 oak and 2 walnut trees each were planted evenly across the compartment in 2015 to commemorate the battle of Agincourt. The main car park is located on the eastern edge of the compartment.</p>							
1d	6.08	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>Mixed broadleaf plantation located in the south east corner of the east side of the site with adjacent open-space areas fenced off to keep livestock out to allow natural regeneration. The plantation is a mix of oak, ash, beech, holly, field maple, silver birch, whitebeam, wayfaring tree, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, spindle and dogwood. A thin strip of mature beech trees runs along the eastern edge of the plantation along the boundary of the site, and hawthorn and bramble is beginning to colonise the edges set aside for natural regeneration. Some rides are beginning to close over from prolific growth now that trees and shrubs are through the establishment phase, while there are also open sections and close cropped grass from apparent rabbit browsing on the wide ride running north to south through the plantation.</p> <p>This compartment is covered by a Farm Woodland Scheme grant until 31/03/2023.</p>							
1e	0.77	Beech	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Connecting People with woods & trees	

<p>A triangular shaped stand of mature beech and sycamore woodland known as 'Little Hills'. Located on the centre of the east boundary of east side of the site. Historically this compartment is likely to have been adjoining cpt 2a as a larger tract of woodland/plantation. The stand is typically sparse beneath the closed beech canopy, with some pits presumably from historic flint excavation as denoted by other pits across the site.</p>							
1f	1.18	Open ground	1993	Min-intervention		Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>1994/95. Located on the centre of the east boundary of east side of the site. This small compartment has been excluded from grazing during the Trusts ownership, leaving a natural regeneration area which mainly consists of hawthorn. Half a hectare in the centre of the compartment was mown in 2018 and will now be left as a non-intervention area as required of the current 5 year Countryside Stewardship grant.</p>							
2a	3.03	Beech	1900	High forest	Archaeological features	Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>Mixed broadleaf and conifer plantation known as 'Lodge Copse'. Located in the centre of the east side of the site. This compartment originates from the early 1900's, overplanted in the mid 1900's (c1960) with conifers. It is a mixture of broadleaf (mainly beech and sycamore) and conifer (Norway spruce and larch), with an understory of hazel and sycamore regeneration. The ground layer comprises a thin layer of bramble and occasional woodland and edge plants including enchanters nightshade, garlic mustard and red campion. The conifers were last thinned in 2011. The north boundary of the compartment comprises a remnant 'avenue' marked by apparently formally spaced mature beech, horse chestnut and sycamores flanking a notably straight ride running east to west, which appears most likely to have been part of a large drive that once lead to Burkham House, a short distance north west of the site. A sizeable pit is present at the east end of the compartment, presumably from historic flint excavation as denoted by other pits across the site.</p>							
3a	35.13	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	High forest		Connecting People with woods & trees	

Mixed broadleaf plantation located adjacent to the north and east boundaries of the west side of the site. This is the largest of the woodland creation plantations on the site and contains a small car park located to the south-east of the compartment. Species include oak, ash, beech, holly, field maple, silver birch, whitebeam, wayfaring tree, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, spindle and dogwood. Natural regeneration includes sycamore, ash (now affected by ash dieback), birch, oak and goat willow. Rides are beginning to close over from prolific growth (particularly from blackthorn in areas of this compartment) now that trees and shrubs are through the establishment phase, with the estimated 20% open space at the time of planting reduced down to approximately 10%. However, ride edges and triangular glades at path intersections still provide space for a developing herb layer and occasional tree regeneration (mainly oak and ash). Some young oaks at these glades have been singled out for long-term retention as open grown specimen trees. Ash dieback is present within the compartment, mainly affecting trees at the north end and on the south boundary and young plantation trees elsewhere. This compartment is covered by a Farm Woodland Scheme grant until 31/03/2023.

3b	3.35	Mixed native broadleaves	2006	Min-intervention		Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>Mixed broadleaf plantations and natural regeneration area which was fenced off in 2006 to prevent grazing within the compartment. Located in the north west of the west side of the site. Orion Wood, part of the Trafalgar Woods project, was planted in 2006 and Scout Wood was planted partly by scouts in 2007. Both woods are a mix of oak, ash, beech, holly, field maple, silver birch, whitebeam, wayfaring tree, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, spindle and dogwood. The area surrounding the woods is being left for natural regeneration with oak, ash and hawthorn self-seeding prolifically. Margins of grassland and some associated groundflora such as orchids, fleabane, scabious etc remain, with bramble beginning to dominate and ragwort spreading.</p>							
3c	21.05	Open ground	1994	Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features, Management factors (eg grazing etc), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Connecting People with woods & trees	

Located in the west side of the site. This compartment was created in 1994/95 with grass/wildflower mix and was mown until 2005. It was grazed by sheep from 2006 to 2011, but was not grazed from 2011 until 2018. Grazing resumed in 2018 with cattle with annual grazing from 1st May to 30th September only, supported by a 5 year Countryside Stewardship grant. It is largely comprised of open grassland with prolific scrub and tree regeneration (due to the 7 year cessation of grazing) colonising the edges from surrounding woodland compartments, with significant patches of scrub and stands of young trees throughout. Scrub mainly consists of hawthorn and bramble (with some ash and blackthorn) becoming dominant in areas, with self-sown trees mainly comprising birch, oak, and goat willow. This compartment supports the richest chalk grassland community at Home Farm, which is threatened by encroachment by false brome, bramble, rank grasses and coarse species including wild parsnip, goatsbeard, meadow buttercup, creeping thistle and upright brome. Notable species include the chalk grassland indicators fairy flax, field scabious, wild basil and pyramidal orchid, along with kidney vetch, cowslip, salad burnet, dropwort, wild basil, field scabious, small scabious and common rockrose and nettle-leaved bellflower. Ragwort is also present. There are also two small quarry pits naturally colonised with ash and oak.

3d	3.26	Mixed native broadleaves	1993	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Connecting People with woods & trees	
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Mixed broadleaf plantation. Located on the west boundary of the west side of the site. Species include oak, ash, beech, holly, field maple, silver birch, whitebeam, wayfaring tree, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, spindle and dogwood. Natural regeneration of sycamore, ash (now affected by ash dieback) and oak. Rides are beginning to close over from prolific growth now that trees and shrubs are through the establishment phase, with the estimated 20% open space at the time of planting reduced down to approximately 10% while there are also open sections and close cropped grass from apparent rabbit browsing. Ash dieback is present within the compartment, mainly affecting young plantation trees in the centre. This compartment is covered by a Farm Woodland Scheme grant until 31/03/2023.

3e	2.19	Beech	2006	Min-intervention		Connecting People with woods & trees	
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Located on the west boundary of the west side of the site. This compartment was fenced in 2006 to allow natural regeneration to develop between the grassland and woodland belt (mainly mature ash, beech and spruce) along the site edge. Regeneration consists mainly of old man's beard, bramble and hawthorn. Ash dieback is present within the compartment, mainly affecting mature boundary trees at the north end.

4a	3.00	Ash	1700	Coppice	Archaeological features, Management factors (eg grazing etc), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>This compartment is known as Wigdell Copse and is the only area of ancient semi-natural woodland at Home Farm. The canopy is predominantly comprised of overstood ash coppice interspersed with occasional oak standards dating from the 1920s, with the occasional field maple and an understory dominated by hazel coppice with frequent elder and occasional hawthorn. ASNW ground flora is abundant with bluebells, wood anemone, lesser celandine, dogs mercury, yellow archangel, Solomon's seal, primroses and greater stitchwort supplemented by nettle, ferns, bramble, cleavers, wood avens and honeysuckle in places. An ephemeral pond is located at the east end of the copse which temporarily fills in winter or prolonged periods of rainfall as a result of land drains from the WT land to the north, and remains largely empty for the remainder of the year. The south-west of the compartment consists of a small belt of mature Norway spruce with emerging scrub (mainly blackthorn and hawthorn) beneath which is open to grazing, though barely accessible to livestock and consequently rarely grazed if ever. Ash dieback is present within the compartment, affecting the majority of the copse due to the dominance of overstood lapsed ash coppice.</p>							
5a	1.79	Mixed conifers	1960	Min-intervention	Management factors (eg grazing etc)	Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>Norway spruce plantation with larch and occasional oak, located in the centre of the west side of the site. The conifers were last thinned in 2011 leaving the compartment largely open and the ground layer dense with dead wood from felled and windthrown trees. Elder dominates the shrub layer, with hazel on the edges. The understory is quite sparse with dog's mercury and nettle dominating, with some patches of bramble, thistle, burdock, ground ivy and coarse grasses. This compartment is open to grazing, though barely accessible to livestock and consequently rarely grazed if ever.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2019	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	10	3
2019	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	10	3
2020	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	8	4
2020	1d	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	10	3
2021	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	17	5
2022	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	10	5
2022	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	10	3
2023	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	8	4
2023	3d	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	6	3
2024	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	8	4
2024	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	10	3
2025	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	10	3
2025	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	13	4
2026	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	10	5
2026	1d	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	10	3
2027	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	13	4
2027	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	13	4
2028	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	10	5
2028	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.30	13	4
2029	3a	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	10	5
2029	3d	Ride edge Coppice	0.50	8	4
2031	1a	Thin	7.00	30	210
2031	2a	Thin	1.00	50	50

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.